

**Child Welfare Policy Roundtable Agenda  
January 5, 2024 10am-11:30am**

**Zoom Webinar ([Registration Required](#))**

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**Policy Focus for January:**

**Critical Services and Supports for Transition Age Youth in California**

As of July 2023, there were nearly 13,000 transition age youth in foster care in California between the ages of 16 and 21. The State has an obligation to offer services and supports – including in the areas of housing, education, and employment – to help these young people transition into adulthood. Transition services and supports are critical for youth with foster care experience because they face significant obstacles as they transition to adulthood. Compared to their peers in the general population, transition age youth currently or formerly in foster care experience greater housing instability, school instability, difficulty finding and maintaining employment, behavioral and physical health challenges, and difficulty establishing and maintaining relationships with people they can rely on. The January Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will take a closer look at this issue, including the results of a recent report on the impact of county context on services and outcomes for transition age youth, provider perspectives on the importance of the Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP-NMD), a discussion of the significance of enduring relationships, recommendations from a recent report on the Independent Living Program and county best practices, and youth perspectives on their experience with transitional services.

**Overview:**

- a. The Role Research Plays in Deepening Understanding of Transition Age Youth Services and Supports  
Andrea Lane Eastman, PhD, Co-Director, Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub, [andrea.eastman@usc.edu](mailto:andrea.eastman@usc.edu)  
California Child Welfare Indicators Project, [ccwip.berkeley.edu/TAY](http://ccwip.berkeley.edu/TAY)

**Panel:**

- b. Effective Transitional Housing Programs for Young Adults Exiting Foster Care  
Colleen Pagter, Director of Public Policy, [cpagter@firstplaceforyouth.org](mailto:cpagter@firstplaceforyouth.org)  
First Place for Youth, [firstplaceforyouth.org](http://firstplaceforyouth.org)
- c. Empowering Transition Age Youth through Mentorship  
Kecia Sakazaki, Co-Founder and Program Director, [kecia@agingup.org](mailto:kecia@agingup.org)  
AgingUP, [agingup.org](http://agingup.org)
- d. Recommendations to Reform California's Independent Living Program  
Danielle Wondra, Senior Policy and Outreach Associate, [dwondra@childrennow.org](mailto:dwondra@childrennow.org)  
Children Now, [childrennow.org](http://childrennow.org)
- e. An Overview of the Youth Development Services Division and Independent Living Program  
Robbie Odom, Division Chief, Youth Development Services Division, [odomr@dcsf.lacounty.gov](mailto:odomr@dcsf.lacounty.gov)  
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, [dcsf.lacounty.gov](http://dcsf.lacounty.gov)
- f. The Impacts of Authentic Youth Engagement  
Amber Twitchell, Director, [amber@onthemovebayarea.org](mailto:amber@onthemovebayarea.org)  
VOICES Youth Services, [voicesyouthcenter.org](http://voicesyouthcenter.org)

**Open Discussion**

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**Next Roundtable Meeting: February 2, 2024  
Topic: TBA**

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\*The Child Welfare Policy Roundtable is held on the first Friday of every month unless it is moved to accommodate the legislative calendar or holidays.

\*\*Meeting information and materials from past meetings can be found at: [childrennow.org/cwroundtable](http://childrennow.org/cwroundtable)

\*\*\*Please contact Susanna Kniffen at [skniffen@childrennow.org](mailto:skniffen@childrennow.org) if you have suggestions for format or topics or would like additional information or to be added to the invite list for future meetings.