

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

Zoom Webinar ([Registration Required](#))

Policy Focus for April:

Foster Care Rate Reform

The Home-Based Family Care rate provided to support children and youth in family homes is an important component of ensuring their needs are met and caregivers have the resources needed to create stability. California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort to reduce the child welfare system's dependence on congregate care implemented interim rates in 2017. However, per statute, a permanent rate structure must be established by January 1, 2025. The April Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will take a closer look at the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) proposed permanent rates structure and provide perspectives from the field, youth, and caregivers on the proposal.

Overview:

- a. CDSS Foster Care Rate Reform Proposal
Angie Schwartz, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services Division, Angie.Schwartz@dss.ca.gov
California Department of Social Services, cdss.ca.gov

Panel:

- b. County Perspectives on the Foster Care Rates Proposal
Eileen Cubanski, Interim Executive Director, ecubanski@cwda.org
County Welfare Directors Association of California, cwda.org
- c. Ensuring that Youth and Families Have the Stability They Need Through Rate Reform
Chris Stoner-Mertz, Chief Executive Officer, chris@cacfs.org
California Alliance of Child and Family Services, cacfs.org
- d. Opportunity, Questions, and Funding (Finally!): An Analysis of the Proposed Rates Structure
Brian Blalock, Senior Directing Attorney, bblalock@ylc.org
Youth Law Center, ylc.org
- e. Caregiver Perspectives on the Foster Care Rates Proposal
Jenn Rexroad, Co-Founder and Executive Director, jrexroad@cacaregivers.org
California Alliance of Caregivers, cacaregivers.org
- f. Stand with Youth
Anna Gennari, Director of Operations and Strategy, anna@calyouthconn.org
California Youth Connection, calyouthconn.org

Open Discussion

Next Roundtable Meeting: May 3, 2024
Topic: TBA

*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

***Please contact Susanna Kniffen at 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.