



ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2016-2017

California Alliance members are committed to providing caring, effective services to vulnerable children, youth and families. To that end, Alliance advocacy and support activities are designed to promote and strengthen member agencies so they can better achieve their missions.

Be sure to take advantage of every service and support the Alliance offers its members.

ADVOCACY

STATE BUDGET

Successfully collaborated with legislative staff and other advocacy organization to restore \$17 million funding for children's mental health crisis continuum of care start-up.

- \$17 million SGF, originally included in SB 833 TBL (2016) was cut by governor in both his January and May proposed budgets
- Combined with \$11 million in surplus MHSA administration, funds will provide \$28 million start-up support for five distinct services, including crisis residential services, within the children's mental health crisis continuum of care

Successfully collaborated with other stakeholders in advocating for the creation of the \$31 million Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for foster children

- Created \$31 million Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for foster children to assist families, including FFA families, at the time of placement by providing time-limited vouchers for childcare for up to six months while the foster parent is at work, in school or fulfilling training and home approval requirements. Program also provides funding for navigators to assist families in locating long-term subsidized childcare and to navigate the complex childcare landscape

Successfully advocated to keep the CNI-based COLA in Statute for THP+FC

- Retained automatic CNI for THP+FC in statute

LEGISLATION

Sponsored AB 501 (Ridley-Thomas) to establish mental health crisis residential services for children and youth

- After last year's AB 741 (Williams) was vetoed, Alliance sponsored AB 501 with technical support from CDSS and DHCS as directed by governor's veto message
 - Creates category of Crisis Residential Program in licensing as a type of Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program for operation of children's mental health crisis centers
- Status:** In Senate Appropriations Committee

Sponsored SB 612 (Mitchell) to update and clarify regulations for THP+FC

- Clarifies:
 - ✓ Educational requirements of the case managers of THP+FC
 - ✓ That a non-minor dependent may co-sign a lease with the provider nonprofit agency allowing the youth to establish a positive rental history but cannot sign a lease on their own
 - ✓ That participants may share a bedroom with an approved roommate who has a Department of Justice and CCL background clearance. This may be appropriate in the case of a co-parenting couple when only one parent is a program participant
 - ✓ That a home can be approved as both a Resource Family Home and certified as a THP+FC host family if both the approval and the certification are from the same private, nonprofit organization. An example of this would be a

Resource Family who cares for a sibling set, one of whom is a non-minor dependent who wishes to remain in THP+FC and wants to continue to live with siblings

- Updates the average staffing of 1 to 12 to include an option of a shared caseload ratio with a lead case manager for non-minor dependents. This allows for a team-based approach such as having Education and Employment Specialists

Status: In Assembly Appropriations Committee

Advocated for Alliance positions on provisions of multiple versions of AB 404 (Stone), the clean-up bill for AB 403 and AB 1997 (Stone, 2015, 2016), implementing Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)

- Participated with other Alliance staff in the analysis of multiple versions of this second “clean-up” bill for the State’s Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) initiative prepared by CDSS
- Met directly with the CDSS Director and his senior management team on multiple occasions to express Alliance comments and concerns, and to present proposals for amendments
- Coordinated and collaborated with children’s advocacy organizations, County placing agencies, and other stakeholders
- Organized Alliance FFA ISFC Steering Committee to write over 90% of the statute language that successfully made it into AB 404 creating the new Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) program that will take the place of the Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) program and will:
 - ✓ Expand the target population of existing Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) program by developing a category of children with intensive needs, including but not limited to medical, therapeutic or behavioral needs
 - ✓ Create flexibility by eliminating the number of in-home support counselor hours that are currently required in the ITFC program
 - ✓ Remove the requirement for an MOU with each placing county
 - ✓ Allow for client support staff working with the special health care needs population to have their professional CEUs count toward required pre and annual training hours for client support staff; e.g., registered nurses who are required to be an employee or contracted with the FFA may use their professional nursing CEUs toward required ISFC training hours
 - ✓ Allow DSS to approve public-private housing arrangements developed by a licensed FFA to address the unique needs of an ISFC resource family and eligible child
- Successfully supported inclusion of other key provisions including:
 - ✓ Establishment of a process referred to as “portability” that will allow Resource Families to transfer their Resource Family Approval from one FFA to a subsequent FFA or to a county, or to transfer from a county to a FFA
 - ✓ Creation of a process for FFAs to place a resource family on “inactive status” if the family does not have a child placed with them, during which time the FFA is not required to pay fees or undergo annual updates
 - ✓ Requirement for DSS to consult with FFA providers, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), the County Behavioral Directors Association of California (CBHDA), the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), former foster youth, child advocacy organizations and stakeholders to develop performance standards and outcomes to measure the effectiveness of the care and supervision provided to children placed in out-of-home care
 - ✓ Permission for a certified family home that has provided county authorized respite care services at any time between January 1 and December 31, 2017 to be approved as a resource family upon successful completion of a psychosocial assessment. Deletes current requirement that a respite family must have had a “placement” during 2017

Status: In Senate Appropriations Committee.

Organized opposition of Alliance member agencies to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) that would make it virtually impossible for counties to contract out for services to children and families

- Bill would make contracting prohibitively onerous and litigious for counties and providers

Status: In Senate Appropriations Committee

Advocated in support of legislation that would improve the lives of foster children, children with mental health needs, and other vulnerable children and youth

- AB 114 (Committee on Budget): Included language addressing the need to clarify how DHCS will manage county level MHSA reversions for both the past years and in the future

Status: Chaptered

- AB 254 (Thurmond): Would require the Department of Education to establish the Local Educational Agency Behavioral Health Integration Pilot Program to improve behavioral health outcomes of students by improving the delivery of direct behavioral health services

Status: In Senate Appropriations Committee
- AB 340 (Arambula): Would require, consistent with federal law, that screening services under the EPSDT program include screening for trauma, as defined by the bill; would also require DHCS, in consultation with the State Department of Social Services and others, to adopt, employ, and develop tools and protocols for screening children for trauma

Status: In Senate Appropriations Committee
- AB 507 (Rubio): Will require each entity responsible for approving a resource family to make recommendations to the resource family regarding the annual training topics that may be useful to support the case plans, goals and needs of each child in the home (Sponsored by California Youth Connection and Youth Law Center)

Status: In Senate Appropriations Committee
- AB 724 (Choi): Requires the state to recognize as final a foreign adoption decree without the need for re-adoption or any other legal proceeding. Under current law, children adopted from a foreign country have no guarantee of citizenship. In the event that the re-adoption process is not completed prior to their 18th birthday, they lose their adoption-derived eligibility to U.S. citizenship. Stories have come to light of adoptees who have grown up to learn they are not citizens when applying for passports, then being deported to the countries where they were born but to which they have no connection

Status: In Senate Appropriations Committee
- AB 1006 (Maienschein): Will create a series of new requirements to ensure that children achieve permanency and that best efforts are made to preserve adoptive families (Sponsored by FamiliesNow)

 - ✓ Requires the social worker or probation officer to provide the prospective adoptive family or guardian with information in writing about the importance of working with mental health providers that have specialized adoption or permanency clinical training, and a written description of the desirable clinical expertise the family should look for when choosing an adoption or permanency competent mental health professional
 - ✓ Adds “specialized permanency services” to the list of services that may be funded within the child welfare program
 - ✓ Adds training about the types of and behavioral manifestation of trauma, loss, and grief to the list of required mandated topics for county child protective services social workers
 - ✓ Requires that if a child has been in care for three years or more, the documentation of a child’s permanency goal in the case plan must include a description of the specialized permanency services used or, if specialized permanency services have not been used, a statement explaining why the public child welfare agency chose not to provide these services

Status: In Senate Appropriations Committee
- AB 1315 (Mullin): would create within the MHSA OAC a new grant program and advisory group for the purpose of developing evidence based early psychosis detection and intervention services through a grant funded competitive process

Status: On Suspense File in Senate Appropriations Committee
- AB 1340 (Maienschein): Would require the Medical Board of California to consider including in its continuing education requirements a course in integrating mental and physical health care in primary care settings, especially as it pertains to early identification of mental health issues and exposure to trauma in children and young adults and their appropriate care and treatment

Status: Senate Floor third reading
- SB 190 (Lara and Mitchell): Would remove the state laws allowing probation departments to collect administrative fees from parents whose children have been placed in juvenile detention or on probation.

Status: In Assembly Appropriations Committee
- SB 233 (Beall): Will authorize FFAs, Resource Families and STRTPs to access records of grades, transcripts, IEP’s, attendance and discipline records and any online communication platforms established by schools for pupils and parents

Status: In Assembly Appropriations Committee

- SB 394 (Lara and Mitchell): Would make a person who was convicted of a controlling offense that was committed before the person had attained 18 years of age and for which a life sentence without the possibility of parole has been imposed eligible for release on parole by the board during his or her 25th year of incarceration at a youth offender parole hearing

Status: Assembly Floor third reading

- SB 439 (Mitchell and Lara): Would modify the ages that a person must be to fall within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or adjudged a ward of the court under these circumstances to be between 12 years of age and 17 years of age, inclusive

Status: In Assembly Public Safety Committee

Successfully advocated for defeat of legislation that would hamper efforts to address and combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children

- AB 1402 (Allen): Would have repealed provisions of AB 1322 (Mitchell; 2016) making prostitution and related offenses once again crimes when committed by minors

Status: Died in committee

Successfully advocated in support of legislation that would require adherence to federal parity laws

- SB 374 (Newman): Requires large group, individual and small group health insurance policies to provide all covered mental health and substance use disorder benefits in compliance with those provisions of federal law governing mental health parity

Status: Chaptered

DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICY & REGULATIONS

Continuum of Care Reform implementation

- Advocated with Department of Finance, CDSS, the Governor's policy staff, key members and staff of Assembly and Senate Budget Committees for higher rates in Phase I and II of the new FFA rate structure
 - ✓ Successfully advocated to increase the Services and Support in Phase I by \$156 per child per month, increasing total amount available for use by FFA by \$204-\$471 per child per month
 - ✓ Met on multiple occasions both privately and in public forums with the key decision makers in the Governor's office, Legislature and CWDA to show that the new FFA rates and rate methodology are inadequate and do not cover full adoption services or supervised visitation. The Department of Finance and CWDA publicly agreed with both assertions and stated payment for supervised visits needs to be negotiated with FFAs on a case-by-case basis and that unreimbursed Adoption costs should continue to be covered by PAARP during the interim rate structure and until future discussions can take place to put more funding in the permanent rate structure
 - ✓ Continued strongly opposing the methodology CDSS and the Administration used to compute the FFA interim rates that allow only an additional \$44, \$44 and \$79 between Levels of Care 1-4. Obtained a commitment from CDSS to review the LOC rate structure in 2018
 - ✓ Continued to advocate strongly for a CNI based COLA to be applied to FFA rates
- Identified that the amount of the ADFC-FC rate for STRTPs released by CDSS in the May 2016 Revise (\$11,770) did not take into account three technical adjustments that were components of the CDSS STRTP rate methodology. Successfully advocated that final SRTRP rate be increased by \$266 to \$12,036 when it was published in ACL 16-79
- Successfully advocated with CDSS to eliminate the FFA category from the Level of Care protocol tool that would have required FFAs to provide hundreds of hours of supervised visitations per month with no reimbursement
- Continued to work collaboratively with CDSS and the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) to identify the particular needs of County Probation Departments, Probation youth, and providers serving Probation youth in the implementation of AB 403 and AB 1997 and the underlying CCR principles
 - ✓ Participated in series of four CDSS workgroup meetings from October 2016 through February 2017 intended to focus on CCR issues specifically relevant to County probation departments and providers serving them
 - ✓ Provided input for, and participated in, the CPOC-sponsored conference in Sacramento on June 12 on implementing CCR for probation youth

- ✓ Identified and shared data with CDSS, CPOC, legislative staff, and other stakeholders regarding the steadily growing number of Probation youth placed in Out-of-State group homes, even while the number of in-State group home placements has been declining
- Advocated successfully for CDSS to make significant modifications to Version 1 of the STRTP Interim Licensing Standards (ILS) in order to make the personnel requirements more realistic and flexible
 - ✓ Analyzed Version 1 of the CDSS STRTP ILS which was released and became effective on October 14, 2016, without any prior discussion with the Alliance or other stakeholders, and provided Alliance members with a summary of the key and problematic personnel requirements
 - ✓ Coordinated comments and questions from Alliance members and provided a consolidated package to CDSS for their review
 - ✓ Worked with Alliance members to develop and present specific recommendations for changes to the ILS which better reflected the diversity in the programs and organization of the group homes serving foster children in California
 - ✓ Successfully advocated for CDSS to issue Version 2 of the STRTP ILS on January 27, 2017, with changes that made the personnel requirements "livable" on an interim basis
 - ✓ Continued advocating for additional changes in the STRTP ILS to remove unnecessary requirements which force providers to divert limited resources to staff not needed to ensure the safety and appropriate supervision of the children, and to give providers greater flexibility to adapt their programs to serve the children and their families in the most efficient manner
- Provided significant input to CDSS, and information to Alliance membership on:
 - ✓ Process and timelines for group home providers to obtain extensions allowing them to continue to serve foster children under their group home licenses, and receive AFDC-FC payments under the RCL system, after the implementation of CCR on January 1, 2017
 - ✓ Development of the new STRTP rate application forms
 - ✓ Initial and revised versions of the tool being used by CDSS in its review of STRTP Plans of Operation and Program Statements so that Alliance members would know the specific issues which CDSS is most concerned about and will be expecting providers to address
 - ✓ Process for the review of STRTP Program Statements by the Counties and their issuance of STRTP Letters of Recommendation [ACL 17-14]
 - ✓ Interim Licensing Standards for Temporary Shelter Care Facilities (TSCF), including discussions with Alliance members operating some form of emergency shelter care programs in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Ventura Counties
- Successfully advocated for CDSS to make significant modifications to four versions of the FFA Interim Licensing Standards
 - ✓ Analyzed four versions of the FFA Interim Licensing Standards (ILS), coordinated recommended changes and questions from Alliance members, and successfully advocated for CDSS make the changes to the ILS
- Provided comments to CDSS on draft All-County Letters and other policy papers on:
 - ✓ Criteria and process for the certification of out-of-state group homes in order to ensure that they meet, as required by AB 403 and AB 1997, the same standards as in-state STRTPs
 - ✓ Expanded role of county Interagency Placement Committee (IPCs) under CCR in approving all placements of foster children into STRTPs, the process by which county agencies may make "emergency placements" into STRTPs pending an IPC determination, and the relationship between IPCs and Child and Family Teams (CFTs).
 - ✓ Amendments to CCL regulations to apply the provisions on the "Care for Children under the Age of Six Years" to STRTPs
 - ✓ Amendments to CCL regulations to apply the provisions on the "Minor and Nonminor Dependent Parent Program" to STRTPs
- Analyzed and raised with CDSS the many areas of overlap between the requirements in the CDSS STRTP Interim Licensing Standards and those in the DHCS Interim Mental Health Approval protocol and draft regulations, particularly in terms of staff-to-child ratios and minimum qualifications for staff
- Participated on the Provider Performance and Outcomes Executive Committee to develop a system mandated by AB 403 for measuring the performance of STRTPs and FFAs in improving outcomes for children
- Participated on CCR Education Subcommittee
 - ✓ Represented Alliance member agencies in subcommittee focused on supporting education of foster youth under CCR. Worked with SELPA's to address issues related to SELPAs and educational placements in STRTPs
- Participated on CDSS CCR Workgroups to develop the framework and tools to implement CCR and the Resource Family Approval process. Deliverables included: regulations, all county letters, documentation forms, templates, interim licensing standards, rates, assessments, Level of Care grids, FAQs, etc.
 - ✓ CCR Steering Committee Workgroup

- ✓ CCR Rate Setting Workgroup
- ✓ CCR Stakeholders Implementation Advisory Workgroup
- ✓ CCR Plan of Operation, Program Statement and Core Supports and Services Workgroup
- ✓ CCR Probation Workgroup
- ✓ CCR Level of Care Assessment Guidelines Workgroup
- ✓ CCR CDSS Medically Fragile and Special Health Care Needs Workgroup
- ✓ CCR Communication Workgroup
- ✓ CCR Youth Convening Workgroup

Supported implementation of AB 1299, mental health services for foster youth placed out-of-county

- Conducted several think tank sessions with key informants to identify information needed to successfully implement presumptive transfer of responsibility for SMHS from MHP of county of jurisdiction to MHP of county of residence. Provided information to DHCS
 - ✓ Bay Area foster care coordinators
 - ✓ County CW/Probation/and MH staff as well as providers at CMHACY.
- Engaged DHCS in implementing AB 1299 (Ridley-Thomas; statutes of 2016), bill successfully co-sponsored last year by California Alliance
 - ✓ Collaborated with DHCS and CDSS to produce accurate and useful joint ACL/IN implementing presumptive transfer: ACL 17-77; IN 17-032
 - ✓ Collaborating with DHCS and counties to develop 2 follow up IN's providing additional details about the presumptive transfer process and how to address youth who were out of county and receiving SMHS when the bill went in to effect
- Began tracking challenges encountered by provider organizations to inform the writing of follow up IN's and to problem-solve county specific start-up issues

Convened workgroup that successfully preserved PAARP funding

- Convened a CWDA/CDSS/California Alliance Workgroup that successfully preserved PAARP for use by private adoption agencies to ensure that at least 20% of foster youth achieve permanency through adoption in California each year

Successfully advocated for the CANS to become assessment and outcome measurement tool for all youth receiving SMHS

- Collaborated with DHCS sponsored Performance Outcome System (POS) workgroup for state to adopt CANS as one of two assessment and outcome measurement tools for all youth receiving EPSDT funded SMHS

Successfully advocated for THP+FC provider share of Infant Supplement for parenting NMDs

- Succeeded in collaborating with CDSS to prevent adoption of a policy related to non-minor dependents (NMD) who have a child living with them in a THP+FC placement
- Policy would have required that the entire amount of the Infant Supplement be passed through to the NMD, leaving the THP+FC provider with no funding to cover additional costs associated with having NMDs with children living in the program

Provided comment and recommendations on implementation of 2016 legislation addressing psychotropic medication usage with foster youth

- Reviewed content and offered comments on draft curriculum for county caseworkers and foster care public health nurses on specific behavioral health care issues, including content on psychotropic medications and accessing behavioral health care services. (SB 238 (Mitchell) and SB 319 (Beall))
- Provided comment and inputs into CCL Provider Technical Support Resource Guides aimed at improving provider awareness of existing regulations, statutes, best practices and additional resources for handling medications of resident populations
- Advocated with CDSS, regarding processes to be used when identifying and addressing group home facilities and prescribers associated with higher levels psychotropic medication usage among resident youth
 - ✓ Advocated for use of experienced and knowledgeable staff, a quality improvement approach in year one, and early/often engagement with the provider community to prepare them for the protocols CCL will use when conducting site visits

- ✓ Recommended that CCL share findings and lessons learned to facilitate more rapid system wide improvements
- ✓ Engaged Alliance member agencies in reviewing and editing forms to be used by providers to record information on administration of psychotropic medications (SB 484 (Beall))

Represented and advocated Alliance positions at Community Care Licensing bi-weekly meetings

- Successfully advocated for CCL to eliminate the finding “inconclusive” in CCL investigations
- Researched and created a chart from the CCL Evaluator Manual on the new “Rules of CCL Investigation Findings” and distributed to Alliance members
- Addressed issues around CCR implementation, prudent parent standards, investigations, the CCL web app, legislation, regulation, personal rights, CCL policies and interpretation of policies, etc. and requested immediate resolution from CCL on behalf of Alliance member agencies

Participated on DHCS committees to develop the EPSDT Performance Outcome System which resulted from SB 1009 (2012)

- Successfully advocated for county specific POS data
- Successfully advocated for foster care specific POS data
- Served on:
 - ✓ Subject Matter Experts group
 - ✓ Measurement workgroup
 - ✓ Stakeholder Advisory Committee
 - ✓ Ad-Hoc group to monitor deliverables of independent contractors

Represented and advocated Alliance positions at Community Care Licensing regional meetings

- Represented the Alliance in CCL Regional meetings throughout the state to communicate our members’ concerns and advocate Alliance positions during the implementation of CCR

Supported effective implementation of AB 114 funding for Educationally Related Mental Health Services

- Represented members’ interests regarding AB 114 to the Advisory Commission on Special Education
- Supported Senator Beall’s audit of ERMHS, provided summary to membership and worked with the Senator’s office to develop legislation based on the audit findings

Represented the Alliance on the Therapeutic Foster Care Workgroup

- TFC Workgroup included county child welfare and mental health care departments, CDSS, DHCS and providers to prepare for implementation of California’s new TFC program
- Developed guidance on target populations, program operational requirements, the role of an agency operating a TFC program, the role of a TFC resource parent, rates for care and supervision and for TFC services, and TFC Resource Parent qualifications
- Assisted in writing updates to the “Pathways to Wellbeing” Medi-Cal manual to incorporate TFC, then provided extensive comments to the draft released by DHCS

Reviewed and commented on revisions to the Rules of the Court and JV 220 forms (psychotropic medication for foster youth)

- Reviewed and commented on the clean-up proposed revisions and additions to the JV 220 process
- Reviewed and commented on the process to amend the JV 220 that followed the July 2015 mandate
- Represented the Alliance in Judicial Council stakeholders session to discuss the draft and provided comments regarding Alliance member agency concerns with the final proposed rule changes

Continued to support Residentially-Based Services Demonstration Projects

- Participated in Los Angeles County RBS Workgroup with ACHSA, RBS providers, and County staff, providing information and comments on:
 - ✓ State’s Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort
 - ✓ Implementation of AB 403 and AB 1997
 - ✓ Development of AB 404 clean-up bill
 - ✓ Potential effect of State-level activities on continued operation of the three RBS demonstration programs and the roll-out of the RBS-inspired STRTP model in Los Angeles County

- Provided technical assistance to the three Los Angeles County RBS providers for discussions with the County on financial reconciliation, comparing the County cost of AFDC-FC payments to each of the RBS programs with what the County costs would have been for AFDC-FC payments under the RCL rate-setting system for “traditional” group home programs

Represented Alliance in implementation meetings re: chaptered legislation on psychotropic medications and oversight

- Represented Alliance in stakeholder meetings convened by CDSS to address the content and timelines of the responsibilities mandated in 3 chaptered bills, including SB 238 (Mitchell), SB 319 (Beall), and SB 484 (Beall)

FEDERAL ISSUES

Addressed changes to definition of “exempt status” for employees

- Continued to track the status of proposed federal regulations issued by the Obama Administration to increase the minimum income threshold for executive, administrative, and professional employees to qualify for “exempt” status and not be subject to overtime for work in excess of 40 hours per week, from \$455 per week (i.e., \$23,660 per year) to \$913 per week (i.e., \$47,476 per year)
- “Final Rule” adopted by the federal Department of Labor (DOL), was scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2016, however, a preliminary nationwide injunction was issued by a federal judge in Texas on November 22, 2016, blocking DOL from implementing it
- Preliminary injunction remains under appeal and DOL under the new Trump Administration is moving to gather additional public input for the development of new regulations

Continued opposition to federal foster care reform legislation that would penalize California

- As part of CDSS led coalition, met with Congressional Representatives Karen Bass and Judy Chu in their districts
- Wrote draft language for residential care component of alternative California-sponsored federal reform legislation

Collaborated with national partners on issues of mutual interest and concern:

- Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
- Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
- Foster Family Treatment Association (FFTA)
- National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC)
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- National Organization of State Associations for Children (NOSAC)

MEMBER SUPPORT

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

Presented two highly successful Executives’ Conferences

- Organized and presented two highly successful executive conferences focusing on critical areas in the field:
 - From a New Lens: Grief, Loss and Trauma and a New Toolbox for Healing ~ Critical Mass(adhusetts): Lessons and Adventures in System Change for Policymakers, Providers, Children and Families from an Activist State on the Other Coast ~ FFA Early Implementers for Resource Family Approval – Get Ready by January 1, 2017 to “Approve” Your Agency’s New Foster Families Under the RFA Process ~ Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Waiver – What Does It Mean for Providers? ~ What RBS Reform Implementation Teaches Us About STRTP Implementation ~ California’s Therapeutic Foster Care Services (TFC): Model and Implementation ~ Exploring a New Landscape: Use of Psychotropic Medication in Foster Care ~ You Can’t Stop What You Don’t See: Implementing The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool to Improve Early Identification of

Sexually Exploited Youth ~ Driving Innovation to Improve Outcomes ~ Resource Family Approval and CCR: Making It Work for Families ~ Evidence-Based Treatment & Youth Diversity: What We Know & Why it Matters ~ Building a Program in Foster Family Agencies for Children with Special Health Care needs with the Implementation of Continuum of Care Reform and a New Rate Structure ~ The Agony and the Ecstasy: Impending Changes in Foster Care and Children's Mental Health Policy ~ National Trends in Child Welfare: A Leadership Discussion of Trends, Challenges and Strategies for the Future ~ Beyond Choosing an EBP: Integrating Evidence-Based Care and Outcomes management ~ Child and Family Teams: What's Your Role ~ Supporting Foster Youth in School: An Overview of Laws and Helpful Tips ~ Bringing in a New Vision: Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson ~ Setting the Foundation for Children's Crisis Services in California ~ CCR: CYC's Areas of Concern ~ Katie A., Continuum of Care and Therapeutic Foster Care Reforms: Building Shared Governance and Collaborative mental Health Services for California's Foster Children ~ Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback: Changing the Trajectory for Families at Risk ~ CCR: Implementation from the County Child Welfare Perspective ~ Aftercare Services for Probation Youth Following Discharge from a STRTP ~ CSEC Survivor's Perspective on the Foster Care System

Presented professionally valuable Group Home Administrator CEU/Executive Management Series

- Provided seven Executive Management training modules certified for GHA CEUs in conjunction with Executive Conferences on topics including:
 - Overview of Retirement Plans for Nonprofits ~ Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers – Proven Ways to Retain Your Best Employees ~ AB 403 – How to Design Your Agency's Program Statement to Address LGBTQ Mandates ~ Plans of Operation, Program Statements, and other Administrative Requirements for CCR Implementation by Existing FFA, ITFC and Group Home Programs ~ Wage and Hour Laws: Trends and Class Actions ~ The Argument for Structured Implementation ~ The Rules Have Changed...Or Have They?: OMB Circulars to Super Circular

Provided and supported "MH 101" training for group home and FFA providers that did not have SMHS contracts with county MHPs

- Presented MH 101 webinar training for California Alliance member agencies.
- Joined DHCS and CDSS in developing and providing regional state-sponsored "MH 101" training opportunities
- Provided regional STRTP mental health component trainings to members and non-members throughout the state

Presented regional training opportunities on mental health components of STRTP licensure

- Training provided in 5 locations:
 - ✓ May 25, 2017: Uplift Family Services, south Bay Area Region
 - ✓ June 1, 2017: Sacramento Children's Home, Northern Region
 - ✓ June 2, 2017: Optimist Youth Homes & Family, LA Region
 - ✓ July 13, 2017: Seneca Family of Agencies, north Bay Area Region
 - ✓ July 14, 2017: San Bernardino County Building, Southern Region
- Training was open to any agency, but provided to Alliance members at significantly reduced fee

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

Provided consultation and presentations to member agencies' board of directors and executive staff

- Presented and consulted on trends and developments in the field to chief executives, boards of directors and senior staff at invitation of Alliance member agencies, including:
 - ✓ A Better Way
 - ✓ Alternative Family Services
 - ✓ Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento
 - ✓ Fred Finch Youth Center
 - ✓ Hillside

Provided technical assistance to Alliance member agency executives and staff on changes required of FFAs by CCR

- Provided technical assistance per member inquiries regarding how to:
 - ✓ Obtain a CCL Resource Family Approval program
 - ✓ Amend FFA Program Statements to conform to the FFA Interim Licensing Standards
 - ✓ Provide new core supports required in CCR
 - ✓ Convert certified families to Resource Families
 - ✓ Locate DSS forms
 - ✓ Change FFA and Adoption Agency criminal clearance background check processes and obtain new Originating Response Agency Identifier (ORI) number
 - ✓ Implement background checks distinguishing between RFA, certified, respite, alternative caregivers, volunteers and staff
 - ✓ Implement LIS and LAARS protocol and Record Retention

Conducted and disseminated survey re: compensation for mental health services staff

- Conducted survey on compensation for various categories of staff providing SMHS for use by member agencies when setting compensation levels.
- Collected, analyzed and disseminated data to participating member agencies.

Conducted day-long FFA and Adoption Agency workgroup on CCR related developments

- Organized and facilitated the all-day California Alliance FFA and Adoption Agency workgroup hosted by Five Acres in Los Angeles attended by 60+ Alliance agencies. The topics discussed were:
 - ✓ Future of PAARP;
 - ✓ Resource Family Approval Program Implementation and Effects;
 - ✓ FFA Interim Licensing Standards and Plans of Operations and Program Statements;
 - ✓ Phase I and Phase II Rate Structure and Timeline of Rollout;
 - ✓ Conversion of Certified Families to Resource Families

Provided technical assistance to Alliance member agency executives and staff on a variety of AFDC-FC rate-setting issues

- Responded to email and telephone inquiries regarding the group home RCL point system for rate-setting and program audits and dealing with fluctuations in occupancy through the use of changes in a group home's "program capacity"
- Responded to email and telephone inquiries regarding issues arising from the significant expansion in the number of fiscal audits being conducted by CDSS Foster Care Audits and Rates staff, including the interpretation and application of provisions of the revised CDSS Audit Guide for AFDC-FC Funded Non-Profit Organizations released on July 9, 2015

Medicaid Final Rule

- Informed member agencies about the changes required for county MHPs to become compliant with all components of the Final Rule, the most direct impact relating to standards for access and network adequacy
- Worked with DHCS to revise the Annual Review Protocol in response to the Final Rule
- Provided opportunity at the Executive's Fall Conference for members to learn about the Final Rule directly from an advocacy attorney with expertise in Medicaid

Provided information and advice to Alliance members regarding CCL issues

- Provided information, advice, and support to Alliance member agencies with questions about the interpretation and application of licensing regulations and policies by CCL policies, including options for responding to citations for alleged violations and demands for specific corrective actions
- Responded to email and telephone inquiries regarding "personal rights" of foster children, requirement on providers to use the "prudent parent" standard, and issues related to serving non-minor dependents

Supported member agencies' in gaining greater understanding of and access to the commercial insurance market

- Convened meeting of interested Alliance member agency chief executives to discuss members' needs and advocacy related to access to commercial insurance market

- Represented Alliance on Department of Managed Health Care Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- Continued relationship with medical director for Anthem Medi-Cal managed care plan and connected him to member agencies for potential contracts
- Provided consultation to Department of Managed Health Care (at their request) to fill gaps in commercial insurance's ability to provide crisis services to children and youth

Provided technical assistance to Alliance members in Los Angeles County on wraparound funding

- Provided TA regarding proportion of wraparound activities potentially eligible for funding under the Medi-Cal EPSDT program versus those which must be funded using child welfare/foster care funding

Published *Someday Morning* e-newsletters for chief executives and senior staff

- Published 18 editions of *Someday Morning* providing the most thorough, accurate, entertaining takes on pertinent policy, legislation, budget, resource, and association news available anywhere for any price

When members telephoned, emailed or texted, staff responded quickly and courteously with accurate, useful information

PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

Continued active training and research collaboration with Dr. John Lyons and Bryon Samuels from Chapin Hall

- Sponsor of 2016 national Praed Foundation (CANS) Conference

Developed THP+FC Best Practices

- Facilitated a series of workshops to develop THP+FC best practices.
- Developed a Best Practices document to guide THP+FC providers

Supported member efforts in developing and adopting clinical and administrative best practices.

- Continued discussions/plans for Alliance support on current/potential Evidence Based Practices used by member agencies.
- Increased focus on "Practice Improvement" for clinical as well as administrative effectiveness/efficiency
 - ✓ Provided members with examples of clinical and administrative best practices. Included discussion of these topics on agenda of practice improvement committees.

Served on Planning Committee for 2017 Evidence Based Practices Conference hosted by CiBHS

LOCAL SUPPORT, GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

Supported development of county-based organizations

- Supported development of grassroots advocacy capacity in Inland Empire Alliance
- Provided ongoing support to and participation in the Orange County Alliance and Contra Costa County Human Services Alliance

Provided grassroots advocacy support to member agencies

- Tracked county mental health plan (MHP) methods of "capping" EPSDT services and assisted members with strategies to eliminate or minimize caps
- Organized grassroots support for AB 612 (Mitchell) and opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer)
- Provided support and expertise to member agencies and children's coordinators re: SMHS delivery at the local level

Chaired NOSAC Public Policy Committee

- Chaired Public Policy Committee for the National Organization of State Associations for Children focusing primarily on federal child welfare financing reform legislation

Co-Chaired State Foster Care Month Celebration in May, 2017

- Co-Chaired committee which is a partnership of youth and advocates coordinating a month of activities highlighting foster youth
- Worked with co-chair and partners to plan “Shadow Day” and breakfast reception for legislators and Capitol staff, youth and advocates

Co-organized National Adoption Day Awareness Committee

- Co-organized National Adoption Day Awareness Committee with Alliance member adoption agencies, Sacramento County and other stakeholders
- Coordinated event on the Capitol steps where dignitaries read the names of foster youth waiting for permanency

Established and participated in quarterly meetings with DHCS leadership to address member agency concerns.**Represented the California Alliance on state Child Welfare Council and Co-chaired Permanency Committee**

- Represented provider organizations as Governor appointed member of Child Welfare Council.
- Co-chaired Council’s Permanency Committee

Continued collaboration with legal advocacy organizations on:

- Identification of low performing EPSDT services counties
 - ✓ Overall provision of SMHS for children and youth
 - ✓ Katie A. specific SMHS
 - ✓ Services to Katie A. expanded populations
 - ✓ Crisis services for children and youth
- Identification of barriers to care
 - ✓ MHP/Provider contract language
 - ✓ Funding mechanisms
 - ✓ Misinformation about the EPSDT entitlement (e.g.: responsibility for provision of services to youth with mild/moderate impairment)
- Post-jurisdiction implementation of settlement agreement on Katie A. lawsuit
 - ✓ Re-appointed to Katie A. community team
 - ✓ Member of Katie A. community team data ad-hoc group
 - ✓ Assisted in revision of Katie A. core practice model guide and documentation guide to account for “expanded” populations and then again for the addition of TFC.
 - ✓ Consulted on Katie A. items to be included in EQRO surveys
 - ✓ Consulted on Katie A. “expanded” population
 - ✓ Participated in plaintiff/defendant meetings specific to defining “potential sub-class”

Represented the Alliance on the California Wraparound Advisory Committee**Represented the Alliance on the CDSS CSEC Criminal Background Workgroup**

- Workgroup addressed issues related to background checks restricting the ability of agencies to hire CSEC survivors
- New internal protocols were established and regulations are being updated via CDSS’s rule making processes, in order to ease timelines and requests for exceptions based on crimes committed while applicant was a victim of human trafficking

Represented Alliance (by invitation):

- On California Hospital Association’s “Leading the Way” collaborative
- In Zellerbach Family Foundation hosted children’s mental health leadership convening
- In “At a Crossroads: Challenges in Effectively Serving California’s Highest Needs Youth” convening, organized and hosted by Seneca Family of Agencies, supported by James Irvine Foundation, Stuart Foundation, and Sierra Health Foundation
- On California Health Foundation’s webinar on SMHS

Represented Alliance on DHCS committee to redesign/update the specialty mental health audit protocol

- Revised audit tool and directions to auditors

- Reformatted audit tool for clarity and successfully advocated for tool to include a large percentage of Alliance recommended changes/additions

Represented Alliance in groups related to SUD services for youth, including:

- DHCS Youth Advisory Group for Substance Use Disorder Services
- Ad hoc Proposition 64 (Adult Use of Marijuana Initiative) implementation work group

Represented the Alliance on DSS Office of the Ombudsman strategic plan development stakeholder group

Represented Alliance on Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA) Public Policy Committee

- Represented the Alliance on FFTA Public Policy Committee addressing federal issues specific to Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and national accreditation for TFC providers

Represented Alliance on Statewide Extended Foster Care Steering Committee

- Represented the Alliance on the CDSS Statewide Extended Foster Care Committee to review implementation of AB 12 (Extended Foster Care) and to discuss best practices, needed services and better outcomes for the non-minor dependents served by AB 12 programs

Represented the Alliance on the Child Welfare Council's CSEC Action Team

- The goals of the CSEC Action team are to:
 - ✓ Set California on a path to ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children
 - ✓ Provide guidance to state and county agencies and their partners on how to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially those who are currently involved in the child welfare system
 - ✓ Identify, serve, and support commercially sexually exploited and at-risk children through a coordinated and collaborative response

Supported California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth

- Served as Friend of the CHMACY board
- Provided support to CMHACY board of directors and helped plan the 2017 CHMACY Conference.
- Organized and provided presentations for CMHACY conference
 - ✓ Developed and facilitated Education Preconference Institute
 - ✓ Collaborated with CBHDA members in organizing pre-conference institutes focusing on AB1299 implementation and STRTP program statements. Facilitated AB 1299 Implementation institute.
 - ✓ Collaborated in developing Mental Health, Education, SUD tracks and Policy Track at pre-conference and conference.
 - ✓ Developed Integration track to show case statewide and local best practice integrated mental health projects.
 - ✓ Presented CCR overview workshop for educators.
 - ✓ Presented workshop on recent state changes in laws and finances impacting children and youth.
- Facilitated CMHACY board of directors retreat

Represented Alliance on DHCS/DSS committees related to decreasing the utilization of psychotropic medications among foster youth

- Served on
 - ✓ Expert Panel
 - ✓ Executive Committee

Represented Alliance on the Foster Youth Education Task Force

- Attended monthly meeting addressing foster youth education issues
- Presented summit workshop on CCR for Educators

Broke Barriers

- Represented the Alliance on the Breaking Barriers Advisory Council, advocating for the appropriate positioning of community-based providers within emerging models of local child serving collaborative activities
- Provided opening day keynote address for the second annual convening of counties participating in Breaking Barriers

Represented Alliance on CCR Youth Satisfaction Survey Committee

- Committee's goal is to improve the experiences of youth in the foster care system by giving youth the opportunity to provide feedback on the strengths of the system as well as areas needing growth

Represented Alliance as invited presenters to

- Association of Children's Residential Centers (webinar)
- CiBHS Annual Electronic Health Record Conference (2 workshops)
- Institute for Advanced Training for legislative staff
- Los Angeles County staff and provider organizations
- MHSAs statewide Oversight and Accountability Commission
- Riverside County staff and provider organizations
- UCLA School of Social Work (webinar)

Represented Alliance in ongoing meetings of advocacy coalitions

- CDSS Child Welfare Advocates meeting
- Children's Medi-Cal advisory panel
- Children's Roundtable quarterly meetings where topics germane to child welfare services are discussed and analyzed
- Children's System of Care Committee (CBHDA)
- Child Welfare Advocacy Subcommittee
- DHCS Medi-Cal managed care advisory board
- DMHC behavioral health advisory board
- Mental Health Irregulars monthly legislative advocates meeting
- MHSAs Partners Forum convened by the Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
- Children's Roundtable
- MHSOAC Evaluation Committee
- MHSOAC PEI regulation workgroup
- MHSOAC Children crisis services workgroup