




Team Leader Training

Lobby Days 2019



AGENDA

- Welcome and Dinner
 - Introductions
 - Review Packet
 - NASW Advocacy & Team Leader Role
 - Legislative Process
 - Lobby Days Bills
 - Skits
- 



NASW ADVOCACY

- SOCIAL WORKERS ADVOCATE!
 - It's in our code of ethics
 - *6.04 Social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully.*
 - It's in our history and tradition
 - Connecting policy and practice and part of social work education



NASW LOBBY DAYS

- Component of NASW advocacy program (800 advocates, meeting over 100 legislators)
- Training social workers to be advocates within the legislative system
- The power of social workers lobbying issues that impact their clients and their profession
- Team leaders bring organization and leadership to a mass effort



TEAM LEADER ROLE

- NASW trains the team leaders on Saturday
- Team leaders organize and train their teams on Sunday
- Team leaders lead their team on Monday
- The team evaluates the experience

TRAIN AND ORGANIZE THE TEAM

- Your team is assigned to you based on the legislative district where they reside
- Average 6-8 team members
- Most will have little or no experience lobbying
- Some team leaders will have more than one team, if this is the case, you will be assigned to two adjacent tables after the afternoon break

TRAIN AND ORGANIZE THE TEAM

On Sunday after the afternoon break (2:40 PM):

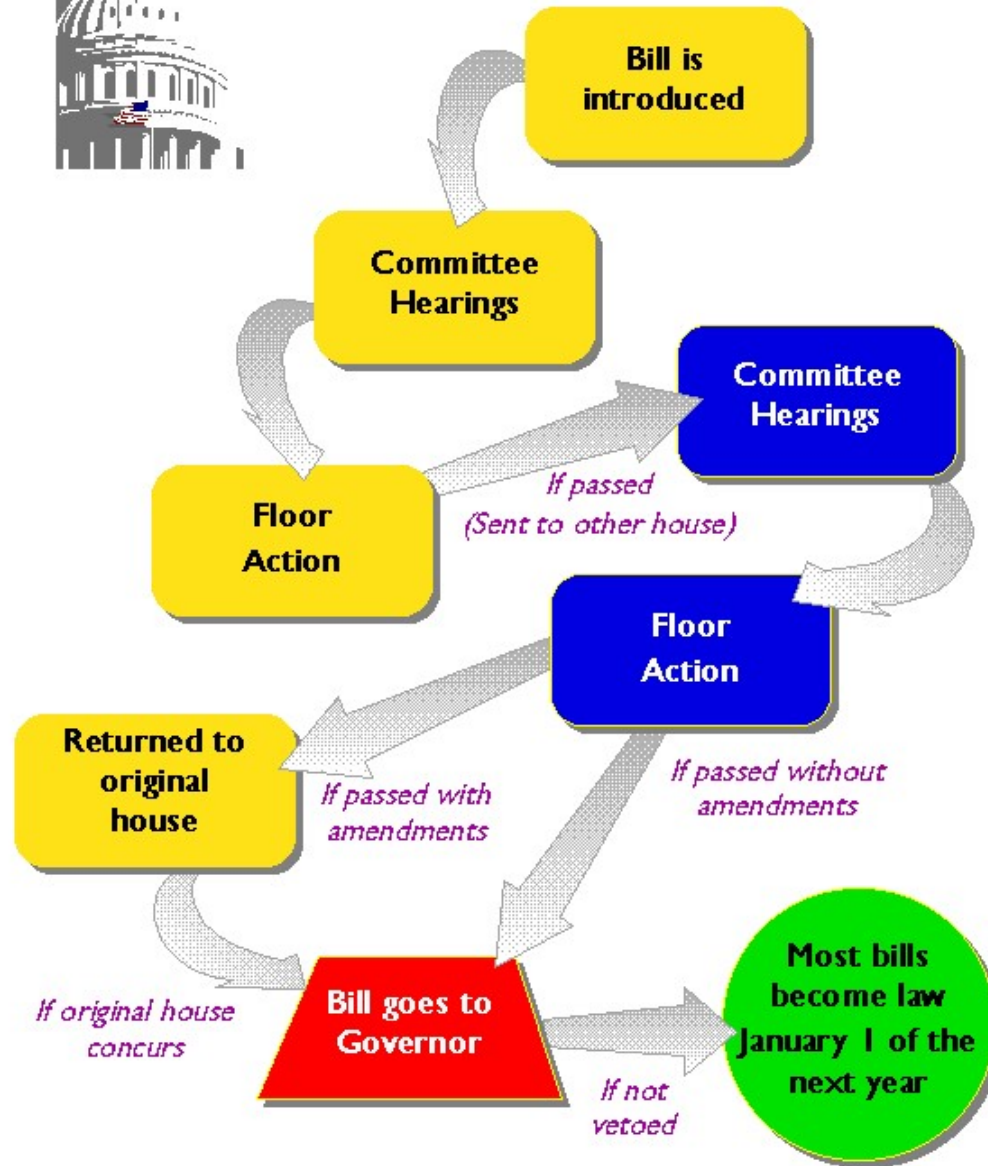
- Sit at your team table(s). Tables will be numbered with your team number
- Make sure the team members are at the right table and confirm the time and location of the Monday appointment
- Do introductions, share lobbying experiences
- Share the legislator background info
 - Their profile, committee assignments, voting record
- Discuss and learn the lobby bills/topics

Organize your team

- Assign team members to speaking roles
- Team leader should introduce the team and start off the meeting
- Assign three different people to talk about each of the 3 issues (bills). Personal stories are useful
- Each bill should take 2-3 minutes, total meeting 15 - 30
- Assign a person at the end of the meeting to ask for a commitment on how the Legislator will vote on the issues
- Team leader should wrap up meeting and give the office the “leave behind” folder. Also ask for a business card and thank them for their time
- Practice, Practice, Practice!!



How a Bill Becomes a Law





AB 183 (C. Garcia & B. Rubio)

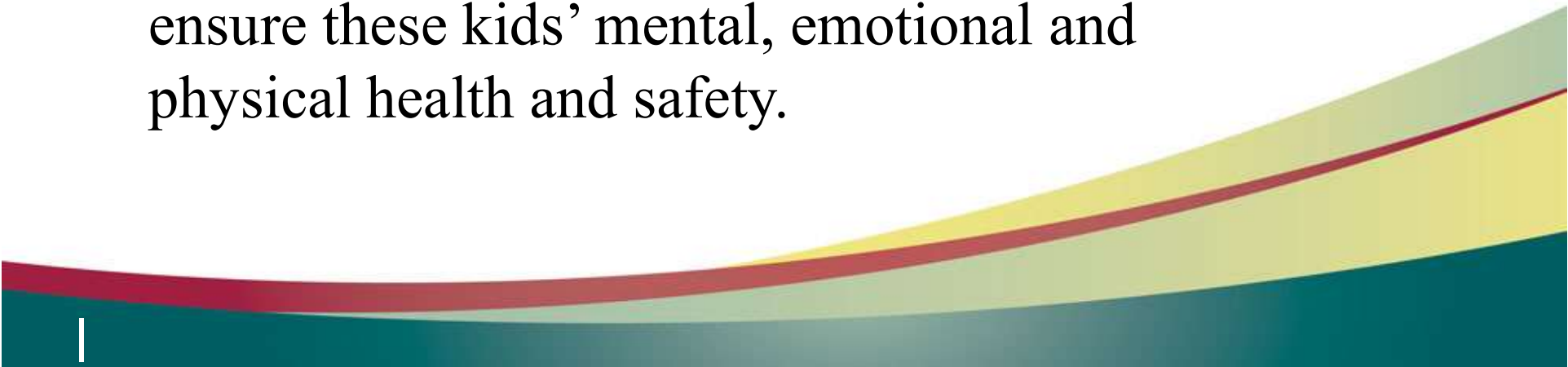
Detention Facilities: Undocumented
Children

Background

- This bill was introduced as a response to the treatment of undocumented children in detention facilities.
- **In California, 4,655 children were released to sponsors in 2018.**
- These children arrive at our border already traumatized from their life circumstances and by their journey.
- Children have been abused, and a few have died, due to the current administration's policies which have been disgraceful, and inhumane.
- Recent federal actions have highlighted the need for adequate resources in detention facilities for unaccompanied minors.




AB 163 Summary

- This bill leverages our current licensing laws which regulate facilities that are housing undocumented minors through the California Community Care Facilities Act.
 - AB 163 will assert already existing authority for the operational oversight and mandate to ensure these kids' mental, emotional and physical health and safety.
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AB 163 Specifics

- Requires a report on the number and length of placement of undocumented minors placed in detention facilities.
 - Provides access to legal services to those placed in detention facilities.
 - Provides mental health assessments and services to detained minors.
 - Requires the facilities to be inspected quarterly to ensure standards.
- 



Arguments for the Bill

- As social workers, we have a strong mandate to protect the most vulnerable among us.
- The state must do everything in its power to protect these children.
- We can't undo the trauma these children have already experienced, but we can work within our current regulatory system to make sure these children are protected.



Opposition Arguments

- “These people broke the law! We don’t owe them anything!”
 - Answer: These are children, it is our moral duty to protect them.
 - They are fleeing violence and poverty in their own countries.
 - These are children who did not have a choice.

Opposition Arguments

- It is the purview of the federal government to control our borders.
- The state does regulate some facilities that house undocumented children so we can and should use our authority to protect these children.



Support

- NASW-CA
- California Teachers Association

Political Realities

- This bill is a priority of the authors, the Latino Caucus, and the Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee – Eloise Gomez Reyes.
- This bill will be amended in the next few weeks to take care of implementation issues.
- The bill needs to clearly assert the state's authority to protect these children, separate and apart from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- Need to correct a problem with children placed with resource families.

Status

- We expect this bill to be heard in the Assembly Human Services Committee in late April (30th).
- Member of the committee include: Chair, Eloise Gomez Reyes (D), Devon Mathis (VC), *Joaquin Arambula (D), Steven Choi (R), Laura Friedman (D), Brian Maienschein (D), Mark Stone (D)
- Cost will be determined in Appropriations. If the bill increases costs, it will only be implemented if the state provides an annual budget increase.



SB 568 (Portantino & Roth)
Rapid Rehousing for College
Students

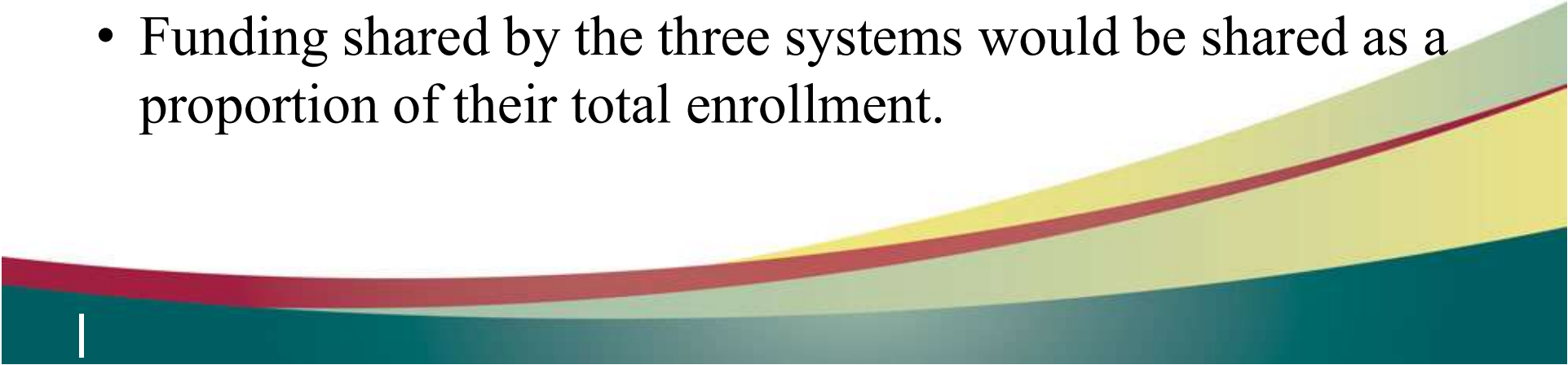


Background/The Problem

- In our California Community Colleges, 1 in 5 students or 20% had at least one episode of homelessness over a 12 month period.
- At CSU's and at our UC campuses, the reported rate of homelessness is 11% and 5% respectively.
- There is a disproportionate impact on African American and Native American students and those with experience in foster care or who were veterans.
- Homelessness seriously impacts a student's ability to remain in school and be successful.



SB 568 (Portantino & Roth)

- Establishes housing resources within the Community College and CSU Chancellor's Offices and the UC Office of the President.
 - Requires campuses that receive funding to implement measures to maximize the financial aid received by homeless students and ensure linkage to community-based housing resources.
 - Funding shared by the three systems would be shared as a proportion of their total enrollment.
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SB 568 Specifics

Colleges and universities receiving funding must:

- Partner with a local homeless service agency to implement a college-focused rapid rehousing program
- Facilitate access by students to available local housing resources
- Ensure that homeless students are receiving all available financial aid



Support

- John Burton Advocates for Youth (Sponsor)
- California State Student Association
- University of California Students Association
- Student Senate for California Community Colleges
- NASW-CA

Companion Budget Proposal

- Portantino has requested \$20 million to reduce homelessness among college students from the Budget Subcommittees.
- This budget request requires campuses to implement measures to maximize the financial aid received by homeless students and ensure linkages to community-based housing resources.
- This would enable the three systems to house 1,500 students.
- Budget augmentations will not be finalized until after the budget is revised in Mid-May.



Status/Political Realities

- This bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on April 10.
- The members of the committee are: Chair, Connie Leyva (D), Vice-Chair, Scott Wilk (R), Ling Ling Chang (R), Maria Elena Durazo (D), Steve Glazer (D), McGuire (D), Pan (D)
- Housing is a “hot” issue in the Legislature

Budget Requests

- The next two issues are budget requests.
- Budget requests move on a different but parallel process to the Legislative process for bills.
- Advocates who are looking for a major augmentation for a new or existing program, must put funding in the State Budget.



Family Urgent Response System
(FURS)
Budget Request





Background

- Foster youth often have trouble adjusting to a new home.
- As a result of past maltreatment, trauma, and loss, foster youth and their caregivers need help with adapting to their new living situations.
- Placement disruptions only contribute to negative consequences for children and youth.
- A major problem has been when caregivers call law enforcement for youth when they are simply acting out.
- This leads to the inappropriate criminalization of traumatized youth.



FURS Program – Goals

- This program provides foster youth and their caregivers with immediate trauma-informed support when issues arise.
- The goal is to preserve the family unit and to link youth and families to longer-term, community-based supports and services.
- This response system supports the goals of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) to provide timely, in-home supports and services.



FURS Program Specifics

- The Family Urgent Response System provides current and former foster youth and their caregivers with immediate supports by:
 - 1) Establishing a statewide hotline available 24/7, to support caregivers and youth with immediate help.
 - a) Hotline staff will be trained in conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques in order to provide immediate assistance and to determine whether mobile in-home response is needed.



FURS Program Continued

- 2) Requires counties to establish mobile response teams to provide face-to-face, in home response 24/7.
 - a) Counties will link the family with ongoing services through existing local networks of care



Budget Request

- This request is for \$15 million in State General Fund dollars (SGF) for the FURS program in 2019-20
- Also requesting \$30 million in SGF for ongoing support of the program

Arguments in Support

- Foster families need more support
- 32,000 calls were made to law enforcement in 2017
- With proper support, we can avoid this improper use of law enforcement resources
- We also need to avoid the criminalization of typical youth behavior
- This is an innovative program that will combine a statewide hotline with a local mobile response




Support

- Children Now
- County Behavioral Health Directors Association in California
- County Welfare Directors Association of California
- Service Employees International Union – California
- NASW-CA



Status of the Proposal

- This budget proposal was heard in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on April 4th and it will be heard in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on April 10th.
 - The budget committees do not “close out” their proceedings until after the May Revision of the budget, which is on or before May 15th.
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Political Realities

- There is a built up desire to increase funding for a variety of state programs.
- Many well respected organizations are behind this request.
- This is a relatively small budget ask.
- The final budget will be decided by leadership from both houses and the Governor.



Extended Foster Care Budget Request



Background

- AB12 was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2010.
- This program created the Extended Foster Care program for youth between the ages of 18 and 21.
- Research by the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study has found numerous benefits for EFC including: improvements in education, employment, housing, social supports, reductions in pregnancy and parenting as well as less criminal justice involvement.



Background

- AB 12 had been a very successful program but before it was implemented, it was hard to predict how many youth would be involved and the true costs to the system.
- Also, many young adults still fare poorly compared to their peers on indicators such as economic self-sufficiency, physical and mental health, and educational attainment.

Extended Foster Care Program Specifics

- **Caseload reduction for social workers** who support this population. This is a request of \$32.9 million State General Fund (SGF). Research shows that lower caseloads allow social workers to give additional time and attention to these youth which results in improved outcomes.
- **Housing Navigators and Financial Assistance** This \$12.2 million SGF request will link transition-aged foster youth and non-minor dependents in the EFC program to housing such as Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs), Transitional Housing, and placements with resource families.

Extended Foster Care Program Specifics

- **Increase foster care capacity** – This request for \$4.9 million SGF enables foster youth living in a foster home placement to maintain that placement by helping their homes transition to “host families.”
- This is a total budget request of **\$50 million**.



Arguments in Support

- The Extended Foster Care program was a historic expansion of services to foster youth and it deserves our support.
- Research has shown that most foster youth under age 18 chose to remain in foster care, with three-quarters entering the EFC program after age 18 and two-thirds in the program up to the age of 21.
- This shows that the services and supports of the program are valued and needed by these youth.
- This is a worthy investment in these youth in order to foster their successful transition to adulthood.




Support

- Alliance for Children's Rights
- Children Now
- County Welfare Directors Association of California
- Service Employees International Union – California
- NASW-CA



Status of the Proposal

- This budget proposal was heard in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on April 4th and it will be heard in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on April 10th.
 - The budget committees do not “close out” their proceedings until after the May Revision of the budget, which is on or before May 15th.
- 



Political Realities

- There is a built up desire to increase funding for a variety of state programs
- This is one of many augmentations but many well respected organizations are behind this request
- **The AB 12 program is popular with the Legislature.**
- The final budget will be decided by leadership from both houses and the Governor

The Visit (Monday)

- ❑ Arrive outside the Legislator's door 20 minutes before the appointment time
- ❑ Stay outside and keep the noise down until 5 minutes before your visit
- ❑ If scheduler has no NASW appointment...
- ❑ Team Leader:
 - Introduce the team, visit purpose, provide the “leave behind folder” (white folder only)
 - Say something positive (voting record)

The Visit

- Individual Team Members presentation:
 - Introduce yourself, if constituent, say so
 - Your background in social work, or school
 - Field of practice
 - Speak to your section of the bill (2-3 minutes)
- Team Leader or Team Member
 - Ask if the Legislator supports the bill(s)
 - If not why? Record answers (Seal the Deal form)
 - Conclude the meeting, thank the member or staff

After the Visit

- Debrief the visit with the whole team:
How did it go, any follow up?
- Complete the “Seal the Deal Form” including any comments or follow up
- Return the form to the State Capitol Basement Cafeteria, old side, NASW table
- Attend the Social Action Rally, 10th St. Side, 11am - 12pm
- Attend hearings of interest in the Capitol

Check-off list

- Double check the Legislator's room number on the roster across from the elevators
- Dress and act professionally (business attire)
- Don't be late and don't bring non team members.
- Turn off cell phones.
- Don't switch appointments with someone else
- Note new issues brought up in meeting on Seal the Deal Form.

Logistics

- Closest and cheapest parking for Sunday is the Memorial Garage on 14th and but you must enter by 9:30 AM
- For Monday, meters are the cheapest - parkmobile.com app
- Cheapest garage is still Memorial Garage
- Closest is 10th & L street
- Capitol Building, 4 digit numbers “new side,” 3 digit #'s are in the “old ornate side”. Cafeteria is in the Basement of the old side.



SKITS

(Rehearse Sat. Perform Sunday)

- Volunteers to serve on:
 - The good team and the “bad” team
 - Need a team leader, team members to speak
 - Need legislators and their schedulers (good and bad)