
Assembly Bill 12 Stakeholder Meeting

April 27, 2011

**Administrative Office of the
Courts, Burbank**



Web Seminar Participation

- Call-in phone number: (314) 627-1519
- Access Code: 255-064-723
- Audio PIN: Shown after joining the Webinar
- To submit live questions, click on the “Question” arrow on your screen, type your question, and click “Send.”



Meeting Goals

- Provide an update on the status of AB 12 implementation
- Share documents and policy proposals that have been developed
- Answer questions and receive comments
- Have more in-depth discussions during breakout groups



FOCUS AREA TEAM UPDATES & OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT



AB 12 Steering Committee

- First Meeting – April 8, 2011
- Members include Co-Sponsors & CDSS
- Key role is to ensure alignment with sponsors' vision and values throughout AB 12 Implementation Process
- Other roles include:
 - ❑ Identify subject matter experts for focus area teams
 - ❑ Provide input on draft deliverables
 - ❑ Vet deliverables with constituents
 - ❑ Advise and assist in public education and dissemination among stakeholders



Steering Committee (cont'd)

Steering committee reviewed stakeholder engagement efforts to date:

- County social workers and eligibility workers
- Judicial Officers
- Youth
- Providers
- Foster Parents
- Relative Caregivers
- Education Stakeholders
- Juvenile Probation
- Legal Services Organizations



Steering Committee (cont'd)

- Committee discussed
 - Parallel process in Los Angeles County
 - Focus group progress and planned meetings in April
- Draft Communication plan introduced
 - Committee members have reviewed and provided input –
 - Stakeholders are asked to review and provide input/questions/feedback as well



Steering Committee (cont'd)

- Steering Committee agreed to:
 - Meet bi-monthly
 - Next meeting 6/30/11
 - Promote cross workgroup and stakeholder discussion of issues/concerns/policy needs;
 - Diligently work move implementation process forward understanding that we all “don’t know all the answers” and that some questions won’t be even “known” until implementation is underway;
 - Not knowing “all the answers” can’t stop the process.



Coordinating Leadership Team

Role

- Be responsible and accountable for implementation
- Ensure alignment with vision and values
- Coordinate with other affected public agencies
- Ensure alignment and coordination across five focus areas
- Vet draft deliverables with stakeholder organizations and constituents

- CDSS
- AOC
- CWDA/CPOC

**AB 12 Steering Committee
Vision/Core Values**



CDSS Focus Areas **AOC**



Deliverables

- *ACLs/CFLs*
- *Forms*
- *IV-E State Plan*
- *Informing materials*
- *Curricula*
- *Clean-up Issues*
- *Rules of Court*
- *Automation changes*
- *Regulations*

Coordinating Leadership Team: Sample Products in Review

- Overview PowerPoint and Materials
- Local Implementation Plan
- Organizational Readiness Assessment Tool



Rules of Court

- The proposed Rules of Court have been posted. To review and/or comment go to:
[http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin-
invitationstocomment.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin-invitationstocomment.htm)
- The workgroup will resume meeting on May 18, 2011 at noon. To join the call please e-mail Jody Green at greenj@clcla.org



Program & Placement Focus Area Team

- The full Program & Placement FAT meets once a month to coordinate the work of the 3 subgroups (Program Criteria, THP-Plus FC, and Licensing & Approval)
- Last meeting was on April 18, 2011
 - Recommendations re: THP-Plus Foster Care, Higher Education, Youth Surveys/Findings, Relative Caregiver Surveys/Findings
 - Reviewed the Shared Living Agreement



THP-Plus Foster Care: First Round of Draft Recommendations

- Focus on program elements and administration and oversight
- Developed with input from counties, providers, youth, and advocates
- Incorporate input from surveys of current and former THP-Plus participants, county THP-Plus representatives, and THP-Plus providers
- Shared with CDSS Program & Placement Focus Area Team and THP-Plus Sub-Group



THP-Plus Foster Care Recommendations

- 1) THP-Plus Foster Care programs must treat participants as adults.
- 2) THP-Plus Foster Care programs should work in partnership with the county social services or probation agency to assist youth in maintaining eligibility.
- 3) THP-Plus Foster Care providers and the county social service or probation agency should coordinate service provision and referrals.



THP-Plus Foster Care

Recommendations (continued)

- 4) The county social services or probation agency should be responsible for ensuring that THP-Plus Foster Care placements are available to serve participants with a wide range of service needs, including parenting youth and youth with high level mental health needs.
- 5) THP-Plus Foster Care regulations should build in program flexibility.
- 6) THP-Plus Foster Care placements should be accessible to the participant's community.



THP-Plus Foster Care

Recommendations (continued)

- 7) THP-Plus Foster Care placements should support permanent connections, supports and relationships
- 8) THP-Plus Foster Care should include a planned transition from the placement
- 9) Each participant should complete a lifeskills assessment upon program entrance



THP-Plus Foster Care

Recommendations (continued)

- 10) THP-Plus Foster Care programs should use a team decision model
- 11) All THP-Plus Foster Care programs should emphasize case management
- 12) THP-Plus Foster Care programs should assist participants in ensuring their health and safety



THP-Plus Foster Care

Recommendations (continued)

- 13) THP-Plus Foster Care programs should emphasize strengths-based service delivery
- 14) THP-Plus Foster Care programs should be governed by California fair housing law
- 15) THP-Plus Foster Care programs should assist participants in ensuring their health and safety



THP-Plus Foster Care

Recommendations: Administration

- 1) The deadline for the THP-Plus/THP-Plus Foster Care Interim County Plan for FY 2011-12 should be September 1, 2011
- 2) THP-Plus Foster Care providers should be required to report on participant data on a periodic basis through an approved system, such as the THP-Plus Participant Tracking System



THP-Plus Foster Care

Recommendations: What's Next

- Approval standards for THP-Plus Foster Care providers
- THP-Plus Foster Care Rate Structure



Program and Placement: Higher Education

- Supervised Independent Living Placement
 - Age appropriate approval standards
 - Automatic approval for college owned housing and housing that is subject to inspection by govt. entity
 - No background checks for other adults in household
 - Participants must be allowed to move into sites pending approval with retroactive payment
 - No requirement for formal lease with landlord with social worker approval and written verification of arrangement
 - Respect of privacy and confidentiality of participants by social workers when making home visits



Program and Placement: Higher Education (cont.)

- Transitional Independent Living Plan
 - Reflect higher education goals on samples provided on TILP form
 - Train social workers to incorporate specific higher education goals into TILP and provide appropriate services to youth to support access of higher education
 - Utilize ongoing monitoring to support youth to be successful in higher education



Program and Placement: Higher Education (cont.)

- Collaboration
 - ❑ Co-location of ILSP with higher education
 - ❑ Create mechanism for sharing of information between higher ed and child welfare with permission from student
 - ❑ Child welfare agencies identify higher education liaison
 - ❑ Establish local education partnerships
- Training
 - ❑ Train all Social Workers and Probation Officers with basic higher education information
 - ❑ Create advanced curriculum for Social Workers working with participants aged 14 and up
 - ❑ Provide training to relative caregivers and foster parents



CAREGIVER & YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS



Topic 1: Choosing to Remain in Care or Continuing to Provide Support

Survey Results

- Youth: **50%** of youth in care and **56%** of youth out of care said they would choose to stay in care beyond the age of 18 if given the option

- Youth: Why would you remain in care?
 - (1) to get housing and other kinds of support, (2) because I won't have anywhere else to go, and (3) because I like my current placement and will want to continue living there

- Youth: Why would you choose to leave foster care:
 - (1) because I am ready to live on my own, (2) because I will want to return to the household of my biological mother or father, and (3) because I want to get out of the system and away from its rules

- Relatives: **92%** affirmed their willingness to continue providing care and support with funding to a youth between the ages of 18-21



Topic 1: Choosing to Remain in Care or Continuing to Provide Support, cont'd

Recommendations

- Develop training and outreach materials for both caregivers and youth, that clearly explain the benefits of remaining in care, the rights and responsibilities of youth, and the role of the caregivers
 - Training materials should set forth how foster care will change once a youth turns 18 in order to provide the young adult with more autonomy

- Begin discussions about the benefits of extended foster care start far in advance of the youth turning 18

- Policies and regulations must respect the youth's status as a young adult



Topic 2: Reentry Process

Survey Results

- 40% of youth out of care indicated they would have considered returning to foster care after age 18

Recommendations

- Develop a process and provide clear information to youth who choose to exit foster care before age 21 about how to reenter care that includes:
 - Providing youth the contact information of their social worker, attorney, and their ILP coordinator
 - Developing on-line resources, such as information on a Facebook page or another type of website, that provides information and instructions on reentering foster care
 - Designating a “go-to” person within each ILP program who can assist in reentry



Topic 3: Participation Requirements

Survey Results

- **85%** of youth in and out of care indicated a desire to participate in post-secondary education or vocational education
- **73%** of relative caregivers indicated a need for help connecting youth to education and vocational programs
- Youth and caregivers overwhelmingly responded that youth be given ample time to work on and resolve problems that could lead to termination of foster care benefits



Topic 3: Participation Requirements, cont'd

Recommendations:

- Provide written information and training opportunities for caregivers in the areas of educational and vocational programs, and employment resources
- Coordinate services and supports between the child welfare, Independent Living Programs, and the higher education community to ensure youth gain assistance in financial aid, registering for courses, and accessing campus services like tutoring
- Policies and procedures should be enacted that provide youth who are struggling to participate or who temporarily fail to meet program requirements the opportunity to work with their social worker and other support systems in order to come back into compliance prior to initiating any action to terminate or suspend foster care benefits



Topic 4: Placement Options

Survey Results

- **65.8%** of youth indicated they want placement that allows them to manage their own apartment
 - BUT - youth strongly prioritized independent housing with services (like THP-Plus) over placements that provide housing alone, even when this meant receiving a smaller monthly stipend to manage themselves
- **24%** of youth would choose to live in a relative caregiver's home
- **Over 78%** of caregivers expressed desire for written agreement between themselves and the young adults living in their homes



Topic 4: Placement Options, cont'd.

Recommendations

- Ensure all placements provide youth with a level of independence and autonomy consistent with their status as young adults
- Develop a Shared Living Agreement (SLA) to be completed by the caregiver and the youth prior to placement
 - The SLA will allow both the youth and the caregiver to discuss their needs and expectations in the placement, and to agree in advance about a variety of issues including curfew, overnight guests and household responsibilities



Topic 4: Placement Options, cont'd.

Recommendations, cont'd.

- Allow youth participating in extended foster care to live with roommates including their peers from outside foster care
- Create a checklist to determine a youth's level of self-sufficiency, and ensure that prior to moving into a Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILP) the youth demonstrates that he/she can at a minimum, meet his/her monthly living expenses through a combination of their foster care benefit and other sources of income such as scholarship, financial aid, employment earnings)
- Develop standards that ensure that youth who reside in a SILP continue to have access to active case management and assistance



Topic 5: Foster Care Benefit Payments

Survey Results

- **100%** of youth believed that a certain amount of the benefits should be given to the youth each month to spend on basic necessities.
- **86%** of caregivers believed youth should be given a portion of the benefits to “help teach the value of money, learn to budget, handle finances and learn responsibility”

Recommendations

- Provide youth with a monthly stipend. If living with a caregiver, the amount of the monthly stipend and the expenses it is expected to cover, will be discussed and documented in the Shared Living Agreement



Program Criteria Subgroup

- The program criteria subgroup met on March 28th, April 11th and April 25th.
- Highlights of the meetings
 - Brainstorm outline for initial All County Letter
 - Revised “Mutual Agreement”
 - Developed and revised “Definitions of the 5 Participation Conditions”
 - Developed “Shared Living Agreement”
 - Discussions about the new Supervised Independent Living Placement



Program Criteria: Outline for Initial ACL

- What is extended foster care and what is different on January 1, 2012?
- Who is eligible and when (staggered implementation) including age, court status, what is different for these young adults, and their status changes
- What is the trigger for eligibility
 - Mutual Agreement (in development)
 - Placement Agreement (need to develop for SILPs and THP-Plus FC)
 - Shared Living Agreement (in development)
- 5 conditions of eligibility (in development)
- Description of where a youth can be placed (in development)
- Case Planning
- Permanency
- TILP
- Court process/court reports that have to be completed (in development)
 - the 366.3 hearing report, the 391 exit hearing report, the 388(e) re-entry hearing report



Program Criteria Subgroup: Mutual Agreement

- Mutual Agreement intended to be a one-time eligibility document for youth volunteering to continue in care at 18 or for youth to re-enter after trial independence
- Current draft developed by a working team, reviewed by the Program Criteria Subgroup, reviewed by the full Program & Placement FAT
- Vetted the current version with youth councils this last week.
 - Had suggestions on what needed to be clarified
 - Provided input on what should not be included and what was missing



Program Criteria Subgroup:

Definitions of 5 Participation Conditions

- Developed by a working team, vetted with the Program Criteria Subgroup, informed by recommendations from stakeholders, vetted with youth council members
- Incorporates the “removing barriers to employment” (shared at last stakeholder meeting) and flushes out remaining 4 eligibility conditions
- Goal to have a basic definition for each eligibility condition and an attachment that provides further guidance/examples of what is included (all are intended to be included but not limited to)
- Subgroup has continued to discuss difference between eligibility standards and practice standards
- Medical condition – definition in this eligibility document is not what will be used for defining “medical condition” for the purpose of remaining in a group home (co-sponsors working on language)



Program Criteria: Shared Living Agreement

- Intended as a “living document” between youth and the caregiver/provider to be completed prior to placement and updated as needed
- Intended to be individualized: gives youth a voice in defining the terms of the placement, allows youth/caregiver to communicate in advance about expectations
- Developed by a working team, vetted with the full Program and Placement FAT and with the youth councils
- CCL involved in discussions around SLA to avoid developing licensing rules for NMD that would limit the ability of the youth/caregiver to negotiate this agreement
 - BUT – agreement between youth/caregiver **cannot** violate any current licensing rules that apply to minor dependents in the home (ie smoking, noise)



Program Criteria: Supervised Independent Living Placement

- Summary of discussions about the SILPs:
 - Approval standards
 - Going to look at current licensing standards and approval checklists used by the THP-Plus programs when they approve scattered site housing
 - Distinguish between basic health/safety approval standards for SILPS generally versus practice issue of deciding whether a specific placement is appropriate for a specific youth
 - What a SILP includes
 - Apartment living
 - Room and board arrangements
 - College/University dorms
 - Shared roommate settings
 - SILP with a former caregiver/relative/NERFM/foster parent (not a bio parent)
 - Single Room Occupancy hotels



Program Criteria: SILPs (cont'd)

- Summary of discussions (con't)
 - Who can be approved for a SILP (readiness checklist/best practice guidelines)
 - Working team formed to develop this checklist – to be developed and vetted with subgroup in 2 weeks
 - Will also include best practices regarding contingency planning with the youth
 - How often caseworker visits should occur and form of contacts
 - Frequency of reapproval
 - Guidelines for determining when the youth gets direct payment versus partial payment (and mechanics if there is more than one payee)

- Vetted questions about SILPs with the youth councils



Program and Placement: THP-Plus Foster Care

- 1 meeting held since 3/23 stakeholder meeting
- Discussion of THP-Plus/THP-Plus FC LOI
 - All County Letter re: LOI will go out June 1st
 - All counties will need to submit LOI for THP-Plus FC and be prepared to pay for NMD in THP-Plus FC anywhere in the state; counties are not required to have in-county providers
 - THP-Plus Foster Care will be statewide program, not beds “owned” by a particular county
- One allocation



Program and Placement: THP-Plus Foster Care (con't)

- County plan due September 1; ACL forthcoming
- County plan asks counties to understand statewide approval standards for providers, certification process for individual housing units



Program and Placement: THP-Plus Foster Care (continued)

- Approval standards based on THP-Plus regulations and conceptual standards for THPP for nonminor dependents
- Conceptual standards maintain THP-Plus emphasis on developing incremental responsibility and treating participants as adults
- Conceptual standards include education and experience requirements for program managers and case managers to ensure program quality



Program and Placement: THP-Plus Foster Care (continued)

- Conceptual standards require an application and interview process to determine if a particular placement is the right fit, while also ensuring that placement isn't delayed as a result
- Provider approval process incorporates application fee process, similar to FFA
- Process for providers to certify individual housing units in development; will be based on HUD Housing Standards Quality checklist



Licensing & Approval Subgroup

- There has not been another meeting of the licensing & approval subgroup since our last stakeholder meeting on March 18th
- CDSS staff has been taking all the comments from the first subgroup meeting and is revising the draft regulations based on those comments
- Revised regulations will be shared in mid-May
- Next licensing meeting will be held by June 1 at the latest in Monterey Park



Licensing & Approval Subgroup

- Categories of Facilities with New Licensing/Approval Regulations:
 - ❑ Foster Family Homes (approval standards for relative caregivers parallels the FFH regulations)
 - ❑ Foster Family Agencies
 - ❑ Group Homes
 - ❑ Transitional Housing Placement Program
 - NOTE: licensing does not govern THP-Plus Programs and does not intend to develop them for THP-Plus Foster Care



Licensing & Approval Subgroup

- CCL is interested in knowing what kinds of licensing questions you have and what issues you want to make sure are addressed in licensing

- Recap of the key discussion items that CCL is considering (we presented these at March 23rd meeting):
 - Health records/ability to control own medical needs
 - Privacy/autonomy/respecting independence of youth in coming and going, maintaining own documents, etc
 - Access to internet
 - Ability to leave non-minor unsupervised
 - Changing rules about who can sleep in the same room (rules currently prohibit males and females from sleeping in same room)
 - Basic level of services that the provider must provide
 - Role of provider is to assist the non-minor dependent to achieve goals, not just doing activities for the youth



LUNCH BREAK

Web seminar participants should stay logged in to web seminar. For audio, hang up and call back at 1:30 p.m.



Eligibility and Rates: Documentation Requirements to Establish Eligibility

- Youth in foster care at 18 with no break in care (what needs to be in the eligibility file):
 - ❑ Mutual agreement
 - ❑ Copies of Court Order (366.3)
 - ❑ Soc 158A (subsequent Soc 158 for placement changes)
 - ❑ Rate letters (or 815 for relative placement)
 - ❑ Medi-Cal
 - ❑ Certification form



Eligibility and Rates: Documentation Requirements for Eligibility (con't)

- Six month certification
 - Social worker updates TILP and case plan
 - 6 month certification

- Annual reassessment
 - Medi-Cal determination
 - Income/assets
 - Placement
 - FC2 completed

- Youth Exits and requests re-entry
 - Mutual agreement – starts process of immediate placement.
 - Court process and agency process
 - Need to discuss what would qualify for temporary shelter placements
 - Up to 60 days to complete a new TILP



Eligibility and Rates FAT: Six Month Certification

- Intended to be simple eligibility document that the social worker completes and provides to the eligibility worker every six months
- Does not include the placement information
 - Mutual agreement specifies that the youth agrees to be in supervised setting
 - Placement agreement includes information about the specific placement
 - Changes in placements must be reported immediate (using the SOC 158)



Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Training *Workgroup*

- 3 workgroup meetings have been held
- Co-chaired by CA Foster Care Ombudsman's Office and California Youth Connection (CYC)
- Stakeholders from CDSS, Current and or Former Foster Youth, County Officials, Child Welfare Advocates, and Philanthropic Organizations



Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Training Plan

Plan Consists of:

- Developing Marketing Materials aimed at specific audiences (i.e. Youth, Caregivers, Child Welfare Workers)
- Surveys
- Statewide Youth Advisory Council
- Coordinated youth councils to solicit timely input into state proposals
- Trainings
- Community Forums



Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Training Accomplishments

- Workgroup has produced 3 Fact Sheets
 - General
 - Youth
 - Values
- Social Media Awareness Campaign



Outreach, Youth Engagement, and Training *Next Steps*

- Sub- Committee will focus on developing new training modules for child welfare workers that are related to AB 12 but that do not require new regulations
- Workgroup will create a grid of all anticipated AB 12 training modules- will work with other AB 12 workgroups to develop this grid
- Next Meeting will be held May 19th at CDSS in Sacramento.
- For more information please contact Chantel Johnson at chantel@calyouthconn.org



Delinquency Workgroup

- 2 meetings with representation from probation, delinquency court judges, public defenders and advocates (chaired by AOC)
- Workgroup addressing issues with existing framework for probation youth in AB 12
 - Concerns with modifying delinquency status to dependency status
 - Desire to give delinquency supervised foster youth same opportunity to “opt in” as dependency supervised youth.
 - Ensuring that delinquency supervised non-minor dependents are no longer subject to sanctions
 - Concerns with re-entry issues



Delinquency Workgroup

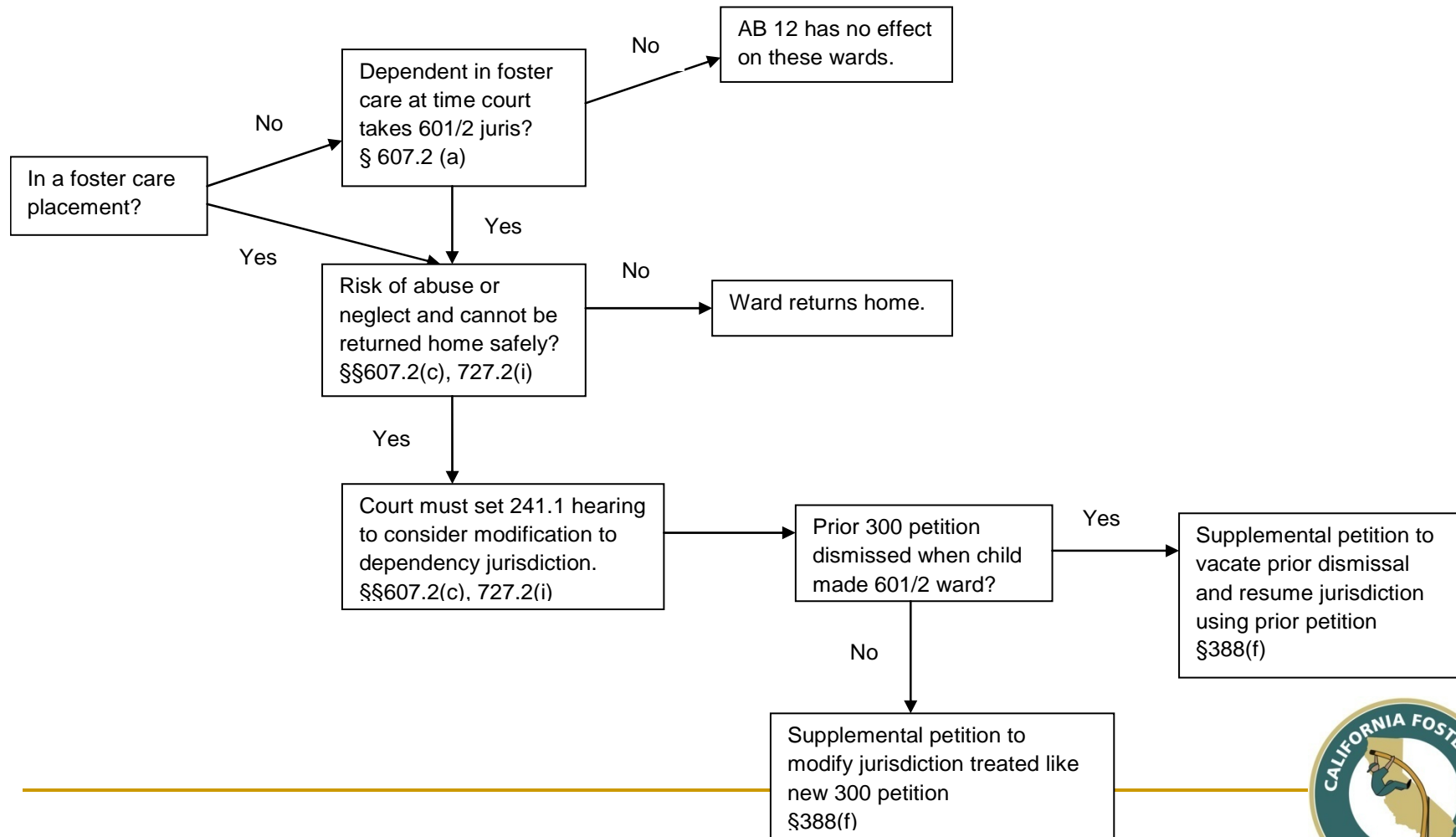
- Amendments have been submitted for inclusion in AB 212

- Basic framework for amendments is as follows in flowcharts



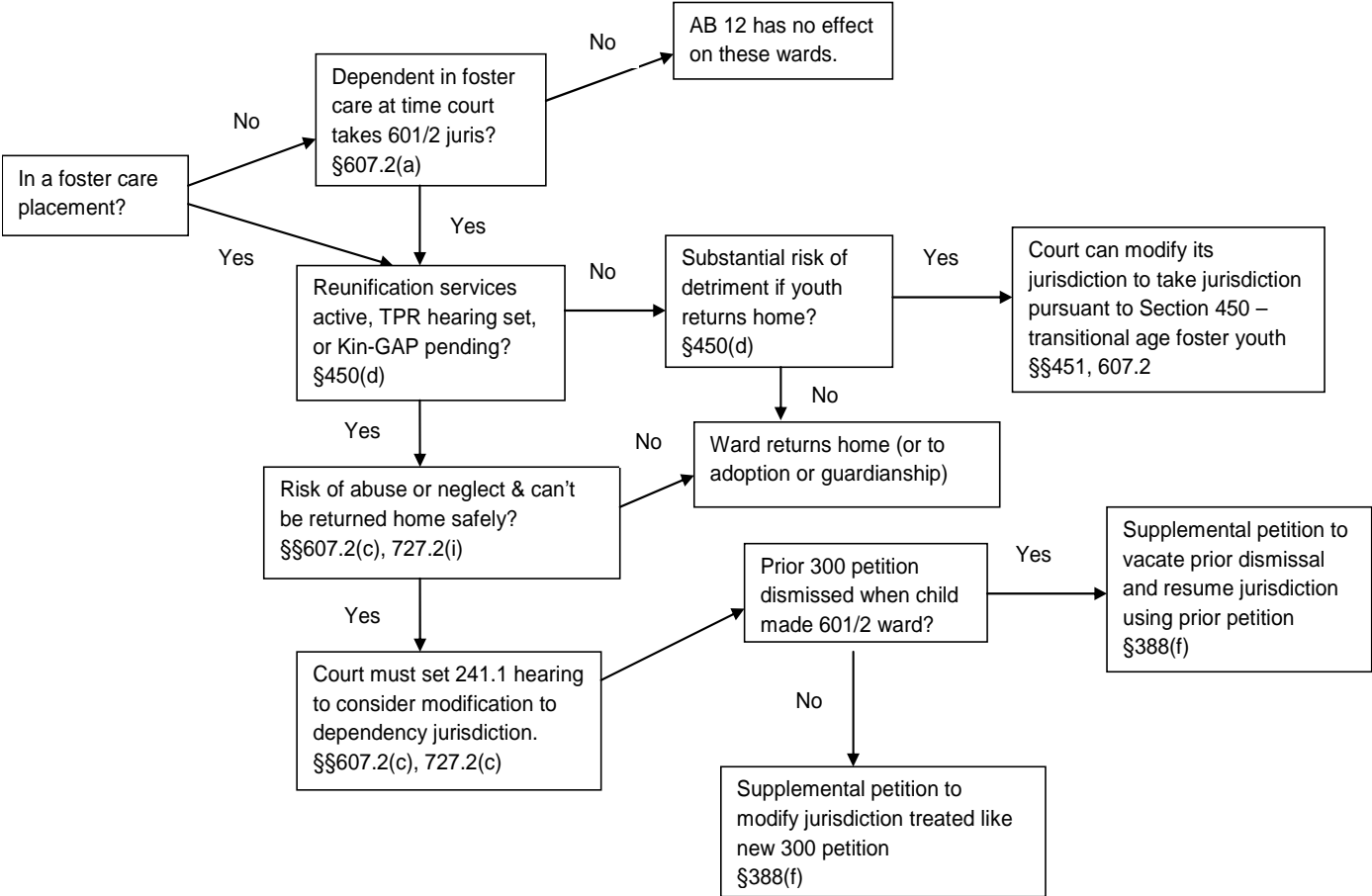
Proposed Amendments to AB 12 – Impact on Wards Under Age 17.5 Who Have Met Rehabilitative Goals

All Statutory References Are to the Welfare and Institutions Code

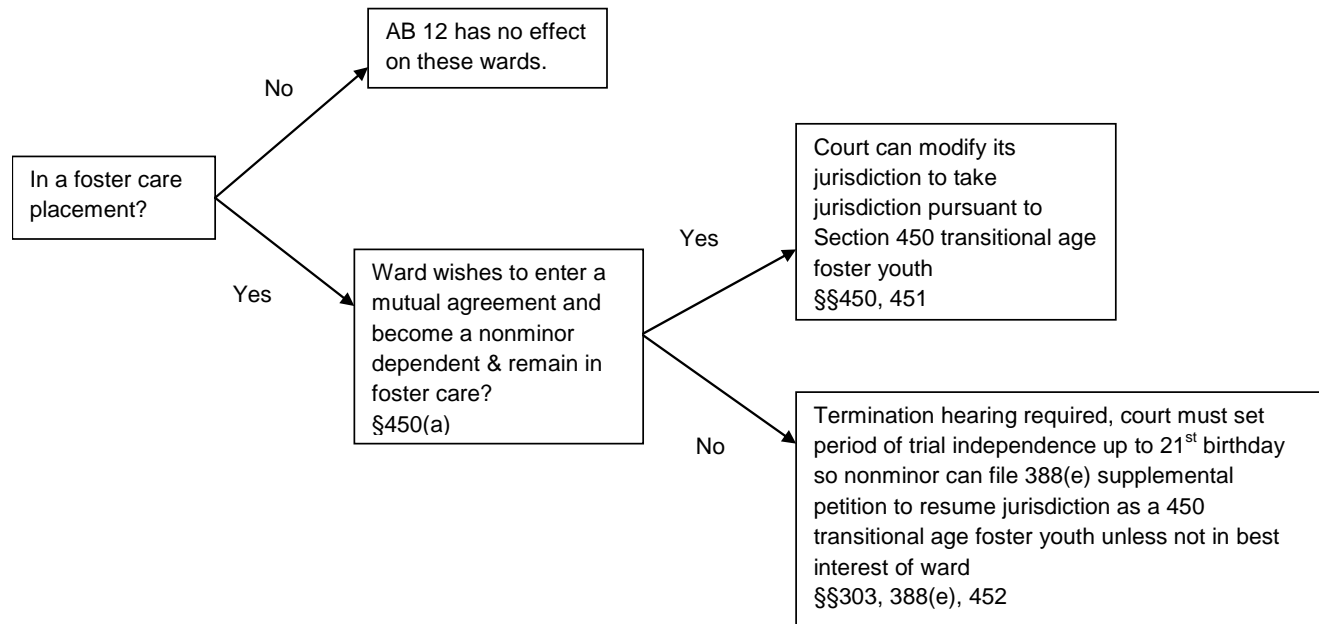


Proposed Amendments to AB 12 – Impact on Wards Age 17.5 to 18 Who Have Met Rehabilitative Goals

All Statutory References Are to the Welfare and Institutions Code



Proposed Amendments to AB 12 – Impact on Wards 18 to 21 Who Have Met Rehabilitative Goals
All Statutory References Are to the Welfare and Institutions Code



Next Steps

- All meeting materials and the webinar recording will be available at www.cafosteringconnections.org
 - Stakeholder input is shared with CDSS on a weekly basis
 - AB 12 cosponsors will continue to report back and solicit input
-
- **Next stakeholder meeting:
Monday, May 23rd in Oakland**



Subject Matter Breakout Groups

Affinity Group/Interest	Facilitator(s)	Room
State & County Child Welfare Staff	Mitch Mason	Sunset Blvd.
Youth	Chantel Johnson	Star Wars
Judicial Officers & Legal Service Organizations	Leslie Heimov & Jody Green	Sea Biscuit
THP-Plus	Michele Byrnes & Jackie Rutheiser	Casablanca
FFH & Relative Caregivers	Angie Schwartz	Westside Story
Postsecondary Education	Debbie Raucher	Star Wars
Delinquency	Jennifer Rodriguez	Star Wars



More Questions?

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