

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** California Child Welfare Stakeholders  
**FROM:** Amy Lemley, John Burton Foundation  
**DATE:** November 23, 2010  
**RE:** Summary of AB 12 implementation framework presented by CDSS and the AOC

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Provided below is a summary of the AB 12 implementation framework presented by the California Department of Social Services and the Administrative Office of the Courts on November 22, 2010. The purpose of this memo is to educate California child welfare stakeholders who were unable to attend the meeting about this proposed structure. It is not intended to be an exhaustive explanation, but rather a summary to keep the greater community of child welfare stakeholders informed. Additionally, CDSS explained that this is a proposed structure and that it may be changed to best address the challenges presented by AB 12 implementation.

### SUMMARY OF STRUCTURE

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CDSS and the AOC proposed a three tier implementation structure, outlined below.

#### **Tier 1: AB 12 Steering Committee:**

- **Composition:** This group consists of the nine AB 12 sponsoring organizations, all stakeholders identified in AB 12, legislative staff, CDSS leadership and other stakeholders, such as tribal representatives, youth and caregivers. Karen Gunderson of CDSS was identified as the lead for the AB 12 Steering Committee.
- **Purpose:** It's purpose is to (1) articulate the AB 12 vision and core values (2) ensure alignment with vision and values through quarterly meetings with the Coordinating Leadership Team and Focus Area Leads (3) Identify subject matter experts for focus area teams (4) provide input on draft deliverables (5) vet deliverables with constituents and (6) advise and assist in public education and dissemination among stakeholders.

#### **Tier 2: Coordinating Leadership Team:**

- **Composition:** the Coordinating Leadership Team consists of the public agencies legislatively charged with implementation of AB 12: CDSS, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the County Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) and the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC). Karen Gunderson of CDSS was identified as the lead for the Coordinating Leadership Team.
- **Purpose:** Its purpose is to (1) be responsible and accountable for implementation (2) ensure alignment with vision and values (3) coordinate with other affected public agencies (4) ensure alignment and coordination across five focus areas and (5) vet draft deliverables with stakeholder organizations and constituents:

**Tier 3: Focus Area Teams:** CDSS and AOC outlined five focus area teams. They distinguished that these five focus area teams will be different than traditional workgroups in an effort to make them more flexible and responsive to the breadth of issues within each focus area. Each will be led by a different division within CDSS or the AOC, with specific lead staff members. Additionally, an AB 12 sponsor organization is identified as a lead collaborator for each focus area team. Each focus team will consist of content experts and/or child welfare stakeholders to provide input into the specific areas of work of the focus area team. If you are a content area expert who is interested in participating in one or more of

these focus area teams, please indicate your interest in an email to the CDSS lead staff and the AB 12 sponsor point person.

**(1) Placement & Program:**

- a. Topics to be addressed: ILP, Case Planning, New Placement Options (SIL and THP-Plus), Licensing, Mutual Agreements
- b. CDSS Lead: Karen Gunderson (Karen.Gunderson@dss.ca.gov)
- c. AB 12 Co-Sponsor Lead: Angie Schwartz of the Alliance for Children's Rights (a.schwartz@kids-alliance.org)

**(2) Eligibility, Rates and Placements:**

- a. Topics to be addressed: THP-Plus Foster Care, SIL, IV-E Allowability, IV-E Case Plan Amendment
- b. CDSS Lead: Barbara Eaton (Barbara.Eaton@dss.ca.gov)
- c. AB 12 Co-Sponsor Contact: Michele Byrnes of the John Burton Foundation (michele@johnburtonfoundation.org)

**(3) Training and Informing:**

- a. Topics to be addressed: Communication with counties, caregivers, providers, youth, public and the media
- b. CDSS Leads: Linne Stout (linne.stout@dss.ca.gov) & Karen Grace-Kahoe (karen.grace-kaho@dss.ca.gov)
- c. AB 12 Co-Sponsor Contact: Joseph Tietz of the California Youth Connection (joseph@calyouthconn.org)

**(4) Administration and Fiscal:**

- a. Topics to be addressed: Aid codes, Claiming, Allocations, Caseload, IV-E Allowability
- b. CDSS Lead: Julie Kimura (julie.kimura@dss.ca.gov)
- c. AB 12 Co-Sponsor Contact: Kathy Watkins, CWDA (kwatkins@hss.sbcounty.gov)

**(5) Rules of Court:**

- a. Topics to be addressed: Administration, practices and processes, "Not inconsistent with statute" areas and Force of Law
- b. AOC Lead: Aleta Beaupied (aleta.beaupied@jud.ca.gov)
- c. AB 12 Co-Sponsor Contact: Leslie Heimov of Children's Law Center of Los Angeles ([heimovl@clcla.org](mailto:heimovl@clcla.org))

## GENERAL TIMELINE

Provided below are the major milestones outlined by CDSS and the AOC in the implementation of AB 12:

### California Department of Social Services

Activity	Date
Focus area planning initiated	1/1/11
Work plans to Coordinating Leadership Team	2/18/11
Update Steering Committee	3/1/11
Identify CWS/CMS changes	4/1/11
Update Steering Committee	5/1/11
Final Steering Committee Review	7/1/11
Final drafts start through CDSS review process	8/1/11
Determine any additional IV-E plan revisions	8/1/11
Issue All County Letters, informing materials, etc	10/1/11
Initiate training on policies and procedures	10/15/11

### Administrative Office of the Courts

Activity	Date
Proposals drafted and approved by Family & Juvenile Law Committee	2/28/11
Rules and Projects Committee approves to circulate for comment	4/30/11
Public comment period	April, May & June
Proposals amended and reviewed by Family & Juvenile Law Committee	7/30/11
Judicial Council approved following committee process	10/31/11
Effective date of new rules and forms	1/1/12

## STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Another area of discussion was the importance of collecting input from a wide range of stakeholders on AB 12 implementation. There was a general level of recognition that it is critical to actively seek input, particularly from traditionally marginalized individuals, such as youth and relative caregivers. As described above, AOC and CDSS representatives are very open to hearing this input directly, through your participation on the focus area teams. Additionally, AB 12 co-sponsor organizations will be conducting a series of community forums across the state, using a consistent, structured interview format. The goal of this effort is to create an ongoing dialogue with the greater child welfare community about AB 12 implementation, not to conduct one-time meetings. Information about these forums will be posted at [www.cafosteringconnections.org](http://www.cafosteringconnections.org)

Outlined below is a general list of constituency areas to be solicited for input, with the goal of providing the AOC and CDSS timely, meaningful input into the 5 focus areas teams by March 1, 2011. Also included below is the name of a representative from an AB 12 sponsor organization who you can contact if you have ideas about how to collect input.

Constituency Area:	AB 12 Sponsor Contact Name	Email
Child welfare workers/eligibility workers & ALJs	Tia Orr, SEIU Cathy Senderling, CWDA	<a href="mailto:torr@seiucal.org">torr@seiucal.org</a> <a href="mailto:csend@cwda.org">csend@cwda.org</a>
Judicial officers (dependency lawyers and judges)	Leslie Heimov, CLC Aleta Beaupied, AOC	<a href="mailto:heimovl@clcla.org">heimovl@clcla.org</a> <a href="mailto:aleta.beaupied@jud.ca.gov">aleta.beaupied@jud.ca.gov</a>
Youth (particularly young parents, youth in juvenile probation)	Joseph Tietz, California Youth Connection	<a href="mailto:joseph@calyouthconn.org">joseph@calyouthconn.org</a>
Providers (THP-Plus programs, FFAs, Group Homes)	Jackie Rutheiser, Alliance for Child & Family Services Michele Byrnes, John Burton Foundation	<a href="mailto:JRutheiser@cacfs.org">JRutheiser@cacfs.org</a> <a href="mailto:Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org">Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org</a>
Foster parents	Jennifer Rodriguez, Youth Law Center	<a href="mailto:jrodriguez@ylc.org">jrodriguez@ylc.org</a>
Relative caregivers	Angie Schwartz, Alliance for Children's Rights	<a href="mailto:a.schwartz@kids-alliance.org">a.schwartz@kids-alliance.org</a>
Education stakeholders (K-12 & Post-Secondary)	Debbie Raucher, John Burton Foundation	<a href="mailto:debbie@johnburtonfoundation.org">debbie@johnburtonfoundation.org</a>
Juvenile probation system	Jennifer Rodriguez, Youth Law Center	<a href="mailto:jrodriguez@ylc.org">jrodriguez@ylc.org</a>
Legal service organizations	Angie Schwartz, Alliance for Children's Rights	<a href="mailto:a.schwartz@kids-alliance.org">a.schwartz@kids-alliance.org</a>

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

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- (1) **Participate in focus area team:** If you are interested in participating in one of more of the five focus area teams, please email the CDSS representative and the AB 12 sponsor representative.
- (2) **Recommend a content expert:** If you know of a content expert who would contribute to a focus area team, please email the CDSS representative and the AB 12 sponsor representative with their name and contact information.
- (3) **Help collect input:** If you are a representative of one of the constituencies included in the chart above, help collect input into AB 12. This is particularly easy if your group has a meeting scheduled for December, January or February, where your group could be led through a process to learn more about AB 12 and provide targeted input based on your expertise. To participate in this process, contact the AB 12 sponsor contact associated with each constituency area.
- (4) **Survey your constituency:** Another important way to collect information about the preferences of your community is to survey them. If you have an interest in collecting input into AB 12 implementation by conducting a survey, please email me (Michele Byrnes) at [Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org](mailto:Michele@johnburtonfoundation.org). The John Burton Foundation will help you structure a survey and discuss how you can make sure it is included in A 12 implementation consideration.