POLICY

Updates on CCL Approvals of FFAs’ Revised Plans of Operations and Program Statements for RFA Implementation

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCL) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) reports that it has received revised Plans of Operations and Program Statements (Plan/Statement) from 144 foster family agencies (FFA) out of 245 statewide and will prioritize reviewing the Plans/Program Statements based on the date that CCL received the revised documents.

CCL has alerted Alliance staff that the “14 working days” timeline to get back to FFAs on their revised Program Statements was not officially...
approved. CCL now states that its goal is to contact within the next 30 calendar days each FFA that has submitted a revised Plan/Statement with one of the following three responses on the Resource Family Approval (RFA) section of the Program Statement:

1. The Program Statement is good to go.
2. The Program Statement needs amending (CCL will explain what those amendments entail).
3. There are major issues with the Program Statement and the RFA plan will need major overhauling (CCL will explain what that entails).

CDSS has assigned 25 analysts in Sacramento to review revised Program Statements submitted by FFAs. The analysts reportedly are coordinating with the field Licensing Program Analysts (LPA) in each CCL Regional office to ensure LPAs use the same standards when reviewing Program Statements.

CCL staff are reviewing Program Statements in two phases: the “RFA Section” and the “Entire Program Statement.” Analysts may approve both the “Entire Program Statement” and the “RFA Section” at the same time or may review and approve them separately. CCL says it is fast-tracking the “RFA Section.”

**FFAs May Begin Processing Families as Soon as They Submit Their Revised Plans/Statements**

FFAs may begin to process RFA families – e.g., conduct background checks, perform home environment and psychosocial/permanency assessments, etc. – immediately upon submitting their revised Plans/Statements.

An FFA may proceed with the final “approval” of RFA families only after it receives written approval from CCL of the RFA Section of its Program Statement.

CCL central office and regional staff have been meeting to create the official process for notifying FFAs of CCL’s responses to revised Plans/Program Statements, but have not yet informed the California Alliance that they have finalized a process.

**Glitches in FFA Web App**

CCL reports that glitches have emerged in the FFA Web Application (Web App) due to the addition of the new RFA category. FFAs experiencing difficulty should contact FFAWeb-Application@dss.ca.gov. Similarly, FFAs wishing to list applications on the Web App for families that were “certified” prior to Jan. 1, 2017 should email the FFA Web App administrator at the email above. FFAs will not be able to list “certified” families without the administrator’s assistance.

**Use the Right ORI**

FFAs should have all employees or volunteers associated with the FFA continue to use the A0448 CCL ORI for Live Scans. Similarly,
Alternative Caregivers should continue to use the A0448 CCL ORI; FFAs should not have them use the ORI associated with the RFA Resource Family applicant type.

Only the RFA Applicant(s) and all adults residing or regularly present in the home of an applicant or Resource Family should use the ORI associated with the RFA Applicant Type. FFAs should not use the recently added “LIS and LAARS and Megan’s List” requirements for FFA employees, volunteers or Alternative Caregivers.

Information
For further information, contact Jackie Rutheiser at jrutheiser@cacfs.org

CCL Notice on ADA Compliance for Group Homes Reiterates Existing Requirements

Group home providers recently received a new Provider Information Notice (PIN) via email from the Community Care Licensing Division (CCL) regarding obligations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Exactly why CCL issued the PIN at this time was puzzling, given that the ADA dates from 1990.

Apparently, in a recent review of the format for its Group Home Program Statement (LIC 9106), CCL identified potential concerns regarding the section of the form that asks applicants to complete fields relating to the admission or exclusion of foster children with specified characteristics.

The PIN contained no new information or requirements, CCL tells the California Alliance, but was distributed to remind group homes that federal and state disability laws and regulations continue to apply to them.

So, CCL is now drafting amendments to the LIC 9106 to ensure that it addresses the expectation that group homes comply with all federal and State disability laws and that all foster children are provided fair and equal access free from discrimination and harassment. CCL expects to release amendments to the form and accompanying instructions later this year.

Information
The PIN can be accessed on the CCL website at http://www.ccld.ca.gov/PG5098.htm. For further information, contact Doug Johnson at djohnson@cacfs.org or at (916) 449-2273, ex. 201.

THE ALLIANCE
Conferences, Training and Events

See You Soon at the Alliance Winter Conference!

If you have not yet registered for the Alliance Executive’s Winter Conference Feb. 21-24, 2017, it’s not too late! To see the agenda and to register, go to http://www.cacfs.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=898533&group=.

The room block at the Marriott Napa Valley Hotel is SOLD OUT. If you plan to cancel your room
at the Marriott Napa Valley, please DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL. Contact Debbie Clore-Myers (dcmyers@caafs.org) so she can offer the room to another attendee.

Agenda

The Executive’s Winter Conference includes a pre-conference Executive Management Training and Group Home/STRTP Administrator CEU Training Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Note: the STRTP CEUs are continuing education units; they do not count toward the initial 12 hours of training.

Conference plenary sessions and workshops are slated for Feb. 22 and until noon Feb. 23. Alliance program committee meetings for Alliance member agency executives and staff will be held Thursday afternoon, Feb. 23, and Friday morning, Feb. 24.

The full conference agenda is attached to this issue of *Someday Morning*.

CSDA Presents Child and Family Symposium

Child Support Directors Association (CSDA) presents “A Child’s Well-Being…It Takes A Family” on March 1, 2017, at the Hilton Arden West in Sacramento from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission and lunch are complementary, but registration is required.

Explore how professionals and community stewards can improve the well-being of children and families. Distinguished professionals will provide thought provoking views regarding the challenges many fragile families face and share their insights on pathways to stability.

**Session I - “Call to Action…The Crisis in American Families”**

Emily Abt and Dr. Kathryn Edin will provide direct insight into the complexity of economic instability that exists in American families and provide poignant views into the struggles that mothers and fathers face in providing for their children. This session is a call to action to address urgent issues that plague the well-being of children and families in poor communities despite improvements to social safety net programs.

**Session II – “Impact on a Child’s Well-Being”**

Kenneth Braswell and Dr. Olivia Golden will focus on programs at the federal, state and local levels designed to deliver services for low-income children and families; how these programs have historically engaged fathers, maximizing their role/importance and what efforts have been made to improve family outcomes.

**Session IIb - Unplugged: A Frank Conversation about Service Delivery for Families**

The experts from Sessions I & II will provide their candid perspective and opinions on what we should do differently in child and family service programs.

**Session III – “Our Children…What’s Next?”**

The needs of our families nationally, in California, and our local communities have changed and will continue to change. Children need to be able to rely on their parents for the financial, emotional, and medical support they need to be healthy and successful. Alisha Griffin, Dr. Marcella Wilson, and Assemblymember Tony Thurmond will share their experiences and perspective to help identify
opportunities for us to work creatively and diligently with our partners, stakeholders, and families to improve outcomes for our children.

The moderator is Dr. Sherri Heller, Director Health and Human Services, Sacramento County.

To register, go to http://csdaca.org/csdaevent/16/.

**California Adoption Conference Set for March in Oakland**

The California Adoption Conference 2017, co-sponsored by Alliance member agencies A Better Way and Family Builders, is scheduled for March 24 and 25, 2017, at the First Unitarian Church in Oakland.

A two-day event featuring talks and workshops for adoptive and foster families, adult adoptees and foster alums, birth parents and adoption professionals, the conference begins on a Friday with a day-long training for professionals who work with adults and/or children touched by adoption or foster care. The keynote speaker is Holly van Gulden, co-author of Real Parents, Real Children: Parenting the Adopted Child, and The Dance of Attachment.

March 25 will feature over 20 workshop topics, including attachment, transracial adoption, open adoption, searching for birth family, mental health issues, and adopted teens. Panels are scheduled featuring birth/first parents and adopted adults, and there are sessions specifically for prospective adoptive parents, first/birth parents as well as adoption professionals, educators and extended family members.

For more information and to register, go to https://californiaadoptionconference.org/.

**Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to Hold Policy Setting Session at Seneca in Oakland**

Members of the national Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, many of whom are also California Alliance members, are encouraged to plug into the collective advocacy efforts of your strategic action network by co-creating a national public policy platform that represents the shared priorities of social sector leaders.

The national Alliance is facilitating working sessions where leaders from member organizations will have the opportunity to contribute to the policy priorities of its network, make connections to like-minded leaders, and learn how you and your organization can leverage our collective power together.

On March 15, Alliance member agency Seneca Family of Agencies will host this Policy Agenda-Setting Session from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Alliance members interested in attending this free working session, are encouraged to register today. The meeting in Oakland is one of four that are being held nationwide during February and March.

The Public Policy Platform will be unveiled at the national Health and Human Services Summit, hosted through a partnership between the national Alliance and the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) from April 30 – May 3 in Baltimore, MD.
For more information about the Policy Agenda-Setting Session or the H/HS Summit, contact Morgan MacIver at mmaciver@alliance1.org.

For Your Information

Seneca’s Ken Berrick Receives Prestigious Leadership Award

Ken Berrick, CEO of Alliance member Seneca Family of Agencies, received the prestigious 2017 James Irvine Leadership Award during a ceremony in Sacramento last Thursday where he was introduced and honored by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson.

The award recognizes six Californians “who are advancing innovative solutions to critical issues facing our state” and comes with a $200,000 award in recognition of Seneca’s work to improve student success through its Unconditional Education program.

The additional funding will help Seneca focus on three critical and unfunded initiatives:

1. To create a cross-sector partnership involving private insurance companies, public mental health providers, and schools to further strengthen the continuum of academic, emotional and behavioral needs for all students, specifically for youth not currently served.

2. To ensure robust implementation of trauma-informed academic and behavioral/emotional interventions designed to strengthen systems of care in school settings.

3. To promote agency advancement through appreciation and leadership development of exceptional staff.

Access this video about Seneca’s innovative educational services and its significant impact on students. To learn more about Seneca’s Unconditional Education program, click here.

Three Alliance Members Achieve Accreditation

The California Alliance congratulates member agencies East Bay Agency for Children and Courage to Change for achieving CARF accreditation and Mountain Valley Children & Family Services for their recent COA accreditation.

East Bay Agency for Children (EBAC) offers a continuum of accessible, trauma-informed and culturally relevant services that build resiliency, aid in recovery, and, where possible, prevent exposure to adverse childhood experiences. Through school-based behavioral health services and family and community wellness programs such as family resource centers, child assault prevention workshops, and afterschool and early childhood programming, EBAC reduces the impact of childhood trauma and social inequities for 20,000 Alameda County children and families annually.

Founded in 1997 by Susan Gambini and her son, Brian, Courage to Change provides intervention and residential treatment to young men between the ages of 13 and 18, and to non-minor dependents who are entrenched in the gang...
lifestyle. Services are provided for up to 42 youth on “the ranch,” addressing poly substance abuse, mild to moderate mental health needs, family dysfunction, and significant academic failure.

Mountain Valley Child & Family Services provides a continuum of care for children and families by promoting healthy, permanent and meaningful relationships. Helping children grow and develop essential life-skills, the programs reflect their mission statement to provide roads to permanency within families and communities giving children the opportunity to attain productive and rewarding lives through participation in Residential, Mental Health, Non Public School and Community Based programs.

Congratulations everyone!

Sierra Vista Opens New Family Resource Center

Alliance member agency Sierra Vista Child & Family Services opened its fifth Stanislaus County Family Resource Center at 12617 Bentley Street in Waterford.

The Sierra Vista Waterford Family Resource Center serves southeast Stanislaus County, a 265 square mile area that includes Hughson, Denair, Empire, Gratton, Hickman, LaGrange, Roberts Ferry and Waterford. The Center’s mission is to provide and coordinate resources and services through partnerships that enhance the health, education and well-being of the children and families in the community.

Sierra Vista comprises 28 programs in 18 different locations and serves over 20,000 children and families each year through a continuum of care that includes mental health services, early childhood out-patient services, non-public schools for special education students, therapeutic residential treatment, adoption, foster care, clinical and family support in homes and schools, perinatal substance abuse treatment and community counseling.

The integration of these programs into the community has created a sustainable continuum of child and family services that are accessible and tailored to addressing a broad range of needs. This commitment to the community has established SVCFS as a leader in best practices in the fields of mental health and family support services.

For more information about the Waterford Family Resource Center or other Sierra Vista services, call 209/523-4573 or visit www.sierravistacares.org.

Resources

FAF Software Helps Agencies Deliver on Needs of Family Services Agencies

Alliance member agency Children’s Bureau has developed FAF Software, which is a web-based software solution that delivers on the key needs of family services agencies, including both governmental and non-governmental family support, child welfare, home visiting and social services case management institutions. FAF:
• supports program improvement, evaluation and management through its outcome analysis and reporting capabilities;
• provides a research validated and reliable framework to ensure consistent, comprehensive, strength-based assessment to inform families goals and needs;
• integrates clinical best practice and technology in its user-friendly service planning framework;
• serves as a repository for key demographic, family, contact and referral data; and
• offers customization to ensure technology fits each agency’s individual needs.

FAF Software has been purchased by agencies across the United States and Canada, including City of New York, First 5 LA and Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. It has been utilized as an evaluation framework in major studies. As the social service and governmental fields continue to recognize the crucial impact that effective family supports can have in improving life-long health, educational and community outcomes, FAF Software can be an effective tool for measuring outcomes and demonstrating success.

For more information, go to www.myfaf.org or contact Kaya Okuniewski at 213/342-0145

WestCoast Releases Podcasts on Child Sex Trafficking

WestCoast Children’s Clinic, a California Alliance member, hosted a panel in November 2016 to discuss how racism and misogyny drive child sex trafficking in the United States. WestCoast recently released the first two of five podcasts from a recording of the evening: Episode 1: Setting the Context and Episode 2: Five Vantage Points. You can listen to this important conversation with five national experts in the anti-trafficking movement.

 Episode 1: Setting the Context
 Episode 2: Five Vantage Points
 Episode 3 coming February 20
 Episode 4 coming March 6
 Episode 5 coming March 20

See more at http://www.westcoastcc.org/whoisforsale/.

California Alliance Kicks Off Forums for Member Communication with FFAs

Alliance staff receive email each day from member agencies seeking information and asking questions, many of which are about issues that apply not just to their own agencies but other Alliance member organizations as well, and which often can be best answered by those actually working in FFAs. So, we are encouraging Alliance members to use the “Forum” section on the Alliance website to ask questions of staff and each other, and to reply to questions from other Alliance members.

The first forum question for the FFA Committee was recently posted and is listed under “Foster Family-Based Care.” If you have a question, please post to that page under the appropriate category at any time.

• If you would like to see the posted question and/or offer an answer, log in to the California Alliance website at www.cacfs.org.
• If you do not remember your username or password, please contact Kevin Swartzendruber at kevins@cacfs.org.

• Once you log in, click on the “Join the Alliance” tab and then scroll down to find the “Forum.” You can also just click on this link directly: http://www.cacfs.org/forums/Default.aspx and sign in on that page.

If you have posed a question and want to know each time someone responds, go to “Thread Actions” and click on “Subscribe to Instant Updates” and you will be instantly notified when there is a new reply.

If you need assistance using Forums, please contact Kevin Swartzendruber at kevins@cacfs.org.

Organizations Sought for Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Pilot

County child welfare, mental health and probation agencies, and private or tribal foster family agencies and adoption agencies are eligible to participate in a new National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) pilot that will provide training resources to expand adoption practice competencies.

California is one of just seven states selected to pilot a new web-based training curriculum. The goal of the NTI Initiative is to “build the capacity of child welfare and mental health professionals to effectively address the complex needs of children moving toward permanency through adoption or guardianship or living in permanent adoptive and guardianship families.”

Expectations of participating organizations

Participating agencies will be expected to:

• Engage with the CDSS in a process of implementation planning that:
  - Examines the “fit” of NTI with the needs and resources of the state and participating agencies.
  - Identifies factors that facilitate or create barriers to implementation and opportunities to capitalize on or overcome them.
  - Utilizes meaningful stakeholder involvement with child welfare, mental health program and training leaders.
  - Identifies a communication plan to let participants know how this training fits into departmental goals and messages the importance of completing the training cycle.
- Engages and recruits child welfare and mental health professionals to complete NTI training.

- Plan for and establish the requisite technical capacity to enable learners to access the NTI web-based training and coaching.

- Provide substantial input into the design of training and related coaching.

- Collaborate with NTI in formulating, testing, and learning from implementation that:
  - Facilitates integration of NTI web-based training into the training systems across diverse contexts.
  - Infuses adoption competence in the provision of mental health interventions across diverse settings i.e., community based mental health, private providers and community adoption agencies.

**Two phases**

There will be an open invitation for participation in two phases:

- Phase one includes child welfare social workers, supervisors, tribal social workers, probation officers, FFA, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) and adoption agency staff. This phase will run from March 2017 to August 2017.

- Phase two includes mental health professionals and will begin in January 2018.

**To apply**

Agencies interested in participating in the pilot should submit a “Letter of Interest” to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) by Feb. 17, 2017. For additional information about the training, please contact Dawn Wilson at Wilson@adoptionsupport.org or Laura Arroyo Arroyo@adoptionsupport.org.

**Background**

In 2014, AB 1790 was enacted amending WIC 16125 to require that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) convene a stakeholder group to identify barriers to the provision of adoption-competent mental health services. The bill also charges the same stakeholder group with making recommendations for voluntary measures available to both state and local government agencies and private agencies to address identified barriers.

One of the key issues barriers identified was a lack of post-graduate training specific to adoption/permanency clinical issues for mental health professionals, as well as child welfare professionals. The NTI effort supports permanency for children and youth in foster care and the goals of CCR, which include ensuring that children live with a committed, permanent and nurturing family, as well as helping children and youth maintain permanent connections and prepare for adulthood.

The NTI also supports a guiding principle of CCR, which is for different parts of the service system to work together to improve services to children.

**Information**

For more information, please visit NTI’s website at http://adoptionsupport.org/adoption-competency-initiatives/national-training-initiative-nti/about-nti/. Questions regarding the training may be emailed to Wilson@adoptionsupport.org or Laura Arroyo Arroyo@adoptionsupport.org. For questions about the submission of the letter of interest, please send inquiries to CFSNTI@dss.ca.gov.
For questions about the submission of the letter of interest, please send inquires to CFSNTI@dss.ca.gov.

**And Just Remember…**

I think that God, in creating man, somewhat overestimated his ability.

Oscar Wilde

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## Calendar

### 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16-17</td>
<td>OPENS MINDS Performance Management Institute</td>
<td>Clearwater Beach, Florida</td>
<td>Information: <a href="https://performance.openminds.com/agenda/">https://performance.openminds.com/agenda/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 21-24</td>
<td>Alliance Winter Executive Conference</td>
<td>Marriott Napa Valley</td>
<td>Information: <a href="https://caef.site-ym.com/?page=Conferences">https://caef.site-ym.com/?page=Conferences</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Fathers &amp; Families National Conference</td>
<td>Sheraton Gateway LAX Hotel, Los Angeles</td>
<td>Information: <a href="www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org">www.fathersandfamiliescoalition.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>CSDA Symposium A Child’s Well-Being… It Takes A Family</td>
<td>Hilton Arden West, Sacramento, 8:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration: <a href="http://csdaca.org/csdaevent/16/">http://csdaca.org/csdaevent/16/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 15-16</td>
<td>Mental Health Summit</td>
<td>Sonoma County</td>
<td>Call for Presentations: <a href="http://csdaca.org/csdaevent/16/">LINK</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 24-25</td>
<td>California Adoption Conference</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Information and registration: <a href="https://californiaadoptionconference.org/">https://californiaadoptionconference.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 3-5</td>
<td>NatCon17</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Registration: <a href="https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/events-and-training/conference/register/">https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/events-and-training/conference/register/</a></td>
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<td>Apr 19-20</td>
<td>COA Intensive Accreditation Training</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>Information: <a href="www.coa.force.com/coasite/eventsearch">www.coa.force.com/coasite/eventsearch</a></td>
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<td>COA Performance and Quality Improvement</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 22-27</td>
<td>Behavioral Health Information</td>
<td>Carlsbad, CA</td>
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<td>Management Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://cibhs.networkofcare4learning.org/EventDetail.aspx?pId=605&amp;OrgId=223">Link</a></td>
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<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<td>17-19 CMHACY Conference</td>
<td>Asilomar</td>
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<td><strong>July</strong></td>
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<td>16-19 FFTA 31st Annual Conference</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<td><strong>September</strong></td>
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<td>5-8 Alliance Fall Executive Conference</td>
<td>JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort &amp; Spa</td>
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GET 25% OFF! Enter code P4B3P4AN

**Current listings:**

- **Public Policy Advocate**, California Alliance of Child & Family Services, Sacramento
- **President & CEO**, Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles, Los Angeles
- **Program Director, Mental Health Services**, Alternative Family Services, Oakland
- **Clinical Supervisor**, Uplift Family Services, Sacramento
- **Licensed Clinical Program Manager**, Uplift Family Services, Sacramento
Tuesday, February 21, 2017

PRE-CONFERENCE BEGINS

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Management Training Series and Group Home/STRTP Administrator CEUs</td>
<td>Vintners Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wage and Hour Laws—Trends and Class Actions</td>
<td>Vintners Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Ballroom Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>The Argument for Structured Implementation</td>
<td>Vintners Ballroom</td>
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This presentation will provide employers, managers and HR professionals with the most up to date information on new and amended Wage and Hour laws effective for 2017. Most importantly is a discussion of how employers can best comply to protect their agencies.

California is home to some of the world’s most successful industries and individual organizations that thrive on, and in fact depend on, regular disruption and transformation on a massive scale (tech, aerospace). When it's not done right, organizations and systems suffer from:

- Lost time “waiting” for an anticipated outcome
- Lost time and effort doing rework
- Higher costs
- Lost goodwill with stakeholders
Why then would we not borrow from these organizations and apply well-defined principles of managing change to the CCR implementation process?

The California Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Act of 2015 (AB 403) is intended to bring significant positive change to children in the state's foster care system. The new legislation is designed to provide the highest levels of care and appropriate developmental support, minimize the time until permanent placement, and reduce the trauma of being in the system at all. The magnitude of simultaneous disruptive changes to existing service delivery mechanisms across 58 counties and an estimated 500 agencies is significant and has even been called daunting. The restructuring of how foster care services are defined, timed and delivered affects all aspects of the agencies that provide direct care, as well as the county and state processes that support them.

The workshop will address the big three project management factors: Scope, Schedule & Cost and how changes to any one dynamic (intentional or accidental) can affect the other two. We will also discuss the characteristics, pros and cons of three different approaches to implementation: Focused, Loose and Fit-It-In as well as how other sectors approaches to implementation (tech, aerospace) can be brought to bear in social services. Lastly, we will also discuss the three phases of any successful service transformation effort using CCR as a case in point: Strategy, Implementation Planning, Service Redesign, Execution.

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<tr>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Ballroom Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>The Rules Have Changed...Or Have They?</td>
<td>Vintners Ballroom</td>
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<td>Sean E. Cain, CPA</td>
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<td>Partner, Harrington Group CPAs LLP</td>
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<td>This workshop will present an overview of the consolidation of several separate OMB Circulars into what is now the “Super Circular.” What was historically known as Circulars A-110, A-122, A-133, and so on are now collectively contained in the OMB “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” or “Uniform Guidance.” This workshop will include an overview of the CDSS – “Audit Guide for AFDC-FC Funded Non-Profit Organizations” published in July 2015. Sean E. Cain, CPA, Partner, with Harrington Group CPAs, LLP will be presenting the overviews, review the key changes made, and discuss how providers should be utilizing them to ensure compliance and avoid future audit issues.</td>
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**Wednesday, February 22, 2017**

**CONFERENCE BEGINS**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Conference Overview</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Connie Clendenan</td>
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<td>President, California Alliance of Child and Family Services</td>
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<td>Carroll Schroeder</td>
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<td>Executive Director, California Alliance of Child and Family Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:40 a.m.</td>
<td>The Agony and the Ecstasy: Impending Changes in Foster Care and Children’s Mental Health Policy</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
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Executive's Winter Conference February 21-24, 2017
Has there ever been a time of more wrenching change for Alliance member agencies than the present? After 5 years of planning, California began a herky-jerky implementation of Continuum of Care Reform in January, including the requirement that agencies provide or arrange for the provision of specialty mental health services. Concurrently, the new federal administration has announced its intention to roll back the Affordable Care Act and potentially block grant Medicaid funding to states, a move which would have profound implications for the provision of mental health services to children, including foster youth.

Meanwhile, AB 1299 mandates the presumptive transfer of responsibility for providing mental health services to foster youth placed out-of-county from the county of jurisdiction to the county of residence. This change holds the promise of clarifying which county bears financial and programmatic responsibility for service provision, but creates its own set of problems, particularly for small counties with large populations of youth placed in congregate care by other counties.

AB 741, although vetoed by the governor, is also being implemented at his direction by the relevant state departments creating a licensing category and Medi-Cal rate for Children’s Mental Health Crisis Residential Programs.

Finally, the federal Family First Preservation Services Act died in the Senate but has been reintroduced in its original form. While holding out the promise of entitlement funding for prevention services, the bill would have stripped California of over three quarters of a billion dollars in federal cost sharing for foster care.

The presentation will summarize the promise and perils of these actual and potential changes, discuss their potential impact on Alliance member agencies, and outline a strategy for advocacy activities.

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. National Trends in Child Welfare: A Leadership Discussion of Trends, Challenges and Strategies for the Future

Elizabeth Skidmore, M.B.A.
President and CEO, Skidmore and Co.

Over the past few months, the political and social environment has shifted in a way that will have a considerable impact on child welfare agencies. Anticipating and preparing for the changes ahead can be daunting -particularly when so many variables remain unclear and/or unknown. “National Trends in Child Welfare: A Leadership discussion of trends, challenges and strategies for the Future” will offer an insightful examination of the forces that are shaping child welfare organizations across the United States and address the compelling issues confronting child welfare organizations now and in the immediate future.

The presentation will also highlight strategies successful organizations have employed in order to navigate in an environment of uncertainty and constant change.

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Beyond Choosing an EBP: Integrating Evidence-Based Care and Outcomes Management

Adam Bernstein
Director of Technical Solutions, PracticeWise, LLC

The modern strategies for helping youth in mental health systems can be thought of as typically taking two different high-level approaches: (a) choosing an evidence-based program, or (b) focusing on understanding the whole child, providing individualized treatment based on that understanding, and getting meaningful
measurement of progress toward targets. This session will focus on points of convergence between these two approaches, and how they can be balanced at a system level so as to help as many youth as possible (as in approach ‘a’) AND provide individualized, evidenced-informed care for the current youth (as in approach ‘b’). The session will discuss and demonstrate information supports and tools that can aid in making strategic, evaluated adaptations. Additional discussion will include how these approaches have evolved over time, and what tools may be on the horizon to further aid systems in getting the best of evidence-based and individualized approaches.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Ballroom Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>California Alliance Membership Business Meeting, Accreditation Recognition and Luncheon</td>
<td>Napa Ballroom</td>
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<td>Connie Clendenan</td>
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<td>Steve Gunther</td>
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<td>Treasurer, California Alliance</td>
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<td>Moisés Barón</td>
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<td>Chair, Membership Committee, California Alliance</td>
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The President will welcome new member agencies and chief executives, the Treasurer will report on the Alliance budget for 2017 and present the 2016 year-end report. The Membership Committee Chair will recognize new members and members having completed national accreditation.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Workshops  (Three Workshops begin at 2:00 p.m.)</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
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<td>Workshop 1A</td>
<td>Child and Family Teams – What’s Your Role?</td>
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<td>Kimberly Giardina, MSW</td>
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<td>Deputy Director, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services</td>
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This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to learn what Child and Family Teams are per the requirements of the Continuum of Care Reform and how this differs from previous requirements under Pathways to Well-Being (Katie A.). Participants will have an opportunity, through a mapping activity, to better understand their role in the Child and Family Team. Participants will also establish action steps to take in order to improve the Child and Family Team process.

| Workshop 1B   | Supporting Foster Youth In School: An Overview of Laws and Helpful Tips | Napa Ballroom |
|               | Danielle Tenner                                                       |                |
|               | Education Program Associate Director, Alliance for Children’s Rights  |                |

Although school has the potential to serve as a stabilizing and motivating force for foster youth, school mobility, lack of appropriate interventions, and unaddressed social-emotional needs present significant barriers. As a result, foster youth have long experienced abysmal educational outcomes, including low rates of retention, poor test scores, lower graduation rates than other high need student populations, and post-secondary graduation rates below 3 percent.

This workshop will review key California laws and best practice tips to help participants support the education needs of foster youth, particularly high-school aged youth. Participants will learn about topics including
In an era of massive child welfare reforms, we need to work together now more than ever as equal and respectful partners to ensure that the best care, least restrictive placements, and highest quality services are available to support the health and wellbeing of foster youth. The recently appointed California Foster Care Ombudsperson is committed to building strong collaborative relationships with providers, resource families and foster youth. Join the Ombudsperson for an overview of the history, role, purpose and four-year strategic vision of the Office of Foster Care Ombudsperson.

Participants will learn about complaint investigation procedures, Foster Youth Rights, and the recent passage of AB 1067. Workshop attendees will have an opportunity to provide input on revising the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, so come share your ideas so that together we may meet the cultural, educational, emotional, behavioral and developmental needs of children and youth in the foster care system.

The Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) establishes a vision for integrated care for children and their families based on prevention, innovation, recovery and wellness. But, for too many children, our mental health system falls short, particularly for children in crisis. Join us for a discussion of the challenges and opportunities facing California’s system of care for children in crisis and the work underway to implement reforms and improve outcomes.

California Youth Connection (CYC) is a youth led organization that develops leaders who empower each other and their communities to transform the foster care system through legislative, policy and practice change. Foster youth will be equal partners in contributing to all policies and decisions made in their lives. All youth in foster care will have their needs met and the support to grow into healthy and vibrant adults.

As CYC’s mission and vision state above, the organization works directly with youth members to be prepared and informed about the topics they want to work on. CCR is a Hot Topic in the organization as well as in the Child Welfare world. CYC panelists will share a youth friendly toolkit created to educate and engage Alliance membership as well as the broader community. It breaks down the components of CCR and includes guiding questions to encourage conversations with youth about CCR.
This group will discuss some of the concerns CYC’s membership has about CCR implementation. These include; foster parent recruitment, timely access to quality mental health services, holistic approaches to treatment, etc. CYC is also interested in hearing what Alliance member concerns are as well.

**Workshop 2C**  Katie A., Continuum of Care and Therapeutic Foster Care Reforms: Building Shared Governance and Collaborative Mental Health Services for California’s Foster Children

Richard Knecht
Integrated Services Advisor, California Department of Social Services

California’s state, county and community partners are hard at work designing, developing and implementing complex reforms intended to enhance outcomes for foster youth and those at risk of entry to care. Related to and parallel to these efforts, and motivated by recent settlement of legal actions, state social service leaders are seeking to build improved models of governance and power sharing with service recipients. Non-profit community partners will be affected in key ways by these reform efforts.

This presentation will highlight the efforts the state is making, where change efforts are likely to affect providers and other stakeholders, and what opportunities exist for partnership as government moves forward with key reforms.

| 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Blind Wine and Water Tasting Event | Redwood Courtyard |

The Executive’s Winter Conference will again feature the double blind wine and water tasting event. Nobody knows the wines: not you, not the pourers, not the staff…nobody. Guess the wine and its country of origin, win a prize!

The event is sponsored by Alliance national partners and Alliance Associates, vendor companies that provide goods and services to Alliance member agencies, and also provide financial support to the Alliance in the form of annual dues.

Please join us in supporting our Associates and national partners.

**Thursday, February 23, 2017**

**CONFERENCE CONTINUES: 8:30 A.M. – NOON**

| 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. | Registration and Continental Breakfast | Grand Ballroom Foyer |

| 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Plenary Session: | Grand Ballroom |

**Plenary**

Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback: Changing the Trajectory for Families at Risk

Bryan Lindert
Senior Director of Quality, Eckerd Youth Alternatives

Policymakers and stakeholders have begun to examine a number of tools to help identify children at risk for abuse and neglect. One such tool, predictive analytics, is receiving increased attention among human services agencies across the country, with many jurisdiction now using analytic models to identify sources of risk and create targeted interventions. As the amount of available data increases, the opportunities for linking and
mining data sources to improve outcomes increases exponentially. California is in the planning stages for using predictive analytics statewide.

Bryan Lindert will present on the development and use of the Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback Tool in Hillsborough County, Florida and its replication across the country. The presentation will include lessons learned from replication efforts now active in five states and in development in three others. The presentation will focus on the practical and ethical considerations associated with implementing these tools as well as a discussion of the limitations of the approach.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m. – Noon  Concurrent Workshops  (Three Workshops begin at 10:30 a.m.)

Workshop 3A  CCR: Implementation from the County Child Welfare Perspective  Grand Ballroom

Diana Boyer
Senior Policy Analyst, County Welfare Association of California

Tracy Schiro
Social Services Assistant Director, San Luis Obispo County Social Services Department

Nick Honey
Division Director, Sonoma County, Family, Youth and Children’s Division

In this workshop, presenters will discuss the various activities by county child welfare agencies to implement CCR, including Child and Family Teams, Resource Family Approval, Level of Care Assessments, and Resource Family Recruitment, Retention and Support. Presenters will describe counties’ efforts to engage other county agencies and local stakeholders, including care providers and foster youth, in planning to meet CCR goals, and will describe how the CWS Core Practice Model supports CCR implementation. The presenters will engage workshop participants in a discussion of the current opportunities and challenges, for collaborative partnerships as we continue implement CCR statewide.

Workshop 3B  Aftercare Services for Probation Youth Following Discharge from a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program  Napa Ballroom

Lori Kenzo
Administrator, Transitional Programs, Boys Republic

Joe Ford
Senior Vice President, Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services

Daniel Gallagher
Executive Director, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent’s School for Boys

The workshop will provide an overview of the responsibilities of Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) to provide transition services to foster youth and their families in preparation for and following their discharge from congregate care, focusing on transition services provided following discharge from STRTP congregate care (i.e. “aftercare” services) for foster youth placed by county Probation departments.

Each of the panelists will describe the experience of his/her own agency, and what they have learned providing aftercare services. Ms. Kezos will focus the experience of Boys Republic in serving Probation youth using largely private funding and the agency’s plans for expanding aftercare services under CCR. Mr. Ford and Mr. Gallagher will discuss their experiences providing aftercare services to foster youth in their Residentially-Based
Services (RBS) demonstrations programs and the applicability to Probation youth under the CCR STRTP model.

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**Workshop 3C  Survivor’s Perspective on the Foster Care System**

Sue Abrams  
Policy Director, Children’s Law Center of California  
(Moderator)

Alyssa Bradford  
Youth Advocate and Community Organizer, S.T.A.R.S. Leadership Group

Josie Feemster  
Survivor/ Leader Trainer & Motivational Speaker

Oree Freeman  
Advocate & Trainer, The Lighthouse

As California strives to improve placement options, services and supports for commercially sexually exploited children (“CSEC”), this workshop offers a unique opportunity to hear about what works and what doesn’t from the perspective of survivors. Panelists will share their personal experiences with the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Their diverse experiences will offer insight into the needs of CSEC and how programs can more effectively serve survivors.

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**CONFERENCE ADJOURNS – NOON**

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 1:00 PM – 5:45 PM**

*(CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE MEMBER AGENCIES ONLY)*

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<td>Lunch on Your Own</td>
<td>Joint Committee</td>
<td>Residential Care/Juvenile Justice Committees</td>
<td>TAY Services Committee</td>
<td>FFA/Adoption Committees</td>
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- **Joint Committee (FFA/Adoption, Residential Care/JJ/Mental Health)**  
  1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
  **Grand Ballroom**

- **Residential Care/Juvenile Justice Committees**  
  2:30 – 4:00 p.m.  
  **Grand Ballroom**

- **FFA/Adoption Committees**  
  2:45 – 5:45 p.m.  
  **Napa Ballroom**

- **TAY Services Committee**  
  4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
  **Vintners Ballroom**
Friday, February 24, 2017

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
(CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE MEMBER AGENCIES ONLY)

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<td>8:00</td>
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<td>Education Committee</td>
<td>8:30 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
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<td>Practice Improvement Committee</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Mental Health Committee</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
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