

School Attendance Task Force Meeting Notes

Children's Court
February 18, 2016

Attendees:

Gabrielle Green, Public Health	Alaina Moonves-Leb, Alliance for Children's Rights
Taylor Schooley, Public Health	Sunshine Daye, CCEJ
Blanca Bonilla, DCFS	Belinda Walker, Girls & Gangs
Tran Ly, DCFS	Karen Patterson, Children's Law Center
Loren Solem-Kuehl, DCFS Education	Patrick Hirsch, Children's Law Center
Zhaira Gastelum, LAUSD Pupil Services	Mike Alba, Mental Health
Mary Molloy, Team Kids	Lauren Gase, Public Health
Haylee Forester, Team Kids	Judge Donna Groman, Juvenile Court
Officer John Gutierrez, LASPD	Eugenia Wilson, Living Advantage Inc.
Yesenia Collier, Foster Ed	Laurel Bear, Alhambra Unified School District
Kawena Cole, Foster Ed	Jewel Forbes, LACOE
Stefanie Gluckman, Chief Executive Office	Yesenia Collier, FosterEd
Kristen Gozawa, PESA	Natasha Khamashta, Public Defender's Office
Chief William Wu, Compton School Police	

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Groman welcomed Task Force members and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Work Group Action Plan and Progress Reports:

Exclusionary School Discipline Work Group:

Judge Groman shared that the Exclusionary School Discipline work group is currently planning to visit community day schools throughout Los Angeles County in order to learn more about the experiences of youth. Judge Groman explained that these visits will help to inform the work group's efforts to establish of a formal pathway for re-entry from community day schools to traditional schools.

The group will meet next to decide on a list of community day schools to visit and develop a list of questions to ask all visited schools.

Juvenile Arrests & Incarcerations Work Group:

Lauren Gase reviewed the Juvenile Arrests & Incarcerations work group's goals and updated action plan. Informed by the results of the completed environmental scan and interviews of juvenile arrest diversion programs throughout Los Angeles County, the group identified a need for support and guidance regarding evidence-based practices for diversion programming.

Ms. Gase explained that the group identified both a need to advance knowledge and interaction among agencies currently implementing diversion programs as well as additional interest among agencies not already implementing such a program. In order to meet these needs, the work group is in the process of planning a day of convening and training. Ms. Gase provided copies of the draft agenda for the convening opened the floor for any feedback, comments or questions.

The convening will be held at The California Endowment on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, from 8:30AM to 2:30PM.

Evidence-Based Practices for Schools & LCAP Priorities Work Group:

Patrick Hirsch explained that the LCAP Priorities work group has not yet been able to meet, and may transition to a primarily email-based platform moving forward.

Mr. Hirsch shared his thoughts that the group might be able to look at programs and practices that have proven effective in improving attendance for court-involved youth and develop models similar to the [report](#) and model LCAP developed by The Coalition for Educational Equity for Foster Youth (CEEFY). Discussions about the importance of when and how to meaningfully involve school districts and whether to focus on attendance more broadly were also raised.

Stefanie Gluckman offered to provide support in co-leading the LCAP Priorities work group.

Dr. Laurel Bear also provided updates about Alhambra Unified School District's (AUSD) program for foster youth associated with Gateway to Success and the ways in which integration with the AUSD LCAP has provided unique opportunities for addressing social and emotional needs in schools and supporting a shift in school culture.

Members discussed the issues involved in providing services for youth in relative placements or other youth who may not self-identify as being covered by LCAP guidelines.

Education Coordinating Council (ECC) Updates and Priorities:

Ms. Gluckman provided a summary of the areas of focus for the newly formed Office of Child Protection (OCP), born out of the Blue Ribbon Commission [recommendations](#) related to gaps in the continuum of care, inadequate prevention services, efforts operating in siloes, cultures driven by crisis rather than data, and the need for information sharing. Led by Judge Nash, the OCP will focus on prevention, safety, permanency, wellbeing, and cross-cutting approaches for youth.

Ms. Gluckman shared that the Education Coordinating Council will be meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, from 10AM to 12PM in order to develop a strategic plan moving forward, with location and additional agenda details to be determined.

The new areas of focus for the ECC will include data and information sharing, training, early education, advocacy, and providing documentation/reports.

Announcements and General Updates:

Judge Groman introduced Chief William Wu from Compton School Police and Officer John Gutierrez from Los Angeles School Police and asked them to describe their current diversion efforts.

Chief Wu explained that Compton Unified School District's new pre-arrest diversion program in collaboration with Centinela Youth Services is in the process of compiling data, but that, anecdotally, recidivism seems to be lower and outcomes seem promising. Chief Wu emphasized the ways in which pre-arrest diversion in particular appears to be a promising strategy for improving youth outcomes because it avoids the negative consequences of an arrest record.

Haylee Forester and Mary Molloy from the organization Team Kids introduced their program and the progress they have seen working with elementary school youth in Compton.

Officer Gutierrez echoed Chief Wu's thoughts about pre-arrest school police diversion, explaining that Los Angeles School Police has seen success in their recent expansion to include more serious offenses such as simple battery.

The possibility of diverting weapons-related offenses (non-gun) was discussed. Both Officer Gutierrez and Chief Wu offered to discuss the issue with their departments and discuss further during the next SATF meeting.

Next Meeting:

The date for the next School Attendance Task Force is April 14, 2016 from 12PM to 2PM, in the Lobby Level conference room of the Department of Child and Family Services.

Conclusion and Adjournment:

Judge Groman adjourned the meeting and thanked members for their participation at 2:00PM.