



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

December 9, 2011

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-78-11

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY PROBATION CHIEFS  
 ALL FOSTER CARE MANAGERS  
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS  
 ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
 ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES  
 ALL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES  
 ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR THE EXTENSION OF FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

**Purpose and Background**

The purpose of this information notice is to provide counties with information regarding training activities for the Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program contained in California’s Fostering Connections To Success Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 12. The EFC Program allows foster youth to remain in foster care and continue to receive foster care benefits and services beyond age 18, provided the youth meets participation and eligibility requirements and lives in an approved or licensed setting.

The information in this notice is intended to provide a general description of the efforts underway to develop a statewide curriculum for AB 12-EFC, including brief descriptions of the following:

- ❖ Stakeholder Participants
- ❖ Youth Engagement, Training and Informing Team Process
- ❖ Training Curriculum Review and Approval Process
- ❖ Training Curriculum Content and Distribution
- ❖ Upcoming Events

### **Stakeholder Participants**

Currently, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is working in collaboration with a range of stakeholders in California, including, but not limited to, county child welfare and probation representatives, the sponsors, the courts, youth, Regional Training Academies, the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), UC Davis Resource Center for Family Focused Practice, the Child and Family Policy Institute, community colleges, and child advocates.

### **Youth Engagement, Training, and Informing Team Process**

The Youth Engagement, Training, and Informing Team has been working to develop a comprehensive standardized curriculum and a dissemination plan for California. The Team has developed a streamlined structure designed to achieve efficient production of accurate training products.

*Youth Engagement* occurs throughout the AB 12-EFC informing and training process, and the opinions and concerns of youth are included in the development of policy, training, and informing products.

*Training* curriculum development has been divided into three areas, with a separate lead for each of those areas:

- ❖ AB 12-EFC Practice,
- ❖ AB 12-EFC Technical Basics, and
- ❖ AB 12-EFC Resources.

The CalSWEC and the Child and Family Policy Institute are providing technical assistance and support across these three groups.

The *Informing* activities include dissemination plans of key messages and materials that promote a consistent understanding of the elements of AB12-EFC. These materials are primarily informational only. The Informing group has developed AB 12-EFC posters that display core values and goals. Additional communication materials are currently under development, such as Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Review and Approval Process**

The Youth Engagement, Training, and Informing Team (Team) also developed a review and “vetting” process to ensure that the training material is accurate and reflects the intentions of AB 12-EFC. The Team consists of representatives from CDSS staff, county staff (Child Welfare Services and Probation), Youth, AB 12 sponsors, stakeholders, the current statewide training system, and leads from the three areas mentioned above. Each set of learning objectives and training materials is reviewed by the Team prior to being ultimately approved for content accuracy, web postings, and/or dissemination. The Team has been very diligent to not distribute training

products prematurely until the All County Letters and County Fiscal Letters have been released to ensure that the information that is disseminated for informing and training is accurate.

### **Training Curriculum Content and Distribution**

The training curricula will be diverse, comprehensive, and tailored for a variety of audiences. The Team has identified a list of audiences who will need training and has identified the training topics that the identified audiences will need to receive in order to implement AB 12-EFC effectively. There is a variety of training curricula being developed, including a basic overview of AB 12 and training to help social workers, probation officers, caregivers, and service providers who work with non-minor dependents. There is also specific training being developed for youth from both the child welfare and probation populations. Counties must utilize the CDSS approved training materials to ensure the training material utilized is accurate.

The state will distribute and deliver the training using California's statewide training delivery systems. The curricula are being shared on a flow basis, consistent with the needs for implementation. Delivery will occur via webinars and in-person trainings as arranged between Regional Training Academies and other entities using the approved curriculum for their specific audiences. As of November 2011 a variety of training products is available, including Tool Kits, the Youth Orientation training (two-hour module), and the Partnering to Serve Emerging Adults training (one-day module) by visiting [http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining\\_AB12.html](http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining_AB12.html).

Most recently, the Fostering Connections Summit, co-sponsored by CDSS and other partners, convened in November for a limited audience. The webinar is available for viewing at <http://vimeo.com/calswec>.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact Cheryl Treadwell, Chief, Resources Development and Training Support Bureau, at [Cheryl.Treadwell@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Treadwell@dss.ca.gov) or at (916) 651-6600.

Sincerely,

### ***Original Document Signed By:***

GREGORY E. ROSE  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division