

Committee Reporting Form
CCCCIO Representatives on Statewide Committees

Committee: CCCCCO Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support Committee (CAFYES)	CCCCIO Rep: Deb Sutphen
Meeting Date: February 9, 2017	Meeting Location: CCCCCO, Sacramento

Committee Charge: To provide the Chancellor’s Office with advice and support on CAFYES policy and program implementation. The goals are to encourage the enrollment, retention, and transfer of current and former foster youth in CCC*** and to avoid duplicating services otherwise available to CAFYES students from counties or the State.

*****It is important to note that only 18% of foster youth will qualify for CAFYES because only 18% are in care after age 16. Therefore this sentence should read: ...and former foster youth attending CCC who were in foster care after the age of 16 and under 25 when applying.**

Otherwise it sounds like it is for every foster youth. This generalization is very misleading and people/agencies on the outside of the college think it is a resource for all foster youth.

Foster youth need a tremendous amount of support on the very most basic needs. So when addressing enrollment, retention, and transfer, it has to be approached with creativity and sustainability.

Meeting Agenda Topics: 1. An overview of the fundamentals of CAFYES—how it works, which colleges were selected to implement it and how they were selected, who is eligible for CAFYES, what supports can CAFYES offer. 2. Progress reports on CAFYES programs at Merritt and Orange Coast colleges. 3. Discussion of the CAFYES Advisory committee charter by CCCCCO staff, 4. CCCCCO CAFYES Outreach program

CAFYES should not operate as an “above and beyond” program but a “foundation, preparation, retain and sustain” program. This means

including lots of outreach and pre-thinking, pre-paring, early intervention through community partners to pre-select students and get them into summer programs in high school, etc. They need stability to make it through. Once they get in, they need lots of support, on-going support, to see it all the way through. Too many foster youth are barely surviving financially. Funding should be thought of as the long-term well-being of human beings. Doing everything we can to ensure their success actually keeps future generations from falling into the same pit. We are literally changing lives and repairing deep wounds through education and success.

EOPS/CAFYES must operate their advisory committee with local agency partners and make decisions jointly. EOPS cannot simply inform local agencies of decisions that affect foster youth.

Topics for CCCCIO consideration/discussion: Because CAFYES is a new categorical program and is neither a grant nor a pilot it is helpful for the CIOs to understand what it is and how it works, its funding structure, how Districts were selected to participate and the kinds of support CAFYES may offer. There was also much discussion about the kinds of support that students can be offered under CAFYES. [NOTE: see attached CAFYES overview]

It is essential to recognize that categorical funding for this purpose must be utilized in a creative way to meet the needs of those foster youth who do not qualify for CAFYES. For example, if a workshop is offered to CAFYES students on Trauma recovery place it in a large classroom or hall and make it open to anyone who is interested. It can still be reported on how many CAFYES students attended but also invisibly assist other foster youth and wounded people. This may not be a popular suggestion because of categorical guidelines but people must realize that foster youth have been treated very badly in their lives; their parents were convicted of criminal parenting. Many of the resources for foster youth have conflicting age requirements. Some are for if they were in care after age 13, some after 16, some end at 18, some 21 some 25. There are SO MANY ways foster youth lose support that are random and devastating. It is quite painful for a youth who was in care from 5-15 to be turned away when someone else went into at 15 and received tons of benefits. It reinforces that they are not good enough or do not deserve help.

