Welcome and Overview of Fostering Futures

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Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities
Purpose of Fostering Futures

• Share selected findings of the CalYOUTH Study
  – Wave 2 Youth Survey
  – Second Child Welfare Worker Survey

• Incorporate perspectives of administrators, professionals, and foster care youth

• Engage in discussion about the implications of findings for practice and policy
Overview of the CalYOUTH Study

Evaluation of the impact of California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12) on outcomes for foster youth

CalYOUTH Study includes:

- Longitudinal study of young people in CA foster care making the transition to adulthood
- Periodic surveys of caseworkers serving young people in CA foster care
- Analysis of government program administrative data
Purpose of the Longitudinal Youth Study

Obtain information about a broad range of life experiences & young adult outcomes

- Foster care placement
- Service utilization & preparation
- Perceptions of extended care
- Education and employment
- Health and development
- Social support
- Delinquency
- Pregnancy and children
Youth Surveys: Data Collection and Response Rate

• **Wave 1 Survey Period (age 17)**
  - April 2013 to October 2013
  - 51 counties included in final sample
  - Youth eligible for study $n = 763$
  - Completed interviews $n = 727$ (response rate = 95.3%)

• **Wave 2 Survey Period (age 19)**
  - March 2015 to December 2015
  - Youth eligible for study $n = 724$
  - Completed interviews $n = 611$ (response rate = 84.1%)
Purpose of Child Welfare Worker Study

Obtain perceptions of service delivery context
- County level availability of and need for services
- Coordination of services with other service systems
- Attitudes of caseworker, county court personnel, and youth toward extended care
Caseworker Surveys: Data Collection and Response Rate

- **First Caseworker Survey**
  - Sample of caseworkers across the state serving older foster care youth

- **Second Caseworker Survey**
  - Caseworkers serving young people in the longitudinal Youth Survey who were still in care as of June 1, 2015
  - Survey Period: July 2015 to October 2015
  - **Part A**: questions about service context in their county
    - 295/306 of eligible caseworkers completed surveys (96.4%)
  - **Part B**: questions about specific youth on their caseload
    - 493/516 surveys completed about youth on their caseloads (95.5%)
# Demographic Characteristics ($n=611$)

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<th>% (weighted)</th>
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Current Foster Care Status

Care Status at Wave 2 (n=611)

- In care (never left since Wave 1): 64%
- In care (exited and reentered after Wave 1): 13%
- Not in care: 23%

Age at Discharge (n=134)

- 17 or younger: 51%
- 18: 27%
- 19: 22%

Legend:
- In care (never left since Wave 1)
- In care (exited and reentered after Wave 1)
- Not in care
How Youth Left Care \((n=134)\)

- **34%** Exited to legal permanency
- **35%** Left care by own request
- **7%** Runaway, and discharged while away
- **5%** Incarceration in jail or prison, and discharged from there
- **9%** No longer meeting the requirements to stay in care after age 18
- **10%** Other
Experience with Foster Care Professionals

- About 32% of youth met with social worker less than once a month.
- On average, youth had 14 phone calls with social worker per year.
- On average, youth had 2 face-to-face visits or phone calls with attorney per year.

Satisfaction with information received from attorney (n=477):
- Very satisfied: 46%
- Somewhat satisfied: 29%
- A little satisfied: 9%
- Not at all satisfied: 8%
- No open court case: 8%
Court Proceedings about Extended Foster Care

- About 76% youth were ever asked to attend court proceedings about extended foster care.
- About 58% youth ever attended court proceedings about extended foster care.
- About 87% youth reported judge addressed respondent directly.

**Felt included in courtroom discussion (n=272)**

- 61% felt a lot
- 24% felt some
- 12% felt a little
- 3% felt none

Optimism about Future ($n=611$)

- Very optimistic: 61%
- Fairly optimistic: 34%
- Not too optimistic: 3%
- Not at all optimistic: 2%