



Improving the Transition for Foster Youth with Disabilities

June 28, 2010

10:30-12:30 Plenary
 12:30-1:30 Lunch
 1:30-3:00 Workshops
 3:00-3:30 Wrap-Up

Plenary Transitioning Foster Youth with Disabilities: Policy and Practice Contexts

Welcome	Amy Lemley	Policy Director, The John Burton Foundation
	Damon Q. Scott	Regional Contributions Manager for KP Community Benefit, Northern CA, Kaiser Permanente
	Debra Williams	Chief, Foster Care Rates Bureau, CDSS
Youth Voices	Jennifer Rodriguez	Staff Attorney, Youth Law Center
	Isaiah Larkins	Former Foster Youth
California's Policy Context	Angie Schwartz	Staff Attorney, The Alliance for Children's Rights
Results of the SSI Survey: How is California Doing?	Hannah Haley	SSI Project Intern, The John Burton Foundation
Federal Policy Context	Stacey Mayes	Bay Area Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration

Workshop 1 Screening, Applications, Timing and Appeals

Description	This workshop is geared towards strengthening county practice in the area of obtaining SSI benefits for foster youth with disabilities. Effective screening, compelling applications and accurate timing will be presented in the context of county child welfare practice. Issues related to managing the appeals process in tandem with a youth's transition, as well as strategies for pursuing a successful appeal, will also be discussed.
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casey Blake, CWS Policy Manager, City and County of San Francisco, Family & Children's Services• Leigh Ann Newman, Special Projects Analyst, Public Consulting Group• Jennifer Polumsky, Disability Eligibility Analyst, Public Consulting Group• Laura Streimer, Legal Director, Alliance for Children's Rights
Location	Uptown Conference Room

Workshop 2 Contract Services or Conduct In-House?: A Discussion of Methods for Obtaining SSI Benefits for Youth

Description	Two distinct models exist for managing the process of applying for SSI on behalf of foster youth with disabilities. So which model works best? It may depend on a county's strengths, features and resources. This panel presentation by representatives from three counties with different models – two different outside contractors and one well-formed internal unit – will discuss what those features, strengths and resources might be. In addition, elements of “mastering” the process in the two different models will be presented.
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nenita Dean, Manager III, Stanislaus County Child and Family Services Division• LaRayne Olmstead, SSI Project Representative, Orange County Children and Family Services• Kathy Watkins, MSW, Legislative Program Manager, San Bernardino County Human Services System• Hannah Haley, SSI Project Intern, John Burton Foundation
Location	Lake Merritt Conference Room

Workshop 3 Developing Comprehensive Transition Plans for Youth

Description	This workshop will provide an overview on how to approach transition planning for youth with disabilities who are emancipating out of foster care with SSI benefits in place. Panelists will discuss the Age 18 Redeterminations; connecting youth with SSI to supportive housing; programs available through the Social Security Administration for individuals receiving SSI who are interested in pursuing work or education (i.e. the Ticket to Work program); and other community resources and programs that assist youth in managing their benefits and connecting to vocational, education, or work programs.
Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian Blalock, Staff Attorney, Bay Area Legal Aid• Amy Lemley, Policy Director, John Burton Foundation• Stacey Mayes, Bay Area Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration• Jennifer Rodriguez, Staff Attorney, Youth Law Center• Angie Schwartz, Staff Attorney, Alliance for Children's Rights
Location	Laurel Conference Room
