Brief Overview:
Education of Foster Youth and Homeless Youth

Presented by
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What do we know about Foster Youth?

- Many have had multiple home and school placements; 24% have had at least two placements.
- Some struggle with trust and school engagement as a result.
- Often a skills or academic credit gap.
- Behavior issues—by history or observation.
- Substance Abuse.
- Special Education or special learning needs.
- Medical Issues.
- Trauma history.
What do we know about Foster Youth? (cont’d)

- A population served by multiple systems (often simultaneously):
  - California Department of Social Services
  - Child Welfare
  - Administrative Office of the Courts
  - Mental Health
  - County Probation
  - Community Based Organizations
  - Health Care system
  - Education Community
Foster Youth
Recent Legislation

• AB 97 School Finance Reform
  Adds EC Section 42238-42251
  – EC 42238.01
  • Defines Foster Youth for purposes of
    serving students with LCFF funding
  • Expands the existing definition of foster
    youth currently defined under
    EC 42920-42925
  • Shifts funding, planning and
    accountability decision making for foster
    youth to school districts.
Recent Legislation aligning with LCFF

• AB 854 (Chaptered 10/11/15)
  – Expands the definition of Foster Youth
  – Adopts the LCFF definition of foster youth.
  – Aligns the work of the COE Foster Youth Program with LCFF
  – Net increase of eligible youth from 40,000 to almost 60,000
Role of County Offices of Education

- Shift away from solely direct service provider to including capacity building with school communities
- Focus on collaborative practices with partners
- Leveraging resources
- Executive Advisory Council
- Shared focus on Improved Educational outcomes
Funding

- An additional 10 million augmentation for 2015-16
- Department of Finance approved an allocation formula for all 58 counties:
  - 50% based on number of eligible foster youth
  - 50% based on the number of districts in each county.
Funding Cont’d

• Adjusted to Minimum funding level of $150,000
• Adjusted to Hold Harmless levels for 2015-16
• 1 year Hold Harmless
• Formula pending for 2016-17 and 2017-18
Homeless Facts and Figures

- The number of homeless children and youth enrolled in the 2013–14 school year (SY):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number of Homeless Children and Youth Enrolled</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>1.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>310,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marin County</td>
<td>1,174</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Homeless Definition

- Homelessness is defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
  - A **fixed** residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.
Homeless Definition (Cont.)

– A **regular** residence is one that is used on a normal, standard, and consistent basis.

– An **adequate** residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act

- Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Act:
  - Was originally authorized in 1987.
  - Provides stability, access, and support for academic success for homeless children and youth, including preschool-aged children.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

– All local educational agencies (LEAs) must designate a homeless liaison.

– A list of homeless liaisons can be found on the CDE Homeless Children and Youth Education Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

• Homeless liaisons must:
  – Ensure that homeless children and youth are identified.
  – Ensure that access is provided and barriers to enrollment and retention are removed.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

- Disseminate public notice of educational rights in areas where homeless families are found.

- Inform parents or guardians of educational opportunities.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

– Ensure that homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services.

– Assist children and youth who do not have immunizations.

– Coordinate and collaborate services for homeless children, youth, and their families.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act (Cont.)

– Collaborate with the state coordinator, community agencies, and school personnel.

– Refer parents or guardians to other public agencies, community service organizations, nonprofit agencies, and faith-based organizations for needed services.
Funding for Homelessness

• Regardless of funding, LEAs are required to implement the provisions of this Act.

• LEAs can use other federal, state, and local funds to implement.
Funding for Homelessness (Cont.)

- If an LEA does receive Title I, Part A funds, then the LEA is required to reserve such funds to provide comparable services to homeless children and youth.
- Homeless children and youth fall under the Socio-economically Disadvantaged subgroup under LCFF.
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