



CONNECTED CAREGIVERS

Updates & Opportunities for Resource Families in California



Caregiver Day at the Capitol

BY JENN REXROAD

Caregiver Day at the Capitol was a huge success. Foster & Kinship Caregivers from around the state attended 63 meetings with legislative offices in groups of 2-5 with advocates in order to share their stories and experiences. The immediate needs of improving Resource Family Approval and funding kinship families at the time of (or close to) time of placement; and Level of Care increments - ensuring a fair and adequate assessment to ensure children and families are able to access the appropriate rate were the main communication points. These are the most timely issues being addressed in Sacramento, which have profound implications for children & families.

We thank the Walter S. Johnson Foundation for their generous support.

SNEAK PEEK

03

2018 Legislation
Supporting Resource
Families & Children in
Foster Care

04

Regional Events to
Create Statewide
Caregiver Policy
Agenda

05

FREE Training in Los
Angeles/San Bernadino area

Connect with us!



Caregiver Day at the Capitol 2018 continued...



"I didn't think I would be able to contribute much but as it turned out our leaders were solid facilitators, and fellow CG's from around the state were friendly and open with their stories. We were all able to share our concerns at the Capitol. We learned from and encouraged each other...I look forward to going back next year."

- CDATC Participant



"You guys did a great job putting on the event! Having the preparation before and then helping caregivers craft their stories for the visits is great!. "

- CDATC Participant

Legislation Supporting Resource Families & Children in Foster Care

The bills that CAC is tracking and providing input/support on are:

AB - 1784 - Resource family approval: pilot program - coaching/training - Asm Human Services 3/6/18

AB - 2043 - Foster youth: response system - 24 hour hotline and mobile response

AB - 2183 - Foster care: resource family - making RFA work - funding at time of placement

SB - 925 - Foster care: CASA invited to participate in Child & Family Team meetings - Sen Human Services 4/10/18

SB - 940 - Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant: Foster Youth

SB - 1083 - Resource Family Approval - making RFA work

You can sign up for updates or read bill language at:

leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

or on our website:

cacaregivers.org/updates-advocacy/

Please let us know if you have any concerns or ideas for amendments.



Passing a bill is just the first step in improving the child welfare system. Local level implementation is the next step. Two programs need input from resource families: **Foster Parent Retention, Recruitment & Support (FPPRS)**

Child Care Bridge Program

(Funding began January 1, 2018)

Counties are currently setting up this program. Stakeholders (resource families) can ask for a stakeholder meeting to engage the county in how the program can best serve resource families.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jenn Rexroad jrexroad@cacaregivers.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

California Alliance of Caregivers
Regional Events

JOIN US ON THE

24TH

OF

MARCH

315 Mace Blvd, Davis

FREE ENTRY & CHILD CARE

10:30 am -
1:30 pm

Find out more :
[www.cacaregivers.org/
regional-events](http://www.cacaregivers.org/regional-events)

Caregivers across the state are creating a statewide caregiver policy agenda. Your input is needed! Please let us know if you are interested in attending an event in your area!



CAREGIVER RESILIENCY:

Reducing Stress & Building Resilience for
Parents & Providers

FREE Training for:

**Providers - February 23
9:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Parents - February 24
9:00 - 2:30 pm**

Training by:

UCLA Division of Population
Behavioral Health,
Nathanson Family Resilience Center,
Patrick Gardner, President
Young Minds Advocacy &
Laura Stillmunkes, Executive Director
Capital Adoptive Families Alliance

Location:

**Haynes Family of Programs
233 W. Baseline, Box 400
La Verne, CA 91750**

- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch
- Training Certificate
- Giveaways
- Child Care

Registration: www.cacaregivers.org/training

For more information: Jenn 530-312-0480, jrexroad@cacaregivers.org

Parents & Caregivers for Wellness is a collaborative project to strengthen the voice of parents & caregivers, and improve services and supports for families.



A PROJECT OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 23-24

Caregiver Resiliency:
Reducing Stress for
Parents & Providers
Location:

Haynes Family of
Programs, La Verne
Training by:

UCLA Nathanson
Family Resilience
Center

&
Dr. Gardner, Young
Minds Advocacy
Mental Health
Advocacy 101

&
Laura Stillmunkes,
Capital Adoptive
Families Alliance

May 15-18

California Mental
Health Advocates for
Children & Youth
Conference

www.cmhacy.org