



November 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Hybrid Meeting
In-Person: 510 South Vermont Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020
9th Floor Terrace Level Conference Room C (TK05)
Remote: via Microsoft Teams

Member Representatives Present:	Tanya Ortiz Franklin, ECC Chair, Los Angeles Unified School District Fabricio Segovia, ECC Vice Chair, former foster youth and lived expert Judge Akemi Arakaki, ECC Vice Chair, Los Angeles Superior Court Naomi Andrews, Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA) Ashley Benjamin, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District David Carroll, Department of Youth Development Cesar Cassarubias, Pomona Unified School District Jesus Corral, Probation Department Josh Elizondo, Los Angeles County Youth Commission David Estep, Children's Law Center Jessica Gonzalez, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Los Angeles La Shona Jenkins, Los Angeles County Office of Education Minsun Meeker, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services Angela Mendoza, Pasadena Unified School District Denise Miranda, Los Angeles Unified School District Alaina Moonves-Leb, Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection Elisabeth Nails, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Taylor Schooley, Department of Youth Development Daynette Steward, California State University Kanchana Tate, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Trish Wilson, Lancaster School District
Additional Presenters:	Jill Rowland, Alliance for Children's Rights Danielle Wondra, Children Now
Staff:	Barbara Lundqvist, Director, Education Coordinating Council Elizabeth Koenig, Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection Miguel Hernandez, Luskin Fellow, Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Introductions, AB 2449 Notification/Motion, Land Acknowledgement

Chair Tanya Ortiz Franklin brought the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m., welcoming everyone and acknowledging the collective work underway to support the educational needs of youth involved in the child welfare systems. She thanked the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for helping the ECC secure today's meeting room. Following member self-introductions, Elizabeth Koenig read Los Angeles County's [land acknowledgement](#).

Ortiz Franklin then invited any members participating online to request remote attendance under AB 2449 due to just cause or emergency circumstances. After confirming no requests, the Council proceeded.

Ortiz Franklin went over the purposes of today's meeting, and Koenig concluded Agenda Item 1 by reviewing in-person, online, and telephonic housekeeping issues.

Agenda Item 2: Presentation on the Potential Transition of the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) followed by a Roundtable Discussion with ECC Members and Constituents

Ortiz Franklin introduced ECC Director Barbara Lundqvist, who presented an overview of Office of Child Protection (OCP)'s new strategic direction and the proposed transition of the ECC into an Education Table within the County's System of Care. Lundqvist summarized the assessment (see Attachment 01) that prompted this shift—including Brown Act limitations, evolving educational needs for system-impacted youth, and stakeholder feedback—and outlined what would remain the same, what would change, and how this structure would allow for more flexible, inclusive implementation of the ECC Strategic Plan. She then shared frequently asked questions gathered during prior one-on-one meetings before opening the floor for questions and comments from ECC members and constituents.

Lundqvist noted that all ECC members and constituents will be invited to the Education Table meetings and the OCP staff will work on a process to formally add constituents to the Education Table. Some agencies have already noted that they would like to be part of the Education Table and the OCP staff will include them in the next meeting.

Discussion:

- ❖ Minsun Meeker provided additional context on the System of Care (SOC), explaining that it is a State-mandated body serves as an interagency leadership structure where leaders meet to resolve issues at the systems level. SOC requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with specific County Departments that are child and youth serving and does not restrict who else can participate in the SOC. The SOC partnership also includes significant administrative support through State and County Departments. For example, the State SOC includes an interagency resolution team that includes the CA Departments of Education, Social Services, Developmental Services, and Health Care Services that provide a lot of guidance to local entities around how to move work strategically across systems partners. The SOC also requires each county to have an Interagency Leadership Team which includes Department Heads, including the

Department Heads of many of the current departments engaged in ECC, to ensure there is a space to solve issues at a leadership level. Additionally, the SOC includes an Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) which is structured to connect the dots across multiple initiatives and policy areas. This would allow education issues to be elevated with prevention, complex care, and behavioral health issues that are discussed in the larger SOC and creates a space to coordinate and align the work across these initiatives better.

- ❖ Angela Mendoza expressed appreciation for Barbara Lundqvist's one-on-one outreach to ECC Members and shared that hybrid or fully online meetings will likely be the most effective format for the next several Education Table meetings once the transition happens.

Action Items:

- OCP will send the ECC Transition PowerPoint after the meeting.
- Constituents interested in joining the Education Table should reach out to Barbara Lundqvist or Elizabeth Koenig

Agenda Item 3: Presentation on the Potential Transition of the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) followed by a Roundtable Discussion with ECC Members and Constituents

Jill Rowland (Alliance for Children's Rights) and Danielle Wondra (Children Now) presented a sample LCAP (Attachment 02) created to help districts design goals and actions that directly address the needs of youth in foster care. They explained that while each Local Education Agency (LEA) sets its own baselines and priorities, the sample LCAP offers structured tools to support thoughtful planning. The resource includes:

- A worksheet to help districts identify baseline data and areas of focus
- Goal templates outlining sample actions, priorities, and rationale
- Sections on:
 - Defining youth in foster care
 - Engaging education partners
 - County Office of Education roles
 - Goal areas such as school stability, immediate enrollment, academic supports, high school needs, data infrastructure, social-emotional coordination, and early intervention for ages 0–4

Using School Stability as an example, Rowland and Wondra walked through how districts can set goals, measure progress, and connect activities to state priorities. They also highlighted the four-step process on page 22 for identifying baseline data, barriers, and targeted activities.

Discussion:

Discussion largely centered on budget constraints and the practical realities of LCAP development. Several district partners shared that budgets are increasingly tight, making it difficult to dedicate resources specifically to youth in foster care—even though the need for supports has not decreased. Cesar Cassarubias from Pomona Unified noted that LCAP development for next year begins as early as December and emphasized that although the

number of foster youths may be declining in some districts, students' needs often become more complex.

Participants also discussed transportation costs, especially as school stability remains a top priority. Kawena Cole from the Hilton Foundation asked whether districts are utilizing the **60% transportation reimbursement** outlined in a School of Origin Transportation Funding [resource](#) (also see Attachment 03) created by the California Foster Youth Education Taskforce. The resource notes that School districts and COEs can get reimbursed up to 60% for eligible home-to-school transportation expenditures, including school of origin transportation. The district has to create a plan, in consultation with stakeholders, and describe the transportation services the district/COE will provide.

A handful of members were familiar with the resource, but no district confirmed active use. Attendees agreed it would be helpful to revisit this option, understand barriers to using it, and receive the information again for follow-up.

Overall, members expressed appreciation for having a sample LCAP that breaks down complex requirements and offers concrete examples districts can adapt to their local context.

Action Items:

- Jill Rowland and Danielle Wondra will send updated materials next year for dissemination.
- District partners may share their advisory/LCAP committee information with Barbara for broader outreach.
 - LAUSD shared information to join their LCAP advisory groups:
 - English:
https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/1073/spec%20stud%20services%20%20sss/Foster%20Youth%20PAC_English.pdf
 - Spanish
https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/domain/1073/spec%20stud%20services%20%20sss/Foster%20Youth%20PAC_Spanish.pdf
- Elisabeth Nails shared a sample plan developed by the Department of Arts and Culture to support district LCAP planning (see Attachments 04 and 05)
- OCP will resend the transportation reimbursement resource (60% reimbursement) and follow up to determine whether districts are able to leverage it.

Agenda Item 4: Roundtable Discussion with ECC Members and Constituents regarding Child Welfare Education Updates and/or Issues from the Field

Chair Tanya Ortiz Franklin introduced Agenda Item 4 as a space for partners to share updates and raise issues related to child welfare education. The item was scheduled to begin with an immigration-related update; however the presenter was unable to attend. Fredy Ruiz from LACOE shared immigration updates and resources related to A 49 and SB 98 (see Attachments 06 and 07).

- ❖ Josh Elizondo shared that the LA County Youth Commission recently hosted a Youth Engagement Event, collecting 881 surveys, including 500 from youth with child welfare or juvenile justice involvement. Five priority areas emerged from the responses, with mental health and education identified as top concerns. The 2025 YEC End Year Report will be shared out with all members and constituents (see Attachment 08).
- ❖ Denise Miranda announced that LAUSD is providing free supper meals for youth ages 1–18 at school campuses during the week. Youth do not need to be enrolled in LAUSD to participate. More information is available at:
 - www.lausd.org/foodhelp
 - Family Hotline at 213-443-1300
 - LAUSD shared their flier for distribution (see Attachment 09)
- ❖ Chris Jenne noted that JBAY has released a resource matrix (see Attachment 10) to support young adults seeking food and financial assistance. Chris and highlighted the What I Need (WIN) app, which connects individuals to free local services across Los Angeles County.

Agenda Item 5. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Details about the next meeting and whether the ECC transitions to an Education will be communicated via email to all ECC members and constituents.

Adjournment

There being no further public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.