



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

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County Administrator, **Patrick S. Blacklock**
Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2083 (Cooley) Trauma-Informed System of Care for Foster Youth - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

Yolo County supports AB 2083 by Assembly Member Cooley, which would expand the availability of coordinated, trauma-informed services for foster youth who have experienced severe trauma.

The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort requires counties to reduce the use of congregate care and to bring to bear the services needed by foster youth and their families in home-based settings. Our county continues to work diligently to implement the CCR and has seen some success in diverting youth from group home care and keeping youth with families with services wrapped around them. But for some of our foster youth, we continue to face challenges in meeting their very intensive needs. These youth often have co-occurring and complex needs that cross multiple systems, including mental health, substance abuse, education, and developmental disabilities. Due to the lack of a comprehensive state and local level strategy for coordinating services and funding, these youth experience delays in accessing appropriate care, sometimes moving between multiple foster homes and facilities. At times we need to seek care out-of-state for these youth, moving them away from their families and communities. All of these experiences only deepen the trauma experienced by foster youth and make it more difficult for them to heal.

AB 2083 seeks to ensure that services to foster youth who have experienced severe trauma are coordinated, timely, and trauma-informed by establishing a state and local level response system for these youth and their families. The bill requires key state agencies to establish an interagency response team to develop a model MOU for county agencies to serve foster youth with complex needs and provide technical assistance to counties to serve these youth in home-based settings to the greatest extent possible. The bill also requires county and local agencies to enter into these MOUs, including child welfare, probation, behavioral health, and education, as well as regional centers serving children with developmental disabilities. In our county, child welfare social workers often struggle to secure services from these other agencies, which have their own set of rules and funding streams that aren't always aligned with the child welfare program.

Our County has entered into an agreement with County of Yolo Child Welfare, Yolo County Probation, Yolo County office of Education, and CommuniCare Health Services to hold weekly meetings to discuss individuals that have experienced severe trauma. This has helped our Agency

develop a partnership with outside collaborators to ensure that all partners and resources are involved when tailoring and developing a plan for individual's specific needs, thus ensuring that all of the individuals needs are met to achieve wellness in all areas of their life.

Finally, AB 2083 requires the state interagency team to assess and develop recommendations to address gaps in placement types or availability to serve these youth, and to develop a plan to increase the number of trauma-informed practitioners who can serve our most traumatized foster children and youth. These elements are critical in meeting federal and state child welfare outcomes and the goals of CCR.

For these reasons, Yolo County supports AB 2083. Please contact Alexander Tengolics in the County Administrator's Office at (530) 666-8068 or alexander.tengolics@yolocounty.org with any questions about the County's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar E. Villegas".

Oscar Villegas
Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Ken Cooley
 The Honorable Richard Pan
 The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
 The Honorable Kevin McCarty
 The Honorable Bill Dodd