

FRESNO COUNTY
FOSTER CARE STANDARDS AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
TO
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REPORTING ACTIVITIES
FROM
JULY 2024 THROUGH JUNE 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fresno County Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee hereby referred to as "FCSOC" was created by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in 2001. According to its bylaws, Article III-Statement of Purpose, the purpose is "To exercise oversight and review of systems and services which affect children focusing on, but not limited to, the foster care system. The committee shall:

- A. Advise and make recommendations for continuous and lasting system improvement.
- B. Provide a forum for community input related to the FCSOC purpose.

To meet its primary responsibility, the FCSOC is guided by an adopted Mission and Vision statement.

Mission

The Mission of the FCSOC is to provide oversight for and promote communication between the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Social Services (DSS), its related agencies, and the community, with an emphasis on providing information and recommendations that make the Child Welfare system more effective and efficient.

Vision

A community enhanced by a compassionate and responsible Child Welfare system that provides prevention, early intervention, and nurtures the developmental and therapeutic needs of abused and neglected children and their families.

Key Responsibilities

The FCSOC shall participate in lawfully constituted multi-disciplinary reviews where system issues are present and recommend improvements as appropriate.

The primary responsibility of the FCSOC is to focus on the structures and functions of the local Child Welfare system and to represent the public interest in the delivery of services. In addition, part of the committee's mission is to improve communication through outreach and coordination with the work of other community groups. To assist in this coordination, the FCSOC has subcommittees that consist of Education and Mental Health. Other subcommittees may arise as deemed necessary.

Changes Moving Forward 2024 to 2025

Since its inception in 2001, the FCSOC has evolved from its original purpose to provide valuable interagency communication through its regular subcommittee meetings. In the Fall of 2021, the committee hosted a community forum with elected officials and community partners to address the public spotlight on "hard-to-place" children and youth in child welfare. This was followed by annual strategic planning sessions in 2022 and 2023, which allowed the committee

to recalibrate and work closely with the DSS. These efforts focused on providing support and oversight for systemic changes, specifically addressing "Critical Needs" identified in 2022 and a 2023 employee survey. Two FCSOC ad hoc committees implemented this survey and have since reviewed the results to guide ongoing improvements.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The FCSOC currently has eight vacancies, representing 47% of its total membership. While the eight active appointees are dedicated professionals who have enhanced the committee's representation in the areas of education, children's mental health, and child advocacy, additional appointments are essential to reaching full operational capacity. We encourage the Board of Supervisors to collaborate with the FCSOC to fill these remaining seats. A complete membership roster, detailing vacancies by district, is included in this report.

DISTRICT 1 APPOINTEES

Karina Lopez, Private Citizen
Vacant
Vacant

DISTRICT 2 APPOINTEES

Kevin Lisitsin, Local Business Owner, Vice Chair
Maisie Young, Supervisor of Student Support Services, District Foster Liaison
Vacant

DISTRICT 3 APPOINTEES

Patricia Scovill, Private Citizen
Vacant
Vacant

DISTRICT 4 APPOINTEES

Rosemary Alanis, Chair
Vincent Latham, Private Citizen
Vacant

DISTRICT 5 APPOINTEES

Pamela Hancock, Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (Retired)
Korey Keith, CASA Program Advocate Coordinator
Joe Olivares, Focus Forward Board of Directors President

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Luis Chavez, Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Amina Flores Becker, Fresno County CAO

Revisiting 2024-2025 Goals for FCSOC

As established in 2002, our committee will continue to advise and make recommendations for continuous and lasting system improvement and provide a forum for community input related to the FCSOC purpose. A key responsibility is to improve communication through outreach and coordination with the work of other community groups including the Office of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Foster Care and Homeless Education Subcommittee and Fresno County Behavioral Health - Children's Mental Health Subcommittee. The primary focus of the FCSOC continues to be:

1. Be a resource to the Board of Supervisor Initiatives to improve the Child Welfare system. This includes the creation of a county-wide campaign to address the current shortages of social workers and resource family homes.
 - a. Goal Update: Progress is ongoing. The Department of Social Services has improved.
2. Proactively collaborate with the Board of Supervisors in the shared responsibility to find passionate and qualified candidates to fill vacancies on the FCSOC.
 - a. Goal Update: Progress is ongoing. On April 7, 2026 Christa Sharpe, Director of CASA was appointed to serve on the FCSOC by Chairman Bredefeld.
3. Continue to focus on the well-being of children in the Child Welfare system, including:
 - Reviewing what services and resources are available for families who are preparing to become resource parents.
 - Reviewing what services and resources are being provided to the youth, resource parents and biological parents.
 - Continuing to collaborate with DSS to improve dissemination of information to foster youth, resource and biological families and the public about available resources for current and former foster youth such as the Family Urgent Response System (FURS).
 - Providing educational advocacy and support. More specifically, advocating for better school stability and the reduction of school transfers when placement transitions occur.
 - a. Goal Update: GOAL NOT MET: 2024-2025 Stability rate decreased by 0.20%. Foster Stability rate was 30.00% lower than the Fresno County overall student population.
 - Advocating for increased mental health resources and mentorship initiatives designed to mitigate trauma and support the unique social and emotional development of foster youth.
 - System of Care with social workers, resource parents and school personnel to support LGBTQ+ youth.
 - Advocating for more enrichment activities for foster youth during school breaks.
 - Supporting a more seamless placement process. More specifically, reviewing the policies and procedures in place to ensure potential resource parents and Foster Family Agencies (FFA) homes are supported so that they are better prepared to receive placement youth.
 - Continuing to collaborate with DSS in addressing the challenge of placement stability

for older youth and youth with complex needs. More specifically discussing strategies that would reduce reliance on Law Enforcement involvement, mental health facility holds and MOD C stays.

- Advocating for increased Transitional Housing support for foster and former foster youth over the age of 18.

2025-2026 GOALS FOR FCSOC

The proposed goals for 2025-2026 include:

1. Review DSS audits and analyze data to identify key trends that would help guide FCOSC oversight and drive systemic improvements for child welfare outcomes.
2. Partner with the Fresno County DSS Child Welfare Ombudsman to launch a proactive initiative through the creation of a committee to review case files and identify areas of success and areas where improvements are needed.
3. EDUCATION:
 - GOAL 1: Increase Child Welfare Foster Youth Notifications to schools when there are additional changes such as returning home, closing a case, a change in a child's social worker or caregiver, or if there is a school change.
 - GOAL 2: Increase efficiency and improve communication between Child Welfare and schools about a student potentially moving schools. Consider eliminating the Potential School Change Form and augment the School Foster Notification form to include this information.
 - GOAL 3: Monitor and track early education enrollments and attendance.

Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

The FCSOC respectfully submits the following recommendations to support the safety, stability, permanency, and well-being of children and youth involved in the Fresno County Child Welfare System. These recommendations are informed by the Committee's oversight responsibilities, review of Child Welfare practices and trends, and ongoing collaboration with the Department of Social Services and community partners. They focus on supporting system readiness and continuity of care during the statewide implementation of CWS-CARES, strengthening a Kin-First, family-centered approach, and advancing trauma-informed care through the Child Well-Being Continuum and the Neuro-sequential Model of Therapeutics.

1. CARES Implementation
 - The FCSOC recommends continued Board support for Fresno County's participation in the statewide transition to the CWS-CARES system. This recommendation emphasizes clear communication, state readiness, and continuity of care to ensure that services to children and families remain stable and uninterrupted during system readiness activities and statewide implementation.
2. Kin-First, Family-Centered Care
 - The FCSOC recommends continued Board commitment to a Kin-First, family-centered approach that prioritizes placement with relatives and trusted adults whenever safe and appropriate. Strengthening kinship care supports placement stability, preserves family connections, and promotes better outcomes for children while reducing reliance on congregate care.
3. Trauma-Informed Care through NMT and the Child Well-Being Continuum
 - The FCSOC recommends continued Board support for trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate care through the Neuro-sequential Model of

Therapeutics (NMT). This approach helps to align services to children's developmental needs, strengthens caregiver support, and promotes stability, healing, and long-term well-being.

Together, these recommendations reflect the FCSOC's commitment to supporting a child-centered, family-focused, and trauma-informed Child Welfare system in Fresno County. By promoting a Kin-First culture, supporting trauma-responsive practices through the Child Well-Being Continuum, and ensuring clear oversight and continuity of care during the transition to CWS-CARES, the Committee affirms its role in advancing stability, safety, and positive outcomes for children and families. These priorities align local practice with statewide direction while reinforcing the shared responsibility of the County, community partners, and the Board of Supervisors to support children in foster care.

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Background/Purpose

The purpose of the Education Subcommittee is to:

1. Enable the FCSOC oversight and communication between DSS and the Board of Supervisors.
2. Provide a network of communication about significant education issues affecting foster youth.

The Education Subcommittee is a deliberative committee that meets monthly to identify, inform and encourage resolution of issues and concerns that will improve the educational outcomes of foster youth and identify services students in foster care need. A report of the identified educational issues and recommendations are communicated at the monthly FCSOC Committee meeting and presented for discussion with the Child Welfare administrative team, FCSOC Committee Members, and members of the community (detailed information is available in the Subcommittee and FCSOC monthly meeting minutes).

Focus of Subcommittee Activity

The primary focus of the monthly meetings was to provide the basis for information sharing, review data and implement systemic changes. The Subcommittee serves as a sounding-board to support education-focused work. Standing agenda items are addressed at each meeting followed by a discussion of any emerging issue. Please note the Education Subcommittee Chair position became vacant July 2025, and the subcommittee meetings have been suspended

Subcommittee Update

GOAL 1: Combine the Education Subcommittee with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) Foster Youth Executive Advisory Committee.

- GOAL MET: Monthly meetings were attended by Child Welfare and education partners including district and charter school Foster Liaisons. These efforts lead to the culmination of a single year-end event with community leaders, partners, and foster youth students that celebrated graduating seniors and students completing the Leadership Academy.

Education Outcomes 2024-2025

*Data released from California Department of Education (CDE)**

*Graduation Rates**

The Fresno County graduation rate for foster youth increased 6.81% from 59.09% (2023-2024) to 65.9%. In comparison to the overall Fresno County graduation rate of 86.20% (2024-2025) the graduation rate for students in foster care was 20.30% lower than the overall student population.

*School Stability**

School stability supports the value of maintaining youth in their school of origin, unless it is in their “best interest” to make a change. Child Welfare strives to maintain children and youth in their schools and this entails ongoing training and coordinating with the overall Child Welfare workforce, advocacy efforts and coordination between Child Welfare, school districts, and county schools. Research indicated that when a child moves to a different school, four to six months of academic progress is lost. Research also indicated that academic success improves when a child or youth has a least one caring responsible adult in their life and maintaining school stability. The Child Welfare’s Foster Notification process helps support school stability.

According to CDE definition, school stability means staying in the same school for the entire school year and maximizing the educational success of a student. Fresno County stability rate for foster youth negatively decreased 0.20% from 59.60% (2023-24) to 59.40% (2024-25). In comparison to the Fresno County overall student population school stability rate of 89.40% (2024-25), the foster stability rate was 30.00% lower

*Chronic Absenteeism**

Chronic absenteeism means a student is absent 18 or more days of the typical 180-day school year, close to missing one month of school or more. Of the 1,665 students in foster care, 656 of these students were chronically absent. Fresno County Chronic Absenteeism rate for foster youth increased 2.0% from 37.40% (2023-24) to 39.40% (2024-25). In comparison to the Fresno County overall student chronic absenteeism rate of 21.8% (2024-25), the foster chronic absenteeism rate was 17.60% higher.

Potential School Change Form (PSCF)

Child Welfare utilizes the PSCF to communicate with education rights holders and the schools to collaboratively decide on whether a school change is in a child’s best interest. Child Welfare has recently trained all Child Welfare social workers on the PSCF process with the intention that social workers will utilize the process and improve school stability and improve education outcomes. Child Welfare provided oversight data to enable discussions about reasons for school changes, and to study the effectiveness of the “Potential School Change Form” (PSCF) to communicate and improve stability in previous years. The on-line PSCF was fully implemented at the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year and was utilized by social workers. Information obtained from the “reasons for school change” provided a means for discussion on improving advocacy for school stability. There is no data available to report the number of school changes or

maintaining school of origin. To increase efficiency and improve communication between Child Welfare and schools about a student potentially moving schools, add this information to the Foster Notification Process form. Please see 2025-2026 Education Goal 2.

Foster Care Literacy Network Improvement Community (NIC)

The Foster Literacy NIC is a project in the fourth year of implementation. A NIC is intentionally designed to bring various groups together to work on a common problem and accelerate learning. Beginning with 83 students in 3rd through 6th grades in 2021-22, the project has grown to encompass nearly 400 of Fresno County's 1,100 Fresno County placed foster youth in the 2025-26 school year and includes all grade levels. This has also resulted in 1,400 consultations in support of students. Project partners are Child Welfare, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, juvenile courts, attorneys, three school districts (Fresno, Coalinga-Huron, and Sanger school districts) and community-based organizations such as CASA, Live Again, EOC-Central Valley Against Human Trafficking. Each district identified a student cohort, and the outcomes clearly indicated better outcomes for students in foster care who are in the cohort than students who are also in foster care and did not participate in the cohort. The most impactful outcome has been that 63% of the students were reading on grade level or made more than 1 academic year's worth of growth in 2024-25.

Child Welfare & Foster Notification Process

The Foster Literacy NIC utilized system improvement science and identified the need to improve communication between Child Welfare and education. Communication from Child Welfare, called the Foster Notification process, would identify students when they went into foster care in order to keep students safe and enable schools to provide the educational rights for foster youth. The notification process is initiated by Child Welfare and is sent to the school district foster liaison who notifies the school where the child is attending that the child has been removed from the home. This process was implemented in October 2024. Data indicates the initial removal notifications were sent to schools 90% of the time. There is communication at the Education Subcommittee meetings to make continuous improvement to the system. Areas for improvement are increasing Child Welfare notifications to the school when there are additional changes such as returning home, closing a case, or a change in a child's social worker or if there is a school change. Please see 2025-2026 Education Goal 1.

Early Education

As of September 2025, there were 129 children ages three to four years old who were eligible for preschool. Of the 129 eligible children, 84 (65%) were enrolled in preschool. The reason children were not enrolled in preschool was most often due to pending referrals or the child did not meet the preschool eligibility requirements as reported by Child Welfare. Early Start reported 15 children ages 0 to two years of age were enrolled during the 2024-25 school year; Head Start reported 33 children ages three to five years of age were enrolled during the 202-25 school year.

District and County Foster Liaisons

Child Welfare administration is committed to collaboration with school district and charter Education Liaisons and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools that provide

invaluable networking to FCSOC Education Subcommittee members and Child Welfare concerning status and issues related to the education of foster youth. FCSS provided input on efforts and needs of foster youth in addition to services provided to students. This included applying for college, communication between districts and child welfare, and overall issues county-wide. Currently, the Chair for the Education Subcommittee position is vacant.

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

Overall, in 2024-25, 471 school-aged foster youth were served by FCSS. FCSS assisted 111 of the 118 seniors with financial aid applications (94% completion rate), in addition to College and dorm applications.

Leadership Academy

The Strengths-Based Leadership Academy offered by FCSS in an outdoor classroom at Scout Island Education Center is a transformative program. The program empowered 144 high school and middle school students experiencing foster care. This program focuses on enhancing their leadership skills and nurturing their individual strengths. This student-focused opportunity brought together students within a school district, offering a secure and encouraging setting for them to explore and develop their leadership capabilities. Through fostering self-reflection and highlighting the value of personal experiences, the program sought to instill in students the belief that their uniqueness equipped them to lead themselves, lead others, and to make significant contributions to society. Data indicated that students believe they could effectively collaborate with others increased 45.66%; students felt their ability to set goals for themselves increased 33.43%; students felt their skills as a leader increased 28.43%; and students felt that their skills to effectively solve problems increased 13.44%.

Financial Aid, College Applications, College Support Programs

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) in collaboration with school districts and charter schools ensure that high school seniors complete and submit financial aid applications known as the FAFSA and the Chafee grant for foster youth; submit college applications to community colleges and four year colleges and dorm applications if they qualify; and submit foster college support program applications (e.g, NextUp, Renaissance Student Program (RSP), Guardian). Of the 118 seniors, 111 FAFSAs were completed with a completion rate of 94%

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025/2026

Consistent with our mission, our goal is to support the Child Welfare System to be more efficient and effective through supporting adequate resources, better communication with agency partners and making recommendations for continuous and lasting system improvements. We recognize that our committee is just part of the solution, and we are guided by what is best for the local children and youth we represent.

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Fresno County Foster Care Oversight Committee

Annual Report — 2025/2026

Co-Chairs: Mary Lou Brauti-Minkler and Kevin Lisitsin

Background/Purpose

The focus of the Children's Behavioral Health Committee is on issues of mental health and behavioral health that affect all children in Fresno County, including foster youth. It consists of members from the community, the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), and local community agencies. This subcommittee ensures the availability of psychiatric and inpatient treatment, school-based services, and other access to mental health services to serve children in foster care.

This is a joint committee with the Fresno County Behavioral Health Committee, which allows the opportunity to explore services provided to all children with behavioral health needs. The committee meets bimonthly and receives updates from the Department about the services it provides to children. The Committee functions with co-chairs, one representing DBH and one representing the Fresno County Foster Care Oversight Committee (FCSOC).

The following report focuses on the Foster Care system. This dedicated group of volunteers and those employed in youth-serving agencies strive to advocate for children in the Foster Care system. While the committee does not make policy, it is informed on matters related to children's mental health, receives county statistics, and partners with the Department to better meet the needs of children in our community.

Attendance/Meeting Structure

During the 2024/25 reporting period, six meetings were held bimonthly on the fourth Thursday of the meeting month, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Meetings were held at BlueSky Wellness Center and Hands On Central California. On average, approximately 18 people attended each meeting.

The meeting format included a speaker from a community resource or youth-serving agency, on-going subcommittee reports, a standing update from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Children, Youth & Young Adult Services Division, group conversations with county staff to examine specific issues of interest, announcements, and community comment.

Membership in the Committee is open to anyone; therefore, different people may attend each month. However, there is a core group who attend most meetings, including representatives from DBH, DSS, community agencies, and the Fresno County Foster Care Oversight Committee.

Presentations

The following agencies and programs presented to the Committee during the 2024/25 reporting year:

- JDT Consulting — Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- Exodus Recovery — Crisis Stabilization Center
- River Vista Behavioral Health
- ACEs Aware — Adverse Childhood Experiences
- DBH Eating Disorders Team
- Breaking the Chains — Human Trafficking Services

Meeting Discussion Items during 2024–2025

Therapeutic Behavioral Services

The Committee received a presentation from JDT Consulting on Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) for Medi-Cal youth involved in court-ordered child welfare cases. TBS serves youth ages 2–21 who are at risk of losing placement by providing skill-building support for emotional regulation and behavior stabilization. The program employs 84 staff and reported that approximately 76% of youth receiving services successfully completed the program. The Committee noted the value of this service in supporting placement preservation and reducing the need for higher levels of care.

Crisis Stabilization Services

Exodus Recovery presented an overview of the Crisis Stabilization Center, which provides 24/7/365 crisis services for both youth and adults, including walk-in access and involuntary holds. The center serves an average of 162 individuals per month, with a youth unit capacity of 10 beds. The presentation covered admission criteria and process, evaluation procedures, and discharge planning. The Committee discussed ongoing capacity considerations given the volume of need across the county.

Inpatient and Outpatient Behavioral Health — River Vista

River Vista Behavioral Health, located near Valley Children’s Hospital in Madera, presented on its services for adults and adolescents ages 12–17. The facility operates 128 beds and was running at approximately 90% capacity at the time of the report, with roughly 19 beds occupied by youth. Average inpatient stay is 10–14 days. The Committee was informed of insurance acceptance details and IOP program structure, and discussed the role River Vista plays in the regional continuum of care for youth requiring a higher level of treatment than outpatient services can provide.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The Committee received a presentation through ACEs Aware on the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences on children ages 0–17, including the connection between toxic stress, developmental harm, and leading causes of death in adulthood. Screening tools and community resources were referenced.

The Committee reaffirmed its support for expanding ACEs-informed practice across all child-serving systems in Fresno County, recognizing that children in the foster care system consistently carry high ACEs scores.

Eating Disorders

The DBH Eating Disorders Team presented on the program's services for children and adults, including assessment pathways through the Urgent Care and Wellness Center. The presentation addressed the intersection of child welfare involvement with eating disorder cases and the availability of educational outreach for schools upon request. Eating disorders continue to be identified as a growing concern in the community, and the Committee is supportive of continued program development and access expansion.

Human Trafficking and CSEC

Breaking the Chains presented on its services for individuals impacted by labor and sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Founded in 2014, the organization operates three locations and serves youth ages 12–25 across five program departments: Emergency Services, Nonresidential, Residential, Transitional, and CSEC services. The Committee recognized the well-documented intersection between foster care involvement and trafficking vulnerability, and supports continued prioritization of trauma-specific services for this population within the child welfare system.

DBH Workforce and BHSA Implementation

A recurring item throughout the reporting year was the status of DBH clinician vacancies, recruitment pipelines, and retention strategies. The Department provided staffing updates at each meeting, including vacancy counts by classification and progress on recruitment efforts. Beginning with the June 2025 meeting, the Committee was also regularly updated on DBH's preparation for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) implementation deadline of July 1, 2026. Mandated programs and services in development include Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multisystemic Therapy (MST), First Episode Psychosis Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC), Adolescent Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Day Treatment/Day Rehabilitation Intensive services, and High Fidelity Wraparound (WRAP). The Committee will continue to monitor progress toward these implementation milestones.

Looking Forward to 2025/2026

Consistent with our mission, our goal is to support the Child Welfare System in being more efficient and effective through adequate resources, better communication with agency partners, and recommendations for continuous and lasting system improvements. We recognize that our committee is one part of a larger solution, and we are guided by what is best for the local children, youth, and families we represent.

Key areas of focus for the 2025/2026 reporting year include:

- Monitoring DBH workforce stability, including ongoing tracking of clinician vacancy rates, recruitment timelines, and retention strategies across direct

and contracted service providers.

- Supporting BHSA and EPSDT alignment to ensure all mandated programs are implemented on schedule and that service delivery remains child-centered and compliant with state requirements.
- Strengthening coordination between DBH, school districts, and contracted providers as new program requirements are implemented, with particular attention to school-based access points.
- Continued advocacy for placement preservation resources, including therapeutic foster care capacity and crisis stabilization infrastructure, to better serve youth with complex behavioral health needs.
- Increasing youth and caregiver voice in committee discussions and county planning processes.

Submitted to the Fresno County Foster Care Oversight Committee • 2025/2026 Annual Report

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), through Children's Oversight and Support Services (COSS), provides oversight of Child Welfare programs statewide using a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) framework to develop, evaluate, and strengthen policies and practices. Fresno County Department of Social Services (DSS) partners with COSS by participating in quarterly reviews of active Child Welfare cases through the California Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements and improve outcomes for children and families. The purpose of these reviews is to:

1. Ensure conformity with federal Child Welfare requirements.
2. Understand the experiences of children and families receiving services.
3. Support positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes.

Following each CFSR, Fresno County develops a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) outlining strategies to address identified areas for improvement. Fresno County is currently finalizing its five-year Performance Improvement Plan, which will be submitted to COSS following approval by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Beginning in 2025, Fresno County Child Welfare Services began to share quarterly CQI review findings with the Fresno County Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee to enhance transparency and inform oversight.

Fresno County DSS continues to advance system improvements focused on statewide readiness for CWS-CARES implementation, strengthening a Kin-First, family-centered approach, and supporting trauma-informed care through the Child Well-Being Continuum and the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. Together, these efforts promote continuous improvement and support safety, stability, permanency, and well-being for children and families.