AB 366 Briefing:
“Baby Shower” for Expectant and Parenting Youth in Care

May 5th, 2021
11AM-12PM
Information to Participate

• Call-in information:
  – Phone Number: +1 (562) 247-8321
  – Access Code: 253-067-457
  – Audio PIN: Shown after joining the webinar

• To submit live questions, click on the “questions” panel, type your question, and click “send.”

• Presentation materials and audio will be sent to all registrants and posted at www.jbay.org under “Training Archive.”
Agenda

Introduction and Welcome
Why is this bill important?
Youth Advocate Speakers
Legal Components of AB 366
How to Get Involved
Question & Answer Session
Baby Shower Game!

Agenda logos:
Presenters & Supporters

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Director of Policy & Impact Litigation
Alliance for Children’s Rights
She/Her/Hers

Luciana Svidler
Senior Policy Attorney
Children's Law Center of CA
She/Her/Hers

Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio
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RHEP Youth Advisory Board Member & Entrepreneur
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Presenters & Supporters

Junely Merwin
Expecting & Parenting Youth Advocate
She/Her/Hers

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Youth Advocate
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Anna Johnson
Senior Project Manager, Housing & Health
John Burton Advocates for Youth
She/Her/Hers

Elizabeth Clews
Youth Advocate
She/Her/Hers
How are our expectant and parenting youth foster care faring?
Parenting Youth in Foster Care have been hit hard by COVID. Compared to other youth with foster care experience:

- More likely to have experienced an episode of homelessness since February 2020: 27% compared to 21%
- Reported currently experiencing homelessness or housing instability: 31% compared to 19%
- Less likely to be employed either part-time, full-time, or have informal employment: 40% compared to 54%
- More likely to have very limited access to food or not have food access: 24% compared to 17%

My baby was just a newborn when COVID started. I didn't know how to manage a lot of stuff, so I just kept canceling my appointments (and) rescheduling all of them.”

-Current foster youth, age 18

JBAY, Hanging on by a thread: The Cumulative Impact of the Pandemic on Youth who have been in Foster Care or Homeless, May 2021
Building resources for a strong start has always been important ...

Importance of programs that help new parents care for their children

“I stopped being parented at the age of 8. I didn’t know how to parent so this program where they sent a nurse to teach me how to care for my first born was invaluable.”
How much does it cost to prepare for birth?

The average cost to meet basic health and safety standards before childbirth is at least $2,000.

**Crib** – required. Co-sleeping is considered a safety risk and is a reason a child may be removed from a parent's care.

**Car seat** – a new parent cannot leave the hospital without a car seat. Car seats must be new and safely installed.

**Diapers** – a new infant can go through up to 12 diapers a day. Less frequent changes can lead to health risks which also can lead to a baby being removed from a parent’s care.
Access to Early Prenatal Care is Critical

OF FOSTER YOUTH SURVEYED AT AGE 17 WHO REPORTED PREGNANCY

- Abortion 11.80%
- Stillbirth or Miscarriage 42.70%
- Live Birth 35.80%

20.7% Never Received Prenatal Care

Data Source: Courtney et al., Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 17 (2014).
Takeaways

What kind of assistance is needed the most right now?

- Financial
- Health Care
- Childcare
- Housing
With appropriate support, Expectant and Parenting Youth (EPY) in foster care can...

- Have a positive birth experience
- Parent successfully
- Resolve barriers to independence
Stepping back, what about the reproductive and sexual health outcomes of youth in care?
Services + programs have effectively reduced pregnancy for California teens over the last 20 years.

Teen birth rate groups down 77% and in all race/ethnicity groups in California since 1991.
Females in foster care have high pregnancy rates compared to peers

Source: Courtney et al., Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 17 and at Age 19 (2014, 2016).
The vast majority of these youth do not describe these pregnancies as “wanted.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wanted to become pregnant:</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitely no</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably no</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither wanted nor didn’t want</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably yes</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely yes</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wanted partner to become pregnant:</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitely no</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably no</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither wanted nor didn’t want</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably yes</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely yes</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Courtney et al., Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 19 (2016).
STI Rates: Disproportionately High STI Rates

Percent of Young People Reporting STI Diagnosis at Age 26

- In Foster Care:
  - Young Women: 44%
  - Young Men: 23%
- Not in Foster Care:
  - Percent: 18%

Child Trends, 2017 using data from Midwest Study by Courtney et al.
Takeaways

Access to comprehensive sexual health education

Barriers to care and education are addressed

What kind of assistance is needed the most right now?

Consistent and timely access to health care

Supportive adults
As we consider these disparities, it is also important to consider the population represented in care.
Youth who identify as black or native are overrepresented in CA child welfare.
Demographics: Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

- Nationwide, **22.8%** of children in the foster care system identify as LGTBQ.

- A study of foster youth in LA found that the percentage of those who are LGTBQ is approximately **twice that of youth not in foster care**.

- Within LA County, **83%** of LGTBQ identifying foster youth also identified as black or Latinx.
State Response and Legislative Leadership

AB 1838 (Ting, 2016).
Prenatal infant supplement.
Vetoed by Gov. Brown

Healthy Sexual Development workgroup
(CDSS, 2016)

SB 89 (Leyva, 2017)

AB 366 (Rubio, 2021)

AB 366 (Rubio, 2021)
SB 89 is making a difference! Parenting rates are going down

Point in time count of Parenting Youth in Care 2016-2021

Source: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>
But we need to do more…

There is still more to do to ensure we close the gap in disproportionately poor health outcomes and address the needs of expectant and parenting youth.
Experience as an expectant mother during the pandemic

Receiving resources and services to prepare for motherhood

Coping with job insecurity and seeking employment during the pandemic while mothering
Experienced 5 years in foster care as teen mom

EPY Conferences (Formerly known as PPT)

Cost Associated with Parenting

CCAI Federal Policy Report
Healthy Futures for Foster Youth

AB366

Junely Merwin
Healthy Futures for Foster Youth

Junely Merwin
Access to comprehensive sexual health education

Experience with receiving health services and birth control

Navigating educational interruptions and family planning
Receiving reproductive and sexual health services as an adolescent

Comprehensive sexual health education and other resources making a difference

Learning about sex and sexuality and how it affects your life and how you see yourself
AB 366
Healthy Futures for Foster Youth
Legislative Proposal
California’s foster youth deserve to be able to have healthy pregnancies, and timely reproductive and sexual health information and access to services, just like other youth.

Healthy Futures for Foster Youth (AB 366) will help achieve that by carrying on the work started by previous legislative efforts, making sure California’s foster youth have access to reproductive and sexual services and maternal health resources.

AB 366 was introduced by Assembly Member Blanca Rubio and is Co-authored by Assembly Members Bauer-Kahan, Gipson, Stone and Ting and Senator Wiener.
AB 366

- Early Infant Supplement for Expectant Youth
- Adding CSE, Rights Receipt, Barrier information to the Court Report
- Annual Reporting and Analysis of Performance and Health Outcome Measures
- Extend infant supplement to support expectant youth beginning three months before due date
- Currently documented in CWS/CMS and would be added by caseworker to the court report for judges and attorney support
- Use existing data sharing agreements between agencies to share key measures
Provisions: Early Infant Supplement

AB 366

Would support an estimated 270 expectant youth in foster care each year.

Supplement would begin three months prior to the anticipated due date at the current infant supplement rate, giving expectant parent the time and resources to prepare for the birth of their child.

Modeled after the successful Early Infant Supplement pilot program launched by Los Angeles County in 2018.
$415 monthly benefit during the 7th, 8th, and 9th months of pregnancy.

Social workers work with youth to verify pregnancy and coordinate payment.

Possible uses of the EIS include:

- Maternity clothes
- Birth preparation and parenting classes
- Diapers
- Formula
- Baby clothing
- Cribs
- Bassinets
- Car seats
- Other items and services to prepare for the birth of the baby

Since the program was launched in February 2018, LA County DCFS has provided Early Infant Supplement payments to 387 expectant youth.
## Baby Registry: How much does it cost to prepare for birth?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal birth class</td>
<td>$475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting class</td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car seat</td>
<td>$134.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crib</td>
<td>$229.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroller</td>
<td>$168.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diapers 1-month</td>
<td>$246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedding set</td>
<td>$76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant clothes &amp; swaddle blankets</td>
<td>$142.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby bottles &amp; formula</td>
<td>$171.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternity clothes</td>
<td>$276.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The list goes on...*

**Total** $2,281.93
Provisions: Adding CSE, Rights, & Barriers to Court Report

AB 366

Social Workers and Probation Officers already enter information into CWS/CMS

CWS/CMS fields can be pulled and entered into existing sections of the court report

Allows Judges and attorneys to support youth with access to CSE and care

Updated ACIN guidance has been issued by CDSS

Court Report Education and Health Sections

Verify CSE and make proper orders to ensure needs are met
Provisions: Annual Reporting & Analysis of Performance & Health

AB 366

California Department of Social Services

CWS/CMS, Foster Care Demographics, Expectant and Parenting Status, State and County level analysis

California Department of Health Care Services

Health care services billing, HEDIS and child core set measures, prenatal, birth and postnatal care

California Department of Public Health

STI and STD data
A Modest Investment & Cost Savings

For $729,000 SGF annually...

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Maternal mortality & morbidity
- Stillbirth
- Miscarriage
- Healthy Relationships
- Comprehensive Sexual Health Education
- Contraceptive counseling
- Prenatal & postnatal care
- Healthy births
- Court Costs
- Personal Costs
- Treatment Costs
- Hospital Costs
- Education and Employment Costs
AB 366
Healthy Futures for Foster Youth
How to Get Involved
AB 366

- **January 10:** Governor releases budget
- **Feb/March:** Budget hearings
- **Governor releases May Revise**
- **June 15:** Budget bill passed by midnight; goes into effect 7/1/21
- **Assembly HS Committee**
- **February 19:** Deadline for bills to be introduced
- **Assembly Appropriations Committee**
- **May 21:** Last day to pass Appropriations
- **Senate HS Committee**
- **June 4:** Last day to pass out of Assembly
- **Senate Appropriations Committee**
- **September 10:** Last day to pass out of Senate
- **Bill goes to Governor**
- **September 10:** Last day to pass out of Senate
- **October 10:** Last day for Governor to sign or veto
Send Support Letters

AB 366

Send in a support letter for Asm. Rubio’s bill to support@jbay.org


Add your organization’s name to the budget letter

- [https://form.jotform.com/210277155957159](https://form.jotform.com/210277155957159)
Call Key Legislators and Request Their Support

Please call and say “My name is ___ from ____ and I’d like your support of AB 366 and the companion budget request to Extend the Infant Supplement to Expectant Foster Youth.” by May 15, 2021.

- Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins- 916-651-4039
- Senator Nancy Skinner- 916-651-4009
- Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon- 916-319-2063
- Assemblymember Phil Ting- 916-319-2019
AB 366
Healthy Futures for Foster Youth

Question & Answer Session
AB 366
Healthy Futures for Foster Youth

Baby Shower Challenge!
https://forms.gle/zvEWvr
FeR33MuTL98