

## AB1911 – WORK GROUP TERMS, DEFINITIONS

- ▶ The Workgroup was charged with developing recommendations for:
  - (1) A common identifier for counties to use to reconcile data across child welfare and juvenile justice systems statewide.
  - (2) Standardized definitions for terms related to the populations of youth involved in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system.
  - (3) Identified and defined outcomes for counties to track youth involved in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system, including, but not limited to, outcomes related to recidivism, health, pregnancy, homelessness, employment, and education.
  - (4) Established baselines and goals for the identified and defined outcomes specified in paragraph (3).
  - (5) An assessment as to the costs and benefits associated with requiring all counties to implement the committee's recommendations.
  - (6) An assessment of whether a single technology system, including, but not limited to, the State Department of Social Services' Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) or the Child Welfare Services-New System (CWS-NS), is needed to track youth in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system.

### DEFINITIONS:

- ▶ Dual Status Youth
  - ▶ Youth simultaneously declared a dependent and a ward
- ▶ Child Welfare Crossover Youth
  - ▶ Youth whose child welfare case terminated in favor of wardship
- ▶ Juvenile Justice Crossover Youth
  - ▶ Youth whose juvenile justice case terminated in favor of child welfare finding
- ▶ Dually Involved Youth
  - ▶ Youth who is currently a child welfare or juvenile justice youth and has formal or informal action (pending or active) through child welfare, probation and/or the court
- ▶ Dually-Identified Youth
  - ▶ Youth with historical contact in one system and current contact with the other

Term	Child Welfare	Juvenile Justice
Dual-status youth	Petition sustained and case is open	Petition sustained and case is open
Child welfare crossover youth	Petition sustained and case is closed	Petition sustained and case is open
Juvenile justice crossover youth	Petition sustained and case is open	Petition sustained and case is closed
Dually identified	Current contact	Historical contact
	Historical contact	Current contact
Dually involved	Petition sustained and case is open	Formal or informal action pending or active
	Formal or informal action pending or active	Petition sustained and case is open

Term	Definition
<b>Dual jurisdiction</b>	A child who is currently a dependent or juvenile justice-involved youth and has a pending dependency or juvenile justice petition or disposition before the court.
<b>Dual-status youth practices</b>	Multidisciplinary practices designed to improve outcomes for dual-status youth.
<b>Dually involved youth practices</b>	Multidisciplinary practices designed to promote coordination between systems in order to improve outcomes for youth and families involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems whether the youth is or is not designated dual status.
<b>Dual-status youth protocol</b>	As per Welf. & Inst. Code, § 241.1(e), a county protocol jointly written by the probation department and the child welfare services department that allows the departments to jointly assess and produce a recommendation that a child be designated a dual-status youth.

<b>Dually involved youth protocol</b>	A multidisciplinary protocol that guides coordinated decision-making and practice among agencies and entities serving youth and families involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, whether the youth is or is not designated dual status.
<b>Probation referral</b>	An order for a youth to appear at the probation department written by an officer who takes a minor into temporary custody under the provisions of Welf. & Inst. Code, § 625.
<b>CWS referral</b>	A reported incident of abuse/neglect on a child/children by a parent/s that is being investigated by a child welfare agency.

<b>Detention—CWS</b>	A formal hearing in which the judge determines whether there is sufficient evidence to detain children from parents pending further investigation due to abuse/neglect.
<b>Detention—probation</b>	A temporary condition of incarceration in a locked juvenile facility operated by a county probation department.
<b>Risk—CWS</b>	The likelihood that abuse/neglect may occur in the future based on factors present that are highly correlated with abuse/neglect.
<b>Risk—probation</b>	The identification of a propensity to recidivate through a validated actuarial assessment.
<b>Screening</b>	A triage process that occurs at the point of intake into a system in order to signal the need for a more thorough assessment of an identified problem and to identify youth who might require an immediate response.
<b>Screening—CWS</b>	A process used in child welfare at various points to determine if a child or family meets certain criteria for investigation and/or services.
<b>Screening—probation</b>	The use of a preliminary tool designed to identify risk categories, such as recidivism and flight from justice, as well as areas for further assessment, such as mental health or violent behavior.
<b>Assessment—CWS</b>	A process used to assist in determining what the presenting issues are (e.g., safety, risk, reunification, permanency, and corresponding needs).
<b>Assessment—probation</b>	The process of identifying recidivism risk and criminogenic need through the use of validated actuarial risk assessment tools.
<b>Assessment</b>	A process of gathering a comprehensive and individualized profile of a youth.
<b>Adjudication</b>	In the child welfare or juvenile justice system, when a petition has been sustained, allegations proven true, jurisdiction has been asserted, and disposition is pending.
<b>Protective custody</b>	Youth has been detained and temporarily removed from the custody and control of a parent/guardian.

**Recidivism:** *Any disposition made within three years of a previous disposition.* The Workgroup explored many definitions for the term recidivism, used by counties, state agencies, and research entities. For example, the Workgroup discussed using the definition put forth by the Board of State and Community Corrections, but concluded that the definition pertained specifically to adults and was therefore not a good fit for the dual status youth population. The proposed definition reflects the Workgroup’s intention to avoid capturing the frequent contacts that may happen with law enforcement for youth involved in these systems, but rather focus on the contacts that result in adjudication and disposition of the youth.

- **Child Welfare Re-entry:** *A child’s return to foster care after child welfare case dismissal.*
- **Child Welfare Re-detention:** *A child’s removal from parent following reunification and family maintenance, prior to case dismissal.*

- **Permanency:** *In both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, when a child/children achieves reunification with parent/s, legal guardianship, adoption or customary adoption for tribal youth.*
- **Diversion:** *Suspension of any formal juvenile justice proceedings and either a dismissal of the petition or an informal agreement of participation of the youth and family in services designed to avoid system penetration.*
- **Homeless:** *Couch-surfing, sleeping on the street, in a vehicle, in a shelter or other temporary accommodations without a permanent residence to which one can return.*
- **Runaway:** *Leaving home without permission from parents, probation, and/or child welfare.*
- **AWOL:** *When a child absconds from a court ordered placement without permission, resulting in the issuance of a protective custody warrant.*
- **Voluntary Services:** *Services provided to families in lieu of filing a petition or subsequent to dismissal of a petition already filed, with the consent of the family.*
- **Informal Services – CWS:** *Referrals to community based services provided to families who come to the attention of child welfare services but do not meet the WIC criteria for formal intervention.*
- **Informal Probation –** *A status of Probation when a youth has been diverted from formal wardship status.*
- **Child Welfare History:** *Any prior referral that was actively investigated and found to be substantiated, unfounded, or inconclusive, and any previously open child welfare case.*