

Clerk of the Board
Todd Stermer



Board of Supervisors
Phil Serna, District 1
Patrick Kennedy, District 2
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County of Sacramento

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Lawrence Brown, Presiding Judge
Sacramento County Superior Court
720 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Response To 2025-26 Grand Jury Report Regarding Foster Youth

Dear Judge Brown,

Enclosed is a copy of the Sacramento County response to the 2025-2026, Grand Jury Report titled, *No Longer Invisible: Foster Youth Still in the Shadows*. The Board of Supervisors, during open session, on September 15, 2026, unanimously approved this report.

Please contact me if you have any questions at (916) 874-8150.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Stermer", is written over a blue circular stamp.

Todd Stermer, Clerk
Board of Supervisors

TS:al

cc: Brenda Allen, Jury Commissioner
Erendira Tapia-Bouthillier, Grand Jury Coordinator

Enclosures: Executed copy of response to the September 15, 2026, Grand Jury Report.

For the Agenda of:
September 15, 2026
Timed: 10:00 AM

To: Board of Supervisors

Through: David Villanueva, County Executive

From: Chevon Kothari, Deputy County Executive, Social Services

Subject: Responses To 2025-26 Grand Jury Report Regarding Foster Youth

District(s): All

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Adopt this report as the Board of Supervisor's responses to the 2025-2026, Grand Jury Report, *No Longer Invisible: Foster Youth Still in the Shadows*.
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward a certified copy of the Board letter to the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court no later than September 28, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Grand Jury reviews, makes inquiries, and investigates the performance of county, city, and local governing entities, which includes operations of various officers, departments, and local agencies. Investigations can be initiated by the grand jury itself or suggested by citizens. A public report usually follows an investigation with findings and recommendations that must be publicly addressed within specified timeliness by a responding entity or person as prescribed in Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05. Responses are then directed to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Responses to findings and recommendations must follow a specific format, outlined in Penal Code section 933.05, as provided below.

...as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.*
- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.*

...as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.*
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.*
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.*
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.*

The Penal Code also outlines the extent to which either departments/agencies or governing bodies, such as the Board of Supervisors, must respond to findings and recommendations:

...the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body (933(c)).

...if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department (933.05(c)).

The Grand Jury released a report titled, *No Longer Invisible: Foster Youth Still in the Shadows*, dated June 30, 2026, with 9 findings and 8 recommendations that require a response by the Board of Supervisors within 90 days. The 2025-26 report is located on the Grand Jury's website at <https://sacgrandjury.org/reports.aspx>.

The report began as a follow up to assess progress on commitments that were made in responses to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report, *Invisible Foster Teens: Where Are They?* and then continued as an investigation into safety concerns for youth that reside in Sacramento County Welcome Homes.

The Board of Supervisors is requested to review the proposed responses in Attachment 1 and identify any desired revisions. Any changes will be returned to the Board for further review and approval at a subsequent meeting. Final responses to all findings and recommendations must be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within the required 90-day timeframe.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Departments that contributed to this report absorbed related staff costs within their respective budgets.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Responses To The 2025-26 Grand Jury Report *No Longer Invisible: Foster Youth Still In the Shadows*

**Response to Findings and Recommendations
in the Grand Jury Report,
No Longer Invisible: Foster Youth Still In The Shadows**

Findings and Recommendations

- F1 Child Protective Services has done a commendable job improving conditions in the Sacramento Welcome Homes and ensured they became licensed Temporary Shelter Care Facilities.**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

The Grand Jury report indicated that Child Protective Services (CPS) is currently operating three (3) Welcome Homes which are each a licensed Temporary Shelter Care Facility (TSCF) with occupancy of 6 beds each. The correct capacity of Welcome Homes operated by CPS are 2 homes which has an occupancy of 6 beds, and 1 home has an occupancy of 4 beds. The report also indicated that the homes were licensed in July 2024, however, two of the three Welcome Homes were licensed on May 4, 2024, and the third one is under a provisional license, which was granted on August 8, 2025.

- F2 The Sheriff's Office Unit assigned to Welcome Homes has done a commendable job providing protection and relationship building with youth and relationship building with youth housed in the Welcome Homes.**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding. The collaboration with the Sheriff's Department has been extremely valuable not only for the staff at the Welcome Homes, but the youth who are positively engaged by law enforcement partners.

- F3 Sacramento Welcome Homes are an inappropriate placement for sexually exploited youth and youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation, because TSCF are not therapeutic settings. As such, the Welcome Homes do not restrict movement, leaving youth unsafe and vulnerable.**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with the finding. Welcome Homes provide an immediate safe, supervised environment for foster youth who have experienced or are at risk of sexual exploitation.

These youth often have complex trauma histories, significant behavioral health needs and safety concerns that make home-based or therapeutic residential placement difficult. Welcome Homes are not intensive therapeutic treatments and settings. They offer a harm reduction approach centered on safety, stabilization, engagement, and relationship-building, with behavioral health services available through provider partnerships, including counseling and other supportive interventions. Engagement is often challenging as youth who have been exploited may distrust adults and may not be ready to participate fully upon entering care, so progress tends to be incremental. Given the limited availability of specialized foster homes and therapeutic residential programs, Welcome Homes serve as a bridge, a critical bridge that promotes safety, reduces the risk of further exploitation, and supports stabilization during transition.

Lastly, all licensed placements have the same requirements regarding the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and Community Care Licensing regarding use of restraints to restrict movements. TSCFs are shelters and are utilized only when there is not a placement option for a youth to prevent youth from being homeless.

R3 The Grand Jury recommends Child Protective Services update processes to more expeditiously locate longer term and stable housing for sexually exploited and at-risk foster youth, rather than place them in the Sacramento Welcome Homes by December 31, 2026.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. CPS has diligently worked on expanding capacity for specialized placements for foster youth for the past two and a half years with local partners as well as partners serving in other California counties who are now in partnership with Sacramento County. The specialized capacity expansion includes the following:

- Emergency Enhanced Intensive Services Foster Care (EE-ISFC) homes up to 60 days
- Enhanced Intensive Services Foster Care (E-ISFC) homes up to 9-12 months
- Contracted Welcome Homes
- Contracted Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP)

CPS has successfully increased local specialized placements as follows:

17 Active EE-ISFC Beds (Emergency Enhanced ISFC)

13 Active E-ISFC Beds (Enhanced ISFC)

6 dedicated STRTP Beds with Paradise Oaks

- 6 dedicated STRTP Beds with Children's Receiving Home (CRH)
- 4 dedicated STRTP Beds with Sacramento Children's Home
- 4 dedicated STRTP Beds with Refuge

Additionally, the following are additional specialized placement settings in progress of becoming licensed facilities:

- 1 more STRTP of 4 beds with Refuge
- 2 homes of STRTP of 6 beds each with Seneca
- 2 homes of STRTP of 2, with 2 beds each with Seneca

Further, the case carrying social workers for youth attempt to preserve and prevent all youth from changing or leaving their placement, however, at times youth do leave their placement or CPS may receive a notice for a youth to be moved from a placement. At the time a youth who left placement comes to the Welcome Home, or when the notice is given by a placement, the placement team immediately begins searching for an appropriate placement to avoid the youth being at the Welcome Home, or to get the youth placed from the Welcome Home as soon as possible. Statewide, there is a severe lack of placements willing to take teenagers with high acuity of needs, and even fewer placements that take youth who are at risk of exploitation or who are actively being exploited, making it very difficult to find placements for these youth quickly. All TSCFs are required to complete Overstay Reports to Community Care Licensing outlining the barriers to locating placement and efforts to find appropriate placement. In addition, youth who are placed in the Welcome Homes are discussed weekly by the case carrying team, placement team and Welcome Home staff to discuss placement options, barriers and ensure resources are offered to youth. The status of each youth placed in a Welcome Home is reported daily to CPS and DCFAS Leadership.

F4 Child Protective Service fails to apply the Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard to limit a foster youth's access to cellular phones and other technology, leaving youth vulnerable to exploitation.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding. While concerns about inappropriate contacts, online activity, and exploitation are valid, child welfare agencies are not legally permitted to arbitrarily confiscate or permanently remove a foster youth's personal cell phone. California Foster Youth Bill of Rights, as well as Title 22 regulations governing licensed foster care settings, require that youth be afforded reasonable rights to personal property, communication, and age-appropriate access to the community. These regulations are designed to support normalcy,

healthy development, and the preservation of important relationships and connections. As a result, neither child welfare agencies nor caregivers may broadly restrict a youth's access to personal belongings or communication devices solely as a means of controlling behavior or preventing potential risks.

Instead, DCFAS' responsibility is to implement reasonable supervision, safety planning, and individualized parameters around technology use while balancing youth rights and safety concerns. Caregivers may establish appropriate household expectations and restrictions consistent with a youth's needs, but those restrictions must be reasonable, connected to safety, and consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

It is also important to recognize that cell phones can serve as a critical safety tool. For many youth, a phone provides access to emergency services, caregivers, social workers, probation officers, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), trusted adults, and supportive networks when they are in the community. In situations where a youth leaves placement, is experiencing a crisis, or may be at risk of exploitation, maintaining communication may be one of the most effective ways to support their safety, locate them, assess their well-being, and facilitate their return to a safe environment.

While technology can undoubtedly create risks, it can also be an essential resource for connection, engagement, and protection. The challenge is to balance safety concerns with the legal rights of youth in care, utilizing education, supervision, and supportive interventions rather than confiscation whenever possible. This approach reflects both the requirements of California law and the broader child welfare goal of preparing youth for safe and successful participation in everyday life.

Additionally, within the Sacramento County Welcome Homes, Wi-Fi access is currently provided on a structured schedule from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. During the school year, for youth who are not attending school or who have alternative educational arrangements outside of traditional school hours, Wi-Fi access is adjusted as needed to support their educational participation and daily routines.

R4 Sacramento Welcome Homes staff should apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and best practices to monitor access to cell phones and other technology to protect foster youth from sex traffickers no later than October 1, 2026.

The recommendation has been implemented. Sacramento County Welcome Homes staff recognize the concerns related to unlimited digital access and

continue to balance those concerns with youth rights, educational needs, and Title 22 requirements. Any limitations implemented are done in a trauma-informed manner and remain aligned with the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

- F5 **The gaps in data sharing of youths' at-risk status of exploitation:**
- **Leave youth unidentified and vulnerable to further abuse,**
 - **Lead to delays in providing supportive services in longer term placements, and**
 - **Make it difficult to locate the youth once they leave the Welcome Homes without authorization.**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding. Welcome Home staff share details about youth with Law Enforcement, specifically highlighting when there are concerns regarding exploitation.

- R5 **The Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors direct Child Protective Services to share information and at-risk status with law enforcement when filing missing person reports for youth who leave the Welcome Homes without authorization, by December 31, 2026.**

The recommendation has been implemented. Welcome Home staff routinely share details about youth with Law Enforcement, especially when there are concerns related to exploitation. Staff report this information to Community Care Licensing and include it in missing person reports. If youth leave the home, staff often don't know their destination or companions but will record license plate numbers and descriptions of adults present, providing these details to Law Enforcement.

Additionally, as needs are identified for any youth in the Welcome Homes, the assigned case carrying social workers make appropriate services referrals for the youth. Additionally, the case carrying social workers can use the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) and use the Structured Decision Making (SDM) tool to assess Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Any identified concerns about the youth at the Welcome Homes such as, gang affiliation, youth who are identified as a victim of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC) or at risk of CSEC is shared with law enforcement partners.

- F6 **Department of Child, Family and Adult Services has failed to include information regarding the sexual exploitation of youth in their Quarterly Reports to the Board of Supervisors, leaving the Supervisors and the public at large, uninformed of potential dangers to vulnerable**

youth.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this finding. Pursuant to Title 22 requirements, CPS provides data at each quarterly Board of Supervisors report. The Department of Child, Family & Adult Services (DCFAS) has consistently informed the Board about the challenges faced by youth actively being commercially sexually exploited and those at risk of commercial sexual exploitation served by Welcome Homes. However, quantitative data specific to commercial sexually exploited youth has not been provided.

- R6 The Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors instruct Department of Child, Family and Adult Services to share data regarding the exploitation and at-risk status of foster youth in their Quarterly Reports to the Board of Supervisors to keep them apprised of potential dangers to these youth no later than the October 20, 2026 Board of Supervisors Meeting.**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future by the FY 26-27 Q2 report period. The Board of Supervisors receive data specific to youth at Sacramento Welcome Homes each quarter however data specific to identified CSEC youth is not included in quantitative form.

CPS is committed to sharing data as to identified CSEC youth residing in the Welcome Homes in the quarterly reports to the Board of Supervisors starting with the FY 2026-2027 Quarter 2 report.

- F7 The Sacramento Children's Coalition, in its capacity as the Community Advisory Board, has not filed an annual report for 2023-2024, thereby, failing to provide the Board of Supervisors with independent and timely information on the operation of the Welcome Homes and the well-being of foster youth residing within them.**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding. There was no legal requirement for a 2023-2024 Community Advisory Report. The initial establishing Resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors on 9/23/2023 does not indicate a requirement for an annual report, nor does Health and Safety Code section 1520.1. While the Board adopted a resolution in March 2025 to allow for a report, this was not adopted retroactively and does not mandate a Fiscal Year model. The Children's Coalition plans to present a yearly report moving forward.

R7 The Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors instruct the Community Advisory Board to file the 2024-2025 annual report no later than December 31, 2026.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this recommendation. A Calendar Year (CY) 2025 report was completed by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and the presentation to the BOS is scheduled for 09/22/2026. The Grand Jury report also indicated that the Community Advisory Board annual report for 2024-2025 was delayed due to Child Protective Services failing to provide data requested for preparation of the report. The data contained in the Community Advisory Board annual report is the same data presented to the Board of Supervisors quarterly and is publicly available on the County of Sacramento website. Lastly, in 2024 and 2025, CPS leadership provided Welcome Home data to the CAB on the following dates:

- November 10, 2024
- March 10, 2025
- May 12, 2025
- July 14, 2025
- September 8, 2025
- November 10, 2025

F8 Child Protective Services has failed to provide a Strategic Plan to the Board of Supervisors as directed by the Board of Supervisors in its response to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding. The finding has been implemented as explained further in R8.

R8 The Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors instruct Child Protective Services to file a Strategic Plan with the Board of Supervisors, no later than December 31, 2026, that addresses:

- a. Continued operation of the Sacramento Welcome Homes.**
- b. Current and future funding and budgetary issues.**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. In the Grand Jury report, it is indicated that the Strategic Plan was to be provided to the Board of Supervisors by November 30, 2024. A presentation and report

were provided to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Welcome Homes on November 5, 2024. The presentation and report outlined the History of the Sacramento Welcome Homes, Bylaws, Governance Structure, Responsibilities of the Board of Directors and Administrator of the Welcome Homes, Operating Budget and Fiscal Statement, Emergency Intervention Plan, Quarterly Data and Proposed Future Meeting Framework. This was a public meeting with information available to the public. Additionally, Child Protective Services has continued to provide the above information quarterly to the Board of Supervisors as required by Community Care Licensing and Title 22 requirements. The quarterly reports include a budget overview and updates on placement capacity expansion efforts.

- F9 Child Protective Services has provided additional mandated training to Welcome Home staff. However, additional training in identifying and preventing sexual exploitation of youth is needed to ensure appropriate placement of sexually exploited and at-risk youth.**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding. Welcome Home staff are required to take the following trainings: CSEC 101, Trauma Informed Care, and Harm Reduction provided by UC Davis, as required by Community Care Licensing and department standards. All completed and future training information is provided to the Board of Supervisors at each quarterly meeting.

- R9a The Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors instruct Child Protective Services to ensure that Welcome Home staff receive additional training no later than October 31, 2026, regarding:**

- **Application of the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, and**
- **The identification and prevention of exploitation of foster youth**

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Welcome Home staff are required to complete extensive training as indicated above as it relates to sexual exploitation and Reasonable Prudent Parent Training. All completed and upcoming training information is provided to the Board of Supervisors at each quarterly meeting.

- R9b The Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors instruct Child Protective Services to ensure social workers in the Welcome Homes**

possess experience, skills, and knowledge of specialized training in the care and treatment of sexually exploited children.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. DCFAS hires individuals for Human Services Social Worker and Human Services Social Worker, Master's Degree classifications for Social Worker positions at the Welcome Homes. The minimum qualifications and requirements for these two classifications are developed through the county's civil service classification process. At each quarterly Welcome Home presentation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the BOS is apprised of staff training updates including any specialized training staff receive specific to working with sexually exploited children.

- R9c **The Grand Jury recommends the Board of Supervisors direct Child Protective Services to review best practices for identification, prevention, placement and data used in Alameda and Los Angeles counties as outlined in the California Child Welfare Council's report, by December 31, 2026.**

The recommendation requires further analysis. Further analysis will be completed by December 31, 2026. CPS has begun researching the Grand Jury's recommendation that referenced Alameda and Los Angeles counties best practices from the California Child Welfare Council report for 2025. CPS was unable to locate any reference to work done in Alameda or Los Angeles in the noted report. Further research will be completed by the suggested date.



Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Response to the 2025-2026 Grand Jury Report

Melissa Lloyd, Deputy Director

Child Protective Services

Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services

Findings 1-2: Progress and Partnership

Finding 1: Child Protective Services has done a commendable job improving conditions in the Sacramento County Welcome Homes and ensured they became licensed Temporary Shelter Care Facilities.

➤ **Board Response to Finding 1:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agrees.

Finding 2: The Sheriff's Office Unit assigned to Welcome Homes has done a commendable job providing protection and relationship building with youth housed in the Welcome Homes.

➤ **Board Response to Finding 2:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agrees.
The partnership is valuable to Welcome Home staff and youth.

Finding 3: Placement for Exploited or At-Risk Youth

Finding 3: Sacramento Welcome Homes are an inappropriate placement for sexually exploited youth and youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation, because TSCFs are not therapeutic settings. As such, the Welcome Homes do not restrict movement, leaving youth unsafe and vulnerable.

- **Board Response to Finding 3:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with the finding.

Recommendation 3: Update processes to more expeditiously locate longer term and stable housing for sexually exploited and at-risk foster youth, rather than place them in the Sacramento Welcome Homes by December 31, 2026.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 3:** The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Welcome Homes provide an immediate safe, supervised bridge while CPS searches for appropriate placement. CPS has expanded specialized placement capacity and discusses youth weekly to identify placement options and barriers.

Finding 4: Technology Access and Safety

Finding 4: Child Protective Service fails to apply the Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard to limit a foster youth's access to cellular phones and other technology, leaving youth vulnerable to exploitation.

- **Board Response to Finding 4:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 4: Welcome Home staff should apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and best practices to monitor access to cell phones and other technology to protect foster youth from sex traffickers no later than October 1, 2026.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 4:** The recommendation has been implemented.

Technology limits must balance safety, youth rights, educational needs, and Title 22 requirements. Welcome Home Wi-Fi is structured from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, with adjustments as needed for education.

Finding 5: Information Sharing with Law Enforcement

Finding 5: The gaps in data sharing of youths' at-risk status of exploitation leave youth unidentified and vulnerable to further abuse, lead to delays in providing supportive services in longer term placements and make it difficult to locate the youth once they leave the Welcome Homes without authorization.

- **Board Response to Finding 5:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 5: Direct CPS to share information and at-risk status with law enforcement when filing missing person reports for youth who leave the Welcome Homes without authorization, by December 31, 2026.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 5:** The recommendation has been implemented.

Welcome Home staff routinely share exploitation concerns and available safety information with law enforcement.

Finding 6: CSEC Data in Quarterly Reports

Finding 6: Department of Child, Family and Adult Services has failed to include information regarding the sexual exploitation of youth in their Quarterly Reports to the Board of Supervisors, leaving the Supervisors and the public at large, uninformed of potential dangers to vulnerable youth.

- **Board Response to Finding 6:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this finding.

Recommendation 6: Share data regarding exploitation and at-risk status of foster youth in Quarterly Reports to the Board of Supervisors no later than the October 20, 2026 Board meeting.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 6:** The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Quarterly reports already include Welcome Home data. Quantitative data specific to identified CSEC youth will be added beginning with the FY 2026-2027 Quarter 2 report.

Finding 7: Community Advisory Board

Finding 7: The Sacramento Children’s Coalition, in its capacity as the Community Advisory Board, has not filed an annual report for 2023-2024, thereby, failing to provide the Board of Supervisors with independent and timely information on the operation of the Welcome Homes and the well-being of foster youth residing within them.

➤ **Board Response to Finding 7:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 7: Instruct the Community Advisory Board to file the 2024-2025 annual report no later than December 31, 2026.

➤ **Board Response to Recommendation 7:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this recommendation.

There was no legal requirement for a 2023-2024 report. A Calendar Year 2025 report has been completed and is scheduled for Board presentation on September 22, 2026.

Finding 8: Strategic Plan

Finding 8: Child Protective Services has failed to provide a Strategic Plan to the Board of Supervisors as directed by the Board of Supervisors in its response to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury Report.

- **Board Response to Finding 8:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 8: File a Strategic Plan by December 31, 2026, addressing continued operation of the Sacramento Welcome Homes and current and future funding and budgetary issues.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 8:** The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

A November 5, 2024, Board presentation and report addressed Welcome Home history, governance, budget, emergency intervention planning, quarterly data, and future meeting framework. Quarterly reports continue to include budget and placement capacity updates.

Finding 9: Staff Training

Finding 9: Child Protective Services has provided additional mandated training to Welcome Home staff. However, additional training in identifying and preventing sexual exploitation of youth is needed to ensure appropriate placement of sexually exploited and at-risk youth.

- **Board Response to Finding 9:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 9a: Ensure Welcome Home staff receive additional training no later than October 31, 2026, regarding the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and the identification and prevention of exploitation of foster youth.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 9a:** The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Welcome Home staff are required to complete CSEC 101, Trauma-Informed Care, Harm Reduction, and Reasonable and Prudent Parent training. Training information is provided during quarterly Board meetings.

Finding 9: Social Worker Qualifications

Finding 9: Child Protective Services has provided additional mandated training to Welcome Home staff. However, additional training in identifying and preventing sexual exploitation of youth is needed to ensure appropriate placement of sexually exploited and at-risk youth.

- **Board Response to Finding 9:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 9b: Ensure social workers in the Welcome Homes possess experience, skills, and knowledge of specialized training in the care and treatment of sexually exploited children.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 9b:** The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

DCFAS hires Human Services Social Worker and Human Services Social Worker, Master's Degree classifications for Welcome Home social worker positions. Minimum qualifications are established through the County civil service classification process.

Finding 9: Best Practice Review

Finding 9: Child Protective Services has provided additional mandated training to Welcome Home staff. However, additional training in identifying and preventing sexual exploitation of youth is needed to ensure appropriate placement of sexually exploited and at-risk youth.

- **Board Response to Finding 9:** The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors wholly disagrees with this finding.

Recommendation 9c: Review best practices for identification, prevention, placement, and data used in Alameda and Los Angeles counties as outlined in the California Child Welfare Council's report, by December 31, 2026.

- **Board Response to Recommendation 9c:** The recommendation requires further analysis.

CPS has begun researching the recommendation and was unable to locate the referenced Alameda or Los Angeles work in the noted 2025 report. Further research will be completed by December 31, 2026.



Thank You/Questions?