



John Burton Foundation  
for Children Without Homes

# State Legislative Updates: AB12 & THP+

*July 8, 2010*  
*Presented by Debbie Raucher*

# **Assembly Bill 12: Update on the California Fostering Connections to Success Act**



# AB12: An Overview

- Based on the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
- State option to extend foster care to age 21
  - Available as of 10/1/10
  - Continues federal share-of-cost for eligible youth
- Creation of federal subsidized guardianship program similar to California's Kin-GAP program
  - Provides federal share-of-cost for eligible youth
- Passed out of Assembly unanimously in January 2010 and is currently making way through Senate

# Who Is Eligible for Support to Age 21?

- Youth who “age out” of foster care or juvenile probation systems
- Youth who exit to Kin-GAP at age 16+
- Youth who receive Adoption Assistance at age 16+
- Non-Dependent, Non-Related Legal Guardian Youth

# Federal Eligibility Requirements

1. Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential
2. Enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education
3. Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment
4. Employed for at least 80 hours per month.
5. Have a disability that makes prevents youth from doing any of the above.

Youth who are not eligible include those who elect to receive TANF or SSI and youth who are incarcerated or get married

# Placement Options Under AB 12

Kinship/Relative Caregiver

THP-Plus Foster Care\*\*

NDNRLG

Supervised Independent Living Placement\*\*

Foster Family Agency

Foster Family Home

Group Home

*\*\*These new placements would be county-approved to comply with IV-E health and safety standards, not subject to community care licensing.*

# Other Provisions of AB 12

- Youth may petition to re-enter foster care system until age 21
- Extended Support for Youth Exiting Juvenile Probation under some circumstances
- Focused on transitional skills and permanent connections; development of incremental responsibility

# Phased-In Implementation



- Extended to age 19, effective 1/1/12
- Extended to age 20, effective 1/1/13
- Extended to age 21, effective 1/1/14

Example: Johnny turns 19 on March 11, 2012

# Federal Subsidized Guardianship Program

## How is it different than current Kin-GAP?

- Only 6 months of placement with approved relative required
- Negotiated agreement that can include SCI, adjustable based on needs, updated at least every two years
- New entry option: Voluntary Placement Agreement and exit at Dispositional hearing
- Federal government to pay share-of-cost for IV-E eligible cases
- Available to families who move out of state

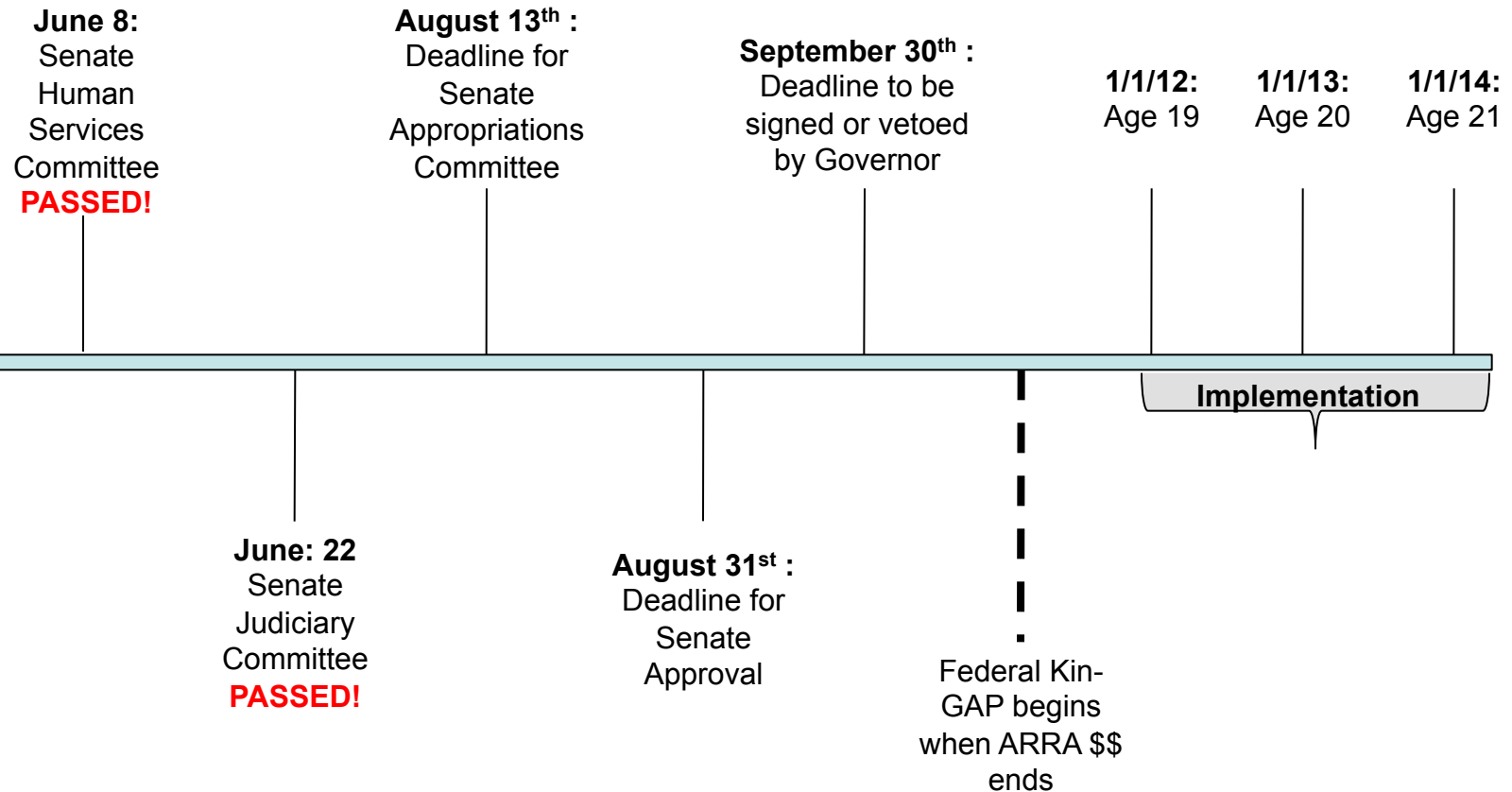
## How is it the same as current Kin-GAP?

- No regular juvenile court oversight or social work case management services

# Federal Subsidized Guardianship Program (cont.)

- Parallel State Kin-GAP program will remain for non-federally eligible youth
- California would begin converting to federal program after enhanced ARRA rate discontinues
- Program would be phased in over 12 months, as regular Kin-GAP redeterminations occur

# AB 12 in the Legislative Process



# How You Can Help

- **Participate in upcoming August 4<sup>th</sup> advocacy day**
- Visit [www.cafosteringconnections.org](http://www.cafosteringconnections.org) for latest information



# THP Plus - Budget Update



# Status of THP+ in May Revise

- May Revise does not include a proposal to eliminate THP-Plus
- However, Governor sustained his reduction to Child Welfare Services from last year's budget
- THP-Plus is one of 30+ programs within CWS.

# Managing THP-Plus in Uncertain Times

## What To Do:

- Make sure all THP-Plus invoices are submitted to county and all county claims are submitted to state.
- Communicate regularly to share information, stay informed (between providers and with the county)
- Develop a local strategy that identifies a prudent contingency plan
- Get involved with Coalition to Protect our Children, Protect our Children

# Managing THP-Plus in Uncertain Times

## What **NOT** to do:

- Be worried that THP-Plus will be eliminated
  - We're in the same boat as other CWS programs
- Dramatically reduce program census based on fear, not information



# State Budget Process: Next Steps

- Both Senate and Assembly have voted to sustain THP+ and fully restore CWS cut
- Identical actions means the CWS cut will not be subject to further consideration by the Budget Conference Committee
- Important to remain vigilant to ensure this doesn't get pulled back into Conference Committee.

# Campaign to Protect our Children, Protect our Future



- Join the sign-on letter
  - View the sign-on letter at <http://protectourchildrenca.org/>
  - Email Diana Boyer at [dboyer@cwda.org](mailto:dboyer@cwda.org)
- Stay-tuned for more information
  - Sign-up for email updates at website