



Children & Youth System of Care Supplementary Analysis to the Multiyear Plan for Increasing Capacity: Methodology, Research/Agency Partnerships, and Next Steps

California's State Children and Youth System of Care Joint Resolution Team (JRT)

Christine Bagley, Southern Region Manager, Office of Community Operations,
California Department of Developmental Services

Diana Casanova, Foster Youth Data Liaison, Education Research & Evaluation Consultant,
Data Access & Strategy Office, California Department of Education

Dina Kokkos-Gonzales, Behavioral Health, California Department of Health Care Services

Sara Rogers, System of Care Branch Chief, Children and Family Services Division,
California Department of Social Services

AB 2083: SUPPLEMENTARY ANALYSIS TO THE MULTIYEAR PLAN FOR INCREASING CAPACITY

STATE CHILDREN AND YOUTH SYSTEM OF CARE

AGENDA

- Purpose
- Project Summary
- Analytic Strategy, Governance, and Process
- Report Layout
- High-level Key Connections and Findings

PURPOSE

- To meet the Legislative mandate per Welfare and Institutions Code 16521.6 (b)(2)(a):
 - Provide recommendations accounting for specific needs and characteristics of youth with unplanned discharges from STRTPs and for whom counties were unable to, or have difficulty with, securing placements and providing trauma-informed services, including youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation; youth with acute behavioral needs; and youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD); and,
 - Plan for any additional development needed for trauma-informed care within the continuum of care to support youth in-state in the least restrictive setting.

OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS

■ **Opportunities**

- First ever landscape view
- Foundation provides a window into where to drill down
- Framework for future analysis

■ **Limitations**

- Does not answer all the questions we have
- Deep program questions and analysis required an initial landscape first

PROJECT SUMMARY

■ **Project Partners:**

- The Children's Data Network
- AB 2083 Children and Youth System of Care State Team (comprising colleagues from CDE, CDSS, DHCS, and DDS)
- CDE, CDSS, DHCS, and DDS Data and Legal Subject Matter Experts

■ **Intention:**

Generate baseline data about children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma.

The intent is for this descriptive information, including sociodemographic characteristics, cross-program service interactions, and distribution across California counties, to act as a foundation point for deeper exploration and analysis.

ANALYTIC STRATEGY

- **Target Population:** Children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma.
- **Defined Population:** Children and youth ages 0 through their 21st birthday with an open foster care episode during the observation window (2020/21 academic year) as documented in CWS/CMS records.
- **Goals:**
 1. Develop descriptive statistics for this population overall and stratified by important socioeconomic and child welfare system characteristics;
 2. Characterize the cross-system involvement of this population; and
 3. Document the distribution of those children and youth across California counties.

KEY REPORT QUESTIONS

- 1. Who are the youth [From the perspective of CWS/CMS]?**
- 2. What are their experiences while navigating the child welfare system?**
- 3. How does their experience relate to their multi-program participation in 2020/21?**
 - DDS: Specific info
 - DHCS: Specific info
 - CDE: Specific info

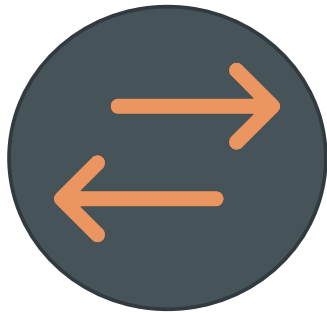
GOVERNANCE (1)



Existing CalHHS/CDN RRA (Record Reconciliation Project Agreement): Permits CDN to receive (any) data from each department for the purposes of linkage with other CalHHS departments and cross-program analysis.

- **New Amendment:** Permits cross-agency data linkage and analysis, includes CDII as a party to the agreement, and allows CDN access into the Agency Data Hub for validation purposes.
- **Existing CDSS/CDN Research Agreement:** Permits CDN to receive Child Welfare records for the purposes of cross-program/department/agency linkage and research/evaluation.

GOVERNANCE (2)



New CDE/CDN DUA:

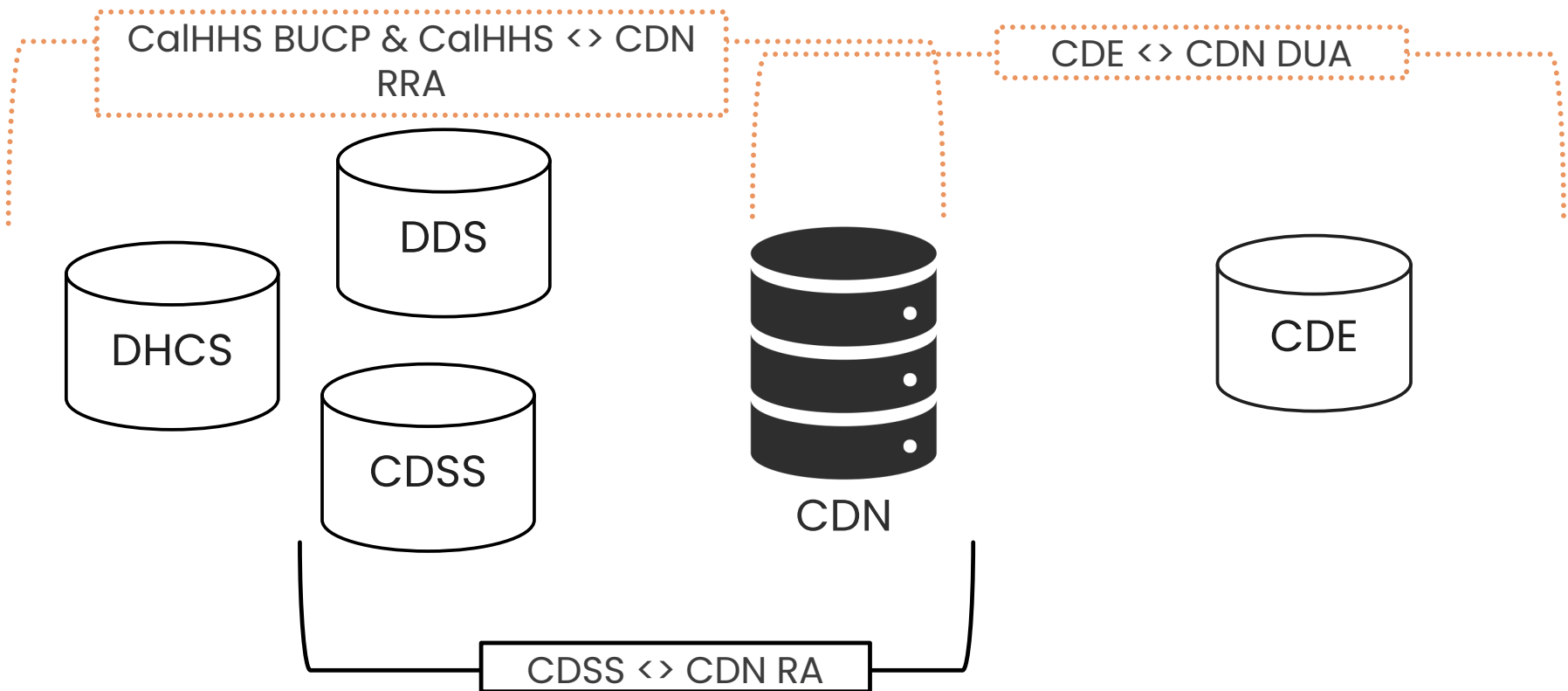
Permits CDN to receive CDE records, link with CDSS, DHCS, and DDS records, and perform AB 2083-specific analyses.



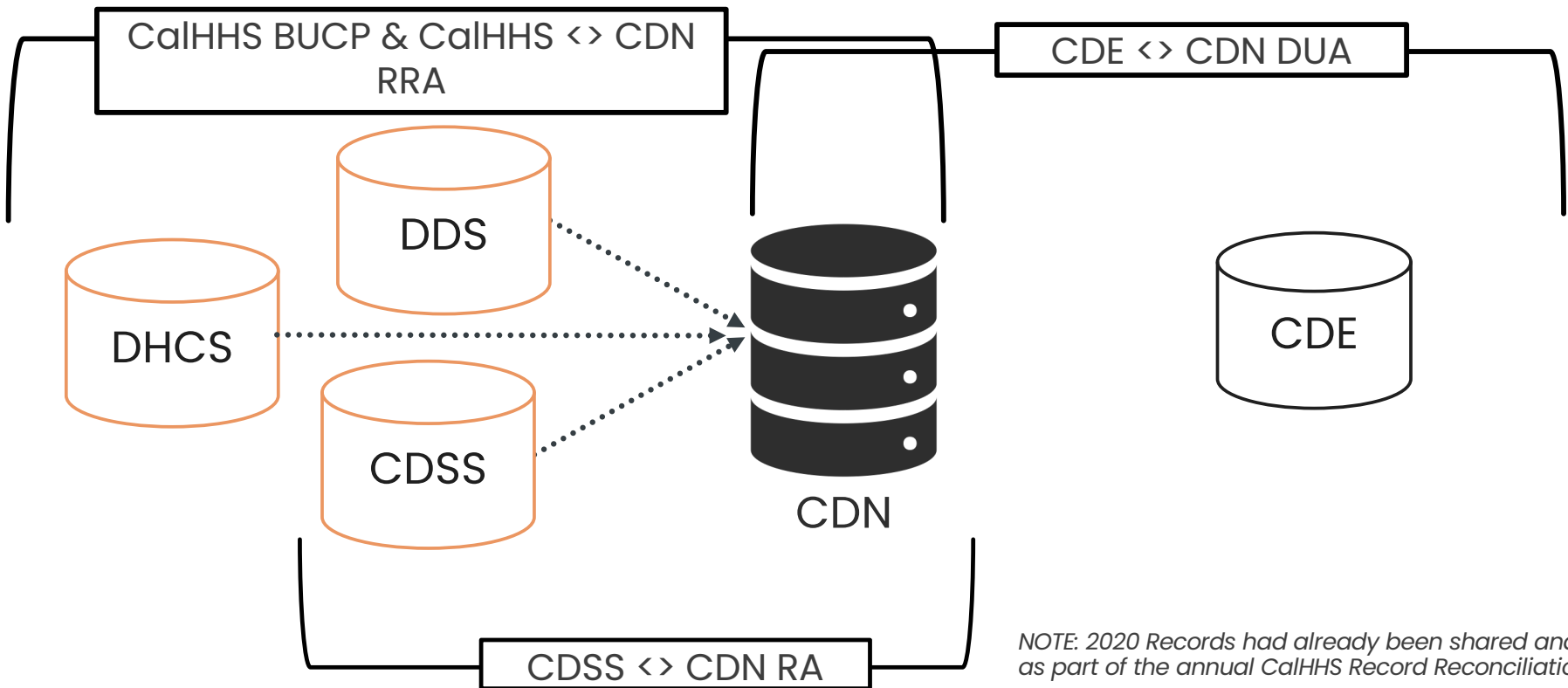
New CalHHS BUCP:

Permits CDN to analyze CalHHS records for the purposes of AB 2083.

FINALIZE NEW AGREEMENTS AND DEPARTMENTS DEFINE POPULATION, OPERATIONALIZE RESEARCH QUESTIONS, FINALIZE TABLE SHELLS

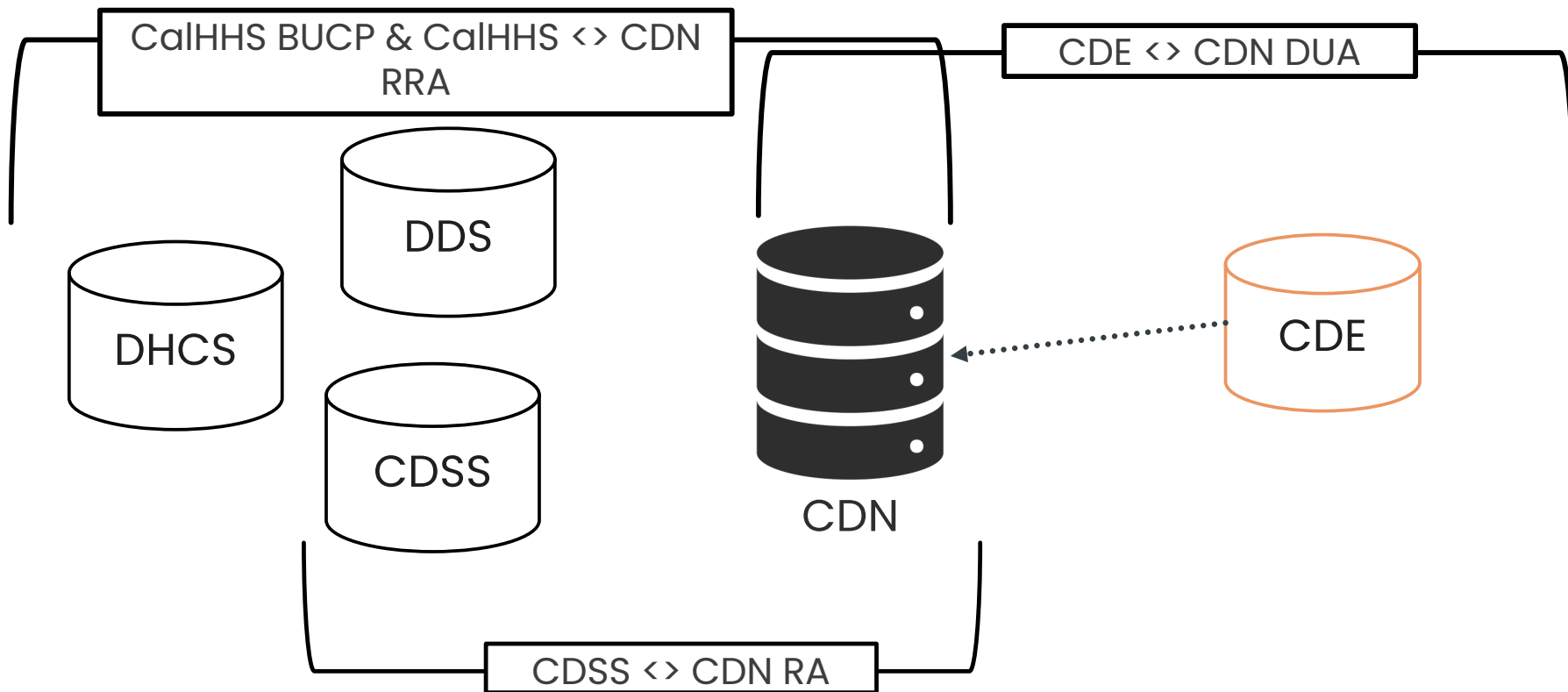


CALHHS DEPARTMENTS TRANSMIT 2021 RECORD RECONCILIATION DATA TO CDN

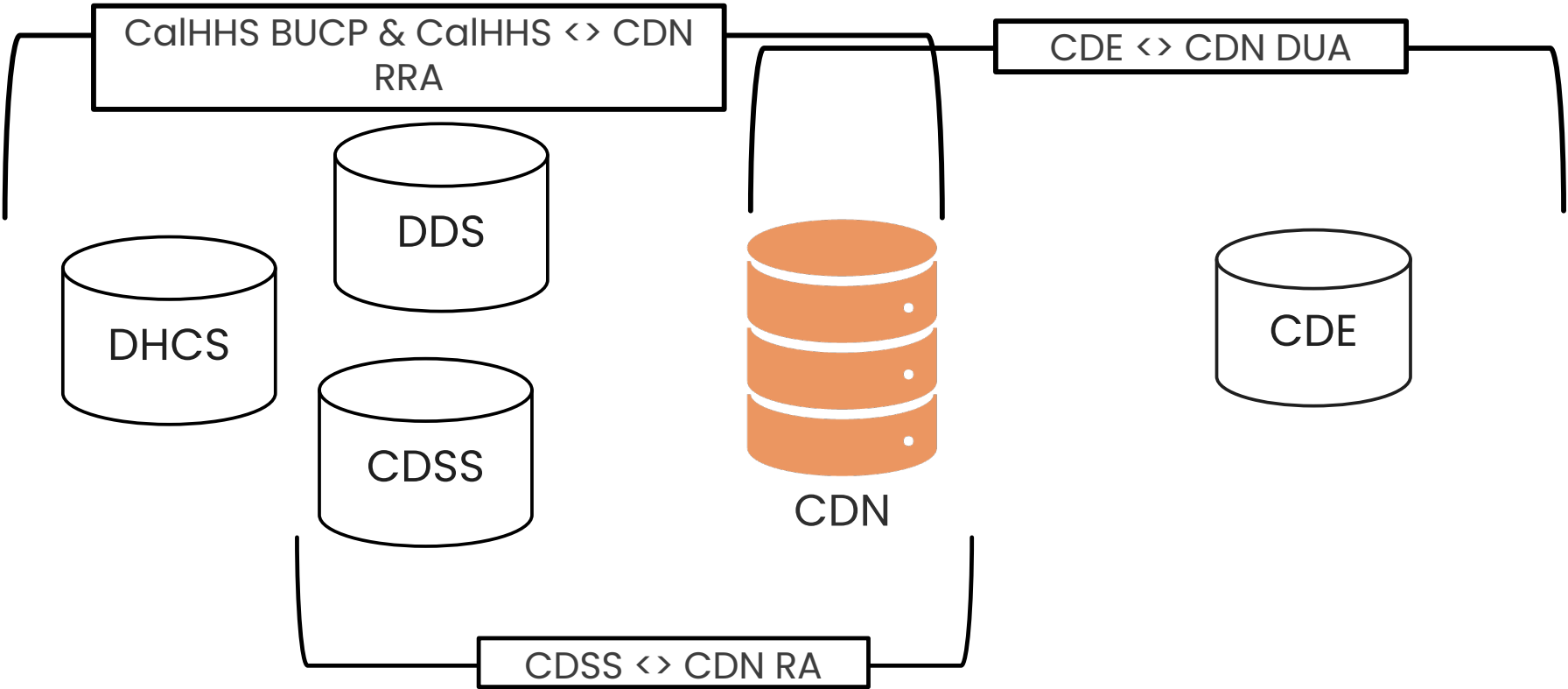


NOTE: 2020 Records had already been shared and linked as part of the annual CalHHS Record Reconciliations

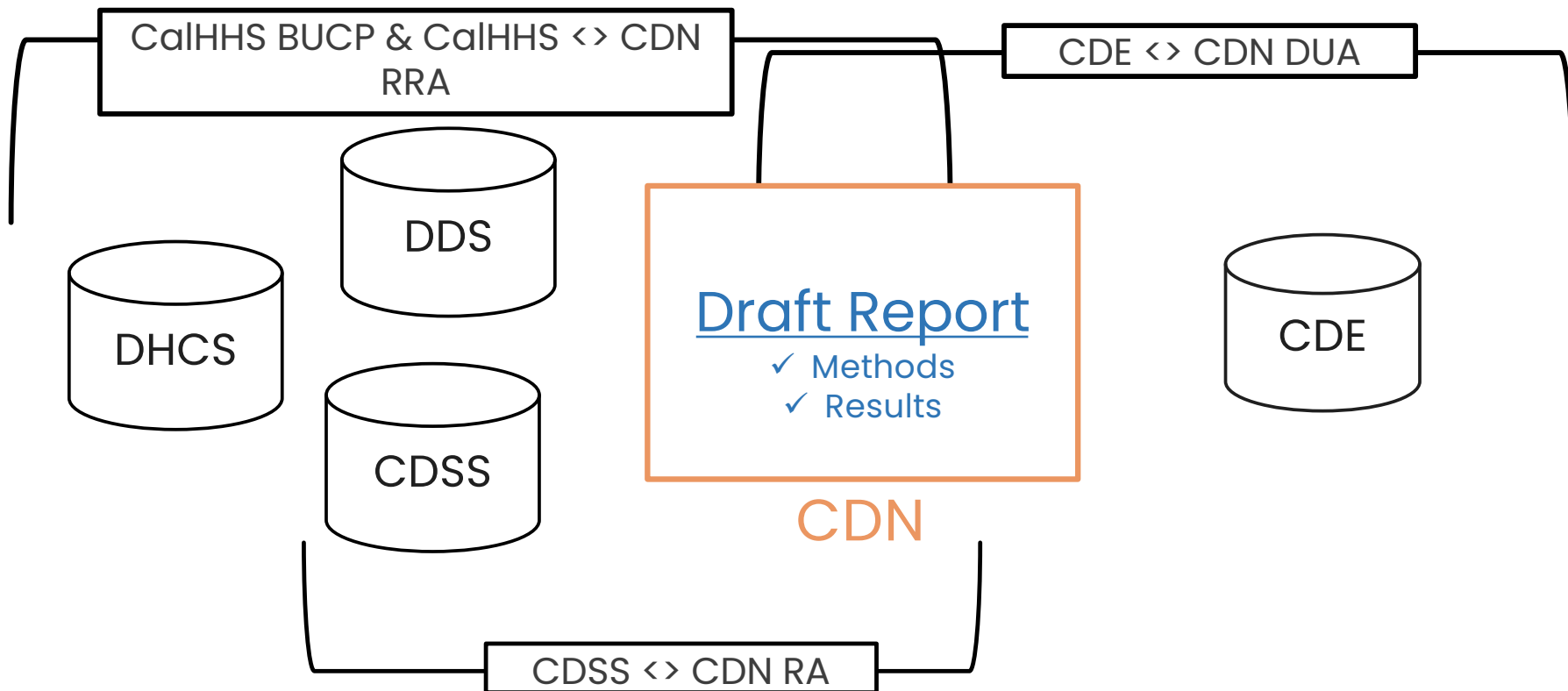
CDE TRANSMITS 2020/21 DATA TO CDN



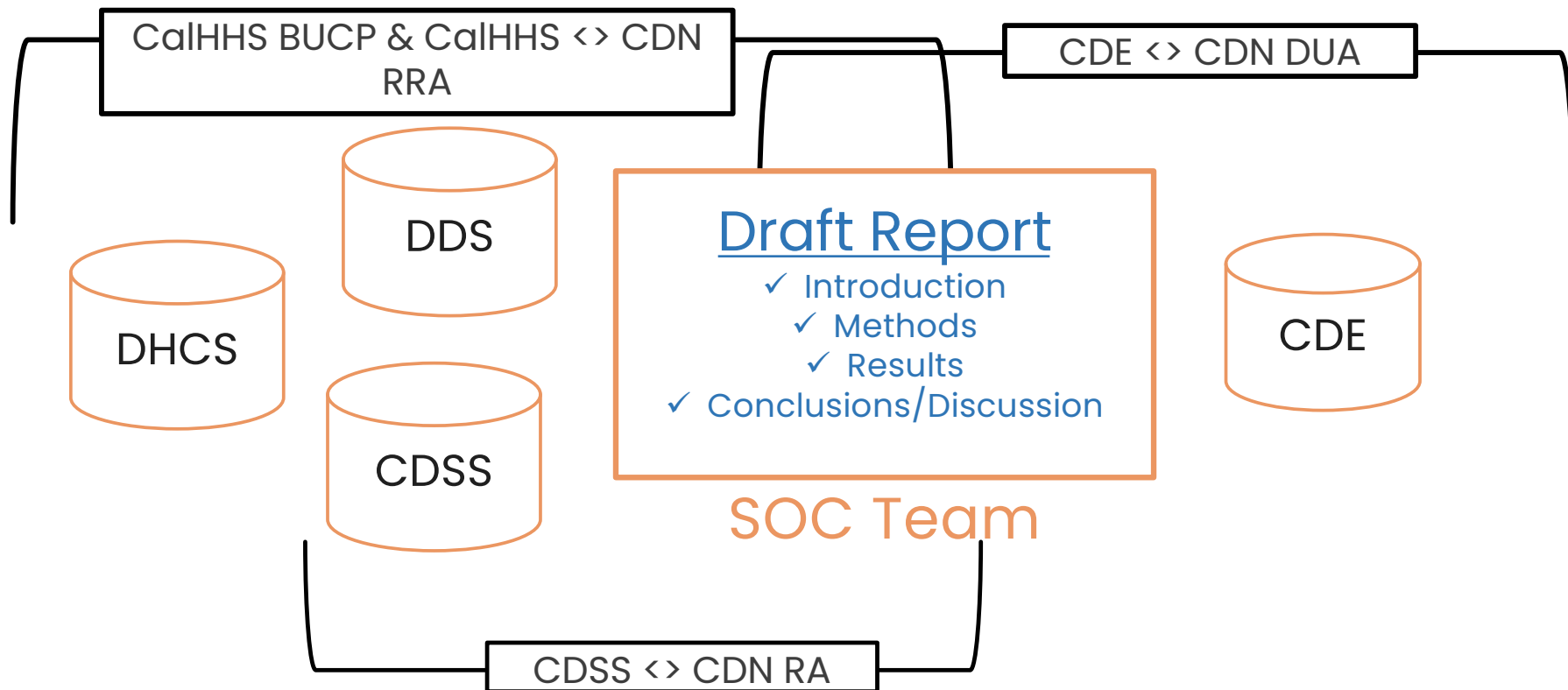
CDN CLEANS AND LINKS 2020 AND 2021 CALHHS DATA TO 2020/21 CDE DATA



CDN ANALYZES DATA AND RETURNS DRAFT RESULTS AND METHODS



AB 2083 TEAM REVIEWS FINDINGS AND CONTRIBUTES INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION SECTIONS



REPORT LAYOUT

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- OVERVIEW
- SUPPLEMENTARY ANALYSIS TO THE MULTIYEAR PLAN FOR INCREASING CAPACITY (LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS)
- CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS
- APPENDICES
 - REFERENCES
 - TABLES

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Four Key Connections
- Four Key Findings and Recommendations

FOUR KEY CONNECTIONS

Four key connections, highlighting how this data plays an informational role supporting the [Multiyear Plan](#) and identified Capacity Gaps recommendations that were identified in the [Multiyear Plan for Increasing Capacity](#). Data contained in this report cannot be identified as causal or correlative, however these key connections indicate an initial connection to the prior report's key findings, capacity gaps and recommendations.

FOUR KEY CONNECTIONS

1. Trauma Responsive Continuum

Prior report recommendations centered on increasing trauma models, training for parents and caregivers, wellbeing activities for trauma affected children and increased respite options are supported.

- Over 50 percent of youth in foster care in 2020/21 had a most recent placement with a nonrelative substitute caregivers
- 42.3% of children in foster care during the observation period experienced two or more moves in their current episode
- Nearly 1,200 youth were identified as a commercially sexually exploited child (CSEC) victim
- A quarter of foster youth on Medi-Cal who received an ACEs screening had four or more ACEs

FOUR KEY CONNECTIONS

2. Preventative and Coordinated Continuum

Prior report recommendations support moving the continuum towards a preventative, proactive and responsive system with a reduction to reactionary practices and improved care coordination are supported.

- Nearly all foster youth have multi-system involvement
- Foster youth experienced multiple placement moves during an episode
- Nearly half of foster youth on Medi-Cal have received a diagnosis of attachment disorder

FOUR KEY CONNECTIONS

3. Unique and Complex Unmet Needs: Unplanned Discharges, Unable to, or Difficulty Securing Placements and Providing Trauma-Informed Services

The data in this report supports the prior recommendations related to the unique needs of children and youth and the need for maximizing the System of Care framework, including the Interagency Leadership Teams (ILTs), while improving trauma focused treatment for infants and toddlers, a statewide framework for trauma trainings, trauma informed assessments, multi-agency assessment models for complex cases, the need for appropriate levels of care including expanding the continuum to include individualized models and case worker ratios designed to respond to the complexities of service access and intersectionality

- Over 1,500 youth in care experienced an unplanned discharge from an STRTP
- Over 1,100 youth in care were identified as a CSEC victim
- Over 1,500 youth in care on Medi-Cal received inpatient specialty mental health services
- For youth in foster care who receive regional center services, 5,200 infants and toddlers were in the Early Start program and 2,600 youth received Lanterman services.

DATA FOR KEY CONNECTION #3: YOUTH IMPACTED BY COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

	Children in Out of Home Care July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021 (FC TOTAL)	Developmental Service Recipients (FC+DDS)	Medi-Cal Eligibles (FC+Medi-Cal)	Public School Enrollees (FC+PS)
Commercial Sexual Exploitation Victim (Yes past or present)	1,193	23	1,180	647

DATA FOR KEY CONNECTION #3: UNPLANNED DISCHARGES FROM SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS

	Children in Out of Home Care July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 (FC TOTAL)	Developmental Service Recipients (FC+DDS)	Medi-Cal Eligibles (FC+Medi-Cal)	Public School Enrollees (FC+PS)
Unplanned Exit from STRTP (Lifetime)	1,550	35	1,545	1,397

DATA FOR KEY CONNECTION #3: ACUTE BEHAVIORAL NEEDS

	Medi-Cal Eligibles (FC+Medi-Cal)
Utilized Inpatient Specialty Mental Health Services	1,565

DATA FOR KEY CONNECTION #3: INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

	Developmental Service Recipients (FC+DS)
Regional Center Status - Early Start (Ages 0-3)	5,216
Regional Center Status - Active (Lanterman All Ages)	2,601

FOUR KEY CONNECTIONS

4. Local and State Data Barriers

This report has accomplished the prior recommendation to model a state data sharing governance and reporting framework and has created an opportunity to develop shared multisystem outcome metrics. However, this report has highlighted data discrepancies across programs, further supporting prior data recommendations from the *Multiyear Plan for Increasing Capacity*, including:

- Discrepancies in the identification of those with an IEP across programs;
- primary language across programs; and,
- the identification of those with a disability.

FOUR KEY FINDINGS

- 1) Conduct Additional Cross-System Analyses to Inform Program Enhancements and Current Investments
- 2) Develop Consistent Cross-System Program Definitions
- 3) Increase the Fidelity and Utilization of Cross-System Program Data
- 4) Complete Phase II and Phase III as defined in *Recommendations to the Legislature on Identified Placement and Service Gaps for Children and Youth in Foster Care who have Experienced Severe Trauma (2020)*

FOUR KEY FINDINGS

1. Conduct Additional Cross-System Analyses to Inform Program Enhancements and Current Investments

Based on the report findings there is a need to conduct further analyses looking at service system experiences by race, ethnicity, gender, and language for deeper cultural considerations of the youth across our systems. Additionally, there is a need to further understand the strengths and needs of youth through looking at CANS scores, placement stability trends and longitudinal looks at the characteristics, demographics and service interactions.

FOUR KEY FINDINGS

2. Develop Consistent Cross-System Program Definitions

Using existing data elements, there is a need to develop a cross-system definition of youth with unmet needs for ongoing metrics and outcome measures, while additionally aligning definitions of youth in foster care across programs.

FOUR KEY FINDINGS

3. Increase the Fidelity and Utilization of Cross-System Program Data

Utilize demographic data from this landscape analysis to inform current and future investments across programs and investments. Additionally, through the development of this report, the need to validate department data linkage algorithms, supporting data literacy and practices at the local level, and the need to work across program areas to align definitions, to increase cross-system data fidelity have been identified as an important finding.

FOUR KEY FINDINGS

4. Complete Phase II and Phase III as defined in *Recommendations to the Legislature on Identified Placement and Service Gaps for Children and Youth in Foster Care who have Experienced Severe Trauma (2020)*

Execute the remaining deliverables of *Recommendations to the Legislature on Identified Placement and Service Gaps for Children and Youth in Foster Care who have Experienced Severe Trauma* by supporting the local systems capacity mapping and building through utilization of this data and pathways to linked administrative data.

APPENDICES

- 1) APPENDIX A. Methods
- 2) APPENDIX B. Data Dictionaries
- 3) APPENDIX C. AB 2083 Report Tables (Data Elements)

TABLES

APPENDIX C. Report Tables (Data Elements)

- 1) **Table 1.** CWS/CMS Descriptive Characteristics for the Foster Care (FC) Population and FC+DS, FC+Medi-Cal, and FC+PS Subgroups
- 2) **Table 2.** DDS Program-Specific Information for the Foster Care plus Developmental Services Subgroup (FC+DS)
- 3) **Table 3.** DHCS Program-Specific Information for the Foster Care plus Medi-Cal Subgroup (FC+Medi-Cal)
- 4) **Table 4.** CDE Program-Specific Information for the Foster Care plus Public School Subgroup (FC+PS), by IEP Status

NEXT STEPS: OPPORTUNITIES

- Conduct further analysis.
- Programs need to work together, align data efforts to inform programs, initiatives, and investments.
- This data plays an informational role supporting the [Multiyear Plan](#) and identified Capacity Gaps recommendations that were identified in the [Multiyear Plan for Increasing Capacity](#).
- Findings indicate a need to conduct further analysis and respond to activities that increase data fidelity, cross-program understandings, definitions and utilization of the data.

NEXT STEPS

- Community review period October 31st to November 30th
- Inclusion of feedback
- Accessibility
- Routing to the Legislature

QUESTIONS?

