

Meeting Agenda Wednesday, December 1, 2021 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Participants, staff, and the public will participate in this meeting via teleconference or otherwise electronically. Authorization is allowed for pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 and specifically Government Code section 54953(e)(1) if a resolution is passed if the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency is ongoing and meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

### **Remote Audio and Video Meeting Participation**

Please use this link to join the meeting from your computer or smartphone: <u>https://yolocounty.zoom.us/j/96203837250?pwd=ZUhaOEt1MzkzREpTbmtrUXIYYmIWdz</u> <u>09</u> **Webinar ID:** 962 0383 7250

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### Or Dial by your location:

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### **General Agenda**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call



### 2. Consider Approval of Agenda

### 3. Public Comment

- **a.** Submit written public comments to childsupport@csy.cse.ca.gov. E-mails are distributed to the Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC), and support staff. To ensure the LAC has the opportunity to review information prior to the meeting, please send e-mails by 10:00 AM on the meeting date.
- **b.** Live remote public comments:
  - i. Device with microphone: Press the "raise a hand" button.
  - ii. Phone: Press \*9 to indicate a desire to make comment

Support staff will call you by your name or phone number when it is your turn to comment. Speakers will be limited to no more than three minutes and will be asked to state their name for the record.

### **Consent Items**

- 4. Resolution to Authorize Remote Meetings by Finding (link)
- 5. Approve the minutes of the September 1, 2021 Leadership Advisory (link) Committee Meeting
- 6. General Update (link)
- 7. Long Range Planning Calendar (link)

#### **Discussion Items**

- 8. 2022 Meeting Schedule and Location Natalie Dillon (link)
- 9. Yuba City Office Move Update Colin Anderson (link)
- 10. FFY 2021 Performance Update Colin Anderson (link)
- **11. Leadership Advisory Committee Comments and Discussion**



### 12. Adjourn

**NOTICE** If requested, this agenda can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Federal Rules and Regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Persons seeking an alternative format should contact the Health Council Secretary for further information. In addition, a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in a public meeting should telephone or otherwise contact the Leadership Advisory Committee support staff as soon as possible and preferably at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. The Leadership Advisory Committee support staff may be reached at 530-661-2832, via email at childsupport@csy.cse.ca.gov or at the following address: Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Regional Child Support Agency, 100 W Court St, Woodland, CA 95695.



To:	RCSA Leadership Advisory Committee
From:	Natalie Dillon, Regional Director
Subject:	Resolution to Authorize Remote Meeting by Finding (Agenda Item #4 - Consent)
Date:	December 1, 2021

#### Brown Act

As the LAC is an advisory body, it is covered by the Brown Act. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 allowed for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As such, the first three meetings of the LAC were held virtually via Zoom, with meeting information posted in each of the three counties and on the RCSA website. The Executive Order expired in September 2021.

AB 361 (attached), considered urgency legislation, was signed into law and went into effect immediately, added and repealed sections of the Government Code related to open meetings. Included in this packet is a memo (attached) prepared by the Yolo County Counsel's office providing an explanation of the newly enacted AB 361 as compared to prior procedures.

To use AB 361's simplified procedures after October 1, 2021, the Governor must have declared a state of emergency, and the state of emergency must be in effect. For the current COVID-19 pandemic, this requirement is satisfied. Additionally, either of the following circumstances must be present:

- State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; or
- As a result of the declared emergency, the legislative body finds by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

In Yolo County, the Health Officer, Dr. Aimee Sisson, currently recommends social distancing for public agency meetings (memo from Dr. Sisson attached).

The Yolo County Counsel's office recommends that all local legislative bodies consider adding an item for consideration at the beginning of their first meeting on or after October 1, 2021 to affirm their intention to proceed using AB 361. Therefore, staff recommends that the Regional Child Support Agency Leadership Advisory Committee consider and approve the following:



Authorize remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By authorizing remote meetings, it will allow for the meeting of December 1, 2021 to be held via teleconference. The renewal will need to be approved if conditions persist at each meeting the LAC wishes to be held virtually.

# AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 30, 2021 AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 6, 2021 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 10, 2021 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2021 CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL** 

No. 361

Introduced by Assembly Member Robert Rivas

February 1, 2021

An act to *add and repeal Section 89305.6 of the Education Code, and to* amend, repeal, and add Section 54953-of *of, and to add and repeal Section 11133 of,* the Government Code, relating to-local government, open meetings, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 361, as amended, Robert Rivas. Open meetings: *state and* local agencies: teleconferences.

Existing

(1) Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act contains specified provisions regarding the timelines for posting an agenda and providing for the ability of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public. The act generally requires all regular and special

meetings of the legislative body be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, subject to certain exceptions. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. The act authorizes the district attorney or any interested person, subject to certain provisions, to commence an action by mandamus or injunction for the purpose of obtaining a judicial determination that specified actions taken by a legislative body are null and void.

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, authorizes the Governor, or the Director of Emergency Services when the governor is inaccessible, to proclaim a state of emergency under specified circumstances.

Executive Order No. N-29-20 suspends the Ralph M. Brown Act's requirements for teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic provided that notice and accessibility requirements are met, the public members are allowed to observe and address the legislative body at the meeting, and that a legislative body of a local agency has a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified.

This bill, until January 1, 2024, would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting during a declared state of emergency, as that term is defined, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, during a proclaimed state of emergency held for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and during a proclaimed state of emergency when the legislative body has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, as provided.

This bill would require legislative bodies that hold teleconferenced meetings under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures to give notice of the meeting and post agendas, as described, to allow members of the public to access the meeting and address the legislative body, to give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment, including an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option, and to conduct the meeting in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body. The bill would require the legislative body to take no further action on agenda items when there is a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents members of the public from offering public comments, until public access is restored. The bill would specify that actions taken during the disruption are subject to challenge proceedings, as specified.

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This bill would prohibit the legislative body from requiring public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and would specify that the legislative body must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time. The bill would prohibit the legislative body from closing the public comment period and the opportunity to register to provide public comment, until the public comment period has elapsed or until a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, as specified. When there is a continuing state of emergency, or when state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, the bill would require a legislative body to make specified findings not later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting pursuant to these provisions, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

Existing law prohibits a state *legislative* body from requiring, as a condition to attend a meeting, a person to register the person's name, or to provide other information, or to fulfill any condition precedent to the person's attendance.

This bill would exclude from that prohibition, a registration requirement imposed by a third-party internet website or other online platform not under the control of the legislative body.

(2) Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The

act requires at least one member of the state body to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

The Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20 suspends the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act for teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that notice and accessibility requirements are met, the public members are allowed to observe and address the state body at the meeting, and that a state body has a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified.

This bill, until January 31, 2022, would authorize, subject to specified notice and accessibility requirements, a state body to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the state body. With respect to a state body holding a public meeting pursuant to these provisions, the bill would suspend certain requirements of existing law, including the requirements that each teleconference location be accessible to the public and that members of the public be able to address the state body at each teleconference location. Under the bill, a state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically would satisfy any requirement that the state body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. The bill would require that each state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing provide notice of the meeting, and post the agenda, as provided. The bill would urge state bodies utilizing these teleconferencing procedures in the bill to use sound discretion and to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to existing law, as provided.

(3) Existing law establishes the various campuses of the California State University under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and authorizes the establishment of student body organizations in connection with the operations of California State University campuses.

The Gloria Romero Open Meetings Act of 2000 generally requires a legislative body, as defined, of a student body organization to conduct its business in a meeting that is open and public. The act authorizes the legislative body to use teleconferencing, as defined, for the benefit of the public and the legislative body in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.

This bill, until January 31, 2022, would authorize, subject to specified notice and accessibility requirements, a legislative body, as defined for purposes of the act, to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the legislative body. With respect to a legislative body holding a public meeting pursuant to these provisions, the bill would suspend certain requirements of existing law, including the requirements that each teleconference location be accessible to the public and that members of the public be able to address the legislative body at each teleconference location. Under the bill, a legislative body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically would satisfy any requirement that the legislative body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. The bill would require that each legislative body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing provide notice of the meeting, and post the agenda, as provided. The bill would urge legislative bodies utilizing these teleconferencing procedures in the bill to use sound discretion and to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to existing law, as provided.

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(4) This bill would declare the Legislature's intent, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, to improve and enhance public access to *state and* local agency meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options.

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(5) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 54953 of the Government Code proposed by AB 339 to be operative only if this bill and AB 339 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

#### The

(6) The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

(7) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

*This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.* This

(8) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 89305.6 is added to the Education Code, 2 to read:

3 89305.6. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this 4 article, and subject to the notice and accessibility requirements in 5 subdivisions (d) and (e), a legislative body may hold public 6 meetings through teleconferencing and make public meetings 7 accessible telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all 8 members of the public seeking to observe and to address the 9 legislative body.

(b) (1) For a legislative body holding a public meeting through
teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all requirements in this
article requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or
other personnel of the legislative body, or the public, as a condition

of participation in or quorum for a public meeting, are hereby suspended.

- 16 (2) For a legislative body holding a public meeting through 17 teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all of the following 18 requirements in this article are suspended:
- 19 (A) Each teleconference location from which a member will be
- 20 participating in a public meeting or proceeding be identified in
- 21 *the notice and agenda of the public meeting or proceeding.*
- 22 (B) Each teleconference location be accessible to the public.

23 (C) Members of the public may address the legislative body at

24 each teleconference conference location.

25 (D) Post agendas at all teleconference locations.

1 (E) At least one member of the legislative body be physically 2 present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

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3 (c) A legislative body that holds a meeting through 4 teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and 5 address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, 6 consistent with the notice and accessibility requirements in 7 subdivisions (d) and (e), shall have satisfied any requirement that 8 the legislative body allow members of the public to attend the 9 meeting and offer public comment. A legislative body need not 10 make available any physical location from which members of the 11 public may observe the meeting and offer public comment.

12 (d) If a legislative body holds a meeting through 13 teleconferencing pursuant to this section and allows members of 14 the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or 15 otherwise electronically, the legislative body shall also do both of 16 the following:

(1) Implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving
requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from
individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans
with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), and
resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

(2) Advertise that procedure each time notice is given of the
means by which members of the public may observe the meeting
and offer public comment, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision
(e).

(e) Except to the extent this section provides otherwise, each
legislative body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing
pursuant to this section shall do both of the following:

(1) Give advance notice of the time of, and post the agenda for,
each public meeting according to the timeframes otherwise
prescribed by this article, and using the means otherwise
prescribed by this article, as applicable.

33 (2) In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting 34 is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, also give notice of the means by which members of the 35 36 public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. As to 37 any instance in which there is a change in the means of public 38 observation and comment, or any instance prior to the effective 39 date of this section in which the time of the meeting has been 40 noticed or the agenda for the meeting has been posted without

also including notice of the means of public observation and 1 2 comment, a legislative body may satisfy this requirement by 3 advertising the means of public observation and comment using 4 the most rapid means of communication available at the time. 5 Advertising the means of public observation and comment using the most rapid means of communication available at the time shall 6 7 include, but need not be limited to, posting such means on the 8 legislative body's internet website. 9 (f) All legislative bodies utilizing the teleconferencing procedures in this section are urged to use sound discretion and 10 to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably 11 12 possible to the otherwise applicable provisions of this article, in order to maximize transparency and provide the public access to 13 14 legislative body meetings. 15 (g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 31, 2022, and as of that date is repealed. 16 17 SEC. 2. Section 11133 is added to the Government Code, to 18 read: 19 11133. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, and subject to the notice and accessibility requirements in 20 21 subdivisions (d) and (e), a state body may hold public meetings 22 through teleconferencing and make public meetings accessible 23 telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the state body. 24 25 (b) (1) For a state body holding a public meeting through 26 teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all requirements in this 27 article requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or 28 other personnel of the state body, or the public, as a condition of 29 participation in or quorum for a public meeting, are hereby 30 suspended.

31 (2) For a state body holding a public meeting through
32 teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all of the following
33 requirements in this article are suspended:

(A) Each teleconference location from which a member will be
 participating in a public meeting or proceeding be identified in

36 *the notice and agenda of the public meeting or proceeding.* 

37 (*B*) Each teleconference location be accessible to the public.

38 (*C*) *Members of the public may address the state body at each* 39 *teleconference conference location.* 

40 (D) Post agendas at all teleconference locations.

1 (*E*) At least one member of the state body be physically present 2 at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

3 (c) A state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing 4 and allows members of the public to observe and address the 5 meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, consistent with 6 the notice and accessibility requirements in subdivisions (d) and 7 (e), shall have satisfied any requirement that the state body allow 8 members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public 9 comment. A state body need not make available any physical 10 location from which members of the public may observe the 11 meeting and offer public comment.

(d) If a state body holds a meeting through teleconferencing
pursuant to this section and allows members of the public to
observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise
electronically, the state body shall also do both of the following:

16 (1) Implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving 17 requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from 18 individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans 19 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), and 20 resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

(2) Advertise that procedure each time notice is given of the
means by which members of the public may observe the meeting
and offer public comment, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision
(e).

(e) Except to the extent this section provides otherwise, each
state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing pursuant
to this section shall do both of the following:

(1) Give advance notice of the time of, and post the agenda for,
each public meeting according to the timeframes otherwise
prescribed by this article, and using the means otherwise
prescribed by this article, as applicable.

32 (2) In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting 33 is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, also give notice of the means by which members of the 34 35 public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. As to 36 any instance in which there is a change in the means of public 37 observation and comment, or any instance prior to the effective 38 date of this section in which the time of the meeting has been 39 noticed or the agenda for the meeting has been posted without 40 also including notice of the means of public observation and

1 comment, a state body may satisfy this requirement by advertising

2 the means of public observation and comment using the most rapid

3 means of communication available at the time. Advertising the

4 means of public observation and comment using the most rapid

5 means of communication available at the time shall include, but

6 need not be limited to, posting such means on the state body's7 internet website.

8 (f) All state bodies utilizing the teleconferencing procedures in 9 this section are urged to use sound discretion and to make

10 reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to

11 the otherwise applicable provisions of this article, in order to 12 maximize transparency and provide the public access to state body

13 meetings.

14 (g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 31, 15 2022, and as of that date is repealed.

16 SECTION 1.

17 SEC. 3. Section 54953 of the Government Code is amended 18 to read:

19 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local 20 agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted 21 to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, 22 aveant as otherwise provided in this sharter.

22 except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, thelegislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for

the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agencyin connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.

27 The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all

28 otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise

applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meetingor proceeding.

31 (2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used

32 for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject

33 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during

34 a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to useteleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconferencelocations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that

38 protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the

39 public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

40 Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and

1 agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference 2 location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, 3 at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall 4 participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory 5 over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as 6 provided in subdivisions (d) and (e). The agenda shall provide an 7 opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative 8 body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference 9 location. 10 (4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a

(4) For the purposes of this section, teleconference means a
meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different
locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or
video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency
from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot,

16 whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly reportany action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of eachmember present for the action.

20 (3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally 21 report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the 22 salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of 23 fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in 24 subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in 25 which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect 26 the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 27 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to 28 inspect or copy records created or received in the process of 29 developing the recommendation.

30 (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in 31 paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a 32 teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction 33 of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a 34 quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 35 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum 36 are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the 37 authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides 38 a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that 39 allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the

number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda
 of the meeting.

3 (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as 4 discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at 5 a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or 6 from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction 7 of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is 8 established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other 9 requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means 10 any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 11 12 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare 13 and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant 14 to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of 15 Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory 16 17 committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to 18 Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the 19 Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more 20 members. 21 (e) (1) A local agency may use teleconferencing without

22 complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision 23 (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of 24 paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following 25 circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed
state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or
recommended measures to promote social distancing.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed
state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority
vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person

32 would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

33 (C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed 34 state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant

to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting

in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of

37 attendees.

38 (2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this39 subdivision shall do all of the following:

1 (A) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and 2 post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

3 (B) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to 4 access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity 5 for members of the public to address the legislative body directly 6 pursuant to Section 54954.3. In each instance in which notice of 7 the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the 8 agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body 9 shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public 10 may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda 11 shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend 12 via a call-in option or an internet-based service option. This 13 subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body 14 to provide a physical location from which the public may attend 15 or comment.

16 (C) The legislative body shall conduct teleconference meetings 17 in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of 18 the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body of 19 a local agency.

20 (D) In the event of a disruption which prevents the public agency 21 from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the 22 call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of 23 a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents 24 members of the public from offering public comments using the 25 call-in option or internet-based service option, the body shall take 26 no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until 27 public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based 28 service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during 29 a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting 30 the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1. 31 (E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to

32 be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an 33 opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer 34 comment in real time. This subparagraph shall not be construed 35 to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from 36 which the public may attend or comment.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to
provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or
other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative
body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may

be required to register as required by the third-party internet
 website or online platform to participate.

3 (G) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment

4 period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment

5 period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant 6 to subparagraph (F), to provide public comment until that timed

7 public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public
comment period, but takes public comment separately on each
agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda
item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public
comment, including time for members of the public to register

pursuant to subparagraph (F), or otherwise be recognized for the
 purpose of providing public comment.

15 (iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public 16 comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item

17 shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to

18 register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), until the timed general

19 public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local
 officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote
 social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without

23 compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative

24 body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the

25 first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph

26 (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by27 majority vote:

28 (A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of29 the state of emergency.

30 (B) Any of the following circumstances exist:

31 (i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the32 ability of the members to meet safely in person.

33 (ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend34 measures to promote social distancing.

35 (4) For the purposes of this subdivision, "state of emergency"

36 means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625

37 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing 28 with Section 2550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2)

38 with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2024,and as of that date is repealed.

1 <u>SEC. 1.1.</u>

2 SEC. 3.1. Section 54953 of the Government Code is amended 3 to read:

4 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local 5 agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted 6 to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency in 7 person, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Local agencies 8 shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with 9 applicable state and federal civil rights laws, including, but not 10 limited to, the any applicable language access and other 11 nondiscrimination-obligations of Section 11135 and Subchapter 12 V (commencing with Section 2000d) of Chapter 21 of Title 42 of 13 the United States Code. obligations.

14 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the 15 legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency 16 17 in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. 18 The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all 19 otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise 20 applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting 21 or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used
 for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject
 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during
 a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

26 (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference 27 28 locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that 29 protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the 30 public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. 31 Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and 32 agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference 33 location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, 34 at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall 35 participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory 36 over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as 37 provided in subdivisions (d) and (e). The agenda shall provide an 38 opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative 39 body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference 40 location.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a
meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different
locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or
video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency
from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot,
whether preliminary or final.

8 (2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report 9 any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each 10 member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally 11 12 report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the 13 salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of 14 fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in 15 subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect 16 17 the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 18 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to 19 inspect or copy records created or received in the process of 20 developing the recommendation.

21 (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in 22 paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a 23 teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a 24 25 quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 26 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum 27 are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the 28 authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides 29 a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that 30 allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the 31 number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda 32 of the meeting. 33

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as
discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at
a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or
from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction
of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is
established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other

39 requirements of this section.

1 (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means 2 any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 3 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare 4 and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant 5 to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of 6 Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 7 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory 8 committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to 9 Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the 10 Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more 11 members.

(e) (1) A local agency may use teleconferencing without
complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision
(b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of
paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following
circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimedstate of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed orrecommended measures to promote social distancing.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed
state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority
vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person
would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
(C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed

state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B) (*B*), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

29 (2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this30 subdivision shall do all of the following:

31 (A) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and32 post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

33 (B) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to 34 access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly 35 36 pursuant to Section 54954.3. In each instance in which notice of 37 the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the 38 agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body 39 shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public 40 may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda

1 shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend

2 via a call-in option or an internet-based service option. This

3 subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body

4 to provide a physical location from which the public may attend

5 or comment.

6 (C) The legislative body shall conduct teleconference meetings

7 in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of

8 the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body of 9 a local agency.

10 (D) In the event of a disruption which prevents the public agency

11 from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the

12 call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of 13 a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents

13 a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents 14 members of the public from offering public comments using the

15 call-in option or internet-based service option, the body shall take

16 no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until

17 public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based

18 service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during

19 a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting

20 the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

21 (E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to 22 be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an

opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offercomment in real time. This subparagraph shall not be construed

25 to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from 26 which the public may attend or comment

26 which the public may attend or comment.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to
provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or
other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative
body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may
be required to register as required by the third-party internet
website or online platform to participate.

33 (G) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment

34 period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment

35 period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant

36 to subparagraph (F), to provide public comment until that timed

37 public comment period has elapsed.

38 (ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public 39 comment period, but takes public comment separately on each

40 agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda

1 item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public

2 comment, including time for members of the public to register
3 pursuant to subparagraph (F), or otherwise be recognized for the
4 purpose of providing public comment.

5 (iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public

6 comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item

7 shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to

8 register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), until the timed general

9 public comment period has elapsed.

10 (3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local 11 officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote

12 social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without

13 compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative

14 body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the

15 first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph

16 (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by 17 majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances ofthe state of emergency.

20 (B) Any of the following circumstances exist:

(i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact theability of the members to meet safely in person.

(ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommendmeasures to promote social distancing.

(4) For the purposes of this subdivision, "state of emergency"
means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625
of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing
with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2024,and as of that date is repealed.

31 SEC. 2.

32 *SEC. 4.* Section 54953 is added to the Government Code, to 33 read:

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local
agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted

to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency,except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

38 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the 39 legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for

40 the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency

1 in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.

2 The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all

3 requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions

4 of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

5 (2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used
6 for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject
7 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during

8 a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

9 (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use 10 teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that 11 12 protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the 13 public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. 14 Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and 15 agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, 16 17 at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall 18 participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory 19 over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d). The agenda shall provide an 20 21 opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative 22 body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference

23 location.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a
meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different
locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or
video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency
from providing the public with additional teleconference locations
(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot,
whether preliminary or final.

31 (2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report
32 any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each
33 member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter

1 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to 2 inspect or copy records created or received in the process of

3 developing the recommendation.

4 (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in 5 paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a 6 teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction 7 of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a 8 quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 9 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum 10 are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the 11 authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides 12 a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that 13 allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the 14 number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda 15 of the meeting.

16 (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as 17 discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at 18 a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or 19 from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction 20 of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is 21 established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other 22 requirements of this section.

23 (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means 24 any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 25 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare 26 and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant 27 to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of 28 Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 29 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory 30 committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to 31 Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the 32 Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more 33 members.

34 (e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2024.

35 <u>SEC. 2.1.</u>

36 *SEC. 4.1.* Section 54953 is added to the Government Code, to 37 read:

38 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local

39 agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted

40 to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, in

1 person except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Local agencies

2 shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with

3 applicable state and federal civil rights laws, including, but not

4 limited to, the any applicable language access and other

nondiscrimination-obligations of Section 11135 and Subchapter
 V (commencing with Section 2000d) of Chapter 21 of Title 42 of

7 the United States Code. obligations.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for
the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency
in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.
The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all
requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions

14 of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used
for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject
matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during
a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

19 (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use 20 teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference 21 locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that 22 protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the 23 public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and 24 25 agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference 26 location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, 27 at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall 28 participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory 29 over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as 30 provided in subdivision (d). The agenda shall provide an 31 opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative 32 body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference 33 location.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a
meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different
locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or
video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency
from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot,
whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report
any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each
member present for the action.

4 (3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally 5 report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the 6 salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of 7 fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in 8 subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in 9 which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect 10 the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 11 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of 12 13 developing the recommendation.

14 (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in 15 paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a 16 teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction 17 of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a 18 quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 19 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum 20 are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the 21 authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides 22 a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that 23 allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the 24 number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda 25 of the meeting. 26 (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as
discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at
a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or
from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction
of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is
established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other
requirements of this section.

33 (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 34 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare 35 36 and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant 37 to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of 38 Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 39 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory 40 committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to

- 1 Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the
- 2 Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more3 members.
- 4 (e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2024.
- 5 <del>SEC. 3.</del>

6 *SEC. 5.* Sections 1.1 *3.1* and 2.1 *4.1* of this bill incorporate 7 amendments to Section 54953 of the Government Code proposed 8 by both this bill and Assembly Bill 339. Those sections of this bill

- 9 shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and 10 become effective on or before January 1, 2022, but this bill
- become enective on of before January 1, 2022, but this bin becomes operative first, (2) each bill amends Section 54953 of the
- 12 Government Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill
- 13 339, in which case Section 54953 of the Government Code, as
- amended by Sections + 3 and -24 of this bill, shall remain operative
- 15 only until the operative date of Assembly Bill 339, at which time

16 Sections 1.1 3.1 and 2.1 4.1 of this bill shall become operative.

17 <del>SEC. 4.</del>

18 SEC. 6. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to

19 improve and enhance public access to state and local agency

- 20 meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and future applicable
- 21 emergencies, by allowing broader access through teleconferencing

22 options consistent with the Governor's Executive Order No.

23 N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, permitting expanded use of

24 teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

25 <u>SEC. 5.</u>

26 SEC. 7. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections+327 and -24 of this act, which amend, repeal, and add Section 54953 28 of the Government Code, further, within the meaning of paragraph 29 (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California 30 Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates 31 to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies 32 or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the 33

- 34 California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following35 findings:
- 36 This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public
- 37 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public
- 38 participation in teleconference meetings during applicable
- 39 emergencies.

1 SEC. 8. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that during the 2 *COVID-19* public health emergency, certain requirements of the 3 Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with 4 Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of 5 the Government Code) were suspended by Executive Order 6 N-29-20. Audio and video teleconference were widely used to conduct public meetings in lieu of physical location meetings, and 7 8 public meetings conducted by teleconference during the COVID-19 9 public health emergency have been productive, have increased 10 public participation by all members of the public regardless of 11 their location in the state and ability to travel to physical meeting 12 locations, have protected the health and safety of civil servants 13 and the public, and have reduced travel costs incurred by members 14 of state bodies and reduced work hours spent traveling to and from 15 meetings. 16 (b) The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, 17 which adds and repeals Section 89305.6 of the Education Code, 18 Section 2 of this act, which adds and repeals Section 11133 of the 19 Government Code, and Sections 3 and 4 of this act, which amend, repeal, and add Section 54953 of the Government Code, all 20 21 increase and potentially limit the public's right of access to the 22 meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and 23 agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the 24 California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, 25 the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the 26 interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting 27 that interest: 28 (1) By removing the requirement that public meetings be 29 conducted at a primary physical location with a quorum of 30 members present, this act protects the health and safety of civil 31 servants and the public and does not preference the experience of 32 members of the public who might be able to attend a meeting in a 33 physical location over members of the public who cannot travel 34 or attend that meeting in a physical location. 35 (2) By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at 36 the location of each public official participating in a public meeting 37 remotely, including from the member's private home or hotel room, 38 this act protects the personal, private information of public officials

39 and their families while preserving the public's right to access

40 information concerning the conduct of the people's business.

1 <u>SEC. 6.</u>

2 *SEC. 9.* This act is an urgency statute necessary for the 3 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within

4 the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall

4 the meaning of Africie IV of the Camornia Constitution and shan

5 go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:6 In order to ensure that *state and* local agencies can continue

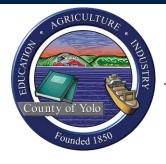
7 holding public meetings while providing essential services like

8 water, power, and fire protection to their constituents during public

9 health, wildfire, or other states of emergencies, it is necessary that

10 this act take effect immediately.

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# COUNTY OF YOLO Office of the County Counsel

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### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Bodies Subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act

FROM: Philip J. Pogledich, County Counsel Eric May, Senior Deputy County Counsel

DATE: September 30, 2021

SUBJECT: Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361

This memorandum provides a short explanation of how bodies subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act ("Brown Act")<sup>1</sup> can properly hold a remote (teleconference or videoconference) meeting using simplified procedures added to California law through newly-enacted Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361"). This memorandum and related materials, including the full text of AB 361, will be maintained on the County Counsel's webpage under the "Resources for Local Governing and Advisory Body Members" tab.<sup>2</sup>

Before the pandemic, the Brown Act had numerous requirements for bodies wishing to meet remotely. The requirements were burdensome and, as a result, few bodies met remotely. AB 361 amended the Brown Act to add simplified procedures that make it easier to hold remote meetings during a state of emergency and when state or local officials impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing. *See* Gov. Code § 54953(e). These new rules supersede and replace similar rules in the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, which many local boards, commissions, and committees have relied on to hold remote meetings since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. AB 361's new rules apply starting October 1, 2021, and the transition to AB 361 should be straightforward for any bodies that are currently meeting remotely the Executive Order No. N-29-20 procedures.

*Philip J. Pogledich* County Counsel

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Brown Act applies to "legislative bodies," which the Act defines as including (i) a governing body of a local agency or local body created by state or federal statute, (ii) a commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decision-making or advisory, created by a legislative body. *See* Gov. Code § 54952.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/county-counsel</u>, or just search for "Yolo County Counsel" in any search engine.

Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361 September 30, 2021 Page 2

In summary, the benefits of conducting remote meetings pursuant to AB 361 versus the alternative Brown Act procedure are as follows:

Brown Act Requirements ("Old Rules")	AB 361 Rules
• Agendas <b>must</b> be posted at each teleconference location	• Agendas <b>do not</b> need to be posted at each teleconference location
• All teleconference locations must be listed on the agenda	
• Each teleconference location <b>must</b> be accessible to the public, and the public <b>must</b> be allowed to offer comments from each location	• Local agencies <b>do not</b> need to allow public participation at each (or any) teleconference location, but instead must "clearly advertise" how members of the public can participate on the agenda
	• Public participation <b>must</b> allow for either a call-in option or an internet-based service option to directly address the body in real-time during public comment
	• In the event the meeting broadcast is disrupted, the meeting <b>must</b> pause until it is restored
• At least a quorum of the legislative body <b>must</b> be present within the agency's territory	• Legislative body members <b>may</b> participate from anywhere

### A. Initial Adoption of Findings Required by AB 361

To use AB 361's simplified procedures after October 1, 2021, the Governor must have declared a state of emergency (a local state of emergency is not sufficient), and the state of emergency must be in effect. For the current COVID-19 pandemic, this requirement is satisfied. Additionally, **either** of the following circumstances must be present:

- State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; or
- As a result of the declared emergency, the legislative body finds by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

In Yolo County, the Health Officer currently recommends social distancing for public agency meetings. Accordingly, starting October 1, AB 361 **automatically** applies to any remote meeting of a legislative

Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361 September 30, 2021 Page 3

body in Yolo County. You do not need to do anything to transition from the Executive Order procedures to AB 361 at you first meeting on or after October 1.

That said, this Office recommends that all local legislative bodies consider adding an item for consideration at the beginning of their first meeting on or after October 1 to affirm their intention to proceed using AB 361. The agenda item can be part of a consent agenda or otherwise listed before any other substantive agenda items are considered, using the following (or similar) language:

#### Authorize remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This memo can be provided with the agenda materials to inform all legislative body members of the basis for the agenda item. Also, the County Health Officer has prepared a short memo that covers both social distancing and also, if a legislative body so chooses, information to support an "imminent risks" finding (discussed in subsection B, below). A copy of the Health Officer memo will accompany the distribution of this memo, and it will be updated monthly and posted on the County Counsel's web page.

As an additional note, please ensure you update any language about remote meetings on your agenda to reflect the use of AB 361. Many local boards, commissions, and committees have included standard text on the cover page of their agendas referring to Executive Order N-29-20. Those references are outdated after September 30, 2021, which is the sunset date for the Executive Order. Going forward, you should refer instead to Government Code section 54953(e)(1) instead, which includes the new language from AB 361.

### B. Renewal of Findings

Once a legislative body has an initial meeting under AB 361, it must make certain findings every 30 days to continue meeting remotely using the simplified rules. The findings to be made are as follows:

(i) The {*name of legislative body*} has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency proclaimed for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(ii) Local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and/or

(iii) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of the  $\{name \ of \ legislative \ body\}$  to meet safely in person.

Similar to the recommended agenda language included above, the "renewal" action can be agendized for consideration at the beginning of the meeting (including as part of a consent agenda, if one is used) with the following language:

Renew authorization for remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, that (a) the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency is ongoing, and (b) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing [, and/or (c) meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees].

Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361 September 30, 2021 Page 4

As indicated, only finding (b) or (c) is required, and the appropriate finding(s) to adopt will necessarily depend on the circumstances existing at the time of renewal. As noted above, renewal of these findings is required every 30 days after a legislative body first meets remotely pursuant to AB 361. For legislative bodies that meet less frequently, this Office believes there is no need to hold a special meeting just to adopt the renewal findings within 30 days of the last meeting, and the same procedure should be followed at the outset of the meeting the next time the body convenes.

### C. Summary of Recommended Actions

In summary, to properly meet remotely using AB 361, a legislative body should:

For its **first meeting** on or after October 1, 2021:

1. Replace any agenda language referring to Executive Order N-29-20 with a reference to AB 361 or Government Code section 54953(e)(1) (either is fine).

2. Also, if desired (for example, to notify the public), include a consent agenda item as follows:

Authorize remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, that, local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the **second meeting** on or after October 1, 2021 (or any other subsequent meeting occurring within 30 days of the first meeting), adopt renewal findings as follows:

Renew authorization for remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, that (a) the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency is ongoing, and (b) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing [, and/or (c) meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees].

#### **D.** Questions

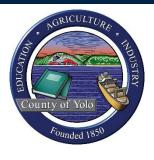
Any questions about this memo or Assembly Bill 361 can be directed to:

Phil Pogledich County Counsel Philip.pogledich@yolocounty.org

Or to:

Eric May Senior Deputy County Counsel Eric.may@yolocounty.org

While e-mail communications are preferred, you may also call 530-666-8172 and ask to speak with either of the above attorneys.



# **COUNTY OF YOLO**

Health and Human Services Agency

Karen Larsen, LMFT Director

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH Health Officer MAILING ADDRESS 137 N. Cottonwood Street • Woodland, CA 95695 www.yolocounty.org

Date: October 20, 2021 To: All Yolo County Boards and Commissions From: Dr. Aimee Sisson, Health Officer Subject: Remote Public Meetings

On September 22, I issued a memo recommending remote meetings. While the case rate in Yolo County has declined over the last month, the current case rate represents substantial community transmission. In the context of substantial community transmission, I continue to recommend meetings be held remotely whenever possible. I am re-issuing that memo with updated COVID-19 case rate data.

In light of the ongoing public health emergency related to COVID-19 and the substantial level of community transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, the Yolo County Public Health Officer recommends that public bodies continue to meet remotely to the extent possible. Board and Commissions can utilize the provisions of newly enacted AB 361 to maintain remote meetings under the Ralph M. Brown Act and similar laws.

Among other reasons, the grounds for the remote meeting recommendation include:

- The continued threat of COVID-19 to the community. As of October 20, 2021, the current case rate is 11.8 cases per 100,000 residents per day. This case rate is considered "Substantial" under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) framework for assessing community COVID-19 transmission; and
- The unique characteristics of public governmental meetings, including the increased mixing associated with bringing together people from across the community, the need to enable those who are immunocompromised or unvaccinated to be able to safely continue to fully participate in public governmental meetings, and the challenges of ensuring compliance with safety requirements and recommendations at such meetings.

Meetings that cannot feasibly be held virtually should be held outdoors when possible, or indoors only in small groups with face coverings, maximal physical distance between participants, use of a portable HEPA filter (unless comparable filtration is provided through facility HVAC systems), and shortened meeting times.

This recommendation is based upon current conditions and available protective measures. The Public Health Officer will continue to evaluate this recommendation on

**Davis** 600 A Street Davis, CA 95616 Mental Health (530) 757-5530 West Sacramento 500 Jefferson Boulevard West Sacramento, CA95605 Service Center (916) 375-6200 Mental Health (916) 375-6350 Public Health (916) 375-6380 Winters 111 East Grant Avenue Winters, CA 95694 Service Center (530) 406-4444 Woodland

25 & 137 N. Cottonwood Street Woodland, CA 95695 Service Center (530) 661-2750 Mental Health (530) 666-8630 Public Health (530) 666-8645 an ongoing basis and will communicate when there is no longer such a recommendation with respect to meetings for public bodies.



## **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 1:00 – 3:00 PM

This meeting occurred via teleconference compliant with the Governor's <u>Executive Order</u> <u>N-29-20</u> which allows for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The recording of this meeting can be viewed <u>here</u>.

LAC Members		
Kent Boes	Colusa County	
	Supervisor	
Wendy G. Tyler	Colusa County	
	Administrative Officer	
Mike Ziegenmeyer	Sutter County	
	Supervisor	
Steven M. Smith	Sutter County	
Steven W. Smith	Administrative Officer	
Don Saylor	Yolo County	
	Supervisor	
Daniel Kim	Yolo County Interim	
	Administrative Officer	

### General Agenda

### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Meeting started 1:06pm. Roll called, LAC members present were: Colusa County Administrative Officer Wendy Tyler. Sutter County Administrative Officer Steve Smith. Yolo County Supervisor Don Saylor. Yolo County Interim Administrative Officer Daniel Kim.



(Sutter County Supervisor Mike Ziegenmeyer and Colusa County Supervisor Kent Boes later joined the meeting from phone and over video, respectively).

Also present were: Colusa, Sutter, and Yolo Regional Child Support Services Director Natalie Dillon. Assistant Director Colin Anderson. Assistant Director Amanda Battles.

### 2. Consider Approval of Agenda

1:08pm, Director Dillon requested motion to approve the agenda. Supervisor Saylor motioned to approve, Administrator Tyler seconded motion. Votes approved.

MOVED BY: Saylor / SECONDED BY: Tyler AYES: Tyler, Smith, Saylor, Kim. NOES: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Boes, Ziegenmeyer.

### 3. Public Comment

1:09pm, No live public comment via callers / online chat. None received via other correspondence before meeting start.

### Approval of Consent Agenda

1:09pm, Administrator Tyler motioned to approve consent agenda. Administrator Smith seconded motion. Votes approved.

MOVED BY: Tyler / SECONDED BY: Smith AYES: Tyler, Smith, Saylor, Kim. NOES: None.



ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Boes, Ziegenmeyer.

### Consent Items

- 4. Approve the minutes of the May 26, 2021 Leadership Advisory Committee Meeting
- 5. General Update
- 6. Long Range Planning Calendar

### **Discussion Items**

### 7. Yuba City Office Move Update – Colin Anderson

1:10pm, Assistant Director Anderson provided update on the possible move of Yuba City office staff to property at Butte House Road. The Regional Agency is now obtaining contractor bids for tenant improvements and other necessary construction to create office space for personnel. Estimated completion time is April, 2022.

### 8. Regional Child Support Agency Financial Update – Amanda Battles

1:20pm, Assistant Director Battles advised the Committee that the Regional Agency's financial year 2021 has been completed and all budgets have been submitted to the State under-budget. Battles explained that for the year 2021, the Regional Agency still used three separate County and three separate State budgets throughout the financial year and for end-year submissions per the regionalization memorandum of understanding (MOU). Presently, the Regional Agency is still using three separate budgets but are working to transition this to a single budget under Yolo County to simplify this process.

Battles explained updates to the budget methodology for the California Child Support Program; the statewide program using this new method now considers caseload sizes and full-time equivalent (FTE) employees to local funding



allocations. The Regional Agency is monitoring how future changes to case load and personnel costs will affect future funding allocations. The most up to date calculator will be released in the spring of 2022. However, the Regional Agency can better monitor its financial glidepath to better plan spending.

Supervisor Saylor asked for clarification on glidepath terminology. Using current examples, Battles explained that the glidepath involves calculations on what future program allocation is likely to be considering present-day changes to methodology factors; this is so local agencies may better plan spending and expenditures moving toward future allocations.

Battles provided update on Federal Performance Incentive Funds, explaining that unspent regular State and federal program funding cannot be rolled over or saved to be spent in future years. However, more flexibility is offered by Federal Performance Incentive Funds, essentially allowing the State to roll over these funds which in turn can help local agencies. The Regional Agency recently learned we're likely to receive \$77,000 in roll-over incentive funds. These funds will help the Regional Agency with the upcoming Yuba City office move; not all planned spending has been determined a this time.

### 9. Performance Management Plan (PMP) Update – Colin Anderson

1:35pm, Assistant Director Anderson explained that as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the start of the Federal Fiscal Year, the Regional Agency will have an integrated caseload. One of the benefits of this approach is it will allow for us to better understand performance data and efforts. An important performance effort by local child support agencies is the development and utilization of a Performance Management Plan (PMP), which is also submitted to the State Department of Child Support Services. Pre-regionalization, the Agency prepared and submitted three separate PMPs; with an integrated caseload and new personnel organization, we have now developed and are preparing to submit a single regional PMP.



Anderson provided an overview of the Regional Agency's 2021/2022 PMP. The five goals of this plan include Facilitate Consistent Support for Children; Strengthen Customer Engagement; Enhance Program Performance; Build Collaborative Partnerships and Benefit Families; and Foster Innovation and Improve Service Delivery.

Supervisor Saylor requested clarification on Performance Indicators. Anderson clarified the difference between strategic State goals and how they've added to our PMP; adding the Performance Indicators (PI) gives the Agency raw data that can indicate effort performance, like stipulation efforts, as an example. Saylor also requested more data in the future to better understand program impact, like stipulation, new cases, and overall collections. Administrator Tyler commented that she appreciates that the Regional Agency has chosen to focus on stipulations as it relates to strategic performance goals and how this may strengthen relationships.

Anderson provided update on new case opening efforts, sharing recent caseload trend data from the Regional Agency compared to the child support program statewide. These efforts include concentrating on Social Media usage to increase program awareness; regional implementation of our Quick Application process; a new Bold Chat feature for our website to increase access to our personnel; and increasing community engagement with partners, like local Family Law Facilitators (FLFs).

Director Dillon and LAC members discussed the nature of assisted and neverassisted classified cases and opportunities to reach families that may be unfamiliar with child support services. Dillon also provided information on Federal Performance measures providing an example of local tracking of this data. Supervisor Saylor requested monthly performance data reports for the LAC; Dillon confirmed the Regional Agency can provide this to whichever LAC member would like reporting.

### **10. Leadership Advisory Committee Comments and Discussion**



2:14pm, Director Dillon opened the discussion to all committee members for questions, comments, or input.

No questions or comments from the LAC. Dillon provided update on changes and meeting requirements surrounding the expiration of the Governor's executive order concerning public meetings and the Brown Act; advising the LAC should be able to continue a form of virtual meetings to cut down on travel as long as requirements are met.

### 11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 2:17pm

**NOTICE** If requested, this agenda can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Federal Rules and Regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Persons seeking an alternative format should contact the Health Council Secretary for further information. In addition, a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in a public meeting should telephone or otherwise contact the Leadership Advisory Committee support staff as soon as possible and preferably at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. The Leadership Advisory Committee support staff may be reached at 530-661-2832, via email at childsupport@csy.cse.ca.gov or at the following address: Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Regional Child Support Agency, 100 W Court St, Woodland, CA 95695.



To:RCSA Leadership Advisory CommitteeFrom:Natalie Dillon, Regional DirectorSubject:General Update (Agenda Item #6)Date:December 1, 2021

#### Caseload integration

The caseloads of the three counties were successfully integrated in the latter part of September in anticipation of the new federal fiscal year. As a result, each case worker has cases from throughout our combined jurisdiction and teams are serving the entire region.

#### Centralized Mail Processing

We have transitioned processing of Sutter County Child Support along with the Colusa and Yolo mail to the Woodland office. We have reentered into an agreement with Yolo Health and Human Services (HHSA) for access to their mail room and postage meter, reducing costs to the child support agency.

#### **Centralized Banking**

In collaboration with the Yolo County Department of Financial Services, we have opened a new bank account at Wells Fargo to centralize the banking function for the child support payments that are directly given to staff of the Regional Child Support Agency. The vast majority of payments are issued directly to the California State Disbursement Unit (SDU), however some are provided to the local child support agency at our front counter or court. These payments will be deposited into the Wells Fargo account, accessible in all three locations, and transferred to the SDU by ACH payment. This will allow us to close the Colusa and Yolo US Bank accounts. Sutter had previously managed this process through the county treasury.

#### Automation

#### Common IT Platform Update

We successfully completed the email migrations of the Colusa and Sutter child support employees such that all Regional Child Support Agency employee email is <u>lastname.firstname@csy.cse.ca.gov</u>.



#### E-filing with the Court

We successfully completed testing between DCSS, Tyler (the Court case management system vendor), the Yolo Superior Court and effective earlier this week we can e-file child support documents with the Yolo Superior court.

The Sutter Superior Court is in queue to e-file with Child Support in June 2022.

The Colusa Court implemented the Tyler Odyssey solution as their court case management system last month. We will begin conversations soon as to their openness to e-file.

#### Administration

#### Administrative Expenditure Claim (CS356) Audit

Yolo County was selected by DCSS for an audit of the 2019 Administrative Expenditure Claim. Staff worked with auditors from the California Department of Child Support Services this summer and were pleased to receive an audit report with no findings.

#### **Facilities**

The Woodland child support office experienced a significant flood October 21<sup>st</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> during the heavy rains. The second story of the building is being renovated for County IT, and modifications were made to the roof such that there was significant influx of rainwater into the first floor. Yolo County General Services was very responsive working throughout the weekend and beyond to abate the water and mitigate damages. Two offices and a large perimeter wall were significantly damaged requiring new drywall. Fortunately, damage to technology equipment was limited. Most staff have their laptops with them and are not left in the office. A few monitors were damaged. The flood and subsequent repairs displaced many staff located in the Woodland office. Most reverted to full time telework, but several worked in the large training room in temporary workstations to ensure customers were able to be served. Air quality samples were completed and were determined safe. Woodland staff have been able to return to their primary work location and resume their approved work schedule.

The Colusa office lease expires February 2022. Negotiations with the property owner, Ralph Keeley, have commenced with tentative terms for a new 5-year lease to include new paint, carpet cleaning and new building signage. We are currently working to obtain cost estimates, and with Yolo County Counsel on the contract as the new lease will be out of Yolo County.



# Long Range Planning Calendar

The tri county Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC) that provides guidance to the Colusa, Sutter, and Yolo Regional Child Support Agency (RCSA) meets at least annually. For calendar year 2021, the LAC agreed to meet quarterly and requested a Long Range Planning Calendar.

2021 Long Range Planning Calendar	Presenter	
February 2021		
FFY 2020 County Performance Update	Colin Anderson	
FY 21/22 Regional Budget Update	Amanda Battles	
May 2021		
FFY 2020 Regional Performance Update	Colin Anderson	
September 2021		
FFY 2022 Performance Management Plan	Colin Anderson	
December 2021		
FFY 2021 Preliminary Performance Report	Colin Anderson	





То:	RCSA Leadership Advisory Committee
From:	Natalie Dillon, Regional Director
Subject:	2022 Meeting Schedule and Location (Agenda Item #8)
Date:	December 1, 2021

#### **Meeting Frequency**

During the February 24, 2021 meeting of the Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC), staff recommended that we convene meetings twice annually – the first meeting to be held in February/March prior to budget submission and to discuss performance from previous federal fiscal year; and the second meeting to occur around August/September to discuss performance planning and priorities for the upcoming federal fiscal year. The LAC bylaws allow for a minimum of one meeting per year.

Article V, Section 1 of the Leadership Advisory Committee bylaws state:

The Regional Director will convene the Child Support Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting a minimum of one time per year. The Committee will meet at such times and places the Committee shall decide and will be called by the Regional Director. Meetings can be held in person, telephonically or virtually.

Given it was the first year of the Regional Child Support Agency (RCSA), there was interest and the LAC voted to meet quarterly the first year and to consider adjusting for future years.

Staff recommends the LAC meet twice in 2022 around February and August; with focus on budget and performance reporting.

#### Meeting Location

Staff recommends that the LAC continue to meet virtually until no longer possible. When the LAC meets in person, staff recommends that meetings be held on a rotational basis, with the first meeting being held at the RCSA in Woodland, the second in Colusa County (specific location to be determined), and the third in Sutter County (specific location to be determined) – rotating in this order until decided otherwise.

#### Actions Needed:

- 1. Consider and vote on the frequency of LAC meetings for calendar year 2022;
- 2. Consider and vote on the staff recommendation to meet virtually until no longer permissible under the rules of the Brown Act, and to rotate meeting location thereafter.



То:	RCSA Leadership Advisory Committee
From:	Colin S. Anderson, Regional Assistant Director
Subject:	Yuba City Office Move Update (Agenda Item # 9)
Date:	December 1, 2021

The current Yuba City location of the Regional Child Support Agency (RCSA) is located at 543 Garden Hwy # A, Yuba City, CA, also known as Holly Oak Square. The Child Support program has been at this location since 1990 and currently occupies 5,500 square feet. There is a subset of Health and Human Service Department (HHSD) functions located in this same strip center, adjacent to Child Support. The Child Support lease at Holly Oak Square expired on October 1, 2018, making it a month to month arrangement. During the term of the lease, the cost was adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In 2020, the landlord increased the monthly cost per square foot at \$1.36. The current location of Child Support is not proximate to other County Services or the Sutter Superior Court (a partner with whom Child Support works closely). At our last Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting staff gave an update on the exploration of a new leased space in Yuba City for the RCSA. Here is a summary of that update:

The RCSA hired Turton Commercial Real Estate to assist us in the Real Estate search. Turton found three (3) potential properties; the RCSA narrowed its focus on the property located at 1445 Butte House Road in Yuba City, CA.

The LAC was also informed of the RCSA's goal of obtaining a smaller office footprint, reducing costs to the regional agency. Furthermore, a poll of RCSA staff indicated an overwhelming majority of staff wanted to continue teleworking thus allowing for "hoteling" opportunities for staff in a smaller office.

Latest Update – An intensifying global supply chain crisis has caused a shortage of building materials sending prices for construction projects soaring. In addition, a lack of skilled workers available has increased labor prices. This has impacted our proposed project at Butte House Road. Initial estimates from Yolo County General Services experienced Project Managers thought the work we were contemplating would cost between \$100,000 and a \$150,000. This was based on space planning drawings and relying on their experience in project managing large government construction projects. We had conservatively budgeted for \$200,000 for the entire project. (Improvements did not contemplate adding bathrooms or kitchen areas as they were already present in the common area.) As a result of the global supply chain crisis and the labor shortage the estimates were coming in at \$500,000 just for construction. This did not include moving expenses, furniture, telecom, internet, etc.



The RCSA does not have \$500,000 plus available for this project and it seems imprudent to be spending the public's money in the face of the high prices of the current market.

We are now concentrating our efforts on trying to find a site that requires little to no upgrades/tenant improvements for our agency to occupy. The RCSA will continue to work with Turton to try and find a suitable location for the RCSA's Yuba City Office.



To:	RCSA Leadership Advisory Committee
From:	Colin S. Anderson, Regional Assistant Director
Subject:	2021 FFY Performance Update (Agenda Item #10)
Date:	December 1, 2021

Working through adversity and change have been hallmarks of the Colusa-Sutter-Yolo Regional Child Support Agency (RCSA) in this last fiscal year. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 three (3) separate Local Child Support Agencies (LCSA) came together to form one cohesive and efficient agency. This was done during a global pandemic and exposed staff to a whole new paradigm, i.e., the handling of cases across County lines from different locations within the region. Even with this adversity and change the RCSA continues to be a high performing Child Support operation. This can be seen in the FFY 2021's performance through various data points that are to be discussed. The data is gleaned from the statewide system, CSE, and is compiled by the California Department of Child Support Services (CA DCSS) is converted to reports for use by local agencies and is submitted to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) through performance reports. OCSE and DCSS provide oversight to this program and specifically monitor performance against established Federal Performance Measures (FPMs) that all national child support programs are evaluated against.

In FFY 2021, each LCSA (Colusa, Sutter, and Yolo) performance was tracked individually, not regionally. However, the RCSA has collated the data so the Board can see it in a regional format. The integration of our case management and cases for the region occurred in late September of this year. From now on the case level performance data will be tracked on a regional basis. However, each individual County's data can and will be available for analysis. What follows are some key data points have been provided in a narrative about this data and its significance. Attached to this report are charts that show the relative performance in the last three (3) years along with the State of California's performance on that respective metric.

#### **Distributed Collections**

One of the most important data points for any child support agency is distributed child support collections. A small subset of what we collect is returned to the government as recoupment of public assistance costs. In FFY 2021 our region's distributed collections (which is comprised of current support and arrears collections) was \$27,500,082. The prior year's distributed collections for the region were \$28,844,206. Thus, FFY 2021 saw a 4.6% decrease in collections from FFY 2020. Back in FFY 2019 total distributed collections for the region was \$24,800,240. The reasons for this spike in collections for FFY



2020 are seen in the fact that individual and family circumstances changed significantly during the pandemic, resulting in an increase in modifications, changes in Income Withholding, unemployment intercepts and interception of the federal stimulus payments. One striking data point that really illustrates what is going on is the percentage of our distributed collections withholding orders. From FFY 2014 to FFY 2019 the percentage of distributed collections coming income withholding orders stayed extremely consistent between 67% - 68%. In FFY 2020 this dropped to 57.1%. The lowest it has ever been in our record of available data for the program. In FFY 2021 this data point increased slightly to 58.0. A marginal increase and is indicative of what our Agency is seeing in the job market. Our program on the other hand has seen our collections from unemployment rise significantly in the last couple of fiscal years. We anticipate that as the economy recovers, and unemployment lessens our collections will be more aligned with FFY 2019 collections.

#### Federal Performance Measure (FPM) – Paternity

IV-D Paternity Establishment Percentage or IV-D PEP as it is otherwise known, tracks the Region's performance in Paternity. This metric tracks the number of children in IV-D cases with Paternity established or acknowledged in the current fiscal year (2021) and compares it with children in IV-D cases open at the end of the prior FFY (FFY 2020) who were born out-of-wedlock. To come up with a percentage you divide the current number of Paternity established in the current fiscal by out-of-wedlock births in your caseload from the previous year. For example: Our region in FFY 2021 had 7,007 paternities established or acknowledged this was divided by the 6,820 out-of-wedlock births from the prior year; hence a Paternity outcome of 102.7%. It is not unusual for performance on Paternity to be in excess of 100%.

In FFY 2021 the RCSA's performance was 102.7% in this metric. The RCSA is down ever so slightly from FFY 2020 which saw our performance at 103.1%. The State of California is at 100.8% on this metric. Thus, the RCSA is outperforming the State as a whole. Paternity establishment continues to be a high priority for the RCSA.

#### Federal Performance Measure (FPM) – Orders

One of the key functions of a child support agency is the establishment of child and medical support orders. Without an order there is no way to enforce and ultimately collect child support. The FPM on orders is reflected as a percentage of the total number of cases open compared to the number of cases with an order. As new cases are opened, staff work to establish an order – so achievement of 100% is not possible. The higher the percentage, the more families we can work to distribute child support to.

In FFY 2021 the RCSA's performance was 93.9 % in this metric. The RCSA is up marginally from FFY 2020 which saw our performance at 93.5%. The State of California is at 92.8% on this metric. Thus, the RCSA



is outperforming the State as a whole. Our region has worked hard to increase our performance is this area.

#### Federal Performance Measure (FPM) – Current Support

The Current Support FPM tracks by percentage the amount of current child support that is paid as compared to what is owed. As an example, a child support obligor (Person Paying Support PPS): has a child support order to pay \$100 per month to support their child. For the month of January, they pay \$80. For that month, the PPS paid 80% of their obligation. Case level data is aggregated and measured monthly, expressing a percentage of current support collected. One of the goals of the California Child Support program is consistent and reliable support – this FPM is used to ascertain achievement towards this goal.

In FFY 2021 the RCSA's performance was 72.3% in this metric. The RCSA is up from FFY 2020 which saw our performance at 71.4%. The State of California is at 66.5% on this metric. Thus, the RCSA is outperforming the State as a whole. This metric is important. It is the amount of current support that is going directly to families in the region. The ability to raise this metric almost a full percentage point with the adversity and change faced by our agency is a testament to the hard work that our Regional Staff put in every day.

#### Federal Performance Measure (FPM) - Arrears

Another FPM pertains to arrears, child support owed in a previous month and not paid. This debt is calculated monthly and accrues interest at a rate of 10%. This FPM looks, by percentage, at the number of cases that owe arrears and a payment on arrears has been made during the FFY.

In FFY 2021 the RCSA's performance was 77.5% in this metric. The RCSA is down from FFY 2020 which saw our performance at 80.7%. The State of California is at 74.5% on this metric. Thus, the RCSA is outperforming the State as a whole. FFY 2020 performance was a true anomaly for arrears collections. This can be seen in our numbers but also in the State's arrears numbers that for FFY 2020 were at 78%. You can see our Region and the State dropped 3 to 4 percentage points between 2020 and 2021. The explanation is simple. The Child Support program intercepted the first COVID related stimulus payment (not subsequent stimulus payments) issued under the CARES Act. The intercepted money applied to child support arrears, significantly improving local and statewide performance.

This data clearly shows how the region was able to navigate the turbulent waters of adversity and change and outperform the State despite these difficulties and challenges. We as an agency will continue to strive to improve all aspects of the program.

