# Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Governance Committee

# Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This meeting was held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code Section 11123.5. Members can be in-person or virtual (V)

**Committee Members**: Catherine Campisi (V), Michael Clay (V), Danielle Hess (V), and Charlie Kaplan (V)

**CCEPD Staff Members:** Maria Aliferis-Gjerde (V), Matt Baker (V), Erica Carter (Posted Location), Zak Ford (V), and LaCandice Ochoa (V)

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

YLF Project Manager Matt Baker called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Matt facilitated in place of YLF Governance Chair Andeson, who was unable to attend the meeting.

1. **YLF 2025 Recap & Wrap Up**

The 2025 YLF program was attended by 50 students out of 60 selected.

YLF Project Manager provided a budget update for YLF 2025. State partnership funding is in progress, and we are awaiting checks from those partners.

Pledged funding for YLF 2025 was $381,314.23. Total cost to date was $270,155.27. This should be closer to the final total, pending a few minor expenses and invoices to be paid. We are projected to have about $66,879.83 carryover for fall regional events, marketing, and funding for YLF 2026.

CCEPD Member Ochoa emphasized the need to have enough food for next year’s event. Matt briefly explained plans for a possible plated service for next year to ensure adequate meals.

1. **YLF 2025 Delegate & Staff Survey Results**

CCEPD staff member Ford presented the results of the YLF delegate surveys, noting the highest survey completion rates in the program's history. 50 out of 50 pre-surveys were submitted and 47 out of 50 post-surveys.The surveys contain useful observations for program improvement.

Highlighted are the areas where delegates showed significant growth in confidence. Despite small increases in some areas, Zak emphasized that even minimal growth could indicate delegates entered the program with already high confidence and was not a negative.

Areas of Growth:

* 51.4% Knowledge of Americans with Disability Act
* 45.3 % Knowledge Disability Rights Movements and Leaders
* 40.5% now where to find a job
* 39.4 % Know other young people with disabilities
* 38.5 % Knowledge of CalABLE account is
* 37.6% Strong connection to the disability community

Areas with Minimal Increase:

* 1.7 % Comfortable explaining my accommodations for sports
* 8.1% I know what I want to do after high school
* 13.6% share opinions with others
* 14.5% I feel confident making my own choices and decisions
* 15.8% Comfortable communicating with new people

It was suggested that delegates might benefit from more personalized sessions on school and career exploration, financial literacy, and advocacy details. The survey results also showed that delegates valued interactions with small group staff, accommodation for disabilities, and small group sessions, while ranking the YLF schedule and dorms lower.

The Executive Officer highlighted the success of attracting recent alumni as staff and identified areas for improvement in scheduling and communication.

Members discussed strategies to increase staff survey response rates, including timing and incentives. Ford mentioned plans to implement year-over-year comparisons beginning in the third year of using the same survey. Members Kaplan and Campisi suggested sending surveys soon after the program ends and potentially offering incentives for staff responses.

1. **YLF 2026 Governance Membership**

Planning for the 2026 Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) has begun with the possible re-establishment of governance work groups. Matt presented an overview of the governance planning activities, including membership structure, meeting schedules, and proposed agenda items.

Highlighted was the need to reform five core work groups: *fund development, logistics, personnel, program, and student selection*.

Alumna Kyla Aquino Irving was introduced as the new chair of the fund development work group, succeeding Members Kaplan and Campisi who are retiring after many years of service but still would like to have a more scaled down contribution.

Members discussed the importance of increasing alumni involvement in planning and fund development. Baker spoke about the need for a new logistics chair and the potential for more members to participate in various work groups.

CCEPD Member Ochoa inquired about creating a work group focused on alumni engagement, which Baker acknowledged as a future consideration.

The group confirmed Dani Anderson as the governance chair for YLF 2026.

Motion (Kaplan/Campisi) to confirm Dani Anderson as chair passed unanimously (4-0-0).

1. **Regional YLF Events**

Updates on regional YLF events were provided, including three upcoming events in October and early November, with two in the LA area and one in Sacramento.

Campisi suggested a potential partnership with a local high school program in Long Beach that would align well with regional YLF initiatives. Emphasis was placed on finalizing the annual report and establishing work groups for planning YLF 2026.

1. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

No Items mentioned.

1. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

1. **Adjournment at 3:05 pm**