STATE OF CALIFORNIA - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

[ ] State Law Change
[ ] Federal Law or Regulation Change
[ ] Court Order
[ ] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
[x] Initiated by CDSS

June 30, 2004

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-45-04

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: PROMISING PRACTICES GUIDE ON PERMANENCY

The purpose of this notice is to share the second compilation of the "Promising Practices Guide". The focus of this guide is produced pursuant to the federal California Program Improvement Plan (PIP) found in Outcome 2B, Action Step 7. The PIP in its entirety can be found on the Children and Family Services Division web site. The guide will be updated to add other promising permanency planning practices and again periodically as new promising practices and programs are identified. The guide contains a brief description of the promising practice along with information regarding how to access more detailed information via contact persons and web links. The document can be found on the California Department of Social Services web site: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/AllCountyI_543.htm.

If you have any questions or recommendations for programs and practices that you feel should be added to this list please contact the Permanency Policy Bureau, Concurrent Planning Manager, Karen Gunderson at (916)657-1858.

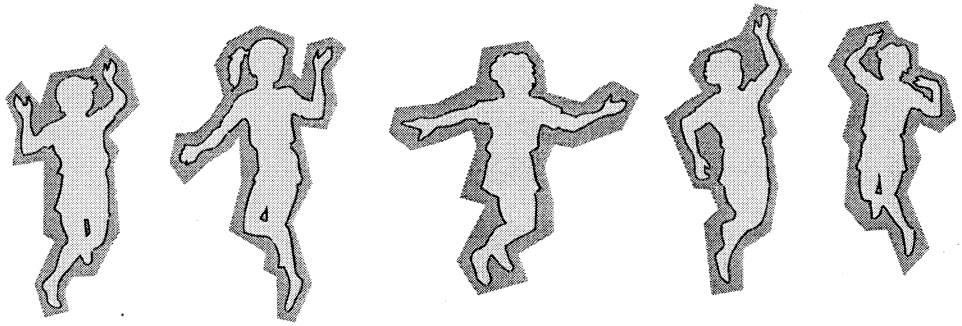
Sincerely,
Original signed by
PATRICIA AGUIAR
PATRICIA AGUIAR, Chief
Child and Youth Permanency Branch

Attachment

c: CWDA

Promising Practices Approaches To Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

A Resource and Technical Assistance Guide for California Counties



California Department of Social Services
Children and Family Services Division
Child Protection and Family Support Branch

April 2004

Introduction

The California Department of Social Services is pleased to present the second compilation of Promising Practices for counties' use in learning about and connecting to child welfare programs and models that are already up and working in one or more counties. This is the part of an evolving and continuing effort to identify and share effective practice strategies, approaches and models. The Promising Practices Guide (PPG) will be updated periodically and will eventually be subsumed within a web-based Clearinghouse of Evidence-based Practice that is being developed as a component of the Child Welfare Redesign.

The information contained in this issuance of the PPG has been gleaned from several sources including pilot projects supported by statutory/regulatory waivers; foundation-supported initiatives; practices identified in high-performing counties; and local-level applications of national or research-based models. It should be stressed that this compilation is in no way intended to represent a complete inventory of all promising practices underway in California and that we intend to add to the guide on an ongoing basis.

Within each of these strategies, the PPG provides examples of specific programs within the State that are successfully utilizing the approach. Descriptions of programs include contact information and web links that can be used to obtain more details. In order to make the PPG as useful as possible, it also contains a section that connects the user to a variety of resources for information, training and technical assistance.

We hope you will find this PPG to be a helpful addition to the child welfare services 'toolbox'. We welcome your comments and invite you to submit practices/programs that may be included in future updates of the guide. The PPG is available on the web at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/. Should you have any questions about the PPG, please contact Pat Aguiar, Chief, Child and Youth Permanency Branch at (916) 651-7464 or by e-mail at paguiar@dss.ca.gov.

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Family to Family

Target Population

Families and children involved in the child welfare system

Description

The Family to Family Initiative provides an opportunity to reconceptualize and reconstruct the foster care system. It strengthens the network of families available to care for abused and neglected children in their own communities; builds partnerships with at-risk neighborhoods toward that end; uses Team Decision Making to involve birth and resource families in placement decisions; and tracks outcomes for children and families so that child welfare systems can better learn from their experiences.

The goals of Family to Family are:

- Better screen children being considered for removal, determine what services might safely preserve the family, and assess needs of children
- Routinely place children with families in their own neighborhoods
- Involve foster families as team members in family reunification efforts
- Become a neighborhood resource for children and families and invest in the capacity of communities from which the foster care population comes
- Provide permanent families for children in a timely manner

By placing children in their own community, they are more likely to have visitation and lasting relationships with their family, potential for reunification is increased, and permanency is more likely with invested family and community members.

One quarter of California counties are currently implementing Family to Family.

Essential Components

- Recruiting, training and supporting
- Resource families
- Building community partnerships
- Team decision making
- Self-evaluation

Implementation Strategies

- Establish steering committee and perform self-assessment
- Site visit with technical assistance for education and mutual assessment
- Commitment of agency to Family to Family
- Develop implementation plan
- Identify, educate and involve critical stakeholders
- Build support and champion all levels of the organization
- Expect action and monitor progress in all strategies using data
- Train, inform and celebrate

Web Links & Contact Information

California Department of Social Services
Foster Care Support Services Bureau
744 P Street, MS 14-78
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-7465
www.f2f.ca.gov

Annie E. Casey Foundation
701 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 547-6600
www.aecf.org/familytofamily

Family Group Decision Making

Target Population

Children and families receiving child welfare and/or juvenile justice services.

Setting

Public and private child welfare and juvenile justice agencies, Tribal communities, and a variety of community-based organization.

Funding Sources

Child welfare and juvenile justice departments' funds; Federal Title IV-E funds; and foundation grants.

Description

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is a family centered, strengths-based, culturally relevant practice approach that recognizes that families receiving services do have valuable insights and can develop meaningful family plans for the care and protection of their own children. Since 1995 this practice has been used in several counties around California. Since 2001 this practice approach has also been implemented in juvenile probation services and mental health services in several counties around the state. Plans developed during FGDM meetings often outline how children and youth can maintain connections with their families, members of their circle of support and the families' communities. For adolescents who are aging out of the child welfare and juvenile justice system, FGDM meetings are often called Emancipation Conferences. Plans from these meetings sketch out action plans for achieving age appropriate goals and for successful transition into adulthood.

Essential Components

- Pre-meeting preparation of all participants planning to attend the meeting
- Trained, neutral coordinator/facilitator
- Brings together the nuclear family, the extended family, friends, community members, and informal and formal service providers
- Family alone time in which the family gathers to craft their plan to assure care and protection of their children
- Reconvening of the family and the service providers for the presentation of the family's plan and to determine if (and how) the plan needs to be strengthened

Implementation Strategies

- Develop partnerships between the public agency, community stakeholders and families so that these groups can come together to craft a strategic plan for the development and implementation of FGDM in the local community
- Build agreement within the administrators and manager to assure that this practice approach is in alignment with the agency's vision, mission, and values
- Develop a strategy for training managers, supervisors, line-workers, bench officers and other members of the child welfare system
- Develop supports, including resources, policies, procedures, and trained personnel
- Look for ways to help workers have hope for the families they are working with so that they utilize this practice approach

Web Links & Contact Information

Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice
UC Davis Extension
1632 Da Vinci Court
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 757-8643
http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/resource

Family Group Decision Making
American Humane Organization
http://www.americanhumane.irg/site/PageServer?pagename=pc_fgdm

California Practitioners Roundtable (CPR)
Marissa Famularo
265 South Street, Suite B
San Luis Obispo, CA 9341
(805) 549-0442
Email: mfamularo@creativemediation

Family Group Decision Making
San Luis Obispo County

Target Population

Families involved in child welfare services, especially those receiving Family Reunification services.

Setting

Community setting, family homes and child welfare offices.

Funding Sources

Contract with San Luis Obispo County Department of Child Welfare Services.

Description

This decision-making strategy is often used to help children maintain connections with their own families by providing family members opportunities to discuss and develop plans that establish ways for children to safely visit and/or return to live with their parents or other family members after spending time in foster care families. Given the goal of permanency FGDM meetings involving parents and family members throughout the continuum of care result in better decision that promote permanency and stability.

Essential Components

- Pre-meeting Coordination
- Facilitation of a three-phase meeting process which is inclusive of "Private Family Time"
- Facilitation Training
- Community Outreach

Implementation Strategies

- Formation of a steering committee
- Overview training for the steering committee and other stakeholders
- Investigation of parallel programs in other counties.
- Development of a time limited pilot program
- Since September 2000 San Luis Obispo County Department of Child Welfare Services has made FGDM meetings available to all families receiving services anywhere along the continuum of child welfare services

Web Links & Contact Information

Creative Mediation Services
265 South St., Ste. B
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 549-0442
(805) 549-0654 (fax)

Email: info@creativemediation.org

Web site:http://www.creativemediation.org/nFamily.htm

Orange County Department of Children and Family Services Emancipation Planning Conferences

Target Population

Youth who are receiving foster care services and are at least 16.5 years old.

Setting

Public Child Welfare Agency.

Funding Sources

TANF Incentive funds and Child Welfare Service funding.

Description

Based on the values and principles of Family Group Decision Making Emancipation Planning Conferences (EPCs) focus on the current and future needs of youth that are 16.5 years or older. The goal of these conferences is to facilitate the successful return to family and/ or community of young person's choosing. EPCs are held prior to semiannual court reviews and are part of the Transitional Independent Living Plans (TILP) and case plans. Holding the first EPC before a youth reaches their 17th birthday gives the young person at least six months to receive ILP support and services before becoming involved in a planning conference.

Essential Components

- Participation by the youth and his/her family and extended family as defined by the youth, foster care providers, CASA, mentors, ILP coaches, probation officers and the referring social worker.
- Coordination by senior social workers who are part of the Emancipation Services/Independent Living Program. The Coordinator attends EPCs to support the facilitators as needed.
- Co-facilitation by senior social workers. Two senior social workers facilitate EPCs as their full time job responsibility. Sixteen senior case carrying social workers facilitate EPCs as part of their job responsibilities.

Implementation Strategies

- Presentation to Presiding Judge and the Social Services Agency managers for approval and support.
- Presentation to the Juvenile County Bench Officers, County Council, Public Defenders, CASA, and Case-Carrying Senior Social Workers
- Identification of youth on the cusp of emancipation and offer of a FGDM meeting

Counties Utilizing Practice Model

Orange, Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo

Web Links & Contact Information

Bob Malmberg, Program Manager
Emancipation Services/Independent Living Program
800 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, CA 92868
(714) 704-8853
(714) 704-6120 (fax)
Bob.Malmberg@ssa.ocgov.com

Cheryl Alexander, Senior Social Services Supervisor
Emancipation Services/ Independent Living Program
800 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, CA 92868
(714) 704-8820
(714) 704-6120 (fax)
Cheryl.Alexander@ssa.ocgov.com

Christine Smith, Senior Social Services Supervisor
Quality Development Program
840 N. Eckhoff Street, Orange, CA 92868
(714) 704-8767
(714) 704-8758 (fax)
Christine.Smith@ssa.ocgov.com
http://www.oc4kids.com.uc.shtml?section=CFServices (under construction).

Kinship Support Services

Target Population

Relative caregivers and the children they are parenting.

Description

Relative placement provides increased stability and family connections for children that have been removed from their families of origin. Kinship Support Services provide community-based family support services to relative caregivers and the children in their homes. They also provide post-permanency services to relative caregivers that have become the legal guardian or adoptive parent of formerly dependent children. A goal of the program is to ensure that family ties are maintained and increase child safety and stability.

Community workers meet with the caregivers in their homes and at family centers to provide services that include but are not limited to:

- Counseling/training in parent-child relationships and conflict resolution
- Tutoring and mentoring of children/teens
- Case management of the program's services
- Peer support
- Parenting education
- Health assessments
- Respite activities
- Clothing
- Transportation
- Recreation activities

Eleven California counties provide formalized Kinship Support.

Essential Components

- Comprehensive, community based services
- Services sensitive to each locale's context and locale
- Family-centered
- The needs of kin care providers are similar to but not the same as non-kin care providers

Implementation Strategies

- Develop information and referral services
- Provide or contract for counseling and /or training
- Arrange for tutoring and mentoring of children/teens
- Provide or contract for post-permanency support services

Web Links & Contact Information

California Department of Social Services
Kinship Care Policy Unit
744 P Street, M.S. 14-66
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 657-1858
http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/KinshipCar_343.htm

Edgewood Center for Children and Families
http://www.edgewoodcenter.org

Kinship Support Network
Edgewood Center for Children and Families

Target Population

Kinship families in San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

Setting

Edgewood Family Center, San Mateo Center, and kinship family homes.

Funding Sources

San Francisco Department of Human Services
State General Fund
Multiple other sources

Description

Edgewood's Kinship Support Network is designed to help families who are raising kin achieve self-sufficiency. These families are often low-income. For children in kin care, services provided can include tutoring, health prevention, care guidance, mental health care, and creative arts activities to help them stay in school and grow into self-sufficient adults. For kin caregivers services provided can include one-to-one peer mentoring, parenting education, support groups, health assessments, and respite activities to help them raise a healthy child and maintain their own wellbeing.

Essential Components

- Private delivery of services at the community level
- Sufficient oversight and control by the appropriate public agencies
- Use of community workers from the client's neighborhoods
- Delivery of services at a central site
- Guidance to the program from the community by former service recipients who serve on the advisory board

Implementation Strategies

- Simplify the process of accessing services
- Public/private collaborative approach
- Blending of formal and informal service provision

Web Links & Contact Information

Family Center
One Rhode Island Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 865-3000

San Mateo Kinship Support Services Program
1796 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 326-6439

San Mateo Kinship Support Services Program
1115 Mission Road
South San Francisco, CA 94080
(650) 588-9580

www.edgewoodcenter.org

Permanency Planning Mediation

Target Population

Children and families involved with the public child welfare system.

Description

Permanency Planning Mediation (PPM) is a child-centered and family-focused alternate dispute resolution (ADR) strategy that is used in conjunction with court-based child welfare proceedings. Independent mediators who often are not members of the formal child welfare system facilitate PPMs. Mediators do not have any decision making authority nor do they advocate for a particular outcome. These neutral mediators are trained to guide parents and other family members, social workers, attorneys, and other child welfare practitioners in their development of child-specific permanency plans through constructive problem-solving strategies. PPMs also help resolve conflicts that may be barriers to the stability of permanency for children and youth by building cooperative relationships. PPMs are used to assist in the development of treatment and service plans, to outline parent: child visitations, resolve conflicts and develop stable placement options.

While most PPM projects are court-based they may also be based within a public social services agency such as Oregon's Cooperative Adoption Mediation Program (CAMP). PPM services can also be a program of a non-governmental agency.

Essential Components

- Trained third-party neutral mediators
- Structured decision making process

Implementation Strategies

- Public and private agencies in collaboration with juvenile and family courts and public child welfare agencies

Web Links & Contact Information

American Bar Association
Center on Children and The Law
740 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 662-1720
Fax (202) 662-1755
http://www.abanet.org/child/home2.html

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
P.O. Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
(775) 327-5300
Fax (775) 327-5306
www.ncjfcj.org

National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning
Hunter College School of Social Work
129 East 79th Street
New York, NY 1021
(212) 452-7053
Fax (212) 452-7051
www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp

Example: Permanency Planning Mediation

Consortium for Children

Target Population

Children receiving public child welfare services.

Setting

Community-based agency in collaboration with public child welfare agencies and community partnerships.

Funding Sources

- The Stuart Foundation
- The Zellerbach Family Foundation
- The Walter and Elise Haas Foundation
- Federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families funds

Description

Consortium for Children provides Permanency Planning Mediation for children who are receiving child welfare services and who have a contested plan of adoption and have a hearing for termination of parental rights scheduled. When appropriate, CFC's specially trained mediators will facilitate discussions amongst the birth families, the adoptive or guardian families and the child welfare agency to come to agreement on a permanent plan and post-permanency contact. These services are aimed at maintaining children's relationships with their birth families and those extended family systems.

The most frequent outcome of this mediation is an uncontested court action to terminate parental rights and an agreement for post-adoption contact.

Essential Components

- Permanency Planning Mediation
- Individual County Referral Protocols
- Mediation Training
- Training for County Child Welfare and Adoption Staff
- Collaboration with public child welfare agencies and the juvenile courts

Implementation Strategies

- Recruited and trained mediators
- Worked with a variety of stakeholders in the child welfare system (e.g., juvenile courts and child welfare and adoption staff) to develop referral protocols
- Trained stakeholders

Program Type

Private agency in partnership with Public and Private Child Welfare Agencies

Web Links & Contact Information

Consortium for Children
1115 Irwin Street, Suite 2000
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 458-1759
(415) 453-2264 (fax)
http://www.consortforkids.org (website)
cfc@consortforkids.org (email)

Placement Review Team

Target Population

Children and families receiving child welfare service

Setting

Public and private child welfare agencies

Funding Sources

Federal Title IV-A, B and IV-E, and Block Grants

Description

A Placement Review Team is a strategy used by public child welfare agencies throughout the continuum of child welfare services. Teams are often composed of agency administrators, social work supervisors, front-line workers, child advocates and representatives from community-based child welfare agencies. The goal of these teams is to increase placement stability and improve permanency outcomes for children and youth that are in out-of-home care by carefully considering the:

- specific needs of each child or youth and how to best meet those needs
- the child's/ youth's ability of maintaining relationships with his or her birth family and extended family members
- best match between the child/ youth and the foster family or prospective adoptive family
- the foster family's or adoptive family's specific needs for training and on-going support

Essential Components

- Child specific assessments inclusive of cultural, familial, psychosocial, education, health and mental health needs
- Team members from across the child welfare, mental health, educational and health system, community organizations, parent support groups
- A holistic view of available placement options

Implementation Strategies

- Developed and implemented by public child welfare agencies in collaboration with cross-system agencies, community-based organizations and parent/family partners

Web Links & Contact Information

California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 14-66
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 657-1858
Web site: www.childsworld.ca.gov

National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice
150 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 638-7922
Fax: (202) 638-404
Web site:
www.cwla.org/programs/familypractice/default.htm

National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning
Hunter College School of Social Work
129 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021
Phone: (212) 452-7053
Fax: (212) 452-7051
Web site: www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp

Example: Placement Review Team

Contra Costa County

Target Population

- Children placed in an emergency foster care or group home care for longer than 45 days
- Children who the assigned social worker wants considered for a concurrent planning family (a family licensed to do foster care with a completed and approved adoption home study)
- Children in county foster care who may need a higher level of care
- Anytime the assigned social worker desires a consult because issues have arisen that threaten the security of a placement

Setting

Public Child Welfare Agency

Funding Sources

General funds

Description

Contra Costa County's Placement Resources Team was formed in 1999 to assure that immediate and long-term placement needs of children who have been removed from their parents' or guardians' care due to abuse or neglect are met. The PRT is composed of a program manager, social work supervisors, a mental health practitioner, a group home placement specialist, a FFA specialist, and a county home finding worker. The team meets weekly to review the care of children who have been placed in emergency shelter care, children whose situation would benefit from concurrent planning, and children who need specialized placement such as an intensive treatment foster care in an FFA or in a residential treatment facility.

Essential Components

- Team members knowledgeable about various placement resources, and case managers and supervisors
- Data base of children in emergency placement

Implementation Strategies

- Developed and implemented in 1999 by the Division Manager with assistance from supervisory and line staff

Web Links & Contact Information

Linda Canan
Division Manager, Centralized Services
(925) 335-7100
Fax: (925) 335-7013
www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/ (website)
lcanan@cws.state.ca.us (email)

Shared Family

Target Population

Families with vulnerable children who need intensive support.

Description

Shared Family Care provides safety for children and continued family relationships by placing whole families in the homes of community members. Families receive support and services from their mentoring family and a team of professionals while they continue to provide primary parenting responsibility for their children.

Shared family care is unique:

- Whole families reside in another family's home
- Birth families retain primary parenting responsibility
- Around-the-clock parenting program
- Incorporates parent's perspective and input
- Family support team
- Can be used in prevention, reunification or to assist parents in deciding whether or not they will continue to parent
- Often provides housing assistance and aftercare services

The goals of Shared Family Care are:

- Family stability and self-sufficiency
- Income and employment
- Housing
- Child safety and well-being
- Child welfare involvement

Shared Family Care is currently implemented in one county but shows much promise.

Essential Components

- Mentors
- Participant selection and matching process
- Rights and responsibilities agreement
- Family support team and interagency collaboration
- Intensive service
- Housing and aftercare

Implementation Strategies

- Conduct community needs assessment
- Educate key partners
- Assess agency's resources, readiness, experience, capacity and commitment
- Explore funding resources
- Allow 12-18 months for development
- Establish collaborative relationships
- Identify goals and outcomes
- Design program
- Develop policies and procedures
- Establish mentor and recipient family screening procedures and criteria
- Focus groups to target mentor recruitment
- Recruit and train mentors
- Educate potential referral sources

Web Links & Contact Information

National Abandoned Infants Assistance
Resource Center
1950 Addison Street
Suite 104 #7402
Berkeley, CA 94720-7402
Amy Price
(510) 643-8383
http://aia.berkeley.edu/projects/sfc.htm/

Wraparound

Target Population

Foster children, probation and severely emotionally disturbed children/youth who are currently in, or at risk of, placement in a moderate to high end group home (Rate classification level 1 or above).

Description

Wraparound is a family-centered, strengths-based, needs-driven approach to keeping high need children at home, in the community with people that know them and love them. In a facilitated child and family team meeting, formal and informal care providers join with the family to engage in the wraparound process:

- Identify family strengths and concerns
- Identify team strengths
- Create a family vision
- Identify child and family needs
- Prioritize child and family needs
- Develop a safety plan
- Create strategies that are built on family strengths
- Secure commitments
- Document and implement the individualized plan
- Report back and evaluate progress

The result is an individualized plan that continues to evolve as the child's needs and family's needs change. Desired outcomes are a return or maintenance of a child in a family and in their own community. Placement stability or moves that decrease a child's level of care are often seen.

One half of California counties are engaged in Wraparound Services.

Essential Components

- Family voice, choice and preference at every level of decision-making
- Child and family team
- Flexible funds
- Informal resources
- Safety/crisis Plan
- No Eject, no reject policy
- Care coordination/case management

Implementation Strategies

- The County planning and implementation process must be a collaboration of public and private child serving agencies, other community partners and parents.

Web Links & Contact Information

California Department of Social Services
Resource Development & Training Support Bureau
744 P. Street, MS 11-86
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-6160
www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb

EMQ Children and Family Services
Family Partnership Institute
232 East Gish Road
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 437-8327
http://www.emq.org/

Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice
UC Davis Extension
1632 Da Vinci Court
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 757-8643
http://humanservices/ucdavis.edu/resource

Kinship Center-Adoption Assistance Wraparound

Target Population

Adoption Assistance Wraparound is provided to families who receive subsidy payment (AAP) on behalf of their adopted child who is either:

1. At risk of placement in a high level group home or institution within the next year, or
2. Presently placed in a group home or institution and is ready to transition home.

The program serves the needs of the entire family, regardless of which child was initially identified.

Setting

Assistance is provided in any setting chosen by the family, and is usually provided by both professionals and system representatives and members of the adoptive family's community. Planning and coordination of services occurs in each family's team, comprised minimally of the parents, a facilitator, and a parent partner. Some teams may be three or four people and others eight or ten. Children are usually team members depending on age.

Funding Sources

Wraparound is funded by Adoption Assistance Program dollars (AAP) that are diverted from each County's budget intended to support residential placement (California is a State that funds residential placement from adoption subsidy). Money that would have been spent on an institution is instead spent on supporting the child within their family and community. The funding is limited to a period of eighteen months, but can be reestablished should another crisis arise creating a new risk of placement. The funds are flexible and can be pooled so that high financial need for one family can be met from funds remaining from another family. Funds that remain at the end of the eighteen-month Wraparound period become available to support new families, or can be allocated to other child welfare services. In case of our program, the residual funds support general post-adoption service activities.

Description

Adoption Wraparound is strength-based, family-driven, flexible, creative, committed to permanence, and adoption competent. Goals are developed based on family needs, identified within regular family team meetings, coordinated by a Wraparound Facilitator. Tasks are assigned by the team, and may include actions to be carried out by family members, community members, assistants hired by the family, hired professionals, and agency staff. Wrap funds are allocated flexibly and targeted to meet established needs. Funds are managed conservatively to ensure that they will be available in the event of unusual need. If the child eventually needs residential placement then Wraparound pays for that service and continues to work on the goals.

Essential Components

- Families as full partners
- Strengths defined from first conversation
- Unique child and family teams
- Culturally competent services
- Blending of formal and informal services
- Flexibility in services
- Commitment to permanence
- Care provided in the context of home and community

Implementation Strategies

- Building community capacity to provide services and support.
- Development of a parent partner network.
- Service plans devised with knowledge of local service providers.
- Recognition and development of informal resources.
- Outreach to publicize the availability of services prior to a crisis.

Web Links & Contact Information

AFTER-Kinship Center
South Bay Tower
3031 Tisch Way, Suite 306
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 554-2550

Appendix

Office of Child Welfare Redesign Resources

California Department of Social Services
CWS Office of Redesign Implementation
744 P Street, MS 9-888
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 657 1730
http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/ChildWelfa_285.htm

Evidence-Based Practice

The Office of Child Welfare Redesign will embark in a multi-phased approach to developing an "evidence based practice" approach to child welfare services in California. As this approach develops, more information will be shared with counties to promote improved practice. This will begin the process of moving from "best practices" to a "practice approach" for California.

An essential element of the Redesign is the development of quality practices, tools and resources for finding and applying evidence informed research to service delivery with children and families. It also involves the integration of evidence informed research with clinical expertise and client values.

The initial phase will involve:

1. Documenting and utilizing best or promising practice guides, and research and evidence from clinical trial outcomes where available. Research Culture is the development of a culture where research is valued across the organization or department and where the pursuit of research by internal and external parties is encouraged and facilitated.

The Evidence-Based Practice cycle will be developed by CDSS by first forming a statewide advisory body to develop the criteria and support structure for the implementation of this cycle. The purpose of the cycle will be to evaluate promising practices, demonstrations, pilots and research for the purpose of:

1. Statewide replication (taking programs to scale)
2. The establishment of an effective model or approach to outcome focused child welfare practice.

From this work, CDSS will establish an Evidence Based Clearinghouse. This clearing-house will disseminate essential information to all counties.

Child Welfare Promising Practice Resources

There are many publications or searchable websites to assist you. The following links provide information about a variety of promising practices and technical assistance/training resources.

The Promising Practices Network
http://www.promisingpractices.net

Child Welfare League of America Research to Practice Initiative (R2P)
hppt://www.cwla.org/programs/r2p

Best Practice/Next Practice (biannual bulletin)
http://www.cwresource.org/publications.htm

Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice
http://www.humanservices.ucdavis.edu/resource/index.asp

Northern and Southern California Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance (CATTA) Centers
http://www.cattacenter.org/cattaabout.html

Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
http://calib.com/nccanch/prevention/emerging/index.cfm
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect

Promising Bay Area Practices for the Redesign of Child Welfare Services
http://www.smchsa.org/children/pdfs/bassc-cwr.pdf
Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) Report

Drug Court Publications Resources Guide: Fourth Edition
http://www.ndci.org/publications/ResourceGuide2002Edition.pdf
http://www.ndci.org/publications.html
National Drug Court Institute (NDCI)

Resource and Funding Guide, June 2000
http://www.nadcp.org/docs/resource&fund.doc
National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)

Promising Practices for Behavioral Health Services to Children and Adolescents and Their Families in Managed Care Systems: A View from the Child Welfare System
http://www.georgetown.edu/research/gucdc/cw2.pdf
National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development

Safe From the Start Reducing Children's Exposure to Violence. Promising Strategies and Programs Resource Guide
http://www.safefromthestart.org/pubs/pdfs/promisingStrategies.pdf
California Attorney General's Office
Crime and Violence Prevention Center

Rethinking Child Welfare Practice Under The Adoption And Safe Families Act Of 1997: A Resource Guide
http://www.cwresource.org/Online%20publications/ASFA%20Resource%20Guide.pdf
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau

Seeking Better Performance Through Interagency Collaboration: Prospects and Challenges
http://pcwta.sdsu.edu/Documents/SACHSIntegratedServicesResearchReport.pdf
Southern Area Consortium of Human Services (SACHS)

Forming a Multidisciplinary Team To Investigate Child Abuse (Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse)
http://www.ncjrs.org/html/ojjdp/portable_guides/forming/contents.html
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Resource and Organization Links

These organizations provide a range of child welfare information and resources; some include specific promising practices information.

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/ChildWelfa_285.htm
California Department of Social Services for Stakeholders Reports
and Child and Family Services Review Report

http://www.cwda.org/resources.cfm
County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)

http://www.ccrwf.org
California Center for Research on Women and Families

http://www.nadcp.org/
National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)

http://www.cwresource.org/resources-orgs.htm
National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice

http://www.ndci.org
National Drug Court Institute (NDCI)

http://www.humanservices.ucdavis.edu/academy/links.asp
Northern California Children and Family Services Training Academy

Training Resources

These are resources that can be used to obtain training and technical assistance to develop and support promising practices in your community.

Northern and Southern California Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance (CATTA) Centers
http://www.cattacenter.org/cattaabout.html

California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC)
http://calswec.berkeley.edu/

Central California Training Academy, California State University, Fresno
http://centralacademy.org

Bay Area Academy, San Francisco State University
http://www.sfsu.edu/~bayacad/

Northern California Children and Family Services Training Academy
University of California, Davis
http://www.humanservices.ucdavis.edu/academy

Southern Region Public Child Welfare Training Academy (PCWTA)
San Diego State University
http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~pcwtas/courses.html

Inter-University Consortium (California State Universities at Long Beach and Los Angeles, University of California, Los Angeles, and University of Southern California)
http://www.sppsr.ucla.edu/acad/sw/iuc/index.htm

Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice
http://www.humanservices.ucdavis.edu/resource/index.asp

http://www.cattacenter.org/cattalinks.html
Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance (CATTA)