

Continuum of Care Reform Retention, Recruitment, and Support

Presented by:

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PCWTA is a program of the Academy for Professional Excellence at San Diego State University School of Social Work in collaboration with our University partners, CSU San Bernardino, Loma Linda University and CSU Fullerton



Welcome

- Introductions
- Agenda
 - Overview of CCR
 - Presentation from Adopt Us Kids & NRC for Diligent Recruitment
- Lunch
- Affinity Groups
- Action Planning

Continuum of Care Reform/AB403

- This plan for reform builds from the principles, goals and program elements contained within:
 - The Katie A. Settlement/Pathways
 - Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)
 - Residentially-Based Services Demonstration Project
 - Quality Improvement Project (QIP)
 - California Partners for Permanency (CAPP) Project
 - Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Project

Continuum of Care Reform/AB403

- Recommendations align with the goal of the CPM:
 - Building upon and integrating successful practices into a framework that supports the achievement of safety, permanency and well-being
- CCR seeks to leverage the Katie A. Settlement Agreement by linking the mental health services delivery system to the foster care continuum...

Katie A Link

- By integrating mental health certification as a component for licensure of both STRTCs and FFAs, and including an EPSDT specialty mental health assessment as one criteria for placement
- This further seeks to encourage greater interdepartmental collaboration at the local level, and increase providers' ability to provide a more complete range of child welfare and mental health services to the child.

Child and Family Teams

- All placing agencies will utilize tools with common domains and will utilize Child and Family Teams in assessing the child and family's needs and strengths and use that assessment for case planning and to match a child to the most appropriate placement setting.

Home Based Requirements

- Strengthen resource family recruitment, training requirements and retention strategies. Sunsets existing training and replaces with 8 hours of annual training.
- Revises:
 - the existing licensure
 - rate structure and eligibility criteria FFAs, which recruit, certify and provide services to foster family homes.
- The new structure envisions a model of FFAs that are prepared and funded to provide intensive treatment level services in a foster home setting, enabling children with emotional or behavioral health challenges to remain with a family.
- Allow public agencies to be licensed to operate an FFA.

Residential Treatment Requirements

- January 1, 2017 New Placement Option, Short Term Residential Treatment Centers.
- All STRTC programs will provide:
 - Core services and support for children and youth that need short-term
 - Intensive treatment interventions for youth who initially cannot be safely maintained in a home-based family care setting
 - Placements must be reviewed at intervals not greater than six months, with continued placement requiring county Deputy Director, Probation Chief or Assistant Chief approval

Residential Treatment Requirements

- Require all STRTCs and FFA/Ts to be certified by the DHCS or county mental health plans to provide medically necessary specialty mental health services.
- All STRTCs and FFAs must be accredited by a national accrediting body, selected by CDSS, as a condition of receiving a foster care rate.
- Dismantles current rates structure for Group Homes and creates a new rate structure for STRTCs
- Significantly increases minimum requirements of staff in STRTCs to include
 - Minimum age
 - Minimum qualifications
 - Enhanced Training

Core Services

- Core services may include
 - arranging access to specialized mental health treatment,
 - providing transitional support from foster placement to permanent home placement,
 - supporting connections with siblings and extended family members,
 - providing transportation to school and other educational activities,
 - teaching independent living skills to older youth and non-minor dependents.

Other Key Measures

- Temporary transition strategies
 - Conditional 1 year extension for some group homes with interim rate structure.
- Authorizes CDSS to license county run temporary shelters and for CDSS and counties to develop a transition plan.

Probation

- Allows for Probation to place in certified FFA's
- Requires county probation departments to work with group home providers to develop STRTCs that meet the needs of probation-supervised youth in foster care and to work with FFAs to develop strategies to recruit, retain, and support specialized foster homes for probation youth.

Performance Measure and Outcomes

- Evaluate STRTC and FFA provider performance based on a series of performance domains and measures.
- Utilize a client satisfaction survey that captures the perception of children and their families regarding services they have received from STRTC and FFA/T providers.
- Create a method for ensuring public transparency of provider performance.

Resource Family Approval

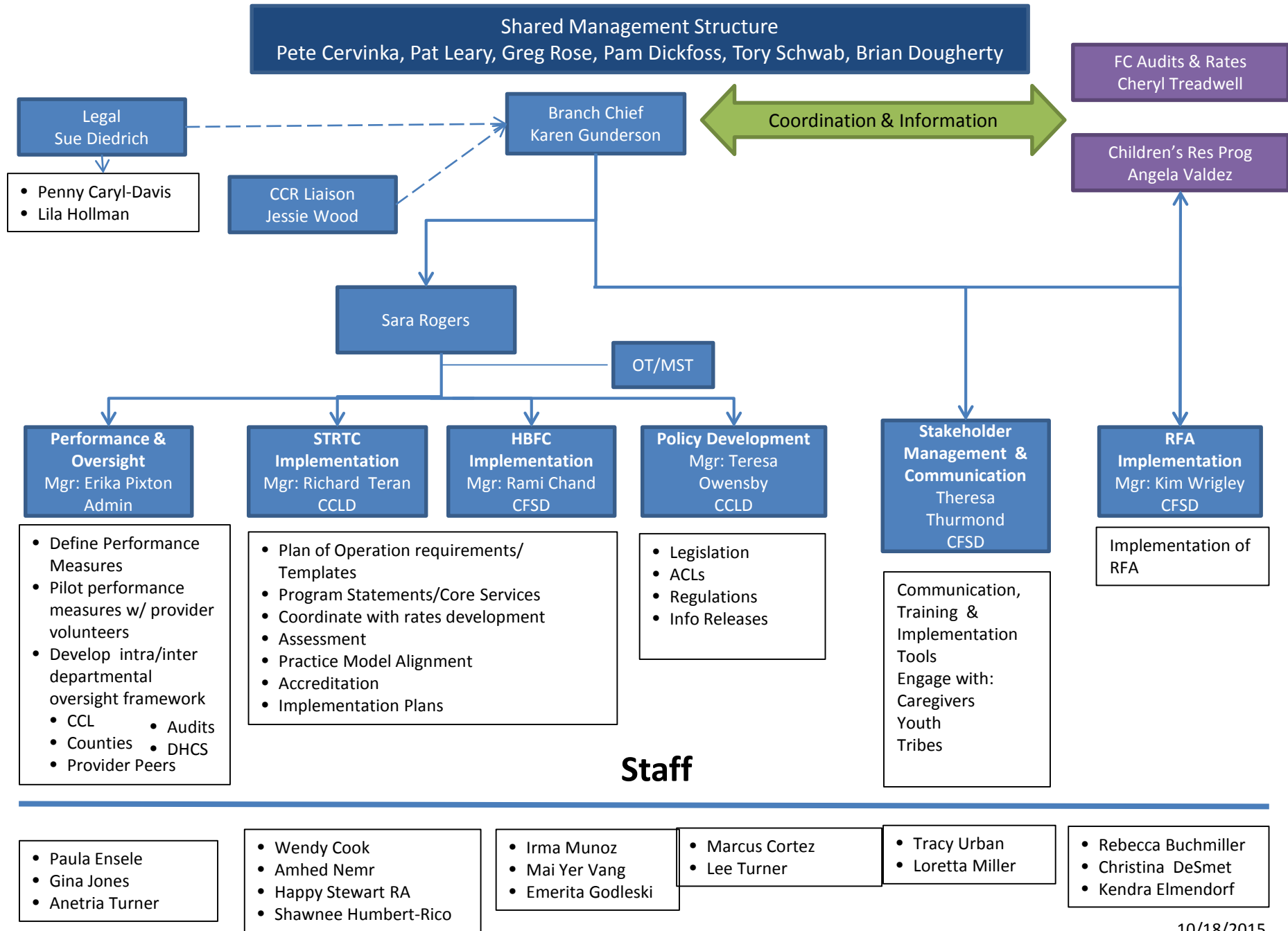
- Consistent with the goals of CCR, the resource family approval process seeks to improve the experience children and youth have in home-based family care placements by further emphasizing the capacity of the caregivers and the quality of parenting they provide to the children and youth in their care.

RFA

- Original legislation sponsored by CWDA (AB 340 in 2007)
- New Foster Caregiver Approval Process (One Process for all Families)
 - Replaces licensing, relative approval, adoption and guardianship processes
 - Applies to all related and non-related families providing care in child welfare and or probation (and FFA's)
 - Home Environment, Background Checks, Permanency Assessments
 - Opportunity to capitalize on works with relatives who may be interested in fostering or adopting unrelated children
- Tribally Approved Homes- not subject to these requirements
- Statewide implementation January 1st, 2017, early opt in Jan 2016

•<http://www.cdsscounties.ca.gov/rfa/res/pdf/FAQsRFAAgencyStaff.pdf>

CCR Project Organization





Initial Steps – Capacity Building

- ACL providing instruction to County Welfare departments developing plans to recruit, retain and support foster parents, resource families and kin caregivers. (Separate ACL being provide to Probation Departments)
- 2015-2016 state budget included a \$17.7 million allocation to counties to carry out these activities as a part of the CCR implementation.
 - a) \$2.7 million is available to both child welfare and county probation departments for foster caregiver retention, recruitment, support and training strategies and goals; and
 - b) \$15 million, of which \$14.5 million, is available only to child welfare departments for foster caregiver retention, recruitment, support and training strategies and goals.
 - c) The remaining \$500,000 is earmarked for use by CDSS to identify and implement best practices and strategies.

Capacity Building – Cont.

- The letter lays out the elements of the plan that each county must include in order to access their portion of the funding.
 - Assessment of the current capacity in home-based care and anticipated need for increased capacity in preparation for CCR implementation laid out in AB 403.
 - Must also define specific county goals with regard to increasing the capacity and use of home-based family care and the types of services that will be provided to foster caregivers.
 - Counties may, and are encouraged to, collaborate regionally in the development and submission of their plans.
- The Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention, and Support plan is due to CDSS no later than Tuesday, December 1, 2015.

Capacity Building – Cont.

- In addition to including a plan template, the ACL also provides guidance on allowable activities and services that may be financed through these funds :
 - Staffing to provide and improve direct services and supports to foster parents, relative caregivers, and resource families;
 - Removal of barriers in those areas defined as priorities in the county's FPRRS plan and subsequent reports on outcomes;
 - Exceptional child needs not covered by the caregiver-specific rate that would normalize the child's experience, stabilize the placement, or enhance the dependent's wellbeing;
 - Child care;
 - Intensive relative finding, engagement and navigation efforts; and
 - Emerging technological, evidence-informed, or other non-traditional approaches for outreach to potential foster parents, relative caregivers, and resource families.

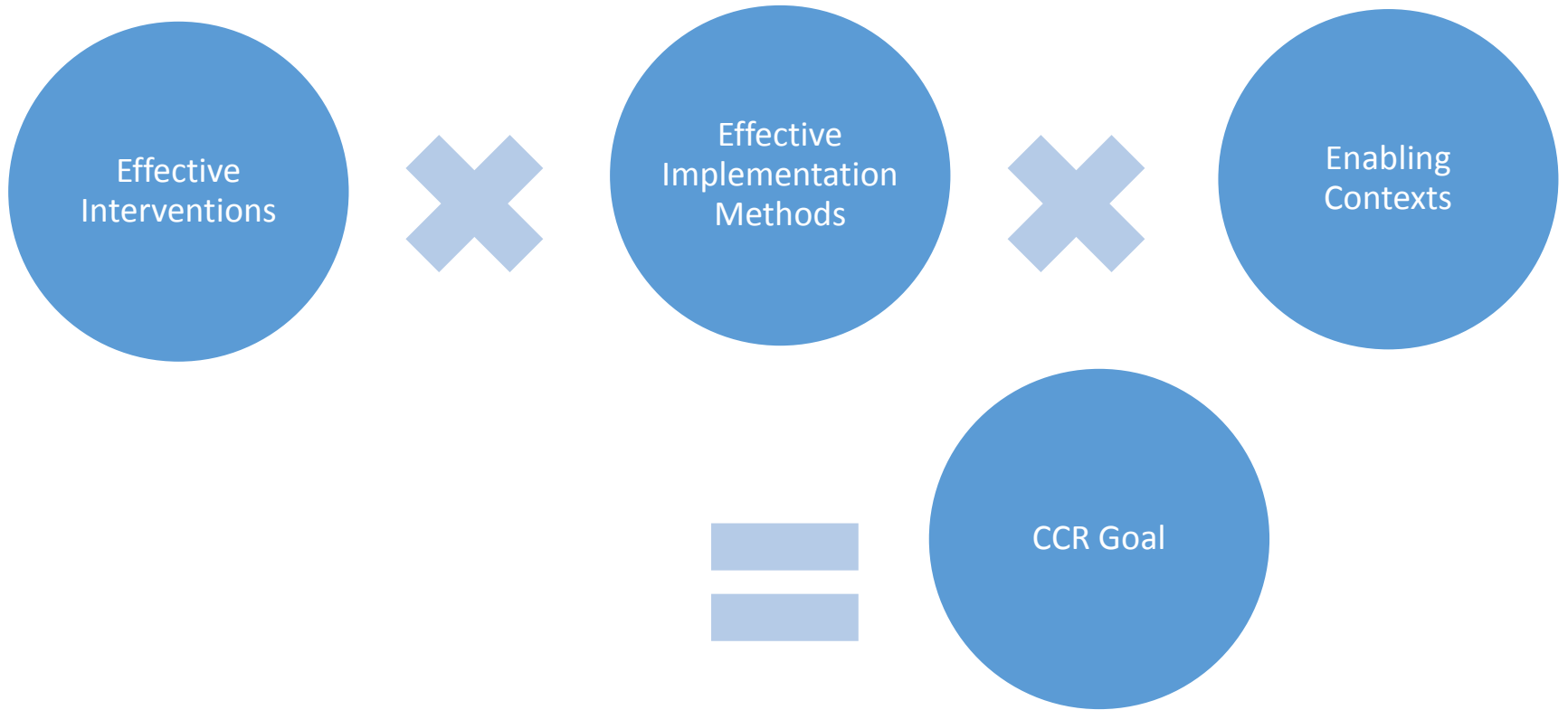
**National Resource Center for Diligent Recruitment
and
Adopt USKids
Presentation**

Lunch

Affinity Groups

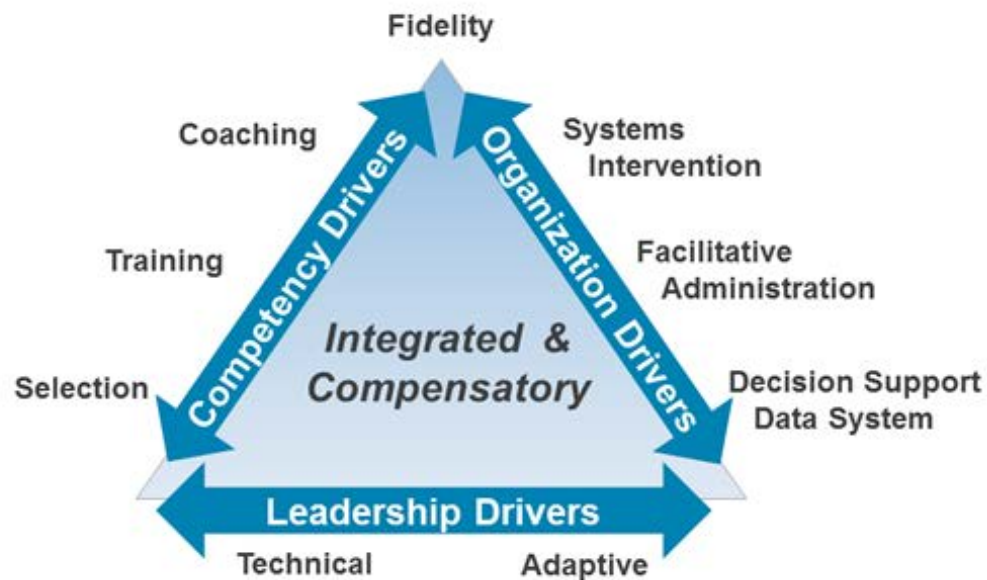
- What is working well?
- What are we worried about?
- What needs to happen next?

Formula for Action



Drivers

Implementation Drivers



Trauma Informed Action Planning

- Anchoring our Work in our Guiding Principle
 - Child, Youth, Family Experience is Valued
 - We must lift up their voices in this process

County Action Planning

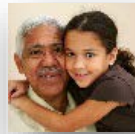
- State Plan Templates & Action Plans on the Table
- What is already happening?
- What is still needs to happen?
- What will be some of the initial steps?

Close

- Suggestions for Future Convening's
- Academy CCR Webpage
- Plus / Delta
- Evaluation

This presentation is brought to you by:
Public Child Welfare Training Academy

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