



The Journey to Outcomes: CAPP EVALUATION OVERVIEW

The California Partners for Permanency (CAPP) began 6 years ago as one of six grantees for the federally funded Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII). The PII goal was to support interventions that 1) addressed the permanency needs of children in foster care and 2) had evidence indicating they were effective and replicable.

PII also included a robust evaluation component that sought to understand the impact of innovative interventions on permanency outcomes. A PII Evaluation Team (PII-ET) was created to assist grantees in defining outcomes and developing evaluation tools and measures.

CAPP sought to improve the following outcomes:

- Reduce the number and percentage of children in long-term foster care.
- Increase the number and timeliness of permanent exits.
- Decrease re-entry into foster care.
- Decrease non-permanent exits.
- Reduce disparity in achieving outcomes for African American and American Indian children.

CAPP developed the Child and Family Practice Model to achieve these outcomes. A phased, mixed-methods evaluation was conducted with the support and guidance of PII-ET and the involvement of CAPP staff, counties, and community and Tribal partners.

The evaluation employed multiple evaluation tools and analysis methods to understand the relationship between the Child and Family Practice Model (the intervention) and reduced stays in foster care (the primary intended long-term outcome).

Over the course of the project:

- A fidelity assessment process was developed and implemented to assure that the Practice Model was being applied as intended by social workers.
- Two rounds of formative evaluation took place:
 - » The first pointed to necessary adjustments in the evaluation approach.
 - » The second included the use of national administrative data to analyze permanency outcomes.

The second formative evaluation suggests positive associations between the Practice Model and shorter stays in foster care in those counties with strong implementation supports. These results, based on comparing CAPP-served children to historically matched children in the same county, are encouraging and reflect potential for greater reductions in long-term foster care and increased permanency outcomes for California children.

Findings from the formative evaluation indicate that the CAPP Practice Model is associated with positive impacts on one or more measures in two counties.



EXCITING EVALUATION OUTCOMES!

- COUNTY 1:
 - » CAPP-served children exited to permanency within 12 months at a 3 percent higher rate.
 - » CAPP -served children were placed with a permanent family within 12 months at a 9 percent higher rate.
- COUNTY 2:
 - » CAPP-served children were placed with a permanent family within 12 months at a 3 percent higher rate.
 - » CAPP Served Hispanic children were placed with a permanent family at a 5 percent higher rate.

Though CAPP has not yet reached full implementation, it has created a culturally sensitive practice model, trained hundreds of social workers, served thousands of children and families, built community supports, and tried with varying degrees of success to build organization supports. – Formative Evaluation Report



The Child and Family Practice Model

The Child and Family Practice Model was developed as part of a 5-year federally funded project to reduce long-term foster care. To learn more, visit www.reducefostercarenow.org or contact CFPMinfo@cfpic.org. The contents of this document are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Children's Bureau, which funded the CAPP/CFPM Project under Cooperative Agreement 90CT0153.

