

## The Journey to Outcomes: CAPP EVALUATION FAQ

### ***Did CAPP look at all children or just those in the target population?***

The evaluation focused on families served by social workers that were trained in the Practice Model. The evaluators also examined how permanency outcomes for African American and American Indian children compared to other children.

### ***How were local partners involved in the process?***

CAPP developed and implemented the evaluation plan in partnership with families, communities, and Tribes. They participated in the development and implementation of the fidelity assessment and provided feedback and guidance on evaluation tools, particularly a parent and legal guardian questionnaire. In addition, they worked with local child welfare staff to refine processes as the Practice Model was implemented.

### ***What is a fidelity assessment?***

Fidelity assessment is a process designed to determine if the Practice Model is being consistently implemented. It was designed with community and Tribal partners and allowed CAPP to determine the level of individual and system effectiveness of Practice Model implementation.

### ***What was learned from the first formative evaluation?***

The first formative evaluation included an examination of early findings and results for a small number of participating children and families. However, the overall findings were inconclusive because CAPP was in an early developmental stage. It did, however, provide a solid foundation for improving the measures and methodologies for evaluating the Practice Model.

### ***What are proximal outcomes and why are they important?***

Proximal outcome measures provide insight into whether the Practice Model is being experienced as expected by families and impacting them in positive ways. The CAPP proximal outcomes include:

- Positive and productive relationship with the social worker.
- Involvement of parents and guardians in identifying problems, progress, and solutions and communicating their needs to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being.
- Family, friend, community, and Tribal member involvement in supporting the child and family.
- Family's sense of hopefulness and feelings of control over its future.
- Occurrence of important casework events such as visitation and family team meetings.

### ***Was data gathered to better understand Practice Model proximal outcomes? If not, why?***

- Parent-Legal Guardian and Caregiver Questionnaires were developed to gather individual-level data on proximal outcomes. However, survey administration during the first formative evaluation did not yield an adequate response rate. It is important to note that the results, however small, suggested positive outcomes.
- Although modified survey administration processes were developed and tested to increase response rates, federal officials unexpectedly declined to approve the questionnaires due to research design considerations. Consequently, proximal outcome data were not collected as planned during the second formative evaluation.
- Without findings on proximal outcomes, it is difficult to understand the full extent of the impact of the Practice Model on children and families.

### ***What methods did the evaluators use to measure permanency outcomes?***

- PII-ET used a quasi-experimental method that included a child-specific historical matched comparison group using primarily national administrative data.
- Each CAPP implementation site was analyzed separately, as there are stark differences in placement and permanency patterns across California counties.
- The analysis compared the outcomes of children and families served by CAPP-trained social workers in each site with those served during a historical period (between 2008 and 2011) before the Practice Model was developed and implemented beginning in 2012.

### ***What other factors impact permanency outcomes?***

A variety of factors could affect implementation of the Practice Model and intended permanency outcomes. These include:

- System level factors – such as caseload size, staffing levels, and policy changes – that were beyond the reach of Practice Model implementation.
- Variations in implementation structures and supports, including implementation team formation, coaching resources, community partner involvement, and progress in establishing pathways to culturally responsive supports and services for the children and families being served.

### ***When will the CAPP formative evaluation reports be available and where will they be located?***

The final reports will be available approximately in the Spring of 2017. They can be found by accessing the following link: [www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/permanency-innovations-initiative-pii-evaluation](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/permanency-innovations-initiative-pii-evaluation)

