

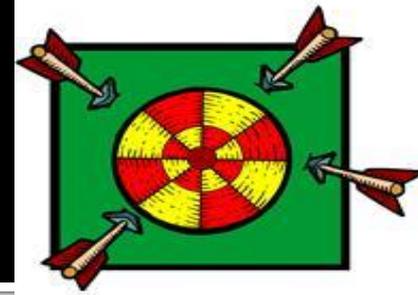
Linkages: CalWORKs and Family Reunification



An Essential Partnership

July 2011

Learning Objectives



- Define the need for collaboration between Family Reunification (FR) and CalWORKs
- Review AB429
- Identify the crossover and intersection between FR and CalWORKs
- List the steps to interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Review processes that impact collaboration such as case planning and assessment
- Using a scenario, practice steps for collaboration
- Create an action plan for working together

Agenda

- Introductions
- Link between FR and CalWORKs
- What is my role?
- Assessment and Collaboration
- Steps to Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Case Planning and Collaboration
- Working Together to Build Self Sufficiency
- Action Planning for the future!



Meet and Greet!

- Take a post it
- Write down three things you think are important about the work of your program:
CalWORKs/Child Welfare
- Share with at least 5 other people in the room
seated at other tables



Linkages OVERVIEW

- Families in crisis are not well served when faced with two service delivery systems, two sets of workers, two case plans, and sometimes conflicting goals and requirements.
- Linkages has become “not a project, but a way of doing business,” an approach to serving families that puts their needs first.

Understand the Twin Philosophy of Linkages

- *Through improved coordination, Child Welfare Services can serve as an anti-poverty program; and CalWORKs can help prevent child abuse and neglect.*



Not Just a Struggle with Poverty and Allegations of Abuse/Neglect...

Families in both systems:

- must navigate two bureaucracies that often impose conflicting:
 - requirements
 - goals
 - timeframes
- a county's welfare and child welfare services are provided in different locations:
 - Scheduling
 - Transportation
- separate and lengthy screening processes (yet answer many of the same questions for each program)
- two different service systems that do not communicate with each other.

Our Frustration with Two Systems..

- Parents miss appointments because of scheduling conflicts
- Parents are highly stressed trying to meet the demands and requirements of two case plans



Child Welfare Workers

- Not given the authority or resources to provide child care, transportation, housing and other poverty mitigations that can help create a safe and stable environment for the family



CalWORKs Workers

- Do not have the authority or resources to provide services that can strengthen family interactions and decrease stress to help a client enter the job market



Our Families Need Us Both!

We Need Each Other!

Potential Impact

- More families achieving self-sufficiency through increased work participation and monthly earnings
- More CalWORKs sanctions are resolved
- More families off of cash aid due to increased earnings
- More families successfully achieving reunification
- Fewer re-referrals to child welfare
- Fewer children entering out-of-home placement
- Fewer children who re-enter out-of-home placement

AB 429

- Only statutory basis for collaboration between Child Welfare and CalWORKs
- All Child Welfare Services cases should be screened for possible AB 429 services when the children are removed from the home.

429 Eligibility

- The child has been removed from the parent and placed in an out-of-home placement (care must be a temporary situation and a reunification plan is required).
- The family was receiving CalWORKs cash aid when the child was removed.
- The County has determined that CalWORKs services are needed for family reunification.

Must meet all of the above!

AB 429

W&I Code 11203:

The parent or parents shall be considered living with the needy child or needy children for a period of up to 180 consecutive days of the needy child's or children's absence from the family assistance unit and the parent or parents shall be eligible for services under this chapter including services funded under Sections 15204.2 and 15204.8" (which include work activities and support services).

Card Sort



- There are cards in the envelopes on your table.
- The cards have words or phrases that are commonly associated with CalWORKs, Child Welfare or Both
- As a small group, sort into three piles!
- Ask each other what the word or phrase means. Look it up if you don't have an expert in your group.

Collaboration

- The act of working together
- Focuses on how to meet the needs of the family under both programs mandates



Collaboration involves:

- active listening
- asking informed questions
- mutual respect
- two way communication
- plan of action
- task assignment
- accountability



Tools for Collaboration



- Page 17: jot down your ideas
- Identify the tools/processes within your county that are set up to support collaborative efforts:
- Which of these tools/processes could be used in collaboration between CalWORKs and Child Welfare? Explain how.
- Small group discussion

Why Collaborate?

- Increasing demands for services
- We have families in common
- Inadequate resources to meet needs
- To create a system where children and families are served with the fewest possible barriers in the most comprehensive manner



Keys to Success

- Which of these do you have in your county for Linkages?
- Page 19



Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- *Closed Systems: "Leave us alone"*
- *Getting Ready: "So, what do YOU do?"*
- *Implementing: "Okay, let's work together."*
- *Performance: "Camera! Lights! Action!"*
- *De-Integration: "Nothing Lasts Forever"*



You Be the Expert!



- Divide into 5 diverse groups
- Your job will be to teach the other groups about your step
- Divide paper into three parts:
 - Identify 3-5 points that explain what is going on in this step
 - Apply this step to collaboration between CalWORKs and Child Welfare
 - Name specific strategies to help successfully negotiate the step (be specific to your programs)

Comparing Plans

- Read about Barbara and Ted
- What is the point?



Case Collaboration

Review page 31 for some suggestions on how to approach case collaboration

Skills Practice

- Read the vignette
- Answer the questions at the end of the vignette as a small group



Action Planning

- Fill in the date _____
- Complete the action planning page



Airplanes

- Fold your colored Action Plan into an airplane
- Line up in two lines facing each other:
 - CalWORKs on one side
 - Child Welfare on the other side



Thank You!
