

Child Welfare and CalAIM: Toolkit for Counties

**Resources for county child welfare agencies to
leverage Medi-Cal and CalAIM**

1

April 2025



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians





Today's Goals

1. Discover resources available to support child welfare agency decisions related to Medi-Cal enrollment for children and youth in foster care
2. Review resources on connecting children and youth to Enhanced Care Management and other Medi-Cal CalAIM benefits
3. Get tips to use the materials for staff training and to update workflows to maximize Medi-Cal services for children and families

Toolkit Contents

1. [Medi-Cal Managed Care for Children and Youth in Foster Care Issue Brief](#)
2. [FFS vs Managed Care at-a-Glance Comparison](#)
3. [Medi-Cal Enrollment FAQ](#)
4. [Decision Making Tool](#)
5. Logic Model/Theory of Change
6. Example referral workflows
7. [Case Studies](#) to support staff training
8. Sample Releases of Information and Consent Form



Understanding Medi-Cal Managed Care



Download Public Works Alliance Materials Here:

<https://publicworksalliance.org/child-welfare-and-medi-cal>

ISSUE BRIEF

Medi-Cal Managed Health Care Options for Children and Youth in Foster Care



All children and youth in foster care are eligible for Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program. California has different requirements for Medi-Cal enrollment for youth in foster care than the general enrollee population. These differences mean that while more than 98% of youth enrolled in Medi-Cal are enrolled in a managed care plan (MCP), less than half of youth in foster care are enrolled in a Medi-Cal managed care plan.

California law requires youth in foster care in 37 counties (referred to here as "individual plan counties") to be mandatorily enrolled into managed care. In the other 21 "multi-plan counties" managed care enrollment for youth in foster care is optional; they may enroll in fee-for-service (FFS) Medi-Cal. This also applies to youth in foster care and former foster youth who have dual juvenile justice system involvement. In the multi-plan counties, foster youth can voluntarily enroll into a MCP if the county child welfare agency, in consultation with the foster caregiver, determines that it is in the child's best interest to do so.

This ISSUE BRIEF is accompanied by two companion pieces that further describe the important differences between Medi-Cal fee-for-service and managed care:
→ [AT-A-GLANCE](#)
→ [FAQs](#)

Issue Brief

This issue brief provides background on Medi-Cal managed care and FFS options for youth in foster care, including a number of recent changes to managed care that may improve access to and quality of care for youth in foster care. This paper can help county social workers and staff better understand both options to make enrollment decisions that best serve each youth.

[Read more](#)

AT-A-GLANCE COMPARISON

Medi-Cal Managed Health Care Options for Children and Youth in Foster Care



More than 98% of California youth who are Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) beneficiaries are enrolled in a managed care plan (MCP). The MCP is responsible for organizing their care delivery via a network of contracted providers. This is not the case for California youth in foster care. Although all youth in foster care in California are eligible for Medi-Cal, less than half are enrolled in a Medi-Cal managed care plan.

About half of youth in foster care access Medi-Cal in the fee-for-service (FFS) system, but this varies widely by county. In 37 counties, youth in foster care must enroll in managed care. This represents about 25 percent of youth in care. In the other 21 counties, managed care enrollment for this population is optional, representing the majority of youth in foster care at nearly 75 percent.

The rise of managed care as the predominant mode of Medi-Cal has occurred over the last 20 years. The side-by-side comparison below can be a tool for county decision makers to review as they consider updates to their foster youth Medi-Cal enrollment policies.

This AT-A-GLANCE COMPARISON document is accompanied by two companion pieces that further describe the important differences between Medi-Cal fee-for-service and managed care:
→ [ISSUE BRIEF](#)
→ [FAQs](#)

At-A-Glance

4

This paper provides a side-by-side comparison of Medi-Cal fee-for-service and managed care plan delivered services as a tool for county decision makers to review as they consider updates to their foster youth Medi-Cal enrollment policies.

[Read more](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Medi-Cal Managed Health Care Options for Children and Youth in Foster Care



What is Medi-Cal managed care?

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid program, which provides health coverage to low-income individuals and families, including all foster care children. In the managed care model, the state contracts with managed care plans (MCPs) to deliver a wide range of health care services to enrollees, including primary care, specialty care, hospital services, prescription drugs, and preventive services. Medi-Cal managed care aims to increase access to care and improve care coordination. Enrollees choose a primary care provider (PCP) within the MCP network, and the PCP is the main point of contact for coordinating their healthcare needs. About four in five Medi-Cal enrollees are in managed care.

What is the difference between a managed care plan and a health plan?

Nothing. They are two names for the same thing.

This set of FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS is accompanied by two companion pieces that further describe the important differences between Medi-Cal fee-for-service and managed care:
→ [AT-A-GLANCE](#)
→ [ISSUE BRIEF](#)

FAQs

This paper attempts to respond to the questions that often create barriers for counties as they are making Medi-Cal decisions for children and youth in foster care.

[Read more](#)

Understanding Medi-Cal Managed Care



Download Public Works Alliance Materials Here:

<https://publicworksalliance.org/child-welfare-and-medi-cal>

OUT-OF-COUNTY PLACEMENTS
Moving Between County Types of Care

A photograph of three diverse children (two girls and one boy) smiling and standing together outdoors.

Out-of-County Placements

This summary is part of a series aimed at helping county social workers navigate Medi-Cal enrollment for foster youth. Here, we focus specifically on what happens when a youth moves placements between counties.

Read more

5

Inter-County Transfer Scenarios

Single plan/County Organized Health System (COHS), mandatory county → multi-plan optional county

Initially, the youth will be defaulted into fee-for-service. The social worker, in consultation with the child's caregiver, must determine if it is in the child's best interest to:

- A. Enroll in one of the Medi-Cal MCPs available in the residence county, or
- B. Enroll in fee-for-service.

Multi-plan optional county → multi-plan optional county

Initially, the youth will be defaulted into fee-for-service. The social worker, in consultation with the child's caregiver, must determine if it is in the child's best interest to:

- A. Remain in the same Medi-Cal MCP if it is available in the new residence county,
- B. Enroll in a new/different MCP, or
- C. Enroll in fee-for-service.

Single plan, mandatory county → COHS or single plan, mandatory county

The child/youth will be required to enroll into the single MCP in the new residence county.*

If Kaiser is available in that new county and they choose to enroll in Kaiser, they will need to do so by going through Health Care Options (via phone or online), or calling the Medi-Cal Ombuds office.



Multi-plan optional county → COHS or single plan, mandatory county

The child/youth will be required to enroll into the single MCP in the new residence county.*

If Kaiser is available in that new county and they choose to enroll in Kaiser, they will need to do so by going through Health Care Options (via phone or online), or calling the Medi-Cal Ombuds office.

Kaiser enrollment

Kaiser offers Medi-Cal enrollment to foster youth in 32 counties. If a youth is enrolled in Kaiser in one county and moves to a new county of residence where Kaiser is an option, then:

- » The social worker and caregiver must work with Health Care Options to select Kaiser in the new residence county.

If a youth is enrolled in Kaiser in one county and moves to a new county of residence where Kaiser is **not** an option, then the youth will have to disenroll from Kaiser and be enrolled in one of the mandatory MCPs or fee-for-service.

Decision Support Tools

Guides for county agencies to customize to support decision making and processes.

Download [here](#)

[COUNTY NAME] Foster Youth Medi-Cal Enrollment Checklists & Decision Support Tools



Considerations for all task areas

Keep Child/Youth enrolled in existing Medi-Cal managed care plan, unless:

- ✓ It will disrupt access to primary care or specialist providers due to their placement location or another reason
- ✓ They are likely to change placements frequently, potentially moving between counties, and managed care enrollment may disrupt their access to needed services
- ✓ Resource parent says managed care creates a barrier to accessing services and strongly prefers fee-for-service

STEP 1: DETERMINE:

- Youth's Medi-Cal enrollment status and existing medical, behavioral and social needs
- Medi-Cal managed care preference of youth/kinship/resource parent and maybe biological parent, if appropriate
- Parent/caregiver's Medi-Cal enrollment status
- Medi-Cal managed care options available in home or placement county
- If a current CANS assessment is complete (if not, schedule)

STEP 2: CONSULT WITH:

- The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPFCF) public health nurse on youth and family needs
- The youth, the youth's caregiver and, if appropriate, the biological parents or family to whom they may return, if it is in the best interest of the youth to remain or enroll in a managed care plan
- The MCP Child Welfare Liaison for help coordinating services and ensuring continuity of care

STEP 5: MAKE MEDI-CAL ENROLLMENT UPDATES

- Maintaining a child/youth in their existing MCP can promote continuity of care, but remember it is not a permanent decision. A child or youth in foster can change their Medi-Cal enrollment any month. **No decision is final.**
- The social worker, probation department, foster caregiver or another person authorized to make medical decisions for the child, can make changes to the child's enrollment.
- Foster care eligibility workers may assist social workers or public health nurses with enrollment changes.
- All changes to Medi-Cal managed care enrollment must go through DHCS Health Care Options
- To make changes to Medi-Cal managed care enrollment or fee for service:
 - ✓ For non-urgent changes, call Health Care Options at 1-800-430-4263 between 8 am and 6 pm M-F or visit www.healthcareoptions.dhcs.ca.gov.
 - ✓ For urgent changes, call the Medi-Cal Ombudsman Office at 888-452-8609 between 8 am and 5 pm M-F or email MMCDombudsmanOffice@dhcs.ca.gov

STEP 3: MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE CONSIDERATIONS:

- Continuity with important medical care
- Navigation Help: Enhanced Care Management or Community Health Worker services
- Community Supports (e.g. housing navigation)
- Non-specialty mental health services for youth or parent, including individual and family therapy
- Transportation to medical and behavioral appointments

STEP 4: CMS/CWS DOCUMENTATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Current pediatrician
- Child AND parent's Medi-Cal plan enrollment
- Pictures of Medi-Cal cards
- Summary of key health care needs

[COUNTY NAME] Foster Youth Medi-Cal Enrollment Checklists & Decision Support Tools



Detailed Process: Intake and Emergency Response

1 Referral Intake & Investigation:

- Most youth who enter foster care are already enrolled in a Medi-Cal MCP. Research Medi-Cal their status, including MCP enrollment [NAME YOUR COUNTY PLANS HERE]
- Document Medi-Cal status on referral form that goes to the investigating social worker (SW)
- Seek to collect Medi-Cal information for children AND parent/caregiver(s). Email foster care eligibility team with questions.

2 Gather as much info prior to removal decision meeting as possible:

- Note medical, behavioral and social needs. Identify current pediatrician and key providers. Inside CMS/CWS, document:
 - ✓ Medi-Cal plan enrollment
 - ✓ Pediatrician and other key providers
 - ✓ Copies of Medi-Cal card(s), including managed care cards (take pictures if no copies available)
- Consult with Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPFCF) public health nurse on the child and family's needs (timing may vary by county)

3 Removal Decision

- Request family complete forms with health and education information
 - ✓ On the JV-255 form, fill in section 13 with Medi-Cal insurance information
- Recommend to foster care eligibility to maintain status quo/keep the youth enrolled in the current Medi-Cal MCP unless:
 - ✓ It will negatively impact their access to services
 - ✓ Public health nurse or resource family (if known) indicate it is not in the child's best interest
- Send enrollment packet to FC eligibility with Face Sheet that includes recommendation on Medi-Cal/MCP enrollment
- FC eligibility creates new Medi-Cal enrollment case for Foster Youth following SW recommendation. Using the Health Care Options website, FC eligibility may select which MCP for enrollment.

Ways Enhanced Care Management Can Help Youth in Foster Care

- ✓ Be an extra help to kinship caregivers and resource parents to coordinate all a child's needs
- ✓ Find medical, dental, behavioral health providers, make appointments, and help arrange transportation to health care appointments
- ✓ Communicate between providers to ensure the child and family are getting all available services/benefits
- ✓ Help families navigate support for social issues, such as housing, food, transportation, utilities, etc.
- ✓ Help biological parents access Medi-Cal services that are part of family maintenance or family reunification case goals

What's coming next?



- **CINS, BICS and MEDS:** Training slide deck on checking Medi-Cal eligibility in MEDS
- **ECM and Consent Deep Dive:** Guidance for specific scenarios to improve coordination at the individual and population levels
- **Metrics that Matter:** Applying shared data between county child welfare systems and managed care plans to improve outcomes



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Theory of Change: ECM as a prevention and support tool for child welfare-involved children, youth and families

March 2025



Theory of Change: Why have it and how to use it

1. **Communication and planning tool:** Creates a map of the logical sequence of steps leading to the desired outcomes and impact to use as a communication tool to align stakeholders.
2. **Clarify goals and assumptions:** Make explicit the desired outcomes and underlying assumptions about how change occurs to achieve them.
3. **A blueprint for action:** Guide teams to stay on course and make informed decisions about program activities.
4. **Facilitate evaluation:** A framework for evaluation by *identifying measurable indicators of success*.
5. **Drive systems change:** Articulate how change is expected to occur, identify opportunities for collaboration and leverage efforts for systemic change.
6. **Improve decision-making:** A framework for making strategic decisions and prioritizing actions that are most likely to contribute to desired outcomes.



ECM For Child Welfare - FCHN Theory of Change

Inputs

Child Welfare Agencies (CWA)

- Defined referral pathways with MCPs
- Staff education/direction on ECM referrals
- Data on CW cases/status

MCPs

- Contracts with Full Circle
- Defined referral pathways w/CWA
- Linked data to define shared population
- Population health data

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- Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (MCP) contracts
- Contracted providers w/ CW experience
- Defined referral pathways
- Tech for documentation, reporting

Community-based Providers

- Culturally concordant, knowledgeable staff
- Effective ECM service delivery
- Accurate documentation in EHR

Children & families

- Consent for CW to make a referral
- Consent to participate

Community Partners

- Knowledge on how to make a referral for services for supporting instead of reporting

Activities

Infrastructure between MCPs and CWAs

- Data sharing/use agreements between partners
- Develop processes to identify children/families and implement referrals (including consent process)
- Agree on streamlined referral pathways
- Build awareness among staff
- Provide training & support to referrers

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- Engage providers & resources
- Train providers on all aspects of ECM
- Quickly assign referrals to best fit provider and ensure linkage; close the loop with referring entity, support case step-up/down
- Continuous quality monitoring & improvement of service delivery
- Meet all MCP compliance requirements
- Training to community partners to build awareness

Direct Service Providers

- Engage child/family and develop trust and reduce barriers to services
- Obtain consent to participate & communicate with care team based on child/family preferences
- Complete 360-degree assessment & child/family centered plan
- Support care plan goal achievement
- Link child/families to medical, behavioral and social services

Short-term Outcomes

Access, utilization, engagement

- Increased referrals to ECM
- Increased engagement & enrollment in ECM
- Families engaged early in services

Child & Family Experience

- Receive services from providers who reflect them, know their community, are trauma-informed
- Trust ECM providers and comfortable seeking/consenting to services
- Satisfied with ease of connecting
- Feel respected and supported by providers delivering care

Provider Experience

- Smooth onboarding & support building ECM capacity
- Understand program expectations & have tools to execute

Partnerships & sustainability

- Effective & mutually beneficial collaboration between CWA, MCPs, providers, community resources

Intermediate Outcomes

Access, utilization, engagement

- ECM becomes a tool in CWA prevention plans
- ECM increases child/family access to timely services (medical, BH, dental, social, etc)
- Adequate child/family engagement in care plans

Child & Family Experience

- Positive experience w/ services and would recommend to others
- Successfully get linked to achieve medical, BH, dental, social service needs and goals
- Achieves CW case goals
- Educate & empower TAY/NMD to navigate their health plan
- Feel supported after CW case ends and prevent

Provider Experience

- More, diverse ECM providers
- Improved job satisfaction due to ease of operations & families have more support

Partnerships & sustainability

- SWs feel they have extra support for families and recommend ECM to each other as a helpful tool

Long-Term Outcomes

Access, utilization, engagement

- Prevent system involvement; increase success of FM, speed up FR, support NMD transition to independence
- Improvements in health quality: well child visits & immunizations
- Improvements in health equity: reduced access and outcome disparities by race or ethnicity

Child & Family Experience

- Greater trust in Medi-Cal system
- Reduced trauma impact of system involvement
- Improved connections to support systems that support long-term

Provider Experience

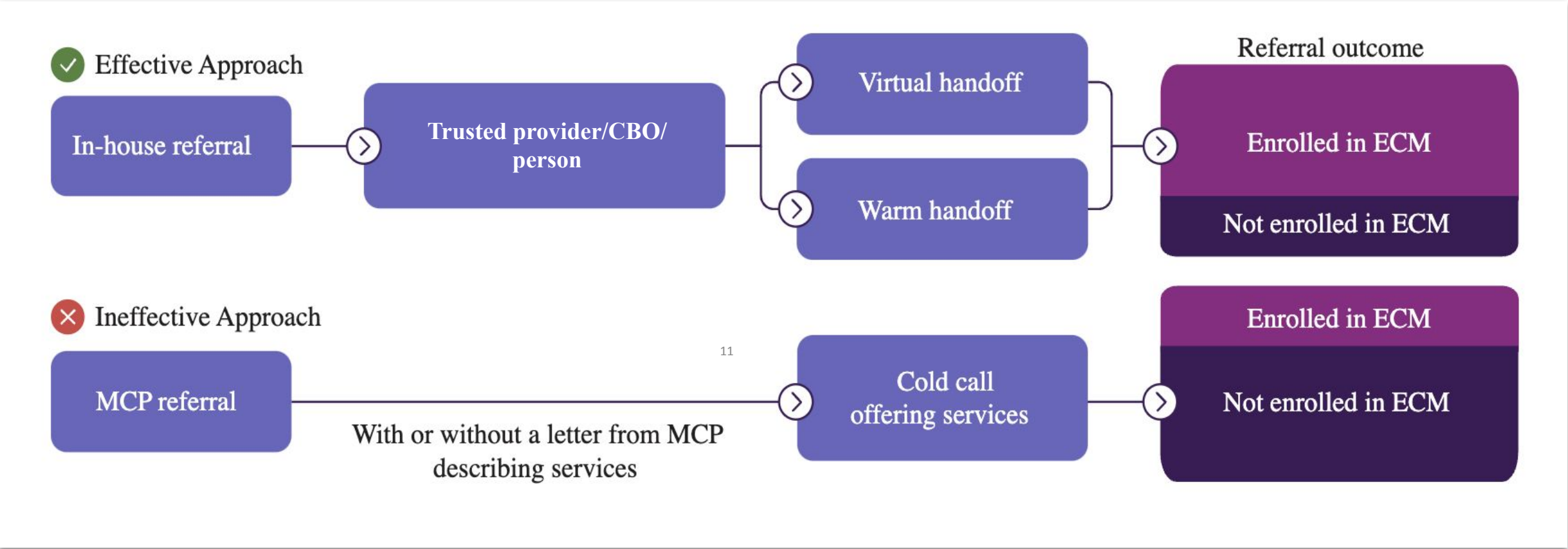
- Greater diversity in MCP networks due to increased CBO participation

Partnerships & sustainability

- CWA leverage all available Medi-Cal services for children/families and MCPs provide priority pathways for system-involved families

ECM Referral Approach

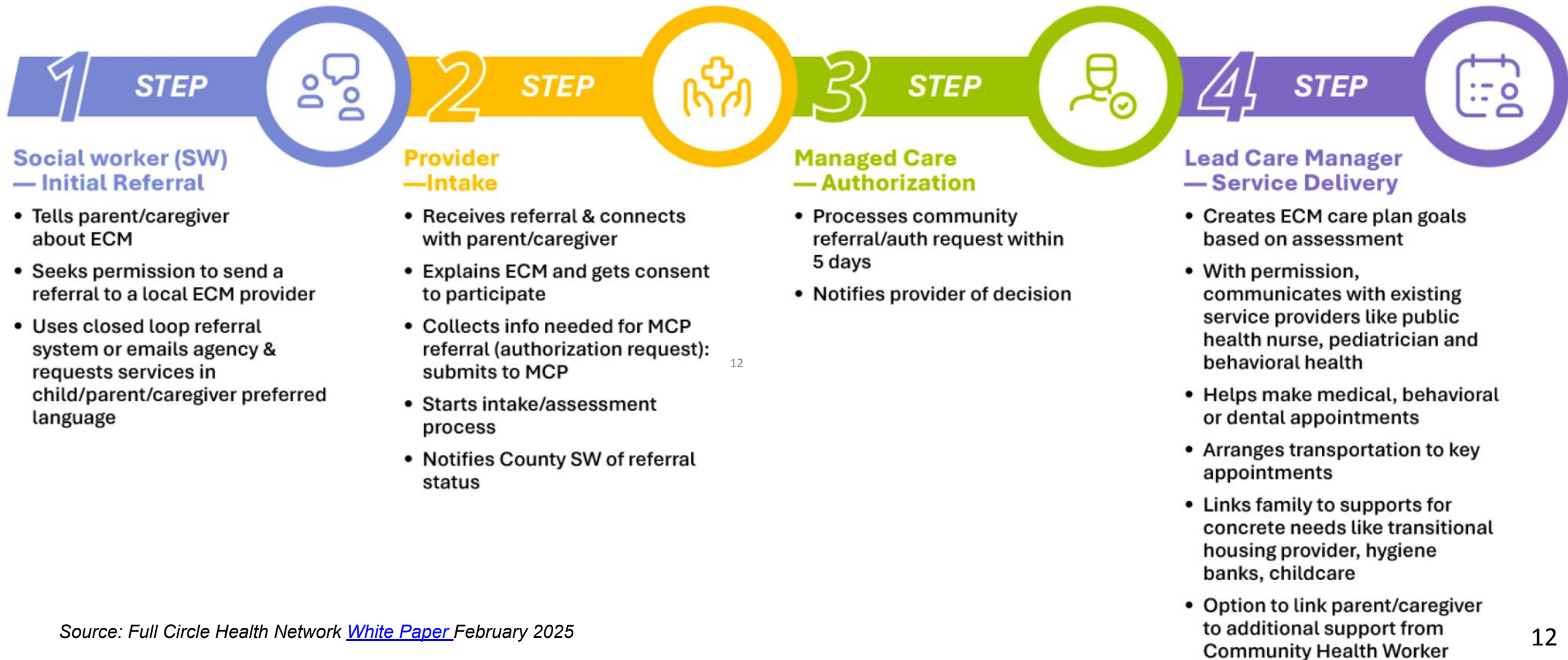
Research shows the best way to connect families to ECM is for referrals to come from trusted sources.



Source: [Rand Corporation](#), Oct. 2024

ECM Referral Approach

Counties can send referrals directly to community providers to streamline the process.



Example in Practice: L.A.

GLENDORA OFFICE WORKFLOW

1. Children's Social Worker (CSW) receives list of eligible children/youth
2. CSW conducts outreach to the caregiver and discusses child/youth eligibility and benefits of ECM
3. Caregiver agreeable to referral?
 - 3a. If No, CSW continue to support as needed
 - 3b. If Yes, CSW completes the "ECM interest form" and "802 form" using the "other" field and includes ECM referral in the note
4. CSW reviews the list of ECM providers in the area with caregiver and select ECM provider of their choice
 - 4a. OPTIONAL: CSW contacts the ECM provider for a consult call with the family
5. CSW send "ECM interest form" and "802 form" to selected ECM provider and e-mail a copy to ecmhelp@dcfs.lacounty.gov

COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT PROGRAMS
CONSENT TO RELEASE AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION

1. Case Name [Redacted]	2. Case Number [Redacted]
3. Parent's/Guardian's Names (if different from Case Name) [Redacted]	4. Date of Birth [Redacted]
5. Parent's/Guardian's Names (if different from Case Name) [Redacted]	6. Date of Birth [Redacted]
7. Name(s) of Children	8. Date(s) of Birth
1 [Redacted]	[Redacted]
2 [Redacted]	[Redacted]
3 [Redacted]	[Redacted]
4 [Redacted]	[Redacted]
5 [Redacted]	[Redacted]
6 [Redacted]	[Redacted]

9. CONSENT STATEMENT

I/we understand that as a necessary part of my/our participation in the Community Based Support Program(s), the agencies involved must have access to records pertaining to my/our family. Therefore, I/we give permission to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to release, disclose, and/or exchange information about myself and my child(ren) listed above with a Community Based Agency and the participating agencies which may include, but are not limited to: the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Social Services and Education; and the school systems. This consent includes both written and oral communication related to social, medical, developmental, psychological, educational, behavioral and other individual and family issues.

This signed consent form will remain in effect for the duration of my/our family's participation in the Community Based Support Program(s) indicated in #14 below.

10. Signature of Parent(s) Guardian(s) _____ _____	11. Date of Signature [Redacted]
12. Children's Social Worker (CSW) Signature	13. Date of Signature [Redacted]

14. Select Program Authorized for Referral:

<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption, Promotion & Support Services (APSS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership for Families (PFF)
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention & Treatment (CAPIT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention and Aftercare Services (PnA)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Preservation Program (FPP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Interest Form

Today's Date:	
1. Child's Name:	3. Child's Insurance Plan (e.g., L.A. Care, HealthNet, etc.):
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Child's Date of Birth:	
Click or tap here to enter text.	
4. Child's Medi-Cal Number (if available):	5. Parent/Guardian Name:
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Parent's/Guardian's Phone Number:	7. Parent's/Guardian's E-mail Address:
Home: Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Cell: Click or tap here to enter text.	
Other: Click or tap here to enter text.	
8. Children's Social Worker (CSW) Contact Information:	
Name: Click or tap here to enter text.	
Phone Number: Click or tap here to enter text.	
E-mail Address: Click or tap here to enter text.	
9. Additional Information:	
Please include anything else you would like to share about the family and/or child needs (e.g., housing, food, hospitalization follow-up, medical services, dental services, mental health support, etc.):	
Click or tap here to enter text.	
10. ECM Provider Selected:	
Click or tap here to enter text.	

Full Circle Consent Forms



Full Circle
Health Network

Headquarters: 2201 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone (888) 749-8877 Fax (916) 471-0458
network@fullcirclehn.org

Esta forma está disponible en

Member ID#: _____ Admit: _____
Name: _____
DOB: _____
Program: _____
County ID: _____

Complete or place Customer ID Label
▲ Staff Only ▲

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE & EXCHANGE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(Please see reverse side of form for information regarding your rights)

I, _____, and/or, _____,
(Name of Customer, if age 12 or older) (Name of Parent / Legal Guardian)

authorize care providers at **Full Circle Health Network** to receive, release/disclose and/or exchange information with:

Name of Agency / Party Phone Number Fax Number

Mailing Address of Agency / Party

the following information:

- A. ☐ All information regarding services and treatment received **OR**
☐ Only the following records or types of information (including any dates):

B. I specifically authorize release of the following information (check as appropriate):

- ☐ Mental Health Treatment Information
☐ Substance Abuse and/or Alcohol and Drug Abuse Information

For the purpose of: _____
(Records cannot be released without a purpose listed)

This authorization will expire on [insert date or event] _____. If no date or event is listed, this authorization will be valid one year from signature date **or** until discharge (whichever date comes first).

Printed Name of Customer Customer Date of Birth

Signature of Customer, if age 12 or older Date

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian Relationship to Customer

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian*** Date

***Parent must have legal custody. Legal guardians/conservators must show proof of status

Signature of Agency Representative Date

Headquarters: 2201 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone (888) 749-8877 Fax (916) 471-0458
network@fullcirclehn.org

Esta forma está disponible en

Customer ID#: _____ Admit: _____
Name: _____
DOB: _____
Program: _____
County ID: _____

Complete or place Customer ID Label
▲ Staff Only ▲

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE & EXCHANGE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(Please see reverse side of form for agency authorization information)

Your Rights:

You may refuse to sign this Authorization. Your refusal will not affect your ability to obtain services at our Agency.

You may revoke this authorization at any time by notifying this Agency in writing. Your revocation will take effect upon receipt except to the extent others have acted in reliance upon this authorization. A request for revocation should be mailed to:

Full Circle Health Network

Attn: Privacy Officer

2201 K Street

Sacramento, CA 95816

Information disclosed pursuant to this authorization could be re-disclosed by the recipient. Such re-disclosure is in some cases not protected by California law and may no longer be protected by federal confidentiality law (HIPAA).

Notice to Recipients: Federal Regulations prohibit further disclosure of substance abuse and/or alcohol and drug information without specific written consent from the person to whom the information pertains. A general authorization for release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose.

By signing above, I am consenting to the communications as indicated above. I understand that my Substance Abuse and/or Alcohol and Drug treatment records are protected under the federal regulations governing Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records, 42 CFR Part 2.


You have the right to receive a copy of this authorization.

Case Studies for Training

Download Full Circle case studies [here](#).

CASE STUDY | Family Reunification

Sisters



Scenario

Two sisters ages 9 and 7 were removed from their home due to sexual abuse by their mother's boyfriend. The mother is an undocumented immigrant and Spanish is her primary language. The mother wants her children back ASAP, but had no family or supports. She needs a place where she and her children could live, but she has never rented an apartment before on her own.

Core Needs

Safety

Family & Relationships

Stable Housing

Emotional / Psychological

Medical

Dental

School

Social/Fun

NEED

NO NEED

Presenting Needs/ Child & Family Goals


- Help the mother find stable housing so she can reunify with her children
- Ensure family is enrolled in all available social services supports for utility support and food
- Connection to mental health services for the daughters to address trauma
- Connection to mental health services for the mother to address trauma
- Catch up on all physical health and dental appointments
- Afterschool activities and supports

Role of ECM Care Manager

- Community Supports referral to housing services agency to help family find, secure and sustain housing
- Ensure both sisters are linked to a specialty mental health services provider
- Help mom connect to a mental health provider
- Help both sisters update their assigned pediatrician and make appointments
- Help make dental appointments for both girls
- Identify and find resources for transportation if needed for appointment attendance
- Research youth enrichment programs and help girls enroll
- Refer mother to parenting resources

Expected outcomes


- Secure stable housing
- Speed up family reunification timeframe
- Linkage to MH services
- Once the family is reunified, stay with the case for an additional 5 months to maintain family stability

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CASE STUDY | Permanent Placement Stability & Complex Health Support

Brothers



Scenario

Three brothers, ages 13 and 9 (twins), were removed from their adoptive grandmother for neglect and placed with their great aunt and uncle. Soon after the placement, the grandmother died unexpectedly. The older boy has short gut syndrome requiring a feeding tube and one of the younger boys (twins) has ADHD. The eldest sibling requires frequent medical care and hospital visits due to short gut syndrome. The aunt has learned to care for him. The boys are happy to be together but sad about grandma's death. They did not get to visit or say goodbye. Great aunt and uncle are in their 60's and are mentally and financially overwhelmed raising three young boys.

Core Needs

Safety

Family & Relationships

Stable Housing

Emotional / Psychological

Medical

Dental

School

Social/Fun

NEED

NO NEED

Presenting Needs/ Child & Family Goals


- Relative caregivers need additional financial support to supplement the cost of raising the boys.
- Connect brothers to grief counseling to process death of grandmother
- Medical management support/coordination for eldest sibling to maintain condition
- Afterschool and summer programs are needed for all siblings to maintain the adaptive skills needed to live successfully in the community.

Role of ECM Care Manager

- Help relative caregivers ensure they are receiving all financial and other assistance related to meeting boys' needs
- Provide resource linkage, program enrollment support and care coordination support to family
- Coordinate and centralize services among eldest brother's medical care team, ensure aunt understands who all the providers are and feels confident in working with them
- Identify and apply for local funding scholarships to help pay for extra-curricular activities for the boys
- Identify resources for educational tools for aunt and uncle
- Guide aunt and uncle through the process of getting an IEP for twin with ADHD

Expected outcomes

- Boys have outlets to process feeling about recent changes, including grandmother's death
- Aunt and uncle feel less overwhelmed and better able to manage the boys, including having a financial plan to meet the basic needs of the brothers moving forward
- Enrolled in school and enrichment programs, receive scholarships to help cover costs of extra-curricular activities
- Linkage to MH services

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Recap

1. **Medi-Cal enrollment.** Child welfare agencies can use these tools to inform any policy/practice changes related to Medi-Cal managed care enrollment
2. **ECM connections.** Logic model, referral and consent examples can inform workflows and desired outcomes for connecting children and families to ECM and other Medi-Cal CalAIM benefits
3. **Staff Training.** Customize these materials to update your workflows and staff training