



LEARNING SESSION “A” – April 28th 3:00pm – 4:15pm

A1 Bridging Gaps: Lessons Learned from Our Screening Tool Pilot

Derek Slama, *Prevention Program Director, CFPIC*

Sophia Jeffe, *Program Associate, CFPIC*

Andrea Lewis, *Senior Program Associate, CFPIC*

Join us for a dynamic, interactive workshop where we unveil key insights from our screening tool pilot and explore how this powerful tool can transform your local referral processes. You’ll get a clear, practical overview of how the screening tool works—and how it can help your county close service gaps, streamline access, and deliver support more effectively to the families who need it most.

Designed to strengthen collaboration across systems, this tool promotes early, community-driven intervention and helps build stronger, more responsive safety nets. Together, we’ll identify how the screening tool can work within your Family First prevention service array.

A2 Reimagining Family Support: Where Transforming CalWORKs Meets Linkages

Danna Fabella, *Senior Program Advisor, CFPIC*

Stuart Oppenheim, *Director Emeritus, CFPIC*

Damien Ladd, *Family Engagement and Empowerment Division, CDSS*

Join us for an inspiring and forward-looking workshop introducing the **Transforming CalWORKs** initiative—California’s bold effort to reimagine CalWORKs as a truly family-centered and family-driven program. This transformation prioritizes families’ voices, expands choice, and responds to individual strengths and needs in more meaningful ways.

Participants will gain a clear and compelling overview of the initiative’s vision, major reforms, and what this shift means for counties, community partners, and the families we serve. We’ll explore how TANF policy has evolved over time and how Linkages aligns with and supports the goals of the Transforming CalWORKs movement.

A3 Bridging Practice Across Systems: Using Vignettes to Support Child Welfare–CalWORKs Collaboration

Melissa Connelly, *Associate Director, CFPIC*

Anita Sanchez, *Field-Based and Trainer Development Specialist, Central Training Academy*

This workshop will showcase a series of training vignettes designed to support Linkages implementation, highlighting practical examples that can be adapted for local use. Participants will collaborate to identify concrete ways counties can integrate these vignettes into their own training programs and implementation strategies to strengthen practice and consistency.

This workshop will spotlight a series of practical training vignettes developed to support strong Linkages implementation. We’ll explore how these tools can be adapted to fit local contexts and strengthen day-to-day practice. Participants will work collaboratively to identify concrete strategies for integrating the vignettes into county training programs and implementation plans—building greater consistency, confidence, and impact across teams.

A4 Communication, Communication, Communication: Keeping Linkages Visible

Felix Minjarez, *Regional Manager, County of Riverside*

Erika Pena, *Regional Manager, County of Riverside*

Ruben Rangel, *Regional Manager, County of Riverside*

Colette Crawford, *Regional Manager, County of Riverside*

Jennifer Marcelli, *Linkages Program Director, CFPIC*

This session will spotlight the powerful role communication plays in sustaining and strengthening Linkages. When communication is intentional and consistent, connections stay visible, partnerships stay strong, and families experience more coordinated support. Together, we’ll explore practical tools and real-world strategies that elevate trust, reinforce collaboration, and clearly communicate the impact of Linkages across programs and communities. Participants will leave inspired and equipped to strengthen everyday practice through purposeful, relationship-centered communication.

LEARNING SESSION “B” – April 29th 10:45am – 12:00pm

B1 Linkages 2.0 Evaluation: Impact on Local Practice

Sarah Ferrell, *Consulting Manager, RDA*

Jennifer Marcelli, *Linkages Program Director, CFPIC*

This workshop will dive into how the insights and tools emerging from the Linkages 2.0 evaluation can actively drive local practice improvement. Together, we’ll explore how counties can translate evaluation findings into meaningful action — strengthening implementation, deepening cross-system collaboration, and fostering a culture of continuous learning. Participants will leave with practical strategies and adaptable resources to help turn data into impact and advance their local Linkages efforts.

B2 I’m Stuck! How to Get Your Team Going

Danna Fabella, *Senior Program Advisor, CFPIC*

Roselinda Torres Rolph, *WTW Program Specialist, County of Fresno*

Lindsay Harris, *Social Services Program Supervisor Outreach and Community Engagement, County of Fresno*

This workshop will help participants identify common barriers that stall team momentum and explore practical strategies to overcome them. Attendees will learn approaches to re-energize their team, foster collaboration, and move local Linkages efforts forward effectively.

Participants will hear how Coordinators from Fresno County re-launched Linkages in their county.

B3 AB 135 Policy Lab

Julia Perez, *CalWORKs Early Engagement and Eligibility, CDSS*

Terra Red, *CalWORKs Early Engagement and Eligibility, CDSS*

Carolyn Spain, *CalWORKs Engagement Bureau, CDSS*

Andrea Lewis, *Senior Program Associate, CFPIC*

AB 135 Policy Lab – This interactive session will focus on the latest All County Letter (ACL) guidance and provide space for real-time questions, clarification, and feedback.

Participants are invited to engage in an open Q&A designed to support policy translation into day-to-day practice. Topics may include, but are not limited to, Inter-County Transfers (ICTs), CalWORKs Family Reunification (FR) Cash Aid, and related services. Come ready to ask questions, share insights, and strengthen your understanding of how AB 135 policy is implemented across counties.

B4 Planning a Cross-System Learning Strategy for Linkages

Melissa Connelly, *Associate Director, CFPIC*

Dawn Carini, *Child Welfare Program Specialist, Northern Training Academy*

This workshop will help counties take a strategic approach to planning and sequencing the full suite of Linkages training products alongside locally developed training efforts.

Participants will explore how to thoughtfully integrate key components—including the Linkages Overview, Linkages and ER, Coordinated Case Planning, and Fiscal training—into a comprehensive implementation strategy.

Together, we'll focus on building a cohesive, cross-system training plan that strengthens shared understanding between Child Welfare and CalWORKs, aligns practice across programs, and maximizes available resources. Participants will leave with a clearer roadmap for delivering coordinated, impactful training that advances strong and sustainable Linkages implementation.

LEARNING SESSION “C” – April 29th 1:00pm – 2:15pm

C1 Sustaining Linkages in Challenging Times

Mayle Johnson, *HHS Deputy Director, Social Services Calaveras County*

Jennifer Marcelli, *Linkages Program Director, CFPIC*

The purpose of this session is to strengthen collaboration and build resilience among partners by exploring strategies to sustain Linkages during periods of uncertainty, disruption, change, and/or competing priorities. Participants will reflect on current challenges, identify opportunities to reinforce connections, and develop practical approaches that ensure continuity of services, communication, and shared goals even in difficult circumstances.

C2 Child-Only: A Potential Linkages Population

Andrea Lewis, *Senior Program Associate, CFPIC*

Stuart Oppenheim, *Director Emeritus, CFPIC*

This session will review and examine current Child-Only data and explore how to better align the Screening Tool, Protective Factors framework, and the Linkages philosophy to effectively serve this population. Participants will engage in thoughtful discussion to identify opportunities for stronger alignment, more responsive practice, and improved outcomes for Child-Only families.

C3 Building Trust in Linkages: Trauma-Informed Practice with Tribal Families

Raquel Morris, *LCSW, Tribal Consultant*

This session explores trauma-informed engagement strategies to strengthen Tribal–county collaboration within Linkages. Participants will examine how historical trauma, systemic inequities, and cross-system involvement impact Tribal families’ experiences with CalWORKs and Child Welfare. Through practical tools and reflective discussion, the workshop will focus on building trust, honoring Tribal sovereignty, and centering family voice and choice. Participants will leave with concrete strategies to support healing-centered, culturally responsive engagement that strengthens Linkages partnerships and improves outcomes for Tribal families.

C4 Strengthening Linkages through ICPM, CPM & Transforming CalWORKs

Danna Fabella, *Senior Program Advisor, CFPIC*

Melissa Connelly, *Associate Director, CFPIC*

This session is designed to help counties strengthen their capacity to integrate the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM), the California Child Welfare Core Practice Model (CPM), and Transforming CalWORKs strategies into a unified approach. Participants will explore how these frameworks align in values, practices, and outcomes, and discover practical ways to apply them together to enhance family engagement, promote cross-system collaboration, and coordinate service delivery. By the end of the session, counties will have actionable strategies to support prevention, stability, and overall family well-being through a cohesive, aligned approach.