



CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM

CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE CORE PRACTICE MODEL (CPM)

The CPM articulates a family-centered approach that is intended to improve coordination and collaboration among child welfare, mental health and other formal and informal supports, and children and families involved with the child welfare system. The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) is a comprehensive approach to foster care designed out of an understanding that children do best when they are cared for in committed, safe, and nurturing homes. This includes the provision of services and supports to the child, youth, and family. The CCR and the CPM must work together seamlessly. This will happen over time and with effective, sustained implementation support.

The CPM practice elements include engaging families in developing a support team that assists families in accessing the services and supports needed for the family's success in keeping children safe and promoting well-being. It also calls for accountability to ensure all services provided to children (whether in-home or in out-of-home care) are individually tailored toward the ultimate goal of maintaining a safe and stable permanent family and enhancing well-being.

PRACTICE MODEL BEHAVIORS:

- Be open, honest, clear, and respectful in your communication.
- Be accountable.
- Listen to and connect with the child, youth, young adult, and family, demonstrate that you care about their thoughts and experiences, and help them identify and meet their goals.
- Identify and engage family members and others who are important to the child, youth, young adult, and family.
- Support and facilitate the family's capacity to advocate for themselves.
- From the beginning and throughout all work with the child, youth, young adult, family and their team, engage in initial and on-going safety and risk assessment and permanency planning.
- Work with the family to build a supportive team.
- Facilitate the team process and engage the team in planning and decision-making with and in support of the child, youth, young adult, and family.
- Work with the team to address the evolving needs of the child, youth, young adult, and family.
- Work collaboratively with community partners to create better ways to access services.
- Work with the family and their team to build a plan that will focus on changing behaviors that led to the circumstances that brought the family to the attention of the child welfare agency and assist with safety, trauma, healing, and permanency.
- Work with the family to prepare for change in advance and provide tools for managing significant transitions.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:

[California Child Welfare Core Practice Model](#)

For additional information and questions, email: CCR@dss.ca.gov

CCR builds on California's current reform efforts

Approved Relative Caregivers Program (ARC)

Participating counties support relative caregivers with a payment equal to the basic foster care rate.

Child and Family Teaming

An effective approach to coordinated care and case planning for all children and youth in the child welfare system.

Pathways to Mental Health

Originating from the Katie A. lawsuit settlement, Pathways is intended to improve the coordination between child welfare and mental health systems so that children in foster care receive timely, and effective individualized mental health services.

Quality Parenting Initiative

Will create new strategies and practices within child welfare for the recruitment and retention of quality caregivers, and support biological parents with reunification efforts.

Residentially-Based Services Reform (RBS)

A demonstration project begun in 2008 that tested a short-term residential program model with ongoing community-based services and support, and which serves as the foundation for STRTC.

Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program

A pilot program that provides upfront training and assessment of families seeking to parent children in foster care will expand statewide.