



CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM

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 which provides upfront training and assessment of families seeking to parent children in foster care will expand statewide.

CHILD & FAMILY TEAMING

The child, youth, and family's experience and voice is important in assessment, placement, and service planning. It has been shown that working with the child, youth, family, and caregiver as part of a team results in better outcomes.

BACKGROUND

For many years, counties have been implementing various strategies that are intended to bring the child, youth, and family's voice into the assessment, case planning, and placement decision making process. The Pathways to Mental Health (formerly the Katie A. lawsuit settlement), California Wraparound, the Children's System of Care, and other models embeds a child and family teaming process into assessment and service planning activities for children with mental health needs. This framework has also been integrated into the [California Child Welfare Core Practice Model](#) currently being developed for implementation throughout California in the coming years.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

- Assembly Bill 403 formalized the practice and clarified the role of the child and family team. The child and family team, which includes the child, youth and family, and their formal and informal support network, will be the foundation for ensuring these perspectives are incorporated throughout the duration of the case.
- According to the bill, a child and family team is defined as group of individuals who are convened by the placing agency and who are engaged through a variety of team-based processes to identify the strengths and needs of the child or youth and his or her family, and to help achieve positive outcomes for safety, permanency, and well-being.
- More specifically, a child and family team includes extended family, community and/or tribe and is the primary vehicle for collaboration on the assessment, case planning, and placement decisions that are made to best support the success of the family. Use of these teams is based upon a model of care that is intended to value and support the families individualized needs for care.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Across California, counties are implementing a variety of child and family teaming strategies. These strategies include:

- Wraparound CFTs
- Team Decision-making Meetings
- Family Group Conferencing
- Family Group Decision-Making
- Permanency Teaming

MORE INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

- [CCR: A Report to the Legislature](#)
- [Assembly Bill 403 \(Chapter 773, Statutes of 2015\)](#)
- For additional information or questions, please contact: CCR@dss.ca.gov.