



California Partners for Permanency  
**Reducing Long-Term Foster Care**

California Alliance for Child and Family Services

*Executive Conference Fall 2011*

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Message from

# Commissioner Bryan Samuels

(Administration on Children, Youth and Families)

*“We’re connecting science to programs,  
data to decisions, and research to practice.*

*And more importantly, we’re connecting  
children in care to the resources and  
relationships they need to be successful.”*

# Grant Overview

- ❑ Federal Grant under Permanency Innovations Initiatives \$100 Million Federal Investment
  - One of six grantees nationwide
  - \$14.5 million over 5 years
  - Focus: Reduce Long-Term Foster Care
- ❑ CAPP: To address barriers that keep African American and American Indian youth in long- term foster care
- ❑ Strong emphasis on using evidence based approaches
- ❑ Unprecedented level of federal technical assistance

# Participating Counties

## Early Implementing

- Fresno
- Humboldt
- Los Angeles
- Santa Clara

## Replication Counties\*

- Contra Costa
- Orange
- Monterey
- Napa
- Sacramento
- San Bernardino
- San Francisco
- Santa Cruz
- Solano
- Yolo

\* Subject to change per county option

# The Need

- ❑ Over 60,000 children in foster care
- ❑ African American children in foster care at more than 4 times their rate in the child population
- ❑ Native American children in foster care at nearly 3 times their rate in the child population
- ❑ Foster care outcomes are worse for African and Native American youth
  - *They remain in foster care longer*
  - *They are less likely to be reunified with their families*

# Target Population

- The target population for the CAPP intervention is all children in/or entering foster care at elevated risk of a non-permanent exit (e.g., aging out) or remaining in long-term foster care.
- *In its five years of federal funding, CAPP will focus on African-American and American Indian children entering foster care or remaining in long-term foster care.*

# What is CAPP

- ❑ Child and Family Practice Model
- ❑ Institutional Analysis
- ❑ Implementation Science

...and much, much more!!!

# 5-Year Project Overview

## Year 1

10-month planning process

Implementation plan is due end of July 2011  
(Exploration)

## Years 2-3

Early implementing county implementation

Begins Oct. 1, 2011  
(Installation to Initial Implementation)

## Years 4-5

Early implementing and replication county implementation

(Initial Implementation to Full Implementation)

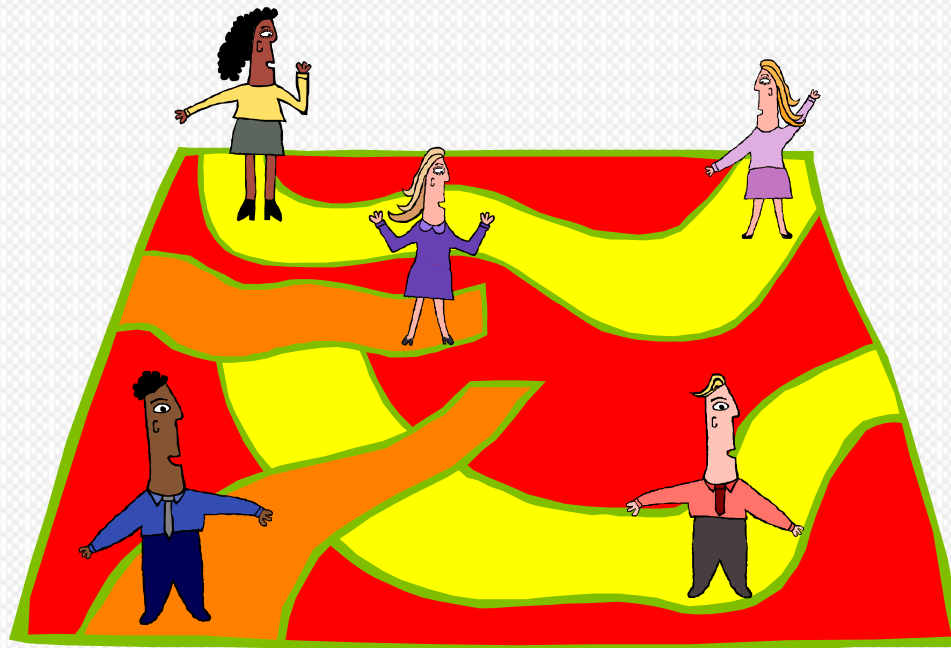
# Practice Model Elements: *Original Proposal*

- ❑ Family Finding and Engagement
- ❑ Team Decision Making and Permanency Teaming
- ❑ Integrated Mental and Behavioral Health Assessment and Treatment
- ❑ Innovative Family, Caregiver and Child/Youth Engagement Strategies
- ❑ Post Permanency Supports

# Child and Family Practice Model v. 1.0

- Theoretical framework
- Values and principles
- Essential front-line practices
  - Discovery and Engagement
  - Empowering Families
  - Healing Trauma
  - Pre- and Post-Permanency Circles of Support
- Organizational and system capacity.

# The Journey



# What is an Institutional Analysis?

A qualitative methodology that uncovers how a particular outcome is produced. It looks at the gap between what a child, youth, or their families need in order to be safe and what the institution is set up to do...

- It's the system, not individual workers
- Institutional view of clients is rarely neutral
- “One size does not fit all” when working with families
- Institutional changes can improve outcomes for families

# IA Process

- Individual interviews with agency social work staff, private providers, and community partners;
- Observations including juvenile court, parenting classes, team meetings, and shadowing workers;
- Focus groups (parents, youth, guardians, attorneys, foster parents, social workers, etc);
- Guided review of cases.

# Key Findings: Fresno

- Gap between the county's intent and the actual outcomes that the families experience.
- Limited understanding of the unique strengths and problems faced by African American families.
- Intervened through universal, rather than individualized assessments and service plans.
- Services tended to be centrally located in Fresno, rather than in the communities and the operating hours were inconvenient.
- Minimal support of parents to achieve economic stability by linking them with other available services.
- Workers not directed to proactively and consistently find permanent families for older youth.

# CAPP Theory of Change

## Barriers to Permanency for African American and American Indian Children/Youth

- The child welfare system practice does not understand, engage, or value the strengths and resources of African American and American Indian families, communities, and Tribes due to mutual mistrust (at both the individual and system levels) and a lack of understanding of the differences in the lived experience of each population.
- The child welfare system practice has not consistently partnered with communities to identify, develop, fund and make available culturally- based and trauma- focused treatment and support services to address the underlying grief, trauma, and loss African-American and American Indian children are more likely to experience in their lives.

## Intervention to Address the Barriers

The CAPP intervention is a **Child and Family Practice Model** with four core components:

- **Theoretical Framework**
- **Values and Principles**
- **Essential Practices**
- **Organizational and System Capacity**

### The Essential Practices include:

- **Discovery and Engagement** of a broad family, community and Tribal network;
- **Empowering Families** and their supportive communities and tribes;
- **Healing Trauma** with recognition of and attention to the impact of current and historical trauma, loss, and grief on all family members through integrated trauma-informed assessment and treatment to promote culturally relevant assessment and healing practices for children, youth and their families; and
- **Pre- & Post-Permanency Circle of Support** to promote healing and linkage to cultural and system resources for the child and family to meet their special and developing needs while involved with the system after the child or youth has exited care to permanency.

## Expected Short-Term System-Level Outcomes

- The child welfare system will change at the policy, supervisory, caseworker, and client level. Child welfare system practice will understand, engage, and value the strengths and resources of African American and American Indian families, communities and Tribes, and there will mutual understanding of the differences in the lived experience of each population.
- The child welfare system practice will make available culturally-based and trauma- focused treatment and support services to address the underlying grief, trauma, and loss African-American and American Indian children are more likely to experience in their lives.

## Expected Short-Term Child-Level Outcomes

- Increased Caregiver Engagement
- Increased family relationships
- Increased parent/child relationships
- Increased social connectedness
- Increased stabilizing behavior

## Expected Long-Term Outcomes for African American and American Indian Children/Youth

- Decrease in number and percentage of children in foster care
- Decrease in disparity in achieving outcomes
- Decrease in dependency guardianship rate
- Decrease in non-permanent exits
- Decrease in re-entry rates
- Increase in placement with relative or Tribe
- Increase in rate/timeliness of permanency exits (includes guardianship, adoption, and reunification)

# Implementation Science



The Cliff Notes

# Formula for Success

Effective intervention practices

+

Effective implementation practices

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= Good outcomes

# Degrees of Implementation

## **PAPER**

### **Paper Implementation**

putting into place new policies and procedures with the adoption of an innovation as the rationale.

## **PROCESS**

### **Process Implementation**

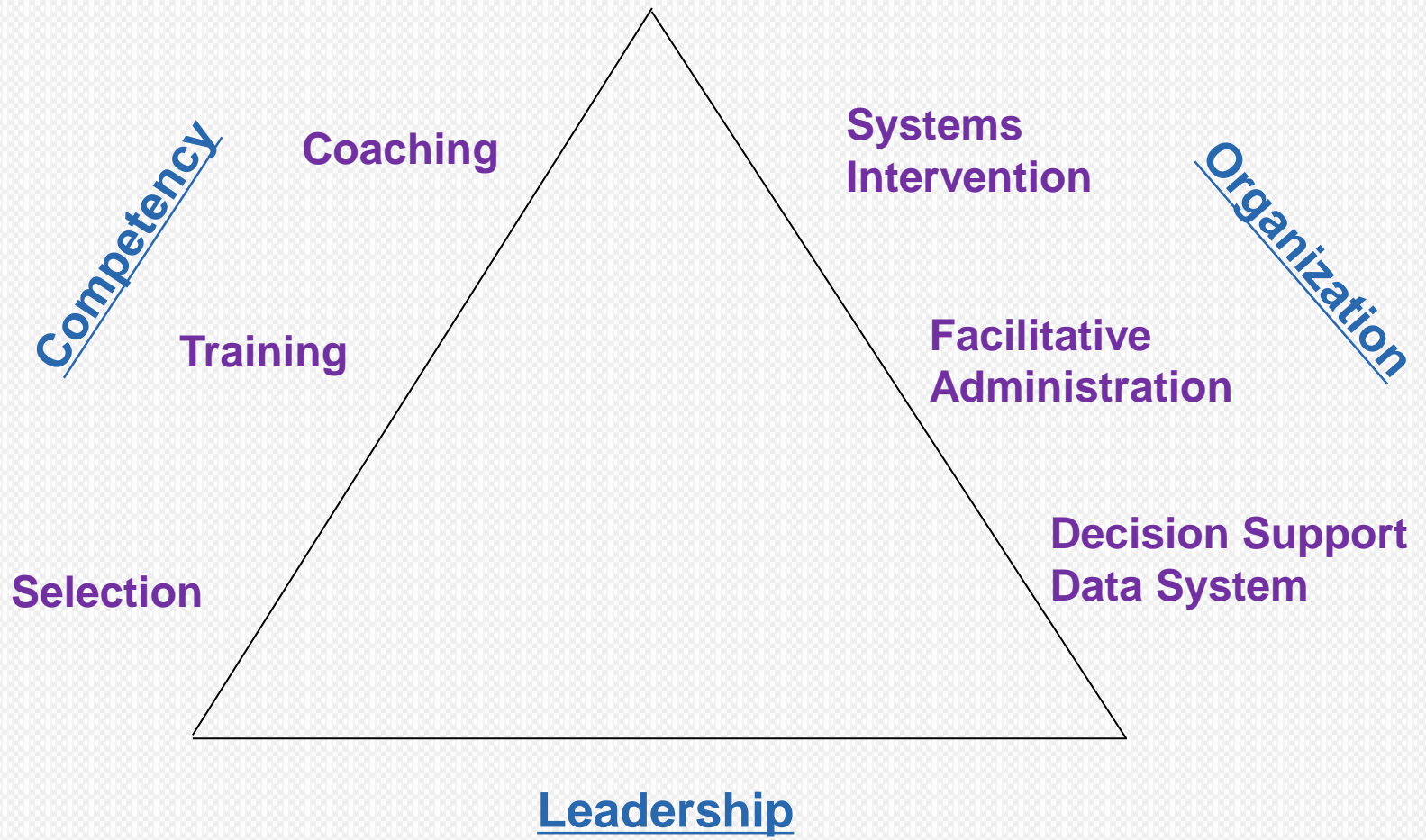
putting new operating procedures in place to conduct training workshops, provide supervision, change information reporting forms, and so on with the adoption of an innovation as the rationale.

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **Performance Implementation**

putting procedures and processes in place in such a way that the identified functional components of change are used with good effect for children and families.

# Implementation Drivers



# More Info

- CAPP Website:

<http://reducefostercarenow.org/>

- National Implementation Research Network at University of North Carolina:

<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~nirn/default.cfm>

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