MAKING CONNECTIONS: DEVELOPING THE STATE PLAN, FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES AND THE SHIFT TO COMMUNITY SUPPORTING

Hillary Konrad, Chief
Office of Child Abuse Prevention
California Department of Social Services
FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES (FFPS) PROGRAM

FFPS Program

In accordance with WIC §16588, a local Title IV-E agency opting into the FFPS Program is required to submit a Comprehensive Prevention Plan.

Comprehensive Prevention Plan

Primary Prevention Strategies  Secondary Prevention Strategies  Tertiary Prevention Strategies (must encompass FFPSA Part 1)
Families often voluntarily seek support from public and private community agencies:
- faith-based organizations, schools, Family Resource Centers, local athletic organizations, afterschool programs, scouting organizations, etc.

Engaging and strengthening connections between these organizations and local service providers that understand the needs of the community and provide direct services is key to realizing the ultimate vision for upstream prevention.
PREVENTION IN ACTION
COMMUNITY PATHWAY FOR PREVENTION SERVICES

Family Needs Supports

Family Referred to Family Resource Center or Community Based Organization

Coordination and Delivery of Services

Monitoring and Oversight
MANDATED REPORTING TO COMMUNITY SUPPORTING

Only about 13% of referrals to child welfare are substantiated. Nearly 50% of allegations are “General Neglect” with Black and Native American children more disproportionately affected.

Most referrals for General Neglect can be addressed through supportive community services and concrete (basic needs) supports.

Mandated Reporting
Requirement to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect, regardless of evidence. Those that do not report suspected abuse or neglect may be subject to up to 6 months in jail and/or a $1,000 fine.

Community Supporting
Encourages child- and family-serving professionals to support families rather than reporting when there is little question of risk for a child’s safety.
COMMUNITY SUPPORTING WITHIN A COMMUNITY PATHWAY

HOTLINE vs HELPLINE
"It does not make sense for funding to be in silos – families do not experience life in funding streams."

- Rebecca Jones Gaston, Commissioner at the Administration on Children, Youth, & Families
# ANTICIPATED NEXT STEPS

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<td>Mandated Reporter Training revisions via focus groups and Tribal Consultation</td>
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<td>Research other state and local initiatives for community supporting models</td>
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<td>Develop a community pathway implementation framework and consistent definitions</td>
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<td>Receive FFPS Comprehensive Prevention Plans by July 2023</td>
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<td>Formalize governance structure for FFPS Program</td>
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<td>Develop training and guidance for community pathway</td>
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<td>Determine successful outcome measures for community pathway</td>
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<td>Develop and disseminate Communications Plan for the shift from mandated reporting to community supporting</td>
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Thank You!

Safety, Prevention and Early Intervention Branch
California Department of Social Services

To participate in future efforts to modify the Online Mandated Reporter Training, please sign up for the OCAP Buzz Newsletter or contact the OCAP at OCAP@dss.ca.gov.