

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

CANS

CANS is a multi-purpose assessment tool developed to assess well-being, identify a range of social and behavioral healthcare needs, support care coordination and collaborative decision-making, and monitor outcomes of individuals, providers, and systems. Completion of the CANS assessment requires effective engagement using a teaming approach. The CANS must be informed by CFT members, including the youth and family. The CANS assessment results must be shared, discussed, and used within the CFT process to support case planning and care coordination. The use and implementation of the CANS by county child welfare, juvenile probation and behavioral health departments as a mental health and substance use disorder screening and functional assessment tool advances the efforts already underway through Pathways to Well-Being (previously known as Katie A.).

The implementation of the CANS will be phased in based on an implementation schedule adopted by DHCS and CDSS. CDSS will provide training opportunities for skilled facilitators and staff who will administer or utilize CANS results. A training and implementation plan to support uniform implementation statewide will be provided in an upcoming policy letter. [CANS Joint Letter](#)

CAPP – California Partners for Permanency

California Partners for Permanency is a federally funded project to reduce the number of children in long-term foster care. It is funded through a Presidential Initiative. The California effort focuses on African American and Native American children who are over-represented in the state's child welfare system and for whom it has been most challenging to find permanent homes. The project goals are to both reduce long-term foster care and improve child well-being. For more information on CAPP: [CAPP Site Visit Report](#)

Core Practice Model (CPM)

CPM is a framework to support child welfare practice and allow child welfare professionals to be more effective in their roles. The goal is to create a practice model that guides practice, service delivery and decision-making and builds on the great work already taking place by integrating key elements of existing initiatives and proven practices such as the California Partners for Permanency (CAPP), the Katie A. Core Practice Model, and Safety Organized Practice (SOP). The model will give meaning to the work currently in practice and improve outcomes for children and families. Practice behaviors have been developed and organizational indicators are currently being identified to support implementation of the statewide CPM. [CalSWEC: About the Core Practice Model](#)

Commercial Sexual Abuse of Children (CSEC)

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a form of human trafficking that is impacting young people all across America and worldwide. In California three cities including San Diego, San Francisco, and Los Angeles have been identified by a Federal Human Trafficking task force as having the highest rates of trafficked youth under the age of 18. Research indicates that thousands of young people from all ethnic, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds have been lured into “the life” and are at risk of being trafficked. CSEC victims/survivors cross a variety of agencies including, child welfare, probation, homeless shelters, medical and mental health providers, and law enforcement at high rates. California is on the forefront of addressing the issue. [CalSWEC: CSEC Toolkit](#)

Continuum of Care (CCR)

The Continuum of Care initiative is a framework for integration of Congregate Care Reform efforts in California. The integrated framework is intended to guide the array of services provided for children and families served by Child Welfare, Probation, and Special Education Programs. For more information on CCR: **CDSS Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) History**

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

CQI is the complete process of identifying, describing and analyzing strengths and problems and then testing, implementing, learning from and revising solutions. It relies on an organizational culture that is proactive and supports continuous learning. CQI is firmly grounded in the overall mission, vision and values of the agency. Perhaps most importantly, it is dependent upon the active inclusion and participation of staff at all levels of the agency, children, youth, families and stakeholders throughout the process.

Common Core 3.0

Common Core is the standardized training for new workers in the state of California Content was developed around key practice areas: Foundational, Engagement, Assessment, Case Planning and Service Delivery, Monitoring and Adapting, and Transitions. Additionally, content is delivered utilizing multiple modalities to support the new worker in gaining knowledge, practicing skills, and transfer of learning. Core includes self-paced eLearning's, skill practice training in the classroom, field-based learning, and knowledge and advanced level skills reinforcement labs.

- **Common Core Curricula for Child Welfare Social Worker**

CWS CARES (Previously Known as CWS/CMS)

CWS/CMS is California's version of the federal Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). Child Welfare Services - California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES) is an upgrade to the system that will allow child welfare workers to better ensure safety, well-being, and permanency of children at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. CWS-CARES is being developed incrementally, using agile software development methods and free and open source software. The goal is to provide a system with a more intuitive user experience and new capabilities not provided by the CWS/CMS, LIS, and FAS legacy systems. The program is developed and monitored by Child Welfare Digital Services.

Fostering Connections (AB12) - The California Fostering Connections to Success Act, was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2010. With this legislation, 1 in 5 youth who "age out" nationally will receive the support of the foster care system up to the age of 21, ending an era of neglect and providing youth in foster care with the same common-sense assistance provided to children from in-tact families. For More Information on AB12:

- California Fostering Connections to Success
- CDSS After 18 Program

Pathways to Well Being (aka Katie A.)

Katie A. was a class action lawsuit that was filed in 2002 against the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and the County of Los Angeles (LA). Plaintiffs alleged that foster children do not receive adequate assessment and referral for mental health services and, as a result, suffer multiple unnecessarily restrictive foster care placements. LA settled its portion of the lawsuit in 2003, and CDSS and CDHCS settled in 2011.

For More Information on **Katie A.:**

- [Pathways to Well Being \(Katie A\)](#)
- [California Department of Health Care Services \(CDHCS\)](#)

Psychotropic Medication and Foster Youth

Research in recent years has shown that children and youth involved with child welfare are disproportionately prescribed psychotropic medications compared to their peers who are not involved with the child welfare system. While there is a role for these medications to help address certain illnesses, emotions, or behaviors, these medications can be harmful if used improperly. CA has developed and implemented training for social workers, probation officers, mental health providers, etc. on the appropriate use and oversight of psychotropic medications with a particular focus on children and youth in foster care.

- [Psychotropic Medications Toolkit](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway: Understanding Psychotropic Medications](#)

Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)

The Quality Parenting Initiative is an approach to strengthening foster care, refocusing on excellent parenting for all children in the child welfare system. QPI provides a network of sites that share information and ideas about how to improve parenting as well as recruit and retain excellent families. It is an effort to rebrand foster care by changing the expectations of and support for caregivers. The key elements of the approach are; 1) Defining the expectations of caregivers, 2) clearly communicating expectations to staff, caregivers and other stakeholders, and 3) aligning system policy and practice with those expectations. <http://www.qpicalifornia.org/pages/qpicaresource.shtml>

Resource Family Approval (RFA)

RFA is a method of approving caregivers to foster, adopt, or provide legal guardianship for the care and supervision of children and youth in the child welfare and probation systems. Mandated by California State Statute, RFA creates a platform for all Resource Families to receive the same information, training, and support. The goal of RFA is a unified, family friendly, and child-centered approval process for licensing foster family homes, approving relatives and non-relative extended family members etc., by combining elements of all the processes into a single approval standard. [Resource Family Approval \(RFA\) Toolkit](#)

Safety Organized Practice (SOP)

Safety Organized Practice (SOP) is a collaborative approach that emphasizes the importance of teamwork in child welfare. SOP aims to build and strengthen partnerships with the child welfare agency and within a family by involving their informal support networks of friends and family members. A central belief of SOP is that all families have strengths. SOP uses strategies and techniques that align with the belief that a child and his or her family are the central focus, and that the partnership exists in an effort to find solutions that ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children. Safety Organized Practice is informed by an integration of practices and approaches, including: Solution Focused Practice, Signs of Safety, Structured Decision Making, Child and Family Engagement, Risk and Safety Assessment Research, Group Supervision and International Supervision, Appreciative Inquiry, Motivational Interviewing, Consultation and Information Sharing Framework, Cultural Humility, Trauma-Informed Practice. [CWDS and SOP](#)