

BOB FRIEND, NIPFC DIRECTOR-MODERATOR AND PRESENTER

PANEL MEMBERS:

PAUL VINETZ, LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT; JENNIFER MARTINEZ, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PROBATION; STACEY JACKSON, SISKIYOU COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT;

What are we required to do?

Follow the research, law and policy, which clearly shows:

> Children and youth have better outcomes when placed with or stay connected to "family"

Follow this premise

– to the best of our
ability

In good faith Who holds us accountable?

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNE

Impact of kinship care on permanency outcomes

Children in foster care may experience placement instability due to a variety of factors, and this instability can have a significant negative impact on their well-being.

Those in kinship care environments have fewer disruptions and overall better permanency outcomes than those in nonfamily placements.

Children in Kinship Care Experience

Improved Placement Stability,

Higher Levels of Permanency, and

Decreased Behavioral Problems

System and Practice Shifts

Moving from a system designed to protect children from their families to one that supports families to keep their children safe.

Recognizing that youth do better with kin while remaining in their communities & schools, in their culture

Shifting the system therefore to prioritize relationships and possibilities with kin before consideration of alternatives, which aligns with state and federal law, policy and guidance, and research. Prioritize relationships w family and loved ones as a core strategy that is essential to permanency.

Prioritizing the development of networks of people who will continue to be of support to youth post system involvement (for free and forever) and to ensure that those peopled networks are welcomed, involved and included in all plans and decisions impacting the future of the youth. Collaborative, family-centered practice is more effective than agency-centered, professional teams practice.

Thus, a kin-first, family-centered system.

System and Practice Shifts Creating and sustaining system alignment via establishment of a set of Core values and beliefs. System alignment and commitment to ensuring that minimally every youth served will have a network... Ongoing oversight to ensure system gaps are filled and system obstacles are addressed/removed so that networks are consistently established Tracking at all levels to verify networks are in place, and are welcomed and involved in all planning and decision-making which impacts their kin

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNESS



Family Finding Drivers

Federal and state law

Federal and state directives/guidance (information memos, ACLs, ACINs)

Case law

Integrated Core Practice Model/Continuum of Care Reform

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNES

Federal and State Law

PL: 110-351 Fostering Connections Act

AB 938 & WIC 628(d)(1)

Due Diligence

- If the child is removed or is at risk of entering foster care the social worker or probation officer shall within 30 days, use due diligence to:
 - o Conduct an investigation to identify, locate and notify all adult relatives.(subject to DV exception)
 - Adult relatives includes; adult who is related to the child by blood, adoption or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship...
 - An extended family member as defined by the law or custom of an Indian child's tribe. (25 U.S.C. § 1903(2).)

SB 384 – passed on August 25, 2022

Amends WIC Section 628 (Notice to Relatives)

- ° (d)((3)(B) The due diligence required under subparagraph (A) shall include family finding.
- Family Finding means conducting an investigation, including, but not limited to, through a computer-based search engine, to identify relatives and kin and to connect a child or youth, who may be disconnected from their parents, with those relatives and kin in an effort to provide family support and possible placement (Also contacting an Indian child's tribe)
- If the probation officer did not conduct the identification and notification of relatives, but the court
 orders foster care placement, the probation officer shall conduct the investigation to within 30 days of
 placement order.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNESS

Guidance and Directives

ACYF-CB-IM-18-05 Strengthening families through primary prevention of child maltreatment and unnecessary parent-child separation

ACYF-CB-IM-21-01 Achieving Permanency for the well being of Children and Youth

ACL's including

- 08-43- Release Of Information To Birth Relatives Of Previously Adopted Children
- 09-86- Implementing AB 938
- 18-42-Family Finding and Engagement, including: Beyond the requirements regarding relative notification lies the wide-ranging field of FFE, which seeks not merely to identify a relative caregiver for a child, but to build a network of permanent connections which can support the child throughout his or her life.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNESS

Probation shall Adopt FFE Practices [WIC628(d)(3)(A)(i)]

Probation required to:

- o Notify CDSS on or before January 1, 2024, in an email or other correspondence:
 - Whether it has adopted one of the suggested practices for family finding in ACL18-42; and
 - Generally, whether the practice has been implemented through training, memoranda, manuals or comparable documents
- If county probation has not adopted one the models in ACL18-42, they shall provide a copy to CDSS of its existing family finding policies and practices as reflected in:
 - Memoranda, handbooks, manuals, training manuals or other documents that are in existence prior to January 1, 2022.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONI	NECTEDNESS

Probation W&I 628(d)(3)

PO shall use due diligence in investigating the names and locations of the relatives including, but not limited to, asking the child in an age-appropriate manner about relatives important to the child, consistent with the child's best interest, and obtaining information regarding the location of the child's adult relatives.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEPMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNES

Executive Order on Strengthening the Child Welfare System for America's Children

Sec.5 Improving Processes to Prevent Unnecessary Removal and Secure Permanency for Children

- (a) Federal Review of Reasonable Effort Determination and Timeliness Requirements
- (i) within 2 yrs. of this order, Secretary shall require that both the title IV-E reviews and the Child and Family Services Reviews conducted... specifically and adequately assess the following requirements:
 - o (A) reasonable efforts to prevent removal
 - o (B) TPR within statutory timelines, unless statutory exemptions
 - o (C) reasonable efforts to finalize permanent plans; and
 - o (D) completion of relevant required family search and notifications and how such efforts are reviewed by the court.
 - June 24, 2020

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNES

Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM)

...Intended to provide practical guidance and direction to support county child welfare, juvenile probation, behavioral health agencies, and community partners to improve delivery of timely, effective, and integrated services to children, youth, and families.

Values

Ten Guiding Practice Principles, including "Natural Supports"

Team based practices--Effective team-based practices encourage inclusion of youth and families with lived-experience in participation at every level of program development, implementation, evaluation, and service delivery

Case Law

In Re: A.M., 53 Cal. App.5th 824 (2020) – Delinquency/Probation

- Placement in Short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) without conducting FF or CFT Meeting
- Attorney for minor objected to placement
 - o "Probation has not followed the CCR, begun the CFT meeting or FF"
 - o Trial court agreed with counsel but placed in STRTP
 - Appellate Court overturned "when the probation department recommends foster care placement, the statutes require probation to conduct FF and CFT per §706.5 and §706.6"

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNESS

Case Law

In re MIA M., et al., B313574; Los Angeles County Super. Ct. No. 18CCJPO7738F-H)

TPR – Reversed. Due Process violation – failure to exercise reasonable diligence to provide notice to parent whose whereabouts are unknown.

 Reasonable diligence: thorough, systematic investigation and inquiry conducted in good faith, include searching not only 'standard avenues available' but specific ones most likely, under the unique facts known to the agency, to yield a parent's address. Agencies bound by law to make every reasonable efforts – must leave no stone unturned.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNES

Case Law

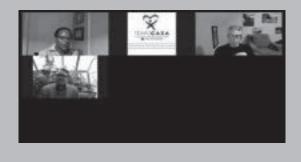
In Re: A.H. - 10/19/22

- Failure on the part of Social Services agency and the Juvenile Court to:
 - o Comply with due diligence
 - o Notice
 - o Parentage inquiry
- Failures were so pervasive that they denied due process to a noncustodial alleged father
- Reverse TPR

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDS



Bruce Perry and Kevin Campbell— Power of Relationship-Rich Networks



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERMANENT FAMILY CONNECTEDNESS

Resources

- CPOCF—Recorded Family Finding and Engagement training
- CPOCF Family Finding and Engagement Toolkit (pending publication on CPOC website)
- Center for Excellence: Micro-learnings (in development) for pre and post disposition work to find, engage and involve families
- Judicial Council

 Bench cards outlining standards for detention and disposition hearings (in development)
- Integrated Core Practice Model https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCR/ICPM/ICPM%20document%20with%20CDSS%20and% 20DHCS%2012-17-2018%20FINAL.pdf?ver=2019-01-14-094317-290 (revision due in summer of 2023)

Panel

Paul Vinetz

Chief, Placement and Child Welfare Services Bureau, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Jennifer Martinez

Assistant Division Director, Santa Cruz County Probation

Stacey Jackson

Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Siskiyou County Probation Department

Angie Schwartz
Deputy Director, California Department of Social Services

The state of the s	·