



AT A GLANCE

California Child and Family Practice Model

CALIFORNIA CHILD and FAMILY PRACTICE MODEL

“Guide for child welfare agencies and their partners to use in working with vulnerable children, youth and families”

The California Child and Family Practice Model is a guide for public agencies and their partners to follow in reducing long-term foster care and improving the lives of children, youth and families in the Child Welfare System.

The model includes four elements that must come together for the model to be effective: a **theoretical framework** that provides the foundation for the model, a set of guiding **values and principles** for all actions; a **front line practice approach** that informs and guides all interaction with children and families; and the development of **organizational and system capacity** to support the changes that are sought through the model.

The model is prescriptive in how services should be provided as articulated in individual agency regulations, policies and procedures, yet allows for appropriate flexibility and professional discretion to support effective casework practice. It includes the practice activities and rationale that form the case process.

The model serves as an agency’s guide to the daily interactions among employees, children, families, stakeholders and community partners and Tribes who are working together to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children and families.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

“Basic beliefs that provide the foundation for improved practice, system and organizational changes”

A theoretical framework provides the foundation that informs and supports the practice, system and organizational changes that are sought through the Child and Family Practice Model.

CAPP’s theoretical framework reflects a shift away from the traditional child rescue movement where children need to be saved from parents who are ill-prepared to care for them to one that recognizes family, community and Tribal strengths and engages in true partnership to understand and meet the needs of children. In particular, the theoretical framework acknowledges the impact of broad social, racial, cultural and historical factors in the lives of families.



This project is a service of the Children’s Bureau of the U.S Department of Health and Human Services.

VALUES and PRINCIPLES

“Guiding beliefs intrinsic to implementation of the model”

The Child and Family Practice Model is grounded in a core set of values and principles that inform and guide all actions and implementation of the model. Core values for the model include **The Power of Family; Healing; Community and Collaboration; Honesty, Transparency and Trust; Safety; Fairness and Equity; Empowerment; and Accountability and Results**. For each of these values, the model articulates what these values look like in action – a set of practice principles to guide agency, community and Tribal actions in implementing the model.

FRONTLINE PRACTICE APPROACH

“Holistic method for agencies and communities to invoke when working with children and families”

The Child and Family Practice model includes a comprehensive and interconnected approach to guide agency and community interactions with vulnerable children and families. Four front-line practices define and guide this approach: **Exploration and Engagement; Power of Family; Healing Trauma; and Circle of Support**. These four practices come together in a blended, interdependent way and must work equally to form effective child and family practice.

CORE PRACTICE ELEMENTS

Within the Front-line Practice Approach are eight Core Practice Elements that are essential to effective implementation – **Inquiry; Engagement; Self-advocacy; Advocacy; Well-being Partnerships; Recovery, Safety & Well-being; Teaming; and Shared Commitment & Accountability**. Each of these is supported by a set of Practice Behaviors that spell out distinctive actions for agency staff to employ when interacting with children, families, community members and stakeholders.

ORGANIZATIONAL and SYSTEM CAPACITY

“Helping Agencies and Systems Meet the Challenge”

Fundamental to the Child and Family Practice Model is the development of organizational and system capacity to support and reinforce the theoretical orientation and practice skills that are part of the practice model.

Areas addressed by the practice model include: **policies and protocols; management; leadership and administrative practices; training, coaching and supervision; resources and service array; quality of care and accountability; and the level of collaboration and public/private partnerships needed**.

To better understand the ways in which organizational and system capacities must improve, local analyses are examining the organizational and structural contributors to poor outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. Based on findings, the Child and Family Practice Model will advance a set of standards that delineate what is necessary to support implementation of the model.