



Katie A. Technical Assistance Webinars

Preparing Youth and Parents for Participation in the Child and Family Team (CFT)

October 24, 2014



Overview of Webinar



A key value and principle of the implementation of Katie A. is that youth and parents are meaningfully engaged in the Child and Family Team process.

This webinar focuses on how to prepare youth and parents to participate fully in both the Child and Family Team and any meetings that occur as part of that team.

Polling Questions

Please tell us where you work:

- State/County child welfare
- State/County behavioral/mental health
- Contract agency/CBO providing services
- Education/training organization
- Other

Polling Questions

Please let us know the nature of your work:

- Work directly with children and families (case worker, clinician, wraparound facilitator, etc.)
- Supervisor/manager
- Family partner/Youth/peer provider
- Consultant/trainer/TA provider
- Other

Polling Questions

In your county do you have a specific way to prepare youth and/or parents for participating in Child and Family Teams?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Part 1:

- General principles CFTs
- Information & Resources shared at the Regional Training Academies & August Statewide Learning Collaborative Convening

Part 2:

- Santa Clara County Department of Family & Children's Services



Overview of Webinar

Team - Teams - Teaming

Why Teams?

“The results of collaboration are greater than the sum of each individual's contributions This process is the major advantage of a multi-agency collaborative approach as it creates something that could not be achieved by any one of the individuals or member organizations working in isolation.”

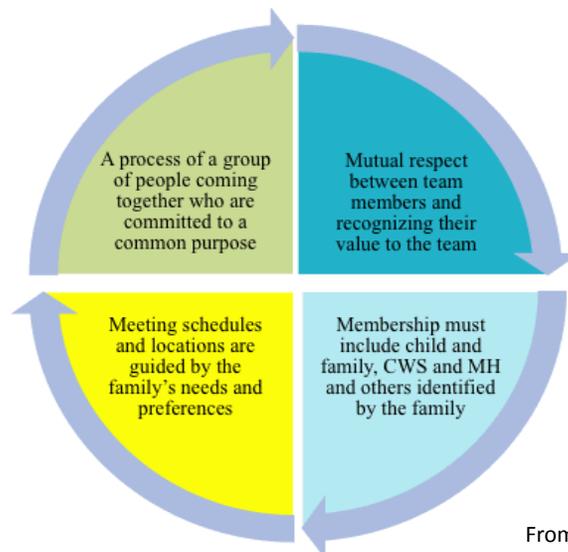


Katie A Implementation - Teams

Different teaming processes/history support Core Practice Model & Katie A Implementation, yet they have common themes:

- Wraparound
- Team Decision Making
- Child & Family Teams
- CFT Meetings
- Co-location Child Welfare & Mental/Behavioral Health
- Other examples

Elements of Successful CFTs



From San Diego State
Social Work Department

Counties Have Shared

Successes

- Hired youth/parent partners. Supporting parents/youth to be successful in their work includes ongoing training/support
- Making members feel as part of a team – Not just attending an event
- Orientation time with parents & youth prior to attending a child and family team meeting
- Co-location of staff, where possible
- “Branding” Katie A work – developing brochures/materials with youth input

Counties Have Shared

Ongoing Challenges

- Scheduling
- Clarification of meetings & purposes/roles: TDM, Wraparound, CFTs
- Staffing needs: creating positions, staff turnover - training needs to be continuous
- Need common language; many acronyms
- Facilitation training to develop the necessary skills to serve as facilitators of these meetings.
- Some challenges with releases of information
- Culture humility/cultural sensitivity training to better serve children and families
- Case Plans vs Treatment Plans

Preparing Youth and Parents for Participating in Child and Family Teams

Santa Clara County
Department of Family and Children's Services
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Family and Children Services
Skye Vallejos, ILP Case Manager

Definition of Teaming

“Coming together as a
team to achieve a common
goal”

Timeline of “teaming” or Joint Decision Making in Santa Clara County

- ▶ 1995 - Family Conferences (FC)
 - ▶ 2000 - MYTIME Meetings (previously called Emancipation Conferences)
 - ▶ 2003 - Team Decision Making Meetings (TDM)
 - ▶ 2008 - Supplemental Runaway TDM form
 - ▶ 2009 - Family Team Meetings (FTM)
 - ▶ 2011 - 90-Day Transition Plan Meetings
- ▶ Started in 1995 with Family Conferences, a model of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM), and subsequently TDMs, MYTIME meetings, and FTMs developed in ongoing efforts to meet the needs of children, youth and families regarding safety, stability, permanence, and well-being.

Values and Principles

Joint Decision Guiding Values and Principles

- ▶ Strength-Based
- ▶ Children belong in families
- ▶ Individualized
- ▶ Families are experts and if given the opportunity and support, can develop plans to ensure the safety of their children
- ▶ Public child-welfare systems need partnerships with families, community and with other systems to achieve strong outcomes for children
- ▶ Family and Youth voice
- ▶ Groups reaching consensus allows for all to support the plan despite disagreements
- ▶ Families need strong communities
- ▶ Cultural humility and sensitivity
- ▶ Transparency

Katie A Values and Principles

- ▶ Children are protected from abuse and neglect
- ▶ Services are needs driven and strength based
- ▶ Services are individualized for each child and family
- ▶ Services are delivered through a multi-agency approach
- ▶ Parent and Family Voice and choice
- ▶ Services are a blend of formal and informal resources
- ▶ Services are culturally respectful of the child and family
- ▶ Services are provided in the family's community
- ▶ Children have permanence and stability

All Joint Decision Making (JDM) meetings are approached with the same values and principles congruent with those identified in the Katie A Core Practice Model.

Program Implementation and Successes

Preparation before the meeting:

- Making sure that key people are invited to the meeting.
- Gathering Information about the child, youth and family (culture, language needs, safety issues, potential alerts for mental health, substance abuse...).
- Scheduling a childcare provider if needed for the family.
- Facilitator reviewing the family conference referral with the social worker or in person.
- ILP Case Manager or Social Worker meeting with youth to talk about the MYTIME meeting and prepare youth and check with youth who they want to invite.
- Facilitator reviews the TILP.
- Deciding on the location, day of the week, and time convenient for youth, parents, and family.

During the meeting:

- Create an emotionally safe environment.
- Checking in with youth, parent, or family on what their understanding is of why we are having the meeting.
- Asking youth and family if who they need to be at the meeting is at the meeting.
- Gathering information about safety and risk concerns about the youth and family. Social Worker reports last.
- Encouraging all participants to acknowledge the strengths of the youth, and family. What is or has been working well in order to further engage the youth/family and build rapport.
- Encourage the youth and family to share their ideas.
- Making sure that the youth's and family's voice is reflected in the plan or recommendation.
- All participants get a copy of the plan developed at the meeting.

After the meeting:

- Family members, Social Workers, CASA, ILP Case Manager or Case Aide, Wraparound team, therapist and other circle of support or service providers support the youth and/or family in implementing the action steps.
- Schedule a follow up conference for the youth and family as appropriate.
- Maintain the same facilitator for subsequent meetings.
- Place copy of plan developed at the meeting into CWS/CMS.
- Collect data for record keeping, reports and evaluation.

Challenges

- ▶ Getting key people to participate in the meeting; Family Members, Youth, Circle of Support, Community Partners, Service Providers...
- ▶ Providing Child Care.
- ▶ Scheduling meeting at a day of the week, time, and location that meets the needs of the youth and family.
- ▶ Ensuring social work staff submit referrals every six months to review and follow-up on action items for Katie A.
- ▶ Ensure social work staff to request 90 Day Transition Plan Meetings, a Federal Requirement for youth aging out of foster care.
- ▶ Funding

ILP -Engaging our Youth in Innovative Methods

- ▶ CYC
- ▶ ILP Events Committee
- ▶ Youth leaders for annual ILP events
- ▶ Founding Hub members
- ▶ Youth Advisory board
- ▶ Speaker's Bureau

The ILP Team

- ▶ Teams of Case Manager and Case Aid
- ▶ Males and females
- ▶ Bilingual
- ▶ Former foster youth

Preparing Youth for Meetings

- ▶ Collaboration with JDM unit
- ▶ Accommodate our youth
- ▶ Empower youth to take ownership of their MYTIME Meeting
- ▶ Support in other JDM meetings

ILP presence in MYTIME Meetings

- ▶ Circle of Support
- ▶ Building strong Support system for youth
- ▶ Permanency a fundamental component of ILP

What can help other jurisdictions?

- ▶ Phone calls and home visits to prepare youth and families for team meetings.
- ▶ Having meetings at the HUB or the Family Resource Center where youth and families are actually receiving services, away from main DFCS office.
- ▶ JDM Facilitators are co-located with the HUB and ILP which provides for further engagement and promotes team work.
- ▶ Our availability to facilitate after hours and on weekends if that is the only time the youth and/or family can attend making sure meetings do not interfere with school, employment or visits with parents.
- ▶ Contracts with community agencies include their participation in our JDMs (Mentor Parents, Parent Advocates, and ILP Case Managers and Case Aides...).
- ▶ Working on hiring or contracting Cultural Brokers to help engage diverse ethnic population.
- ▶ Gathering Monthly Statistics to see common trends.
- ▶ Conducting CAPP Fidelity Assessments.
- ▶ How are your programs/services funded?
 - ▶ The JDM Unit positions are funded by a share of County funds and Federal and State
 - ▶ The Independent Living Program is a Federal Program funded by the State

Next Steps and Future Direction

- ▶ Implementation of Katie A.
 - DFCS has identified a Katie A Coordinator, co-located staff from the Department of Mental Health in Santa Clara County to support social workers determine the appropriate level of care for youth.
 - JDMs as a tool to support social workers in meeting Katie A mandates.
- ▶ Future Direction
 - DFCS has identified expanding youth/family engagement and improving their participation in teams is exploring the concept of adding a peer support former foster youth to outreach and help youth participate in meetings.
 - Skype and Conference Calls to include International Calls.
 - Social Media: Facebook, emails, text messaging...
 - Front-end JDMs addressing disproportionality and disparity.
 - AB12.
 - Fatherhood Initiative.
 - CSEC and Runaway youth.

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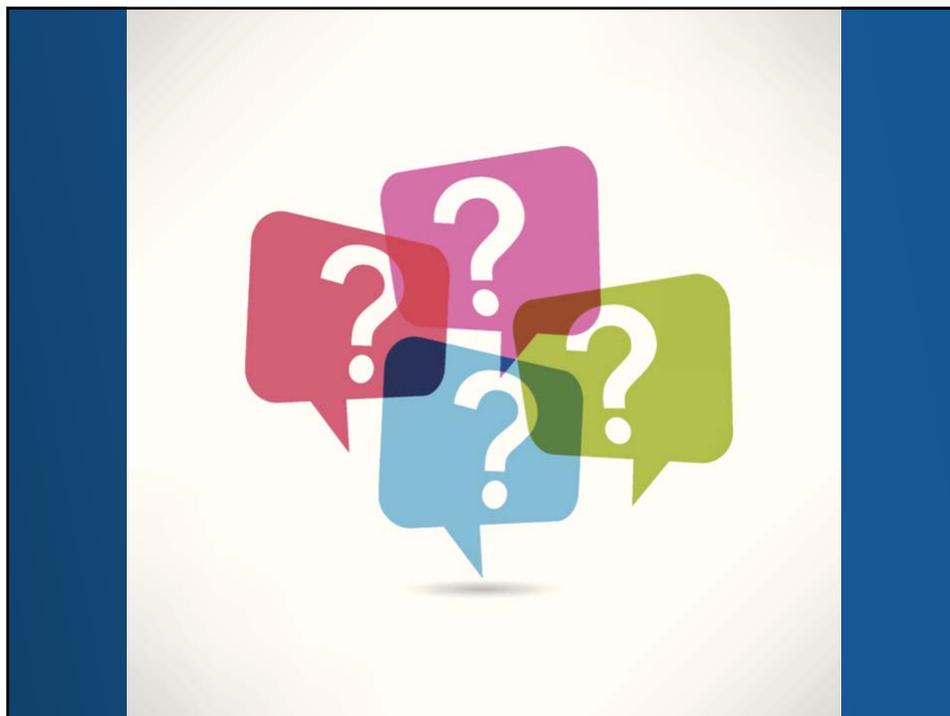
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Next Webinar: November 21, 2014, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

Preparing Professional Staff/Partners for Participation in CFTs

Team members frequently include staff from other agencies, such as teachers, probation officers, mentors, therapists, and other service providers. This webinar focuses on how to prepare them to participate in the team in a way that is supportive of the process.

Registration link:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/854519241>

Recordings of CIBHS Katie A Webinars:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtnjn3qYJROhszIirBE0iiMDYUV8aTyum>

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Thank
You!

