Family to Family: Outcomes, Goals and Strategies

Every child deserves a safe, stable and permanent family life.

What is Family to Family

- Family to Family is not a fad
- Family to Family is not a pilot or demonstration project
- Family to Family is not isolated to one program or department

- Family to Family promotes best practice methods
- Family to Family promotes long term system reform
- Family to Family is focused on better outcomes for children

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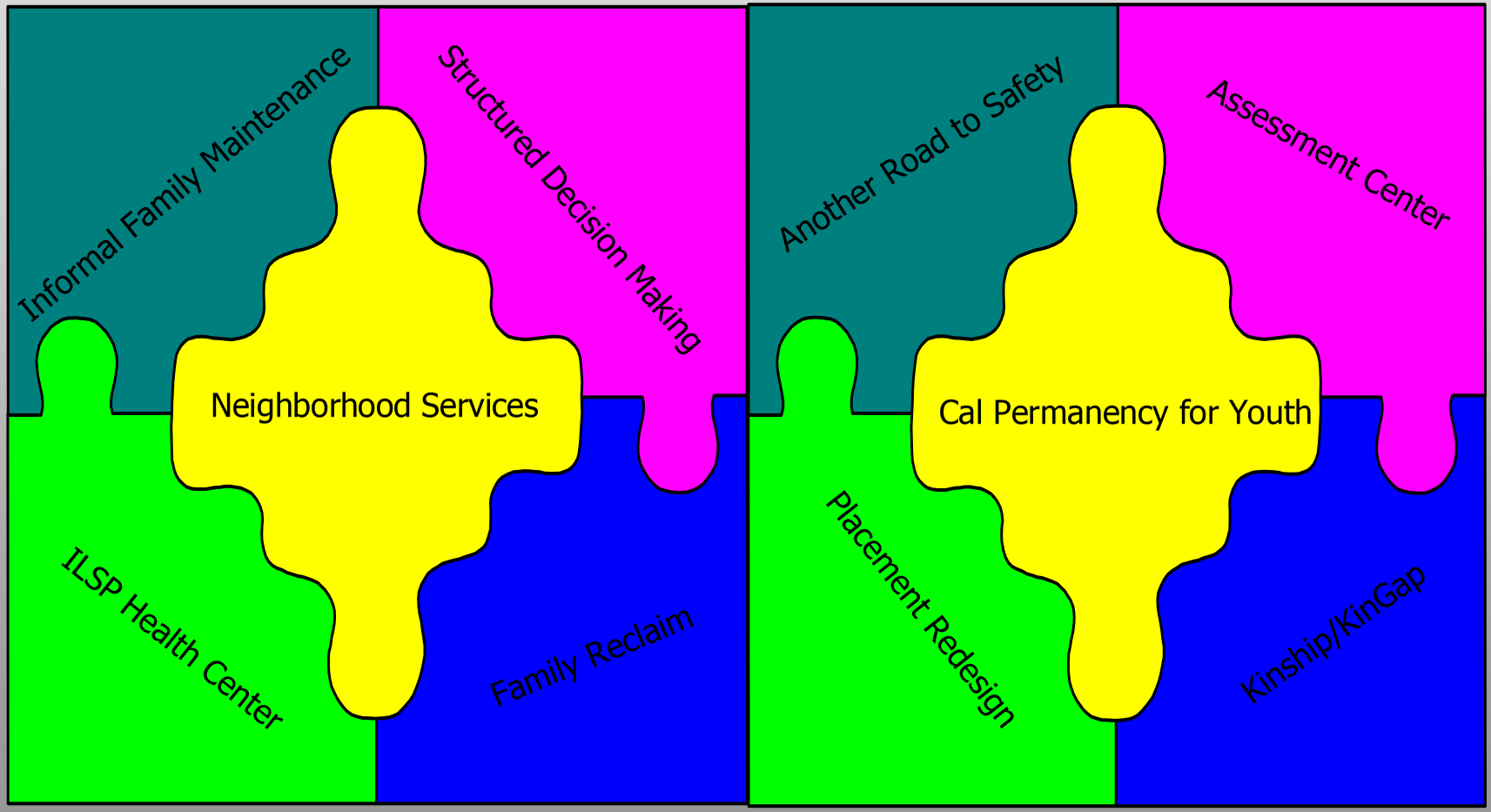
Family to Family



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What is Family to Family

Family to Family is family centered approach to foster care that is:

- designed to meet the individual needs of children and families;
- rooted in the child's community or neighborhood;
- culturally sensitive; and
- focuses on the needs of children in group homes and institutions.

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Goals of Family to Family

- Develop a neighborhood-based, culturally sensitive network of foster care
- Ensure that all children are placed with families
- Increase number & quality of foster families, including kinship families
- Provide timely reunification services
- Screen children to determine resources needed to keep safe
- Involve birth, foster, kin families as team members with our agency and with each other
- Become a neighborhood resource and build community capacity

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Outcomes of Family to Family

- Reduce number of children placed away from their birth families.
- Increase number of children reunified with their birth parents.
- Reduce number of children placed in group and institutional care.
- Reduce length of stay of children in placement.
- Increase number of children placed in their own communities.
- Reduce number of placement moves.
- Increase number of siblings placed together.
- Reduce number of children re-entering placement.
- Reduce any differences associated with race/ethnicity, gender or age in each outcome.

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Outcomes of Child Welfare Federal Review

- Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
- Reduce incidents of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
- Increase permanency for children in foster care
- Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry
- Reduce time in foster care to adoption
- Increase placement stability
- Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

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Core Strategies in Family to Family

- Recruiting, Training, and Supporting Resource Families
- Building Community Partnerships
- Making Decisions as a Team
- Self-Evaluation

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Core Strategies in Family to Family

RECRUITMENT, TRAINING & SUPPORT OF FOSTER FAMILIES

Finding and maintaining foster and kinship families who can support children and families in their own neighborhoods.

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Core Strategies in Family to Family

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Establishing relationships with a wide range of community organizations in neighborhoods where referral rates to the child welfare system are high and collaborating to create an environment that supports families involved in the child welfare system.

Core Strategies in Family to Family

TEAM DECISION MAKING

Involving not just foster parents and case workers but also birth families and community members in all placement decisions to ensure a network of support for the children and for the adults who care for them.

Core Strategies in Family to Family

Family Conferencing and Team Decision Making

- Emphasize family engagement
- Strengths-based approach
- Provide a sense of ownership by family and community
- Designed to strengthen families and keep children safe
- Promote better decisions regarding family stability

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Core Strategies in Family to Family

Family Conferencing vs. Team Decision Making

- clinical family intervention
- focus on resolution of family problem which led to crisis
- encourages families to meet as a team
- can be convened by any helping professional
- ultimate goal is for family to make own decision to stabilize crisis

- purpose is to assist in placement decisions
- gate keeping strategy for child welfare system
- Invite diverse team for input and assistance
- agency maintains responsibility for ultimate decision
- prerequisite for all removals, reunification, change of placements

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Core Strategies in Family to Family

SELF EVALUATION

Using self evaluation teams to collect, analyze and interpret hard data about child and family outcomes to find out where we are making progress and to determine where we need to make changes in policy and practice.

Family to Family System Design

We are creating a system that will:

- ✓ Better screen children being considered for removal from home
- ✓ Increase number of children placed in their own communities
- ✓ Involve foster families as team members in reunification efforts
- ✓ Become a neighborhood resource for children and families
- ✓ Provide permanent families for children more timely

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Family to Family in Alameda County

Our planning process:

- $150k planning grant
- one to two years of planning
- Technical Assistance from Casey
- Informational meetings

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Family to Family - Next Steps

- Raise Awareness
  - Internal
  - External
- Training
- Prioritization
- Relinquish Control

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Questions

Comments