

## **San Francisco Family and Children's Services**



San Francisco Family to Family and the  
Children of Incarcerated Parents Initiative

Urban Child Welfare Leaders Meeting

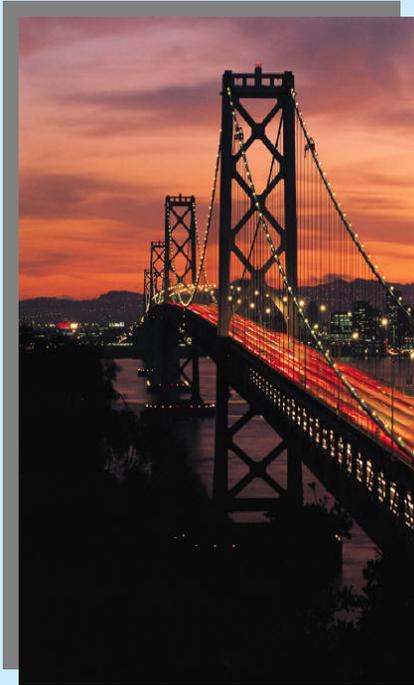
October 31, 2007 (Seattle, WA)

## Presenter:

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For more information about the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, go to [sfcipp.org](http://sfcipp.org)

# San Francisco Background and Leadership



- Long standing contract between Family and Children's Services and Friends Outside to provide workers in the jail and prisons who act as liaisons between child welfare and incarcerated parents.
- The Board of Supervisors endorsed a resolution endorsing a Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents.

## A “Crisis Opportunity”

- Number of children impacted by parental incarceration is over 25% for San Francisco dependent children.
- Number of people in the federal and state prisons and local jails has reached 2,245,189.



## Reducing Disparity and Disproportionality

African American parents are grossly over-represented at the intersection of the child welfare and criminal justice systems, a model that would preserve family connections during an incarceration will help reduce racial disparities in the Child Welfare System.



# **ANNOUNCING – The San Francisco Family to Family Children of Incarcerated Parents Initiative (SFF2FCIP)**

Builds on strength of two existing programs

- San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP)
- Annie E. Casey Foundation's San Francisco Family to Family Initiative (F2F)



## **Research on Children of Incarcerated Parents in Foster Care**

*Research on children in foster care shows that “family visits are vital to maintaining ties, bolstering children’s well being and healthy development, reducing the trauma of separation and assisting families to reunify after a parents release.”*

**Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law (2006) “Rebuilding Families Reclaiming Lives: State Obligations to Children in Foster Care and Their Incarcerated Parents”**

## **SFF2FCIP GOAL**

The goal is to create a comprehensive system model for serving children with incarcerated parents that can be replicated, adapted, and expanded in California and nationally via the Family to Family model.

## **Desired Outcomes for SFF2FCIP**

- Simple visiting procedures for children of incarcerated parents
- Contact visits whenever appropriate
- Team Decision Making (TDM) that includes incarcerated parents
- Better communication between jails, prisons, court and child welfare staff
- Effective pre-release process that has good follow-up upon release

# Four Program Plans for SFF2FCIP



1. Develop “System-Change Planning Council” that follows the child and the family from their entry into the child welfare and corrections systems to their successful exit and integration into the community.

## Four Program Plans for SFF2FCIP (continue)



2. Multi-Disciplinary training to child welfare staff and foster parents via Title IVE match to develop concrete skills and ideas for working with this population.

## Four Program Plans for SFF2FCIP (continue)



3. Focus on improved practices for child welfare staff to meet the unique needs of this population and create streamlined, systematized processes for handling cases where a parent is incarcerated (first year focus on court-ordered visits)

## Four Program Plans for SFF2FCIP (continue)



4. Improve data gathering such as incorporating information about children in Child Welfare System at jail intake, and incarcerated parents at Child Welfare Intake (use F2F national evaluation process)

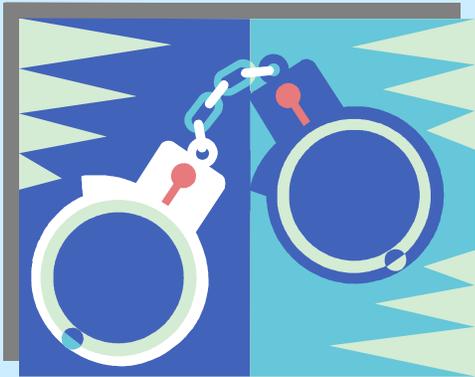
# ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS PARTNERSHIP (SFCIPP)



A coalition of public/private partners:

- Child welfare (founding partner)
- Sheriff
- Public Defender
- Centerforce
- The Northern California Service League
- Project Avary (Summer Camp for children)
- Get on the Bus
- Community Works
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
- A Home Within

## **BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF SFCIPP:**



- A court alternative specialist in the public defender's office dedicated to working with families to meet their children's needs during an incarceration
- A homeless prenatal program that has a jail outreach program helping connect formerly incarcerated parents to after care services

## SUCSESSES OF SFCIPP (Continued)



### Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents

- Written and published by the SFCIPP with support from the Zellerbach Family Foundation

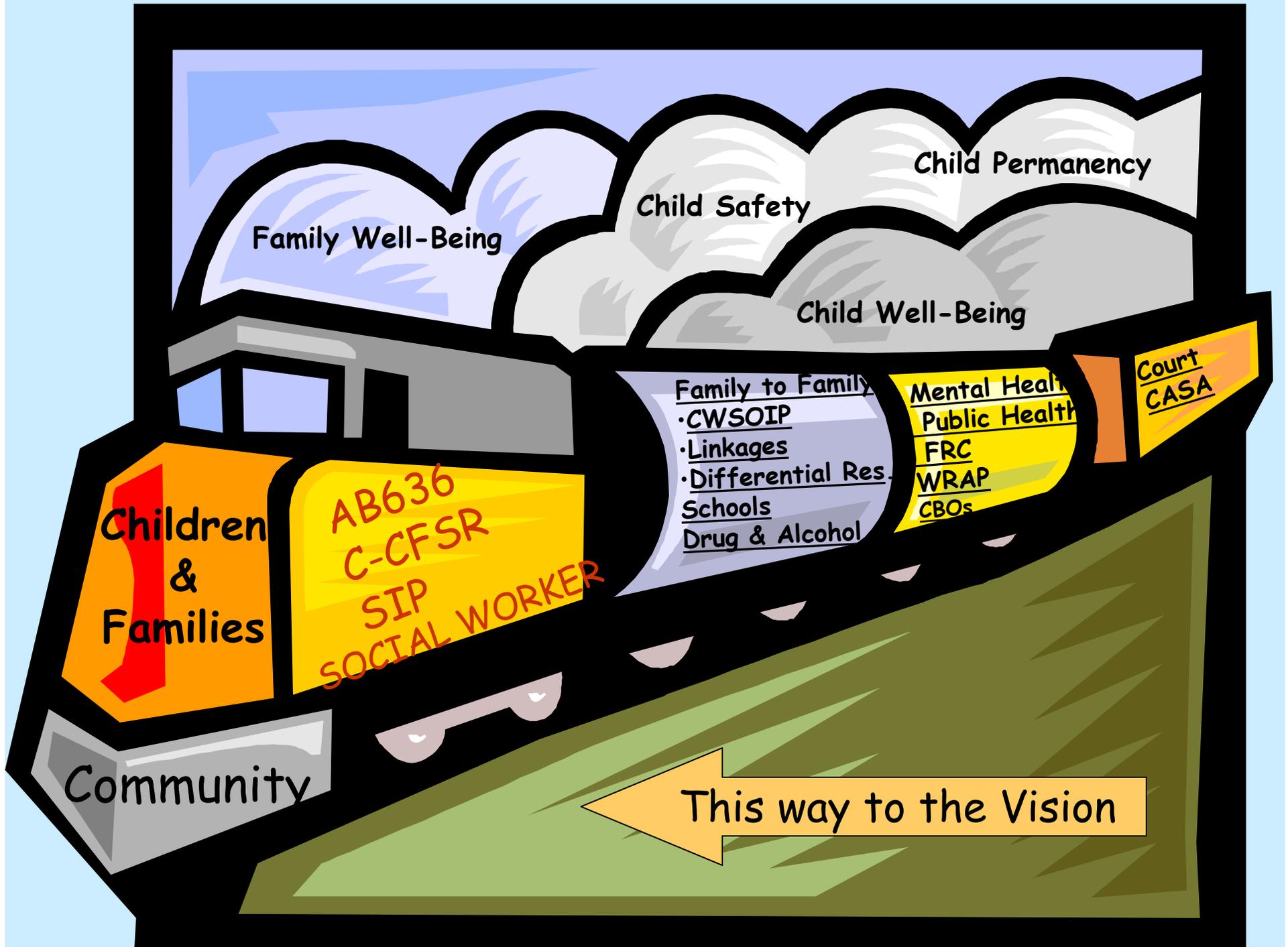
### Time of Arrest Protocol

- Citywide joint protocol addressing safety and well-being of children at the time of all arrests

## SUCSESSES OF SFCIPP (Continued)



- Project WHAT (We're Here and Talking, all 2.4 million of us) teenagers with currently or formerly incarcerated parents developing curricula to train social workers, teachers, police, etc.
- At Juvenile Hall, the Center for Young Women's Development worked with SF juvenile probation staff to develop a bill of rights for young mothers to guarantee contact with their children.



Family Well-Being

Child Safety

Child Permanency

Child Well-Being

Children & Families

Community

AB636  
C-CFSR  
SIP  
SOCIAL WORKER

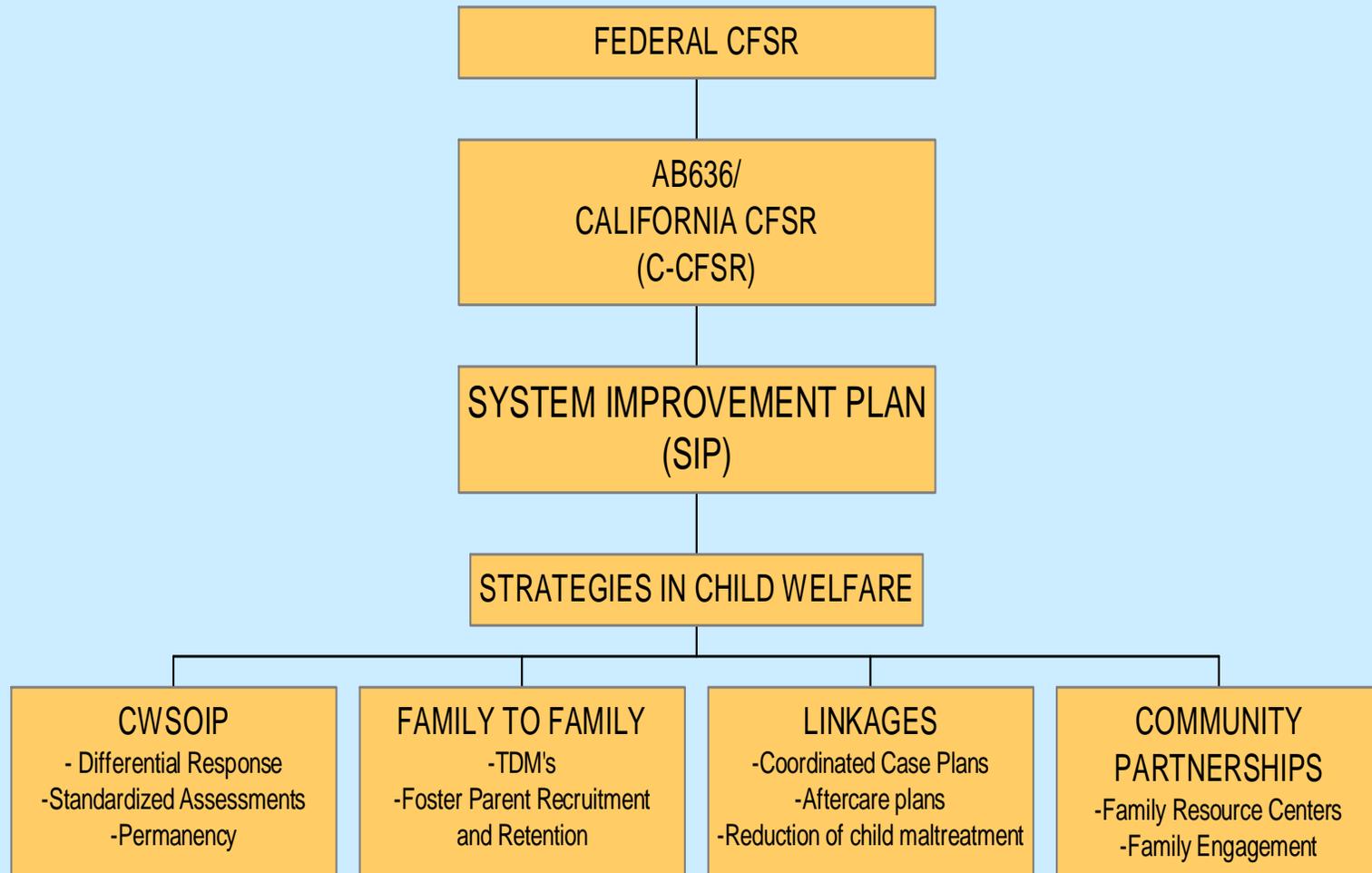
Family to Family  
•CWSOIP  
•Linkages  
•Differential Res.  
Schools  
Drug & Alcohol

Mental Health  
Public Health  
FRC  
WRAP  
CBOs

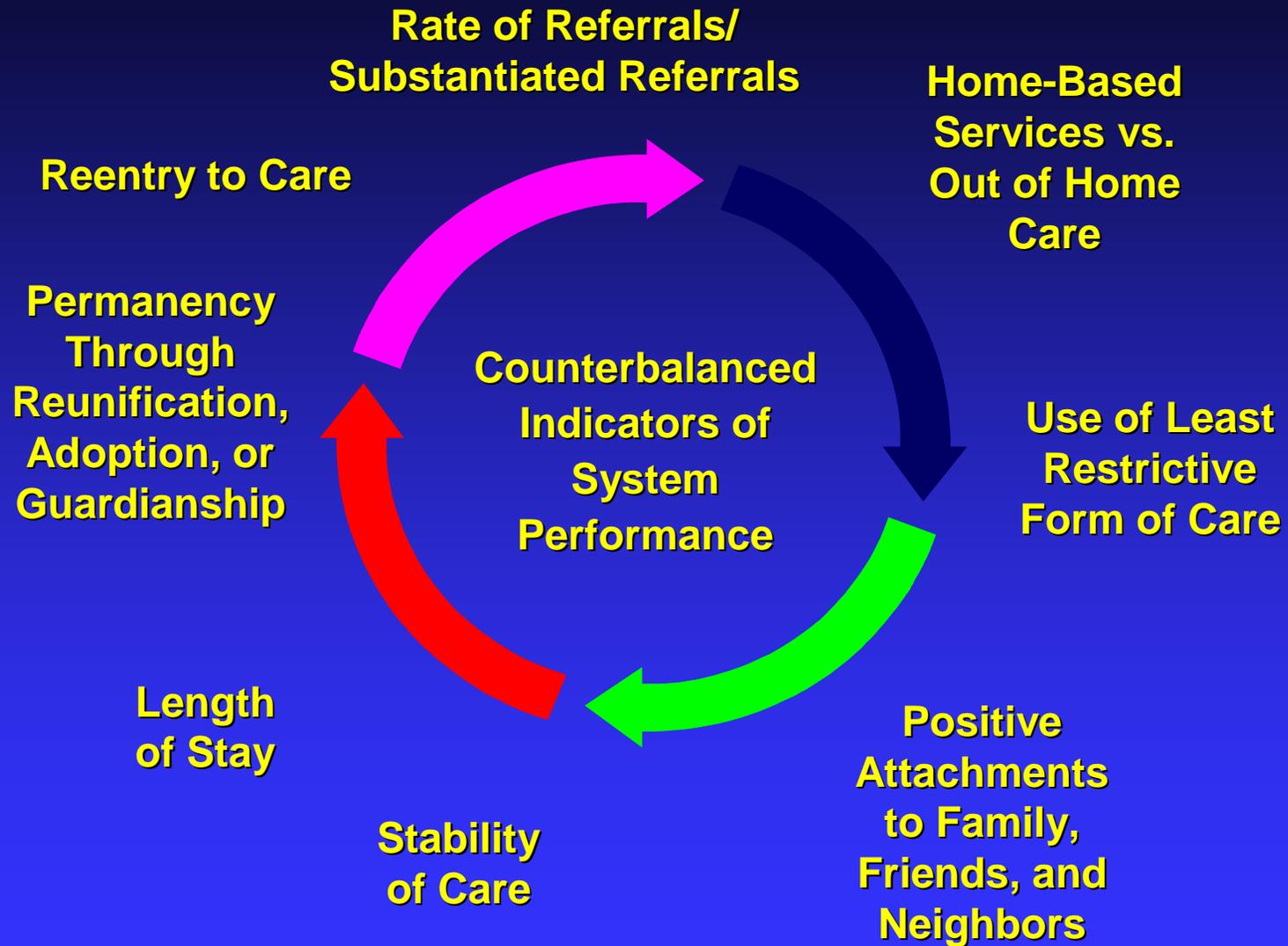
Court  
CASA

This way to the Vision

# Achieving AB636 Outcomes Through Effective Strategies



# The Cycle of Experiences in the Child Welfare System



Source: Usher, C.L., Wildfire, J.B., Gogan, H.C. & Brown, E.L. (2002). Measuring Outcomes in Child Welfare. Chapel Hill: Jordan Institute for Families,