

Sacramento County Cultural Broker Program Child Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) Presentation

*NAVIGATING THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
AND THE CRITICAL NEED FOR CULTURALLY
RESPONSIVE ADVOCACY.*

OCTOBER 2022



Panelist Introduction

Kim Pearson, Division Manager, Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS)

Tiffany Glass, Human Services Program Planner, DCFAS

LaDonna Lee, Cultural Broker, Better Life Children Services

Margo Santana, Cultural Broker, Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center

Presentation Schedule



3:15- 3:35-----*Cultural Broker
Background and Our “Why”*

3:35-3:45-----Break

3:45-4:45-----*Data Sharing and
Voices of our Cultural Brokers*

Popcorn Question

When you think of the African-American/Black community and child welfare, call out what comes to mind.



PRESENTATION TAKEAWAYS - The Cultural Broker (CB) Model

- What are CB's?
- Why use CB's?
- The CB Practice in action. What does this really look like?

The “WHY” for Sacramento County



- ❖ In 2015, African-American/Black children 0-17 accounted for approximately 11% of the general Sacramento County population and comprised 18% of the population in poverty
- ❖ Children identified as African-American/Black accounted for almost 31% of all allegations received and substantiated allegations, 32% of entries into care and almost 35% of children in foster care in 2015
- ❖ Mistrust in the African-American/Black Community
- ❖ Case Reviews
- ❖ Community Feedback
- ❖ Accountability to make efforts to move the dial

What are Cultural Brokers?

- Liaisons
- Cultural Guides
- Mediators
- Catalysts of Change



Why Use Cultural Brokers?

- Address disparities in services for African-American/Black youth and families
- Address disproportionality in Child Welfare
- Help parents successfully navigate the Child Welfare system
- Teach and model advocacy

Cultural Broker Model Goals



- *Reduce* entry rates
- *Increase* Kinship Placements
- *Increase* Reunifications

Doing the Work



Cultural Brokers Conduct/Provide:

- On-going family assessments
- Crisis intervention
- Home visitations
- Family observations with written reports
- Brokering
- Advocacy
- Linkages and referrals to community agencies

Doing the Work

Cultural Brokers:

- Attend court hearings
- Attend team meetings (CFTs, IEPs etc.)
- Attend meetings with the family's social worker, attorney or service provider in an effort to align communication
- Increase the likelihood that the children will return or remain with the parent/caretaker





TAKE

A

BREAK

Outcome Data

- **511** Families referred to Cultural Broker Program
 - **196** Families still open to the Department (70 are still open to Cultural Brokers)
 - **315** of **511** Families are now closed to Child Welfare
 - **46%** (n=145) Families *Reunified*
 - **20%** (n=63) Youth *Achieved Permanency*
 - **26%** (n=84) ER Referral *Closed without Court Intervention*
- 92%** (n=292) families *of closed cases to Child Welfare either Reunified achieved Permanence, or had the investigation closed*

And..... 1 year Later....



22% (N=68) families came back to the attention of the Department via a call to the Hotline within a year.

Of the overall **315** pool of families.

- **9%** (n=30) calls to the Hotline were *evaluated out*
- **.6%** (n=2) voluntary program (*Informal Supervision*)
- **1%** (n=6) ER investigation concluded as *situation stabilized (closed)*
- **6%** (n=20) referrals were *unfounded or inconclusive*
- **2%** (n=8) families *transitioned courtside*
- **.6%** (n=2) currently *under investigation*

Voices of our Cultural Brokers



Cultural Brokers in Action

- ❖ Engagement
- ❖ Safety & Risk
- ❖ Court
- ❖ Course Correcting/Re-engage
- ❖ Closure/Connections



Cultural Brokers Action by the Numbers

- **900** children and youth served
- **Attended 900** initial and ongoing court hearings
- **Provided advocacy at 250** Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings
- **Participated in 400** Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings

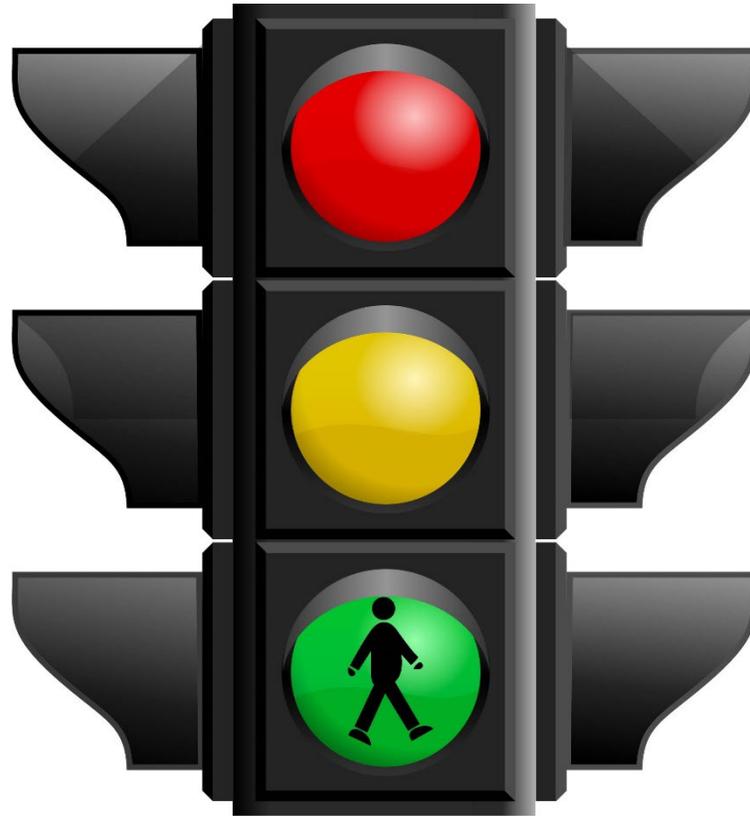
What Questions Do You Have?



The Holiday Ham



The Traffic Light





thank you!

Kim Pearson, Division Manager

pearskb@saccounty.net

916-875-1299

Tiffany Glass, Program Planner

glassti@saccounty.net

916-874-8604