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


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*

*PIT Data – August 12, 2022*
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
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