

Santa Clara County
Department of Family and Children's Services

Continuum of Learning

August 30, 2023



Agenda

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Welcome (5m)

Damion Wright,
Wendy Kinnear-Rausch

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Case Study #1 (30m)

Matthew Kraft

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Case Study #2 (35m)

Joseph Kurian
Shielane Brioso

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Fatherhood Engagement Workshop (10m)

Clarence Cisneros-Jones
Juliana VanMeter

5

Wrap Up (5m)

Damion Wright,
Wendy Kinnear-Rausch



Case Study #1

Presented by: Matthew Kraft

Family History



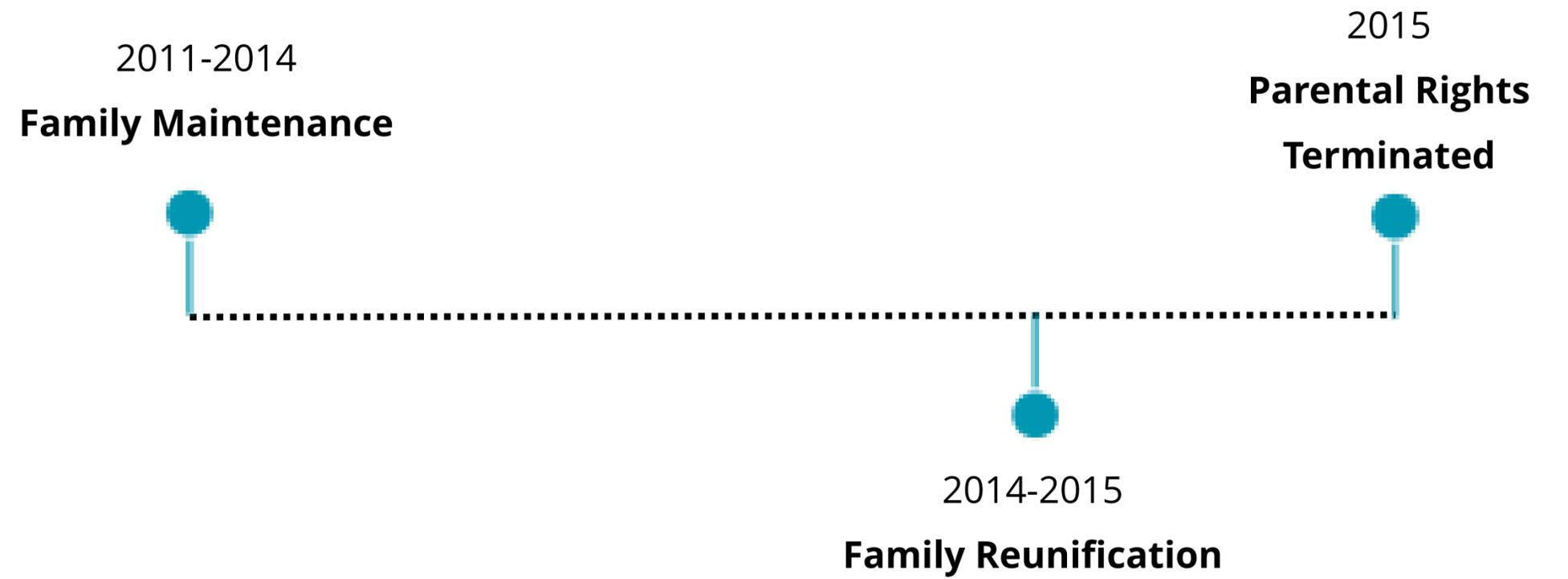
- Multiracial & multi-cultural family
- History of child welfare involvement
- Current DFCS involvement due to
 - Ongoing substance abuse by both parents
 - Ongoing Domestic Violence (DV) concerns with both parents
- 4 children ages 7, 13, 16, and 21



- 7 & 13 year old adopted by extended family
- Focus is 16 year old
- Eldest child close to aging out of extended foster care



Engagement



Assessment



Family showed resiliency in handling crisis and challenges



Family showed a willingness to explore and extend natural support



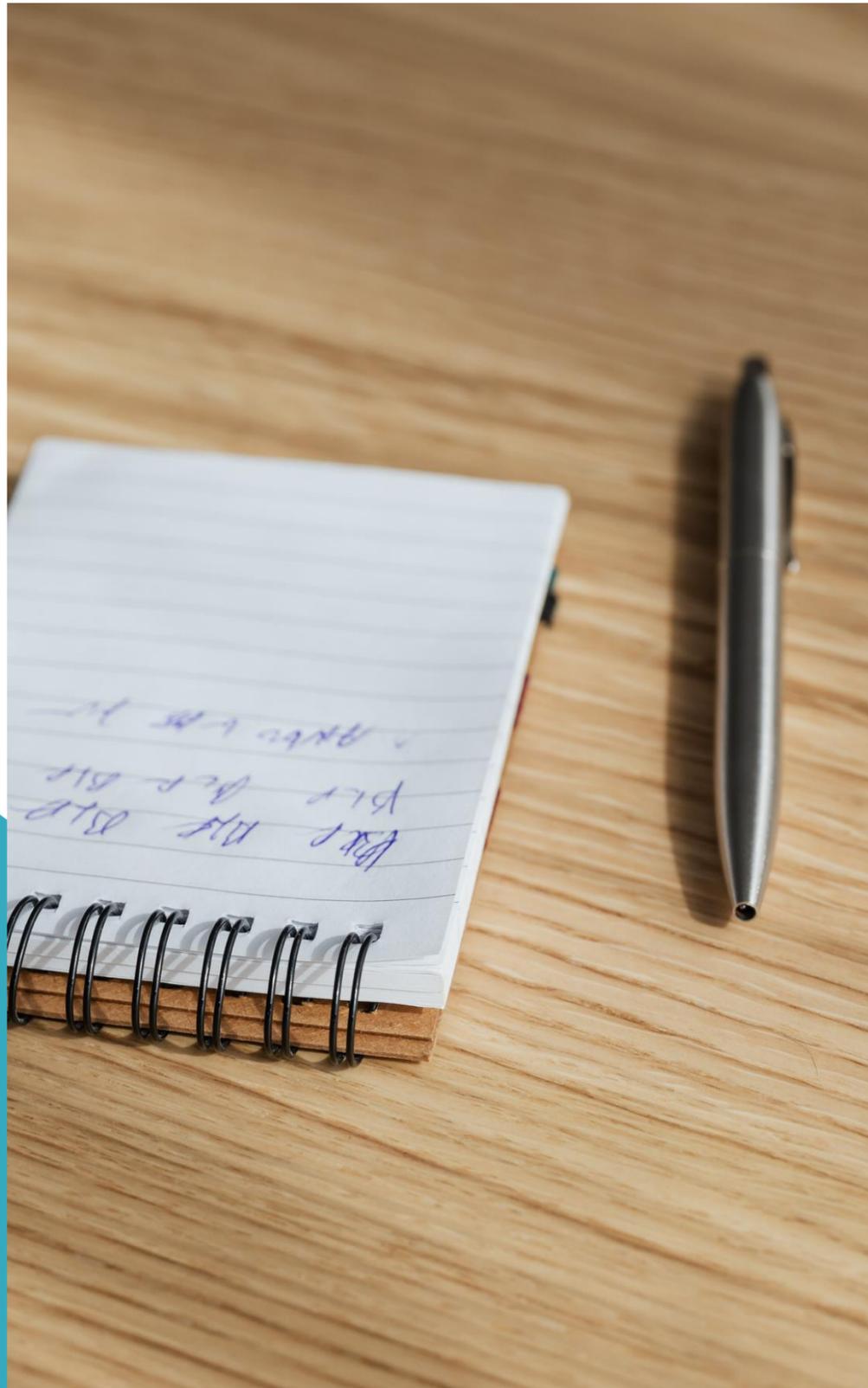
Family showed an ability to listen, understand, and acknowledge the family issues

Father was willing to take responsibility for the mistakes he made that resulted in foster care and actively worked to mitigate the negative consequences



Family showed an ability to engage and cooperate with available community resources and services

Father was actively searching for local services for after the transition and engaged in a Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) and Wrap Around Services



Teaming



Recruited support to address cultural and communication barriers



Parents engaged in transparent and consistent communication



Held multiple CFT meetings to collaborate with family, service providers, and natural supports to address concerns and develop a safety plan



Held consultations with supervisor, manager, and support teams



Supportive services:

- Parent Advocates
- Behavioral Health
- Victor Community Solutions
- STRTP
- Santa Lucia Door to Hope
- Therapy and mental health services, parent coaching/education, legal advocacy



Service Planning & Delivery



Service Needed

- 16 yr old had self harm thoughts and other mental health concerns. Hospitalized on psychiatric hold for 1 month
- Absent father interested in re-engagement

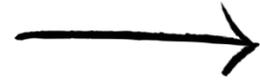


Service Provided

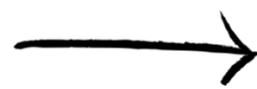
- Monthly meeting with 16 yr old to assess safety & wellbeing
 - Victor Community Solutions - therapeutic service
 - Transitioned youth to STRTP after 1-month psychiatric hold
- Arranged routine home visits with father
 - Worked with father to reconnect and engage with services to move toward reunification & reinstallation of parental rights



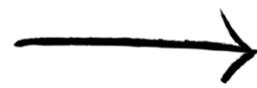
Transition



Ensure on-going support & services were in place after case transferred



Work with Placement to set up WRAP Around support prior to transition for a warm handoff and ongoing support



Work with Child Protective Services in San Bernardino County to ensure successful transition





Q&A



Case Study #2

*Presented by: Joseph Kurian
&
Shielane Briosso*

Family History



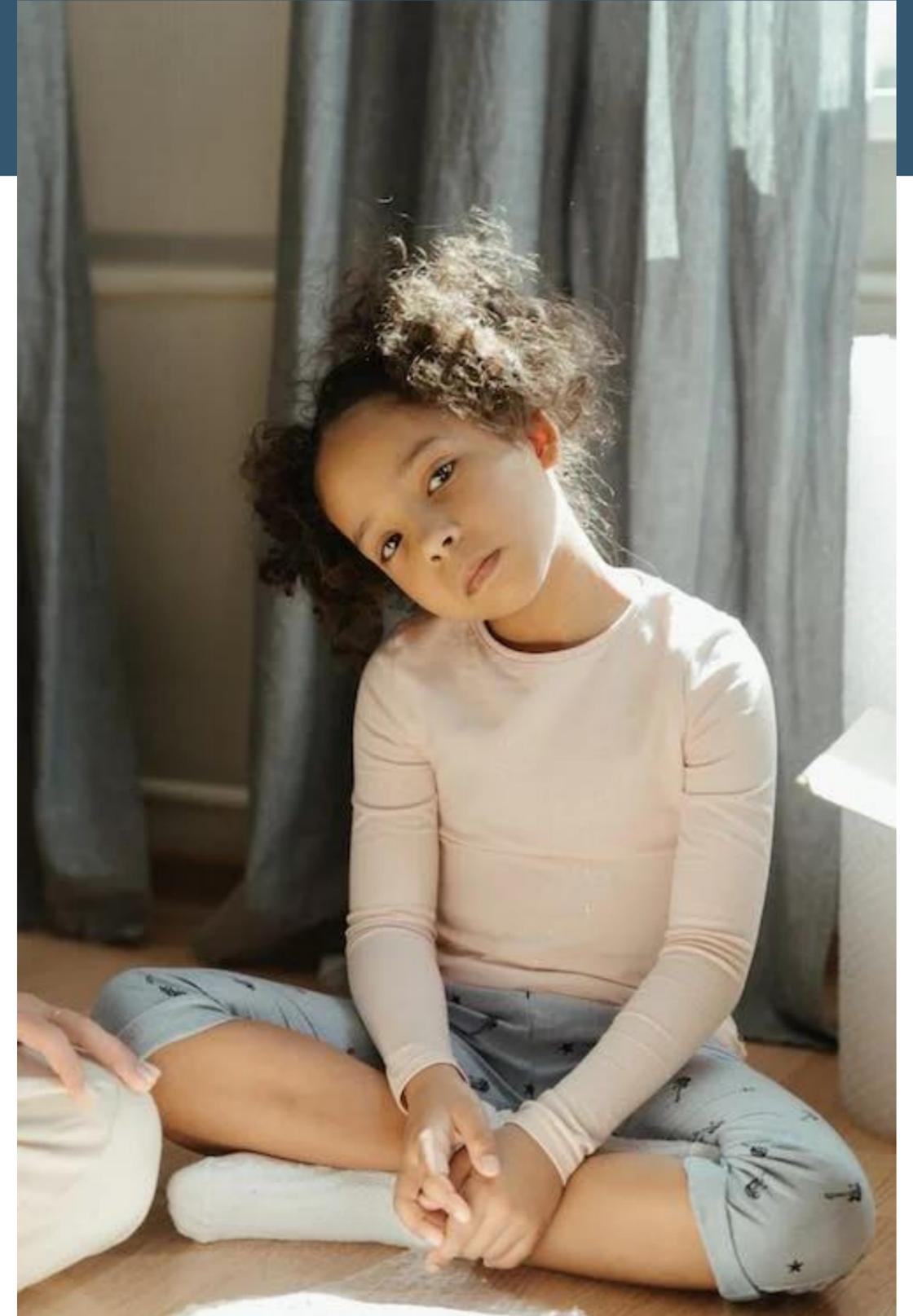
- Multiracial & multi-cultural family
- History of Child welfare involvement
- DFCS involvement
 - Mental health & substance use
 - Domestic Violence (DV) concerns
 - Children 5 and 12 missing school
- Parents agreed to Informal Supervision (IS) Services



- Unsafe behaviors
 - Suicidal thoughts
 - DV exposure to children
 - Agitated when children miss school



- In foster care until 2005
- Mother had unaddressed mental health (MH) issues
- Restraining order due to DV



Engagement

Strengthening Parenting Ability and Safety for Children

- Listen, understand, validate feelings
- Clarify and help the family understand Informal Supervision Services
- Six Child & Family Team (CFT) meetings
- Parent Advocate
- Incorporated cultural perspectives

Collaborate

- Engaged in conversation with paternal side of family
- Developed a circle of support to work towards safety plan



Assessment



Structured Decision Making (SDM) Assessment: Very High Risk and Safe with Plan with mother



Monthly contact with children



At closure: Moderate Risk and children were safe with both parents-
Differential Response (DR) Path II



Teaming



Parent advocate - **Shielane Brioso**



Seneca: Pathways to Well-Being services for the 5 year old and outpatient therapy for the 12 year old



Therapy, mental health services, and DV support & education for parents



Consistent communication and dialogue with paternal family



School

- Partnership with the school to keep in the same schools
- Explore transportation plan, academic support and assistance for students



Service Planning & Delivery

Mom

- Case plan development
- Collaborated with
 - Tully MH Services
 - DV Intervention Collaboration
 - Parent Advocate
 - Momentum Health Services
- Consistent communication with agency partners

Dad

- Case plan development
- Collaborated with
 - DV education at Pathways
 - Private therapist
 - Parent Advocate
- Encouraged to comply with psychiatrist services

Children

- Case plan development
- Collaborated with
 - Seneca Behavioral Health Services
 - School and District collaboration
- Monthly safety and risk assessments



Transition



Ensured on-going support & services

- Differential Response
- Continuation of community services
- Continued exploration and extension of natural support



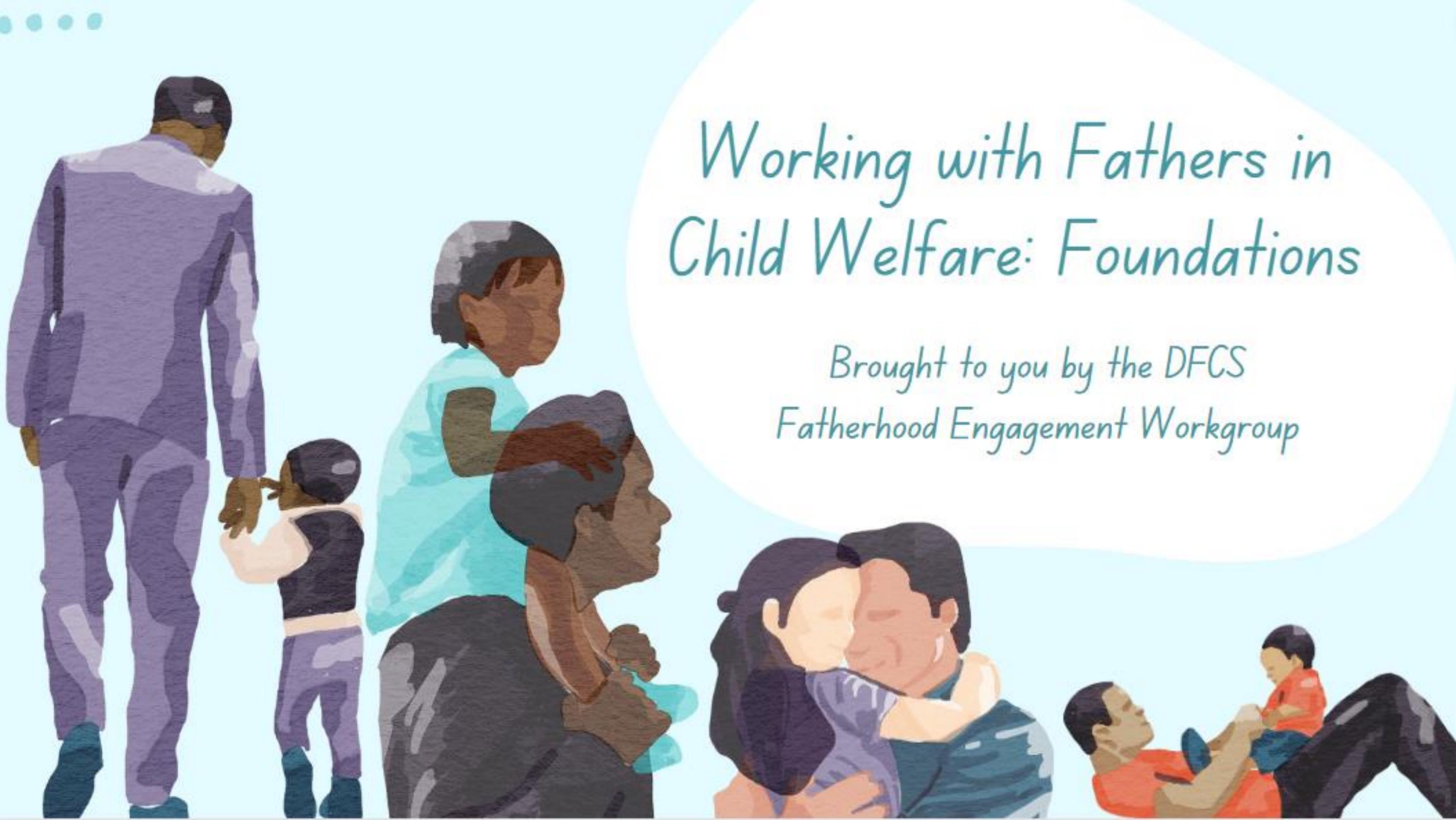
Family growth

- Ability to listen, understand, and acknowledge the family issues
- Ability to engage and cooperate
- Resiliency in handling crisis and challenges





Q&A

An illustration of diverse families in various poses. On the left, a man in a purple suit walks away from the viewer, holding the hand of a small child in a black top and purple pants. Next to them, a woman in a light blue shirt is seen from the side, holding a young child. In the center, a man in a dark shirt is shown in profile, holding a baby. To his right, a man and a woman are embracing each other. On the far right, a man in a red shirt is sitting on the floor, holding a child who is sitting on his lap. The background is a light blue gradient with a large white circle containing the title and subtitle. In the top left corner, there are three small blue circles.

Working with Fathers in Child Welfare: Foundations

*Brought to you by the DFCS
Fatherhood Engagement Workgroup*

About the Training

- This training examines the importance of fathers, systemic and personal biases, and fosters a call to action to ensure fathers and paternal relatives are connected to children.
- Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC) and Staff Development formed a training collaboration to deliver this training side by side.
- Fiscal Year 22-23 saw 285 Social Workers, Social Service Analysts, Supervisors, and Managers trained.

Why it's Important

- Fathers and paternal relatives play a crucial role in the lives of children and contribute to a child's emotional, social, and cognitive development.
- Paternal relatives bring valuable connections and family traditions that enrich a child's cultural identity and sense of belonging. Their involvement creates a strong support system, fostering resilience and well-being.

Santa Clara County continues to lean into engagement as an essential practice behavior.



Meet the Trainers

Parish & Gildardo Parent Mentors from Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC)

- Parish and Gildardo have been essential in elevating the importance of fathers; they are genuine and compassionate. They speak from lived experience and highlight their resilient success stories. Their unique perspectives and authentic voice promotes a well-rounded understanding of how to engage and support fathers who are involved with child welfare.
- **Highlights from training participants**
 - *"They shared valuable personal experience related to this training. Very helpful hearing from the biological father's perspective."*
 - *"Appreciate the honesty that they shared and providing us social workers feedback of what we could do to support father from a father who lived the experience."*

Clarence Cisneros-Jones Social Work Training Specialist from Staff Development

- **Highlights from training participants**
 - *"Really inspired me to do more to locate, engage, and serve fathers."*
 - *"Very thoughtful in the way he presented the material and incorporated topics and conversations to the group."*
 - *"Actively engaged the audience, passionate about topic, shared personal experience, cultural awareness piece included, and is an active listener."*
 - *"Excellent job! Well informed, provided examples, incorporated and acknowledged racial equity, bias, and the Child and Family Practice Model (CFPM). Great training!! Along with personal experience and compassion for the topic."*



Key Takeaways from Participants

- *"Hearing DAC mentor parents share their experiences."*
- *"The authenticity, genuineness, and openness of the trainers sharing their stories, experiences, and perspectives."*
- *"To be more mindful and intentional about the father's role and involvement in the children's lives."*
- *"Learning how to engage fathers and encourage mothers to include fathers and paternal relatives in the children's circle of support."*
- *"Reflective thinking"*
- *"Insight to attitudes make big difference."*
- *"Understanding our personal and social biases regarding father's roles."*
- *"I learned and had a self-realization that not engaging father's is systemic and that then manifests into one's own practice."*



20 Reasons why Children Need Active Fathers

1. Lets a child know that he/she is loved
2. Helps a child learn important life skills
3. Provides a child with greater financial resources
4. Lowers a child's chances for early sexual activity
5. Provides a child with a positive male role model
6. Lowers a child's chances for school failure
7. Provides a child with emotional support
8. Lowers a child's chances for juvenile delinquency
9. Enhances a child's self-esteem
10. Lowers a child's chances for adult criminality
11. Enhances a child's intellectual development
12. Provides a child with a sense of physical and emotional security
13. Provides a child with guidance and discipline
14. Facilitates a child's moral development
15. Gives a child someone to play with
16. Promotes a healthy gender identity in a child
17. Provides a child with someone to talk to when he/she has questions
18. Provides a child with an alternative perspective on life
19. Increases child's chances for academic success
20. Lowers child's chances for youth suicide



Engaging fathers for better
outcomes for children and families!



Wrap Up



Next Quarterly Community Forum October 10, 2023



Next Continuum of Learning February 29, 2024



Continuum of Learning Survey

<https://forms.office.com/g/Fj5Bu0TXEE>



Ask questions to the DFCS Director's Office

<https://forms.office.com/g/Wwh8HRHtKi>



Thank You

