

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Children's Countywide Services Division



Shared Core Practice Model

The Shared Core Practice Model (SCPM) is the adopted philosophy and foundational element of CCR. The SCPM is a collaborative effort between Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and Probation that reforms case practice from a professionally driven process to one that is driven by the child and his or her family. It highlights five core elements including engaging, teaming, assessing, planning and intervention, and tracking and adapting. This model describes how we should approach working with children and families involved in the Child Welfare system. Embracing a family-centered method, the SCPM acknowledges the importance of identifying a client's underlying needs, strengths, and cultural factors. It is important for members of a client's team, including formal and informal supports, to collaborate and communicate consistently in order to produce successful outcomes for youth. The teaming process is an integral component of the SCPM and is referred to as the Child and Family Team (CFT).

In CCR, the CFT process will drive decision-making for placement, services, and supports for clients. Thus, the CFT process is a mechanism for continuous collaboration between children and families, DMH, DCFS, Probation, education and all members of a client's team. CFTs are a continuous process that will be conducted as frequently as needed and will take place throughout the course of treatment.

**The diagram to the right illustrates the five core elements of the SCPM.*

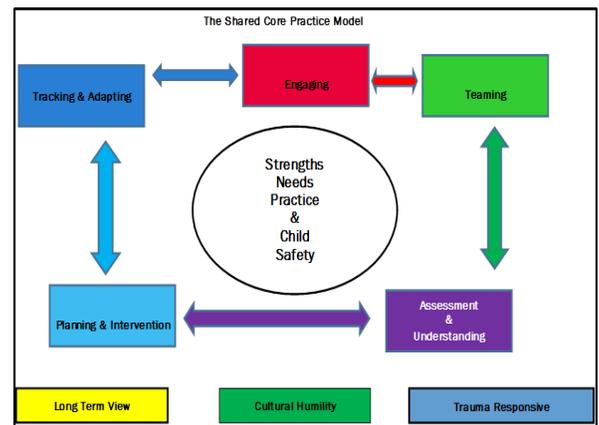
CCR Resources:

CCR Overview

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/search/google/CCR>

CDSS Internet Webpage

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/Default.htm>



CCR Perspective, Kym Renner (DCFS)



Kym Renner, Administrative Deputy Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Children and Family Services is a dedicated advocate for Child Welfare youth. She has led DCFS' CCR implementation efforts and is well versed on this reform. Ms. Renner lends us her insight regarding CCR.

Q: What is the relationship between the SCPM and CFT?

R: SCPM is a philosophy that DCFS and Child Welfare embrace as "a way of doing business." SCPM is the lens in which we view our children and families, communicate, and model ourselves. SCPM focuses on being family-centered, culturally sensitive, and team driven. The CFT is one mechanism of teaming as it relates to the SCPM. The CFT is an activity and process that brings together "providers, the educational system, and anyone who touches the youth in some way in order to team with the child and family." The

CFT is a vehicle for decision-making and recommendations where the "child and family's voice and choice" are present throughout the duration of his or her care.

Q: What strategies have DCFS utilized to ensure successful implementation of the CFT process?

R: We have a very robust systemic training effort to train-up staff on the CFT process throughout DCFS. Part of the training process is being in a classroom and then "seeing one and doing one". In addition, we are meeting with all of our providers to determine and assess their ability to transition to CCR requirements by January 1, 2017. DCFS is providing technical assistance to providers, offering extensions, and will continue to assist providers as needed. At a higher level, our executive team is meeting to determine what policy and procedures might need revision.

Q: From your perspective, what is the most integral component of CCR and why?

R: CCR has been vital in bringing together DCFS, Probation, and DMH to develop plans in a coordinated fashion to produce the best outcomes for youth. Our collaborations have involved enhancing services and supports to youth across the continuum of care. Partnering has assisted the three departments with blending our terminology, language, structures, and removed communication barriers. As a result DCFS, Probation, and DMH communicate more freely between each other, "and I only see this getting better over time."

Q: When fully implemented, how do you envision CCR benefitting Child Welfare and Probation youth?

R: The collaboration between the three departments will ensure that "youth receive services and supports that are trauma informed and culturally sensitive regardless of the placement setting, and who has supervision and care over the youth." However, it is important to note that CCR will be an ongoing process and we will continue to collaborate with the state, our partners, and families to improve the continuum of care for our youth.