



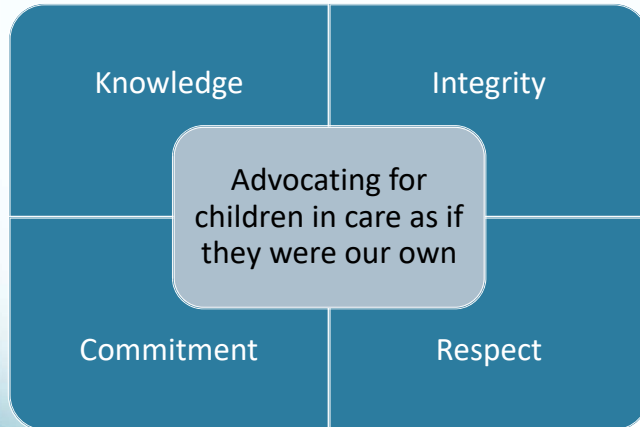
PUTTING PARENTING FIRST

Purpose of Convening

- Increase understanding of the Quality Parenting Initiative as a child welfare system change effort
- Enhance participants' ability to apply child development and brain science research to policy and practice in implementing CCR
- Identify strengths and barriers in local practice to ensuring excellent parenting for children and youth and implementing CCR
- Develop plans with judicial and agency leadership/staff and other key stakeholders to address barriers



The Youth Law Center advocates to transform foster care and juvenile justice systems across the country so every child and youth can thrive



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What is QPI?

QPI is a strategy of the Youth Law Center. It is an approach to strengthening foster care, by refocusing on excellent parenting for all children in the child welfare system.



Why.

To ensure **EXCELLENT, DEVELOPMENTALLY INFORMED PARENTING** for EVERY child EVERY day

QFI

The graphic features a white brick wall background. At the top, there are four circular icons: a white cross on an orange background, a white brain on a purple background, a yellow heart, and a white signal tower on a red background. Below the icons, the word "Why." is written in white on a large orange circle. Underneath, the text "To ensure EXCELLENT, DEVELOPMENTALLY INFORMED PARENTING for EVERY child EVERY day" is displayed in purple and orange. At the bottom, a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages are standing together. A small "QFI" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.





CCR

Context for Today's QPI Discussion: California Continuum of Care Reform

- What Was the Need?
- The Policy Framework
 - Senate Bill 1013 (Chapter 35, Statutes of 2012) required legislative recommendations
 - Assembly Bill 403 (Chapter 77, Statutes of 2015) enacted major components of CCR



CCR Vision

CCR Vision

“Every child and youth needs and deserves to feel love, a sense of attachment and belonging, and to have the continuity of family and community to support and guide them in their lives. Preserving or reunifying the family is the first priority, when possible, for all children and youth. When reunification is not possible, securing a permanent family through adoption or guardianship is the next-preferred priority. The overarching goal, reflected in this report, is to reduce reliance on group homes as a long-term placement setting by narrowly defining the purpose of group care, and by increasing the capacity of home-based family care to better address the individual needs of all children, youth and caregivers.”

CDSS California's Child Welfare Continuum of Care Reform Report, 2015





CCR Vision

- Children live in their communities in homes where they receive quality parenting
- Services/supports individualized and coordinated across systems so children can receive support where they live
- Congregate care drastically limited to a short-term, high quality, intensive intervention designed to meet specific needs and quickly return youth to a family
- Effective accountability and transparency drives continuous quality improvement for state, county and providers



CCR Strategies

- Limiting use of Congregate Care
- Improving Quality & Changing Goal of Group Homes
- Strengthening Collaboration
- Increasing Capacity for Family Care
- Core Services
- Increased Engagement



STRIPs



QPI Principles

Excellent parenting is the most important service we can provide to children and youth in care.
Children need families, not beds;

Child development and trauma research indicates that children need constant, consistent, effective parenting to grow and reach their full potential;

Each community must define excellent parenting for itself

Policy and practice must be changed to align with that definition

Participants in the system are in the best position to recommend and implement that change;

parenting for all children in the child welfare system.





What.



- **MORE** families who are willing and able to be excellent parents to children in our system



THE BRAND

How



- **COMMITMENT** by the child welfare system to fully support excellent parenting by putting the needs of the child first





How

- SET clear expectations
- COMMUNICATE the expectations
- ALIGN system around those expectations

- APPLY research to practice
 - Developmentally informed care
 - Presentations on key topics
 - Innovations
 - Just in Time


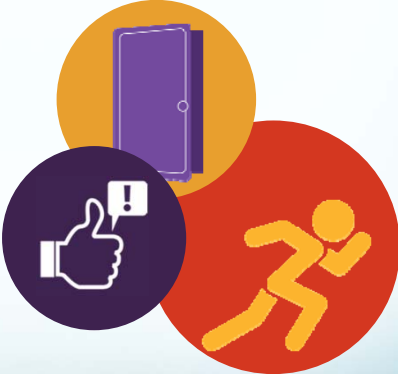
How.

- **RECOGNIZE** that caregivers and social workers are professional partners
- **LISTEN** to those who do the work
- **RESPOND**



Key Issues

- **Information sharing**
- **Transitions**
- **Normalcy/Prudent Parenting**
- **Increased Involvement in Decision Making**
- **Recruitment, licensing, retention and support for quality**
- **High quality, quickly available, individualized training**
- **Co-parenting support**
- **Court**



results.

- More quality families
- More effective birth teams
- Better decision making
- Changed policies
- Higher skill levels
- Better team work
- Long term relationships for children

Improved Parenting for Children



Thank You!

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