

Family-Centered

Community-Based

A new way of doing business

Strong families and safe communities result in healthy children. That's why [Name of County] is changing the way we work by using new approaches and building closer partnerships with families, youth, and the broader community, including your neighborhood, to strengthen families and create safe communities they can live in.

Recognizing that all families and communities have strengths of their own, [Name of County] provides support to allow families to address challenges and to collectively solve the problems that are posing safety challenges for children.

With family strength, community wisdom and [Name of County]'s resources, we want to learn from families and communities the best ways to work together for the good of [Name of County] families and children.

Flexible Federal Funding

[Name of County]'s ability to change the way we work is due, in part, to our participation in the California Well-Being Project (aka the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration).

The California Well-Being Project provides the nine participating counties with the flexibility to invest in prevention and use resources more effectively in proven and innovative approaches that better ensure the safety of children and the success of families. This flexibility, and the anticipated savings from investing in prevention, provides the opportunity to use our resources to achieve better outcomes.

Our Commitment to Our Families and Communities

Offering Relevant, Effective Services

- We believe in using prevention and early intervention to help keep children and youth safe from abuse and neglect.
- We believe children, youth, and young adults should have access to effective services that support their overall well-being and help them achieve their full potential.

Building on Strengths of Families and Communities

- We believe the best way to support families is to honor their experiences, acknowledge their strengths and work together to build partnerships based on mutual respect and trust.
- We believe children, youth, and young adults need lifelong, loving permanent families and connections to family members, communities, and tribes.

Really Listening to and Understanding Families

- We believe that honestly sharing our assessment of strengths and concerns is essential for engaging with families and building connections.
- We believe in listening to families to learn about their culture and community.
- We believe that families can grow and change.
- We believe in helping families connect with effective, family-focused, strengths-based services and supports.

Creating a Supportive, Competent Workforce

- We believe in creating a competent and professional workforce through quality recruitment, training, and support.
- We believe in individual development, critical thinking, self-reflection, and humility.
- We believe in creating an organizational culture and climate that supports learning and development.

Integrated with the California Core Practice Model

- The Core Practice Model (CPM) is a statewide effort to organize the work being done by Child Welfare agencies across the state. It means that Child Welfare practices and initiatives operate under common sets of values, casework components, and practice elements.
- With extensive feedback from state-wide stakeholders, CPM has defined practices and organizational standards that support improved outcomes for children and families.

For more information please contact:

Contact info to go here.

In [Name of County], our values are expressed through a professional approach to social work called Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

SOP is a holistic, family-centered approach with the goal of ensuring that children are safe and living in their own homes, protected by their own families. There are 3 main objectives that characterize SOP: the development of good working relationships, the use of critical thinking and decision-support tools, and the creation of detailed plans for enhancing daily safety of children. To achieve these objectives, SOP provides social workers with a variety of tools, exercises and plans that allow children to participate in meaningful ways to the case planning process.

Safety Organized Practice is a common language used by family advocates in the critical thinking and reasoned judgment required to create a balanced, complete picture of well-being for children and families. One of the most important aspects of this common language is the family's perspective.

SOP asks three questions, tailored differently for caregivers and the child, to gather the critical information required in order to create a safety plan for the family. To create a safety plan, we ask the following 3 questions:

- 1. What is working well?** Identify the existing strengths and safety.
- 2. What are we worried about?** Look at past harm, future danger and complicating factors.
- 3. What needs to happen next?** Create a space for future safety.

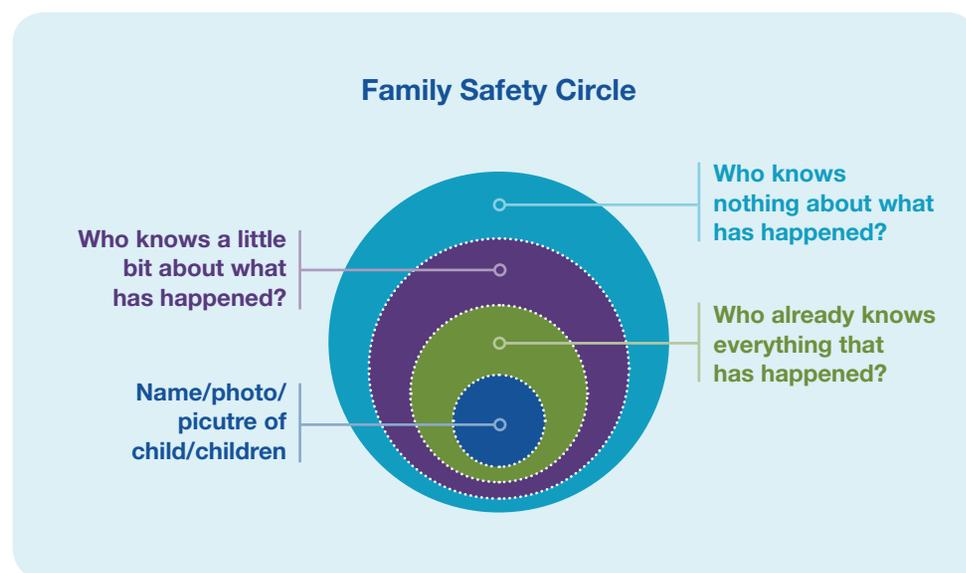
Safety Organized Practice Tools

SOP utilizes a variety of research-based tools to determine how best to work with the family.

Some examples include:

Family Safety Circles is a tool used to identify the people who should be a part of the safety plan.

The Three Houses tool and **Safety House tool** are used to involve children and young people in the safety plan process and ensure their voices are heard in a meaningful way.



The Three Houses Tool

House of Good Things



House of Worries



House of Dreams



Resources

- [Title IV-E California Well-Being Project website](#)
- [Safety Organized Practice Resource Library, UC Davis Extension](#)
- [Introducing Safety Organized Practice, NCCD/Children's Research Center](#)