



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

May 29, 2013

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE: I-26-13

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
 ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES  
 ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS  
 ALL ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES  
 ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: KATIE A: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORE PRACTICE MODEL THROUGH A LEARNING COLLABORATIVE MODEL

This All County Information Notice is to provide information to counties about an opportunity to participate in a statewide learning collaborative (Collaborative) that will focus on implementation of the Core Practice Model (CPM) and the Katie A settlement agreement. Additionally, it is to describe how the Readiness Assessment tool and Service Delivery Plan (SDP) will help the State establish the Collaborative. Both of these tools were developed to help counties determine their readiness level for implementing the CPM, and develop a plan for providing Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) and Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS).

**STATE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE**

The Katie A. Court Implementation Plan requires the State to identify “Model/Early Implementer” counties as a strategy to roll out implementation of the CPM. The State will accomplish this by using a learning collaborative model, and will identify a group of counties to participate. A learning collaborative is a model of training where multiple teams work together to adopt or improve a practice or system, and focus on learning from collective experiences in diverse service settings. For purposes of the CPM, the Collaborative will be comprised of implementation teams from various counties focused on implementing the CPM, who will be able to share and learn from one another’s collective experiences, challenges, skills, ideas, and strategies. Information from the Collaborative will also help inform the State about the supports needed to ensure sustained and successful implementation of the CPM statewide. The Collaborative will

use the implementation science framework, which is described in Chapter 3 of the CPM Guide. The CPM Guide is available on-line at [www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1320.htm](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1320.htm). Implementation science currently supports the California Partners for Permanency Project (CAPP). Additional information about the CAPP and implementation science can be found at [www.reducefostercarenow.org](http://www.reducefostercarenow.org).

Counties that participate in the Collaborative will be provided with a range of supportive activities, leadership experiences, and technical assistance targeted at the system and program level. In order to be considered, counties must meet or intend to meet the following criteria:

- Identify co-leads from mental health and child welfare agencies
- Commitment to develop and test strategies for implementing the CPM
- Commitment to participate in various training, convenings, and webinars
- Commitment to transfer lessons learned to local programs, and use any coaching, training materials, and other aides to fully adopt and implement the CPM
- Commitment to act in a peer capacity with other counties
- Capacity to deliver ICC and IHBS consistent with the CPM
- Commitment to build an implementation team

The Collaborative will be divided into three regional cohorts, with an additional cohort for small counties. The total number of counties that are selected will be based on the capacity of State resources to support the Collaborative. The CDSS and DHCS, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association and the County Mental Health Directors Association, will select counties for the Collaborative using the criteria described above and information from the Readiness Assessment tool and SDP submitted by counties.

### **READINESS ASSESSMENT TOOL AND SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN**

The Readiness Assessment tool and SDP are anticipated to provide the State with a document that identifies service gaps, strengths, and areas of need that counties face as they move forward to serve class and subclass members using the CPM.

It is important to note that information received from the Readiness Assessment tool and SDP will not be used as a benchmark for measuring progress. As stated above, this information is one source for the DHCS and CDSS to identify potential counties that will participate as part of the Collaborative. Additionally, the information will be used to identify county technical assistance needs and determine how to direct appropriate resources to support implementation of the CPM.

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Counties that are interested in participating in the Collaborative must submit a letter of interest to CDSS by June 15, 2013. In this letter, please identify a child welfare and mental health lead that the Department may contact for future meetings and information. Counties can a letter of interest via email to [KatieA@dss.ca.gov](mailto:KatieA@dss.ca.gov), or by mail to the following address:

CDSS, Children and Family Services Division  
Resources Development and Training Support Bureau  
744 P Street, M.S. 8-11-86,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Child Protection and Family Support Branch, at (916) 651-6600, or send inquiries to [KatieA@dss.ca.gov](mailto:KatieA@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

KEVIN GAINES, CHIEF  
Child Protection and Family Support Branch

c: CWDA  
CMHDA