LINKAGES MISSION:

Working together
to strengthen families,
ensure child safety,
promote well-being
and sustain
self-sufficiency.

dcfs dpss

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

dpss

Department of Public Social Services
12860 Crossroads Parkway, South
City of Industry, CA 91746

Website: dpss.lacounty.gov

Department of Children and Family Services
425 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Website: dcfs.lacounty.gov

Rev. 11-24-21

LOS ANGELES

LINKAGES

LINKAGES
CalWORKs & Child Welfare Collaboration

What is Linkages?

LINKAGES is an interdepartmental service coordination partnership between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to address common barriers that limit parents' ability to parent and their ability to work. Los Angeles' five Linkages protocols are part of case work practice to enhance service delivery, strengthen families through economic self-sufficiency and focus on child safety.

How does Linkages serve its families?

♦ **Prevention:** Ensure DCFS families who are not currently connected to DPSS services, but could be, are provided an expedient method to access needed services

♦ **Intervention:** Ensure families involved in both DCFS and DPSS maximize available services & resources and engage in coordinated case planning to assist parents with creating a safe and stable home for the children while working toward economic self-sufficiency.

What are some of the benefits of Linkages?

♦ Team approach provides stronger intervention for families' complex needs and creates agency environments that integrate resources to better serve vulnerable families.

♦ Coordinated case planning maximizes services for families while preventing duplication of services.

♦ Joint outreach to CalWORKs sanctioned families involved with DCFS helps address barriers to safety and self-sufficiency.

♦ CalWORKs families working to reunify can receive Welfare-to-Work/GAIN (non-cash aid) services to promote returning children home safely and quickly.

♦ CalWORKs provides services to help prevent families from entering or re-entering the child welfare system.

Five Linkages Protocols in LA

DCFS 5122 Screening Tool

DCFS screens families for potential eligibility for CalWORKs/General Relief and refers potentially eligible families to DPSS for expedited intake process.

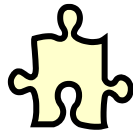### Family Preservation Service Coordination

Integration of DPSS expertise into DCFS' Family Preservation Multi-Disciplinary Case Planning Committee meetings.

Family Reunification Service Coordination

DCFS parents on CalWORKs at the time their children are removed from the home and who have a DCFS FR plan, can continue to receive services through CalWORKs/GAIN (no cash aid).

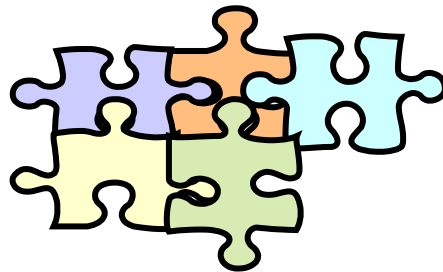### DPSS Linkages GAIN Services Worker (GSW) Collocated at DCFS

DPSS expertise at CFT Meetings: For priority cases (CalWORKs cases, Placement with Caretaker Relative), Linkages GSWs participate in or contribute their expertise in Child Family Team (CFT) meetings; and

Case Consultations: Collocated Linkages GSWs provide case consultations on mutual cases outside their participation in CFTs.

Homeless Outreach

Service coordination for homeless CalWORKs families who have an open DCFS Family Maintenance (FM), court or voluntary, case.

Linkages is effective, efficient, and essential!

Linkages benefits everyone! *Children and families do better when they receive the support they need, and programs benefit when families can meet important targets and goals.*

To CalWORKs & GAIN (Welfare-to-Work)

* Increases participation prevents/reduces CalWORKs/GAIN sanctions.

* Promotes employment.

* Provides Child Welfare expertise to help address families' multiple needs.

To Child Welfare

* Provides additional resources for helping families and improving outcomes.

* Helps reduce poverty and stressors contributing to child maltreatment.

To both Programs

* Coordinates and streamlines services.

* Creates team approach to helping families.

* Leverages resources to cost-effectively achieve each department's program goals.

* Complementary case plans prevent duplication of services.

* Promotes family well-being and self-sufficiency.

WHY LINKAGES?

IT JUST MAKES SENSE!!!!!!