

Why Have a Linkages Team Meeting?

- To involve family early on in the case coordination process.
- To streamline case plans, services, goals and timelines which will make more efficient use of time, energy, and resources.
- To enhance access to services for domestic violence, mental health, alcohol or other drug abuse and other barriers to self-sufficiency.
- To increase case plan success; higher accountability.
- To enhance communication.
- To provide post-CFS support that links families to community resources and services to meet the specific needs of the family and child(ren).

MISSION

To provide seamless services that eliminate barriers, enhance the quality of life, lead to family stability, self-sufficiency, child safety and well-being.

Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Offices/Info

East County Children & Family Services
4549 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch, CA 94509
(925) 522-7600

East County Workforce Services
4545 Delta Fair Blvd., Antioch, CA 94509
(925) 608-5770

Central County Children & Family Services
500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill CA 94523
(925) 602-9300

West County Children & Family Services
1275A Hall Avenue, Richmond CA 94804
(510) 231-8100

Central and West County Workforce Services
151 Linus Pauling Drive, Hercules CA 94547
(510) 262-5287



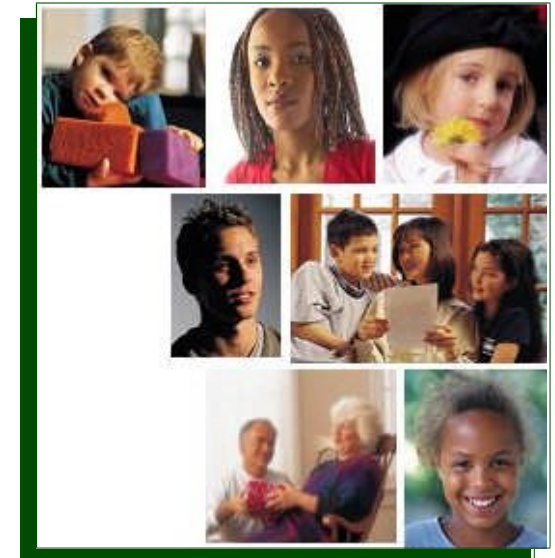
Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline
1-(877) 881-1116

www.ehsd.org

County of Contra Costa Employment & Human Services Agency



Linkages



VISION

A coordinated network of services and supports built on the strengths of the community and the families to become stronger, safer and have more stable resources.

What is Linkages?

“Linkages” is the term used in Contra Costa County to name the philosophy and working partnership between CalWORKs, Children & Family Services (CFS), and community-based partners - Linkages is a practice, not a program. It enhances connections to agency and community services and resources that provide a network of support for the family.

The CalWORKs program provides temporary financial assistance and employment focused services to eligible families with minor children. Families who participate in CalWORKs generally also receive Nutrition Assistance (Cal Fresh) and MediCal benefits. Additional services are available to families with barriers to self-sufficiency, including mental health, substance abuse or domestic violence issues. Through Linkages practice, CalWORKs may prevent risk of future child maltreatment by earlier identification and provision of pertinent services to families.

Children & Family Services (CFS) ensures the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth who come to the agency's attention. Through Linkages practice, CFS may enhance family stability and self-sufficiency by connecting families to CalWORKs and other services and resources before, during or after any CFS involvement to enhance prevention, coordination or post-CFS efforts.

Community Partners are the network of support for individuals, children and families, and provide essential services utilized by people from all walks of life. At the core of Linkages is the philosophy that all children and families are best supported by a caring team that can meet and address unique strengths and needs.

What is a Linkages Team Meeting?

When a family becomes involved with CFS, a child may or may not be placed in out-of-home care. However, a CFS case plan is developed that contains specific goals and timelines to ensure the ongoing safety of the child(ren) – Usually, other service providers are already or should be involved.

The Linkages Team meeting brings together a team of support with the family, for the family. Through the meeting process, case plans from the various service providers are coordinated and streamlined so that the family is successful at meeting the goals and timelines of many different case plans. Case plans may include the CFS Court or non-Court case plan, the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work case plan, the school IEP (Individualized Education Plan), or the Youth or Adult Probation case plan to name some primary examples.

The Linkages Team meeting may be facilitated by a neutral facilitator, however, as the case plan progresses, subsequent meetings may be facilitated by the CFS social worker. Community partners are involved at the request of the family or agency representatives.

Why Linkages?

Because Linkages is best practice:

- Family centered, team driven
- Strength based
- Needs driven
- Solution focused
- Community based

To achieve the following outcomes:

- More families achieving self sufficiency through increased work participation and monthly earnings
- More CalWORKs sanctions resolved
- More families off of cash aid
- Fewer referrals to CFS
- Fewer re-referrals to CFS
- Fewer children placed in out-of-home care
- Fewer children who re-enter out-of-home care
- More children who are safe, healthy, at home, in school, and out of trouble.