



Heatwave of Ideas

8/6/2026

CWFR Vs Linkages: Breakout

1. Round 1 Notes:

Question from Tuolumne: Great CWFR program in Tuolumne; offering housing, HVP and other resources are given, after the 6 months; and they are transitioning out of these services. How are you applying “Linkages” Services after the end of the 6 months?

Response: Tulare-TulareWorks- the only thing that changes is no Cash Grant, all remaining services stay in place. HSP/BFH issued through same service provider, will go through BFH typically happens sooner.

Question: Do you still offer HSP?

Response: Tulare: Yes, if they are WTW/ES Eligible, then they remain eligible. They are only eligible to Temp HA if it is a part of their reunification plan as requested. We only issue permanent if they are active CalWORKs.

Los Angeles- same- CalWORKs does not issue any housing programs under FR;

Response: Trinity uses Bringing Families Home for housing; they do not think about HSP for Linkages.

San Mateo- tried to do a link of all services, like steps- IF CalWORKs, then check for HSP first, if not, then they have to be disqualified, or go through HSP first. When would it be applicable; we should add an additional check box; or during referrals- appropriate to refer to Linkages first

Trinity’s understanding is that Linkages is a philosophy not a funded program. The services are CW, WTW or CWS with Linkages as a Bridge. The CWFR goes to court, at the 6-months; Court returns children. But on the reunification side, we try to help them (more Prevention arena) before they have to start the 6 months. With CWFR, there is money, so it is treated a bit differently. The workers are spearheading the program.

Los Angeles- AB 135 vs AB 429; and now incorporating the TEAM of people. Terminology matters. CWFR is not just linkages. Mutual families, Family Preservation, Family Maintenance etc., it's all Linkages.

Linkages is removing the Silos, collaborating and coordinating together for the same family

In Tulare- When we talk about Linkages, Tulare Works handles Linkages as a program. And cases are transferred to a Linkages worker.

Linkages = CW/CWS activity.

Stanislaus- Linkages is the umbrella: different categories fall within Linkages like: FM, FR, Innovative services, SUD.

Tuolumne – it's interesting how counties are funding Linkages.

Currently through FSS, CWFR. Love hearing Tulare is using HSP/BFH liberally.

LA Question: How do you process when they are Cal Learn teens;

Cal Learn and Linkages: Don't they have to live with their parents, if the children are removed... wouldn't the first contact be the parent, but they all live together. Cal Learn teens are eligible up to age of 20.

Teen can get FR services if they are nested in the CW Parent case.

Meeting their requirements and the CWS Plan. The Teen is now aging out and wants to have their own case.

Questions are: Can the teen take over the Sr. Parents case to keep her on the case? CalWORKs has indicated that the CWFR case cannot be open with a new application. Should that teen leave the Household- it would be a CalWORKs Denial.

Tulare- the Linkages worker would handle the Linkages piece and the Cal Learn Worker would handle the Cal Learn piece.

Timeclocks-

If timed out; they lose their eligibility. If close to timing out, they inform Family and Child Welfare Services. Look for exemptions/extenders; but if none are found, then communication is best.

Stanislaus- Same as Tulare; if they only have 4 months left; they give them community resources.

The ACL states "Up to 6 months" no guarantees, and must meet all requirements AND be engaged, to determine if they can be extended.

When you have timed out cases, and you have the potential to get a referral, do you take that in, or just not offer FR?

Stanislaus: FR is 2 different things, FR CW/WTW, and FR CWS. IF timed out- then IE; you can remain CWS FR, but not with CW/WTW.

Tulare- Timed out- turns into a “Child Only” case.

Stanislaus- Linkages: CW, CF, MC; with an open CWS, or IS services.

Los Angeles- CWS removes child. They are unaware of eligibility. They have the potential to receive the CWS Linkages referral in CW/WTW.

IF they are timed out; they have been initiating the referral to be evaluated for potential time back/extender; could be potentially eligible. Are you even bothering with the referral at all?

Stanislaus- all referrals get reviewed, return the information with findings.

Same in Tulare. – CFT invites begins the referral process to the Linkages Inbox (email) all are reviewed. IF timed out- we do a time on aid review prior to final determination. Back-end report with FC; to be screened when application with FC is received.

Stanislaus has a Time On Aid worker!

Tulare- Child only depends on the need. Most services are tied to CalWORKs Eligibility. Will send them an application for CalFresh.

Services are tied to WTW, so they will give a resource- Family Resource centers who use Community Based Organizations for services not under the CalWORKs umbrella.

Question for Stanislaus – does all those referrals get an (Release of Information) ROI?

Tulare- all under one umbrella, they are supposed to be working on an umbrella ROI Release that confirms that all people working for the family can communicate.

LA has an MDT/MOU- with about 11 depts and a specific MOU for Linkages.

WIC 10850- discusses that depts can communicate regarding the family.

Tulare has CW/WTW staff stationed at CWS, they are also staffed at the court location, and another TulareWorks District office. We can walk over, open lines of communication.

Being co-located helps with compliance.

Incarceration- CalWORKs Temp eligibility is 30 days, how long are they incarcerated. Or Inpatient programs, how long can they technically be

“out of the Home”? The Children temp absence period has been extended. If more than 30 days have passed, the case closes down. Los Angeles has had 3 in the last week; CWFR was recommended, and the parent was reported to be incarcerated. Normally this is what we do, if they are within the 6-month period, then they are ineligible, when released if still eligible. Then we can discuss CW FR.

The time frame matters.

For CWS- are they able to complete their services?

Are there any attendees here from Child Welfare Services that is recommending CWFR knowing that the parent is incarcerated?

When child is detained, child is removed, 30-day temp period, they will already get 1-2 months of CW unchanged.... Then the 6 months would begin, so now we are at 8 months and so this situation would cover that family, (CWFR would come in after).

What if they do start the CWFR. And 4 months in, we get the jail match. Is this a 1 parent or 2 parent HH? If the primary is leaving the home. Then they lose their eligibility. Is it safe to say that we received notification informing CWS; for next steps/recommendations.

FM cases, parent becomes incarcerated, it is communicated, case is discontinued if longer than 30 days.

ICT processes:

Tulare has not had an ICT for CWFR yet. They take a long time in general. FM case went ok but initiated in March and did not complete until September. Cannot assist/make referrals. And ICT process needs to be worked on as a whole.

Los Angeles has had a few with Riverside/SB County/Orange and they keep those lines of communication open. It has worked out, more communication IS necessary.

ICT/Out of County Removal: Not all counties are linkages and not all have the same referral process, how is this going for others?

Have had cases where Tulare detained and active CW/WTW in Fresno or Kern. 2 separate processes, CWS goes through Court and CW/WTW is based on County residency. CW/WTW transferred, CWS held until the case closed.

LA requires staff to notify coordinators so that they can communicate the Linkages piece smoothly.