

The Journey to Outcomes: THE CAPP LEGACY

A legacy is, by definition, what is inherited from another and passed on to future generations. It is most often an immaterial gift, substantial yet intangible. Many times, it is attributed to a person or an entity – but in this instance, it is a Child and Family Practice Model, an approach to practice and system change that is built on a foundation of humble and authentic partnerships with families, communities, and Tribes, that is the legacy of the California Partners for Permanency.

LEARNING. EVOLVING. IMPROVING.

The CAPP effort has been an exploration in how to develop and implement a practice model to improve outcomes for the most at risk populations of children in foster care. CAPP has shown that when communities and Tribes work in partnership with all levels of the service delivery system (local, regional, state, and federal), there are powerful opportunities to effect change and improve outcomes. The CAPP experience made great strides in partnering with communities and Tribes and applying the principles and best practices of Implementation Science within local child welfare systems in order to “make” system change happen.

CAPP partners continue to share and pass on their knowledge that an active involved community partnership and the science of implementation bring much-needed energy and focus to child welfare system change. The resulting synergy from the CAPP approach creates multiple pressure points impacting, coordinating, and aligning the system with the desired practice changes, helping to ensure culturally responsive and successful services reach children and families and support improved outcomes for all children and families.

The CAPP legacy highlights the importance of child welfare practice leadership, and systems that:

- Value diverse perspectives and believe that everyone’s voice matters.
- Humbly embrace and honor individual cultures and traditions.
- Learn how to engage and partner with families, communities, and Tribes differently through their cultural values.
- Are considerate of and responsive to the lived experiences of the children and families being served.
- Work with communities and Tribes to address system barriers and establish pathways to culturally responsive supports and services.

CAPP has left an indelible mark on the involved counties, communities, and Tribes. The journey through uncharted territory has changed people – and the culture of organizations. It has influenced the way partners approach practice and system change, the way they talk to and listen to each other, and how they work together to ensure cultural responsiveness and accountability to the children and families served. It is a way of doing business “unusually” that started as a whisper and resulted in a culture that will live on and help transform child welfare practice and systems for years to come.

Here in their own words courageous CAPP pioneers describe the legacy of their work:

- “We have become kinder and more humble with our families – and at a system level too.”
- “We are supporting important conversations with community and child welfare professionals about where we are and where we are going.”
- “We have crystallized the importance of bringing others together around the development of a practice model.”
- “Community partner involvement is transformative – it is helping us to make the changes our system needs to make.”
- “Applying implementation best practices in our systems is helping us better support our staff and the kind of practice we want to see.”
- “Our work is contributing to the field of child welfare – helping others understand how institutional bias in child welfare can be addressed.”
- “The promising findings in the CAPP evaluation offer an important path forward for other counties and states who want to reduce disparities and improve outcomes.”
- “Children and families’ experiences with the Child Welfare System will be different – that is CAPP’s most important legacy.”

“Legacy is not what’s left tomorrow when you are gone. It’s what you give, create, impact and contribute today while you are here that then happens to live on.” – Rasha Ogurianu