

Why Have a Linkages Case Coordination 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-FCS support that links families to community resources and services to meet the specific needs of the family and child(ren).

How to Schedule a Linkages Case Coordination Meeting

The assigned FCS Protective Services Worker (PSW) contacts the Linkages Coordinator at (415) 557-5926. The Linkages Coordinator can assist with the logistics and facilitation of the Linkages Case Coordination meeting.

San Francisco County Human Services Agency Offices/Info

Main Office

170 Otis Street, San Francisco
(415) 557-5000

CalWORKs Office

1800 Oakdale St.

MediCal Office

1440 Harrison St.

Foodstamps Office

1235 Mission St.

CalWORKs/FCS Office

3120 Mission Street, San Francisco

FCS Bayview Office

3801 3rd Street, San Francisco

Teen Center/ILSP

225 Valencia Street, San Francisco



Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline
1-(800)-856-5553 or (415) 558-2650

www.sfgov.org

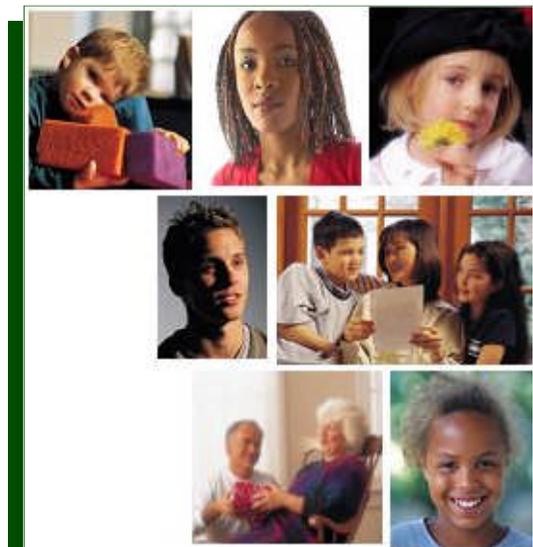
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City/County of San Francisco Human Services Agency



Linkages

CASE COORDINATION MEETINGS



**With the Family,
For the Family**

What is Linkages?

“Linkages” is the term used in San Francisco County to name the philosophy and working partnership between CalWORKs, Family & Children’s Services (FCS), 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 (Food Stamps) 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.

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

When a family becomes involved with FCS, a child may or may not be placed in out-of-home care. However, an FCS 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 Case Coordination 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 FCS 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 Case Coordination meeting may be facilitated by a neutral facilitator, however, as the case plan progresses, subsequent meetings may be facilitated by the FCS 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 FCS
- Fewer re-referrals to FCS
- 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.