



# Fresno County

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# Linkages Project



# *Working Together to Reduce Poverty & Strengthen Families*

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When CalWORKs/WTW and CWS work together, children and families can benefit in the following ways:

- The need for services can be identified which can lead to a reduction in the number of required CWS referrals
- Staff can assist families, provide a safe environment for their children, and gain economic self-sufficiency by coordinating services and eliminating contradictory expectations for success
- Families in court-ordered or Voluntary Family Maintenance may be eligible for additional support, including economic assistance such as cash payments, Employment Services, Medi-Cal or Diversion Services



## *Working Together to Reduce Poverty & Strengthen Families continued*

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- Families in the CWS Family Reunification program, where their children have been removed, CalWORKs/WTW can provide a variety of non-cash services (AB 429) to help the family reunify and gain economic self-sufficiency
- After children return home, CalWORKs/WTW can provide post-reunification services, including child care and other safety plan services to decrease the likelihood of abuse reoccurrence
- Transition-age youth (18-24) can routinely be assessed for and linked to services to promote permanency and self-sufficiency



# Linkages in Fresno County

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- Linkages began in 2005 in Fresno
- Focus was on eligible CalWORKs/WTW clients involved with the child welfare Voluntary Family Maintenance program



# Mission

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Fresno County will link and coordinate realistic services for multi-system families to achieve success



# Vision

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Children are entitled to live in a safe and healthy environment with parents that are nurturing, stable, and self-sufficient



# Guiding Principles

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Fresno County will use a comprehensive team approach to coordinate services based on common ground that:

- Respects client choice and family goals
- Collaborates with families and multi-systems
- Supports simplified processes that reduce duplication of services
- Provide effective and efficient services



# Philosophy

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- Family Focused
- Needs Driven
- Community Connected
- Strength Based

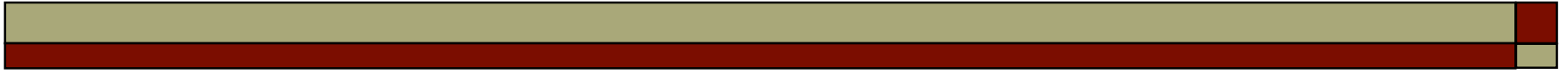




# Linkages in Fresno County (future)

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- Focus on expanding to include Differential Response



# *Central Services Desk*



# Central Services Desk

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- Provides direct services to children and families...
- Links families in the child-welfare system to resources & services for Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, Parenting, Immigration, Emergency Housing...
- Provides support to Social Work staff, i.e., staffings & case consultations with SAS, transitional housing...



# Central Services Desk continued

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- Provides resources for Child-Welfare staff and their families by connecting them to additional support services ...
- Oversees & monitors expenditures from other funding streams STOP, SCIAP, Kinship, etc.
- Administers payment of invoices from service providers...



# Direct Services & Referrals Provided by Central Services Desk:

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- Alcohol Severity Index (Adult ASI Lites)
- Inpatient/Out Patient Substance Abuse Treatment
- Aftercare Substance Abuse Treatment
- Mental Health Assessments
- Domestic Violence Index Assessments
- Anger Management Services



# Direct Services & Referrals Provided by Central Services Desk continued

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- Batterer's Treatment / Child Abuse Batterer's / Victims Group
- Drug testing services
- Staffing associated with Substance Abuse
- Departmental Liaison to Inpatient Treatment Providers
- Emergency /Transitional Housing
- Immigration Services



# An Integrated Handbook to Serve DSS Families

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- The handbook addresses resources, systems and funding for various services which clients may need such as the following:
  - Drug treatment assessments
  - Domestic violence assessments
  - Anger management assessments
  - Parenting education
  - Transportation
  - Housing and moving costs
  - Medical/dental costs

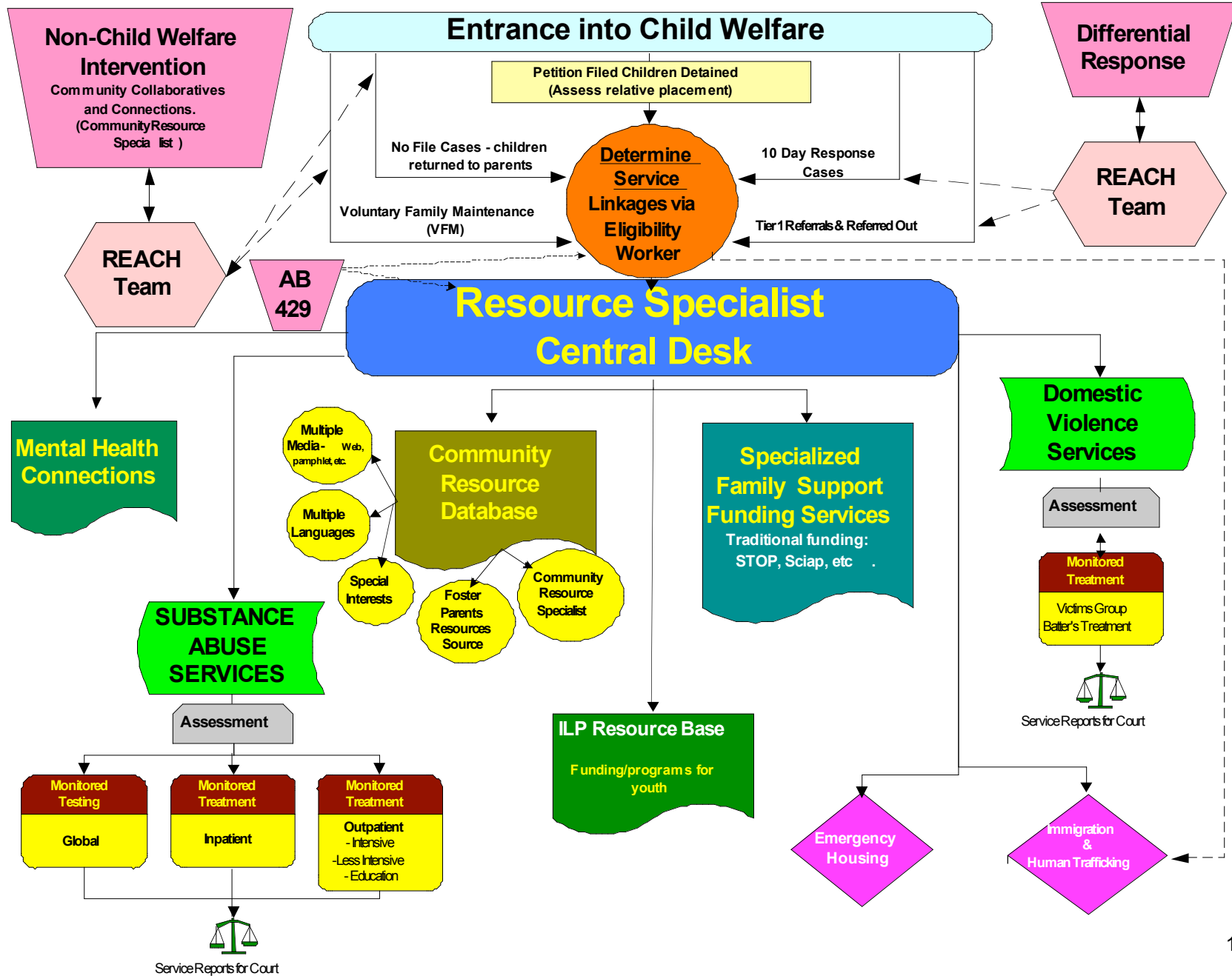


# Benefits of Handbook

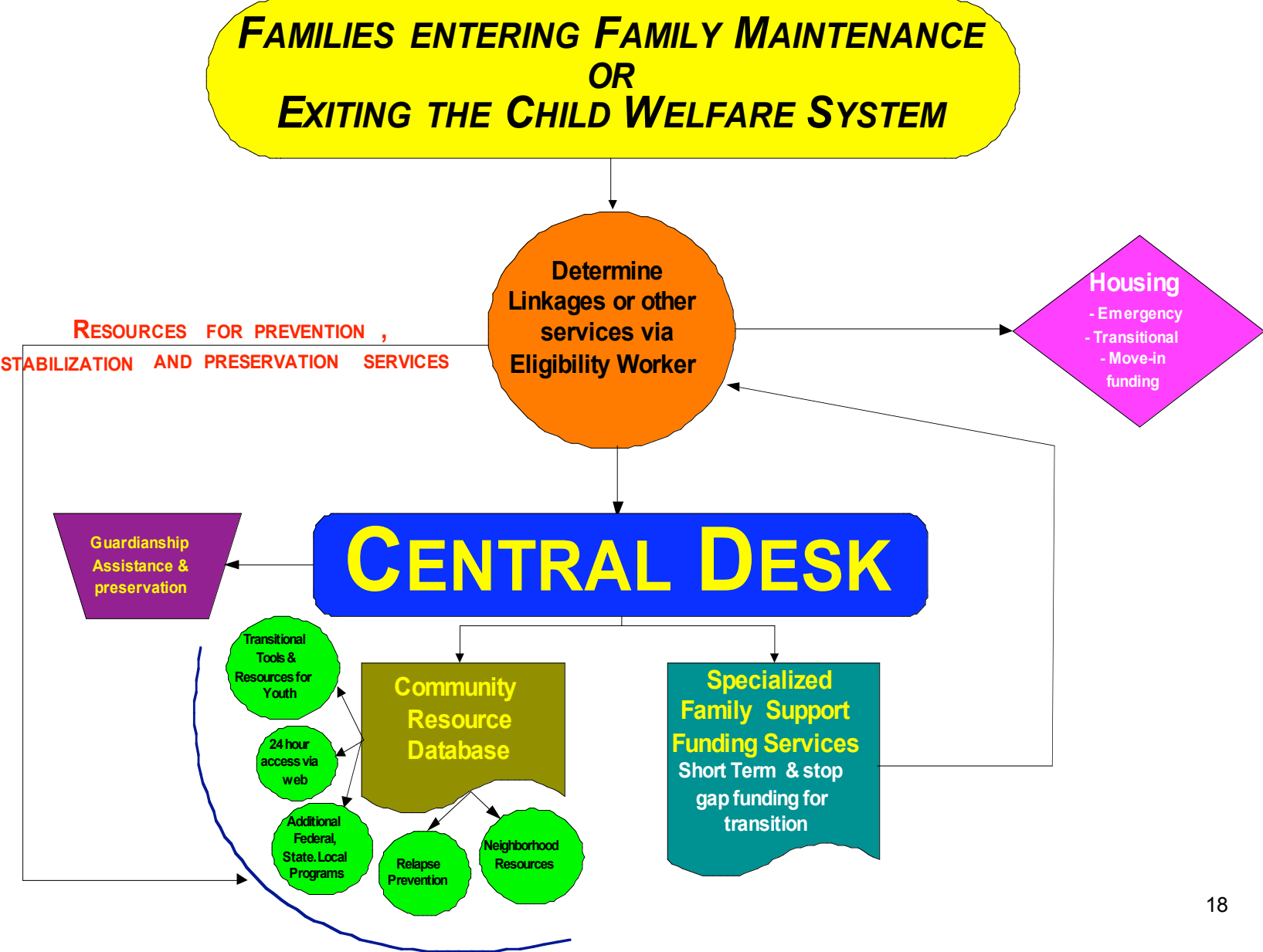
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- ❑ Provides necessary information to DSS staff
- ❑ Centralized location of services for families
- ❑ Maximizes use of Fed/State Funds and minimizes the use of County Funds
- ❑ Promotes access to community resources
- ❑ Enhances Safety, Permanency, Self-Sufficiency, and Well Being of Children & Families Served

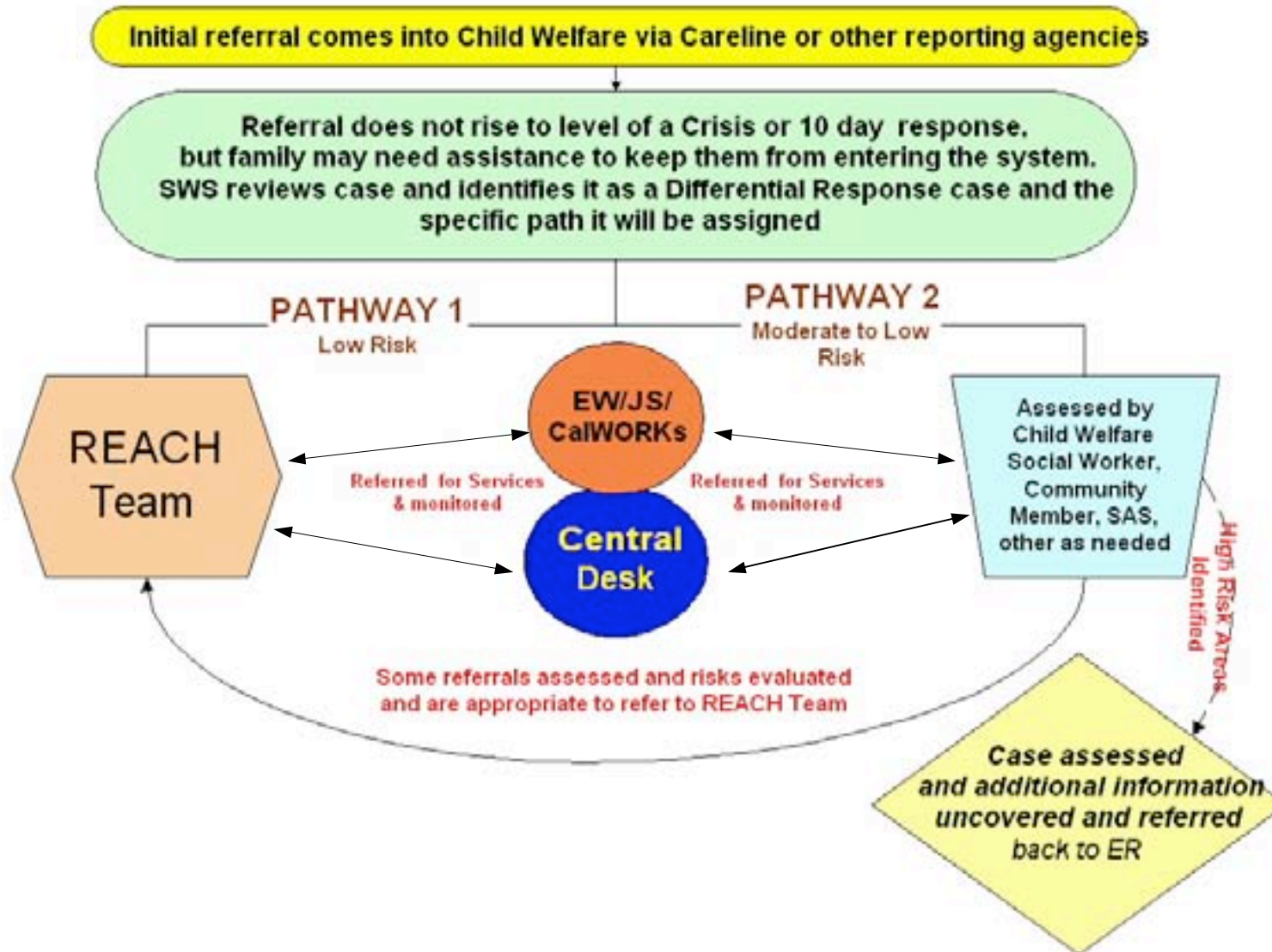




# Central Services Desk / Linkages Flow Chart



# Differential Response



## Role of the Eligibility Worker Assigned to Linkages/AB429

### Data Sheet

Linkages/AB429 Intake EW Completes for Each Scheduled TDM, a Data Sheet that Provides a Snapshot of the Families History and Status of Public Assistance Including WTW  
It is Used to Identify Families who aren't Receiving Assistance that May be Eligible.  
The Data Sheet is also be Used to Identify Families that may be Eligible for AB429 Services.  
**ADDITIONALLY; EW's Perform the Following Direct Services**

If, there is no Court Involvement but a Need for Public Assistance is Determined:

Linkages/AB429 **Intake EW**, takes the Families Application for Any Programs Warranted

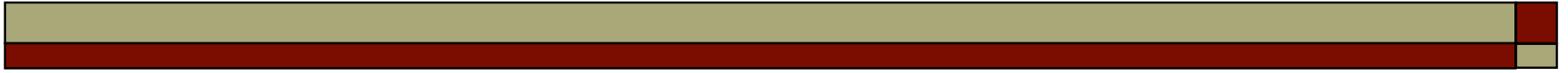
*\*Medical Only applications are processed by the Outreach Unit*

If, there is Court Involvement and, the Family Needs to Apply for Public Assistance

Linkages/AB429 **Intake EW** takes the Families Application for Any Programs Warranted

If, there is Court Involvement &, the Family is already receiving Public Assistance

Linkages/AB429 **On-going EW**, Requests the Case be Reassigned from the Current EW. They are responsible for case maintenance and eligibility redeterminations



**AB 429**



# AB 429 Targeted Population

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- Parent(s):
  - Whose child(ren) have been temporarily removed from the home,
  - Who have a CWS case plan and/or a court-ordered plan for Family Reunification, and
  - Were receiving CalWORKs/WTW at the time the child was removed



# Collaboration

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- ❑ Staff will work in collaboration with Central Services Desk to identify AB 429 parent(s) and address clients needs



# Employment Services

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- Coordinated Case Plan Development
- Assist with Supportive Services i.e. Transportation
- Good Cause may be granted





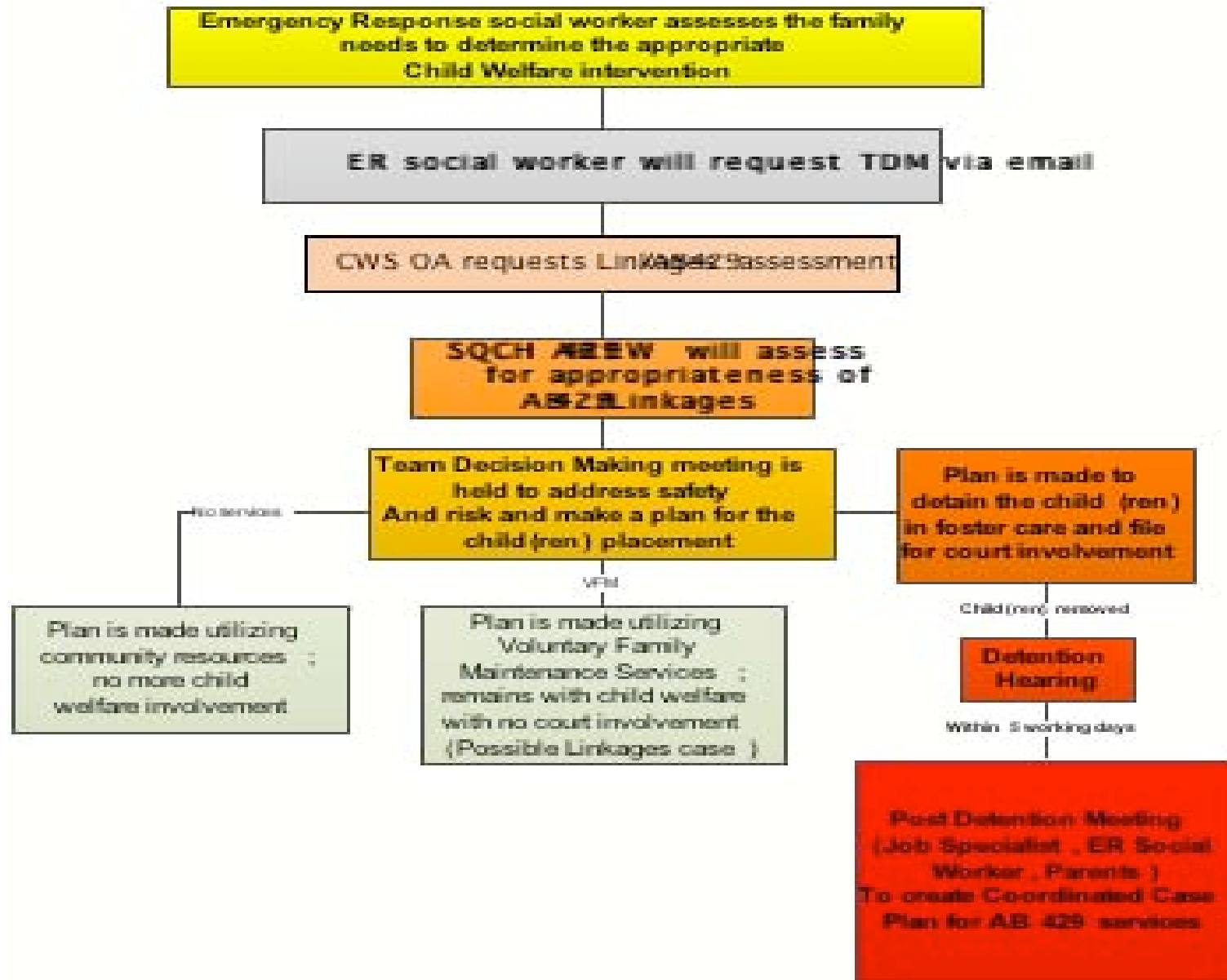
# Services Provided by AB 429

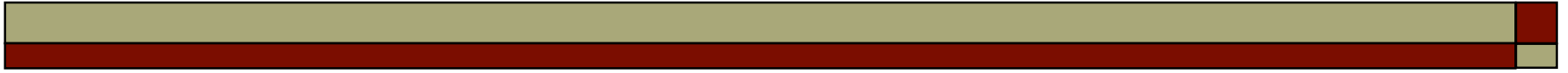
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- ❑ Mental Health
- ❑ Substance Abuse
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Ancillary-(WTW related activities only)
- ❑ Domestic Violence (Battered victims)
- ❑ Anger Management
- ❑ Parenting

# AB429

## Flow Chart





# *Data*



# DATA Objectives

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## **Initiative Objective:**

The initial objective of the Data Committee was to establish a means of providing Harder+company comparison sample data on the outcomes achieved thru the provision of Linked CalWORKs/WTW and Child Welfare services. This was accomplished in April 2011.

## **Ongoing Objective**

The Data Committee then reconvened and determined that the information provided to Harder+company was valuable and the need to sustain Linkages thru accountability was so important that a Linkages **Quarterly Data Report** was needed.

The report will utilize information gathered on an on-going basis from both Child Welfare and Eligibility/Job Specialists.

# DATA Objectives continued

<b>SPECIFIC ITEMS TRACKED:</b>	
<b>TEAM DECISION MAKING (TDM) Date</b>	<b>CalWIN ID #</b>
<b>Detention Hearing Date</b>	<b>CalWORKs Active = Yes / No</b>
<b>Client Last Name</b>	<b>Linkage JS Dist #</b>
<b>Client First Name</b>	<b>WTW STATUS</b>
<b>CWS ID #</b>	<b>Employment Status</b>
<b>CWS Services Component</b>	<b>Sanction Reoccurrence = Y / N</b>
<b>SW Dist #</b>	<b>AB429 = A</b>
<b>SWS Dist #</b>	<b>Linkages = L</b>
<b>CWS Services Termination Date</b>	<b>Date Coordinated Case Plan signed</b>
<b>CWS Closure Date</b>	<b>6 MO Coordinated Case Plan Review Date</b>
<b>CWS Outcome Positive/Negative</b>	<b>Good Cause Determined = Y / N</b>
	<b>Date Between AB429 &amp; LINKAGES</b>



# REACH Team

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R

~refer

E

~employ

A

~assess

C

~challenge

H

~heal



# REACH Team Goals

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- Assist participants in addressing the barriers of obtaining a job, keeping the job and transitioning off aid
- Provides a rapid response to reduce barriers at various entry points into CalWORKs/WTW, as well as reduce the risk of abuse/neglect of children
- Link families to resources and services so that the family unit can move toward self-sufficiency
- Provide services that are family focused, strength based, needs driven, and community oriented



# How the REACH Team Works

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- The Job Specialist, Eligibility Worker, and/or SW, refers clients to the REACH Team
- The referral is triaged the following morning to connect the appropriate discipline (s) to the client need (s)
- The assigned REACH team member is expected to contact the client and arrange to meet with them either in their home or the office





## How the REACH Team Works cont..

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- The REACH Team member will then link the client and family to the appropriate resources and monitor progress
- The REACH Team makes itself available to the client, staff and contracted providers for staffings and or Team Decision Making Meetings as needed



# Linkages Outcomes

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- ❑ Ability to identify and provide additional services to clients
- ❑ Increased communication between DSS staff
- ❑ Reduce the risk of abuse/neglect of children and increasing a parents ability to be self-sufficient
- ❑ Increased maximization of DSS funding

# Questions & Answers

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