



# Annual Convening

*Expanding our Team to Strengthen Families*

**May 18-19, 2015**

**Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA**



## **MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015**

11:45am - 1:00pm Lunch Buffet (Provided) & Conference Check-in

1:00pm -2:30pm **Opening General Session**

- ▶ Welcoming Remarks  
Stuart Oppenheim,  
CFPIC, Executive Director
- ▶ County Leadership Welcome  
Kathy Harwell, Director, Stanislaus County  
Joan Miller, Child Welfare Director, Contra Costa County
- ▶ Leadership & Innovation: Perspectives from the CA Practice Model  
Dr. Anita Barbee, University of Louisville

2:45pm - 3:30pm **Linkages Family Panel: Hearing from the Experts**

Paula McDowell  
Sarah Middleton  
David & Dana Shuster

3:45pm - 5:00pm **Day One Workshops**

5:15pm - 7:00pm **Networking Reception & Poster Session**

## **TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015**

7:15am - 8:15am Continental Breakfast (Provided)

8:15am - 9:15am **Self-Evaluation Project**

Dr. Amy D'Andrade, San Jose State University

9:30am -10:45am **Day Two Workshops**

11:00am -12:00pm **Affinity Group Breakout**

- ▶ Leadership (Director, Deputies, Managers)
- ▶ Linkages Coordinators
- ▶ Linkages Practitioners (Child Welfare, Welfare to Work & Eligibility)
- ▶ Other, Support Staff, Training

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch (Provided)

1:00pm - 3:15pm **Closing General Session**

- ▶ Closing Remarks, CFPIC Staff
- ▶ **Caring for Your Compassionate Heart**  
Dr. Jaiya John, Keynote Speaker

## Speakers



**Anita Barbee**, MSSW, Ph.D. is Professor and Distinguished University Scholar at the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. She has worked for 23 years in the field of child welfare with an emphasis on systems reform through improving employee selection, training, supervision, practice and CQI processes so that families and children can thrive. She has worked in over 30 states on one or more of these issues and has brought in over \$25 million in extramural funding for training, demonstration and research grants for such federal agencies as the Children's Bureau, SAMHSA, the Office of Adolescent Health, the Office of Community Service, and HUD. She is currently conducting a randomized controlled trial to understand which sexual education curricula work best for foster youth, refugee

youth and urban youth. She is on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Public Child Welfare among others and has over 135 publications and 315 presentations at professional conferences.

**Amy D'Andrade**, Ph.D. received her MSW and Ph.D. in Social Welfare from UC Berkeley. She is currently an Associate Professor in the SJSU School of Social Work, teaching graduate courses on social welfare policy and research. She also serves as the Director of the Center for Applied Research in Human Services (CARHS) and the faculty Associate Dean for Research for the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. Her research interests focus on the public child welfare system, particularly issues affecting parental reunification with children removed for maltreatment. She has conducted studies on reunification services, concurrent planning, reunification bypass, reunification for incarcerated parents, and California's reduction of reunification timeframes for parents of children under three. She received the 2010 Early Career Investigator Award from the San Jose State University Research Foundation. Prior to her academic career, Dr. D'Andrade was a child welfare services social worker in San Diego county for over six years, working in a variety of programs including Residential Services, Independent Living Services, and data systems administration.



**Jaiya John**, Ph.D. was born into foster care in the high mountain desert of New Mexico. It was the beginning of a life of Amazing Grace. As an African American and Native American, his struggle with cultural isolation was a forging fire. Jaiya slowly grew from childhood muteness and private self-destruction into a realization of purpose. As a college teenager, an encounter with the poet Nikki Giovanni broke through his shell and silence. Jaiya beheld in Giovanni a powerful example of what it meant to Love yourself and to make your life like poetry: a free, unbridled expression of Beauty and Truth. That night, he wrote his first poem, staining the pages in tears of long desired emotional release.

Soon after, Jaiya's spirit led him to the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, where he found a sacred spirit of land, people, and heritage. In dire material poverty, the people of Nepal still exuded warmth, kindness, openness, and vital light. Jaiya studied Tibetan holistic medicine through private conversation with Nepal's healers. Their message: "The souls you serve are your teacher. Be their student. Learn their life. Healing has nothing to do with treating symptoms, and everything to do with honoring every single grain of a human life. This is the root. Once you arrive at the root, you may bless the tree."

Jaiya returned to Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and then earned his doctorate degree in social psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He was a professor at Howard University from 1995 to 1998. His heart and spirit had always been drawn to human suffering: the reflection of profound human beauty. In a step of faith, filled with an astounding Peace, Jaiya founded his ministry and reason for being: Soul Water Rising, a global human mission.

## County Welcome - Speakers



**Joan Miller, MSW, Child Welfare Director, Contra Costa County.** Joan received her Masters in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento in 2000. She also possesses a Bachelor of Arts and Psychology from UC Davis. Ms. Miller was a Title IV-E Intern with Contra Costa and joined the department as a Social Casework Specialist II after graduation. She has over 15 years of progressively increasing responsibilities in direct service, supervision and management. Her experience in the field of child welfare is extensive not only as a front line social worker, a social work supervisor but also in the areas of foster parent recruitment, training and retention; staff training, management of budgets, contracts and collaborative work with community, law enforcement and Juvenile Courts. Her goal as Director of Children & Family Services is to move the program in a positive direction with regards to helping families become stronger so they can care for their children, help relatives be able to care for children when their parents cannot, and to create and maintain a workforce committed to excellence.

**Kathryn Harwell** is the Director of Stanislaus County's Community Services Agency. The Community Services Agency offers a wide range of programs and services to the community, including Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and safety net programs that assist in meeting the basic needs of individuals and families. The Community Services Agency also provides job training opportunities to help adults and families become self-sufficient. Ms. Harwell is a native Californian and a graduate of Saint Mary's University. She has spent the majority of her career, over 30 years, in the field of Social Services. Throughout her career, she has worked on projects focused on improving the wellbeing of children and families. Ms. Harwell also serves on numerous boards throughout her community and is an active member of the County Welfare Directors Association of California.



## Activities

### Monday Night Networking Reception and Storyboards

**RJ Grins**

This year's reception will be held in the Doubletree Lounge area. Light appetizers will be served. This is a great way to network with others from your county and other counties in a casual fun atmosphere. The Linkages County Story boards will be displayed during this reception. Come grab something to eat, learn something new about other county programs and vote for your favorite board.

### Tuesday Role-Focused Affinity Groups

You will have the opportunity to break into groups and meet with others who have similar responsibilities in other Linkages counties. Discuss challenges, successes from this year and recommendations for next year. Groups will include:

- Leadership (Director, Deputies, Managers)
- Linkages Coordinators
- Linkages Practitioners (Child Welfare, Welfare to Work & Eligibility)
- Other, Support Staff, Training

**Terrace Room**  
**Sacramento Room**  
**Salon C**  
**Garden Room**

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## Day One Workshops

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

### A. Family Stabilization and Linkages

Salon C

Heidi Hall & Feliza Sanchez , Merced County  
Terry Hurt & Patricia Caudillo, Madera County  
Samantha Basquez, CDSS

Family Stabilization is a promising opportunity for counties to meet the needs of Linkages families in crisis. Several counties have developed creative partnerships to ensure Linkages families can access Family Stabilization resources targeting prevention, homelessness and other issues aimed at reducing barriers to both employment and child safety.

### B. Voices of Families at Team Meetings

Salon B

Lori Gray, Stanislaus County  
Carol Sentell-Bassett, Danielle Bernardo & Victor Medrano, San Francisco County

Taking advantage of the increased use of family teams is a key approach to strengthening collaboration on Linkages coordinated case plans. This can range from quarterly meetings facilitated by supervisors to family team meetings to team decision making meetings. Strategies to more fully incorporate the voices of families that Linkages serves will also be discussed.

### C. Linkages Expansion: New Target Populations

Garden Room

Gloria Rojas-Jakini, David Yada, Hilda Sanchez, Jackie Mizell-Burt, Los Angeles County  
Johnny Alaniz, Lindsey Harris & Enia Leon, Fresno County

This workshop will focus on hearing from two counties who are expanding Linkages to traditionally underserved populations. Los Angeles is enhancing self-sufficiency support to non-minor dependents and recently emancipated youth. Fresno is creating protocols to address the needs of drug felons based on recent legislative changes. Be ready to learn how your county might follow their lead.

### D. Leadership at All Levels: Creating Capacity

Sacramento Room

Dr. Anita Barbee, University of Louisville

To supplement her Plenary session earlier in the day, Dr. Anita Barbee of the University of Louisville will explore strategies for strengthening leadership roles at all levels of CWS and CalWORKs to advance Linkages practice, policy and priorities.

### E. Reaching More Families: Strategies & Tools for Benefit Access

Maxi's

Leslie Ann Hay, MSW, Linkages Project

Are there Linkages families in your county falling through the cracks? This workshop will examine ways to ensure families involved in the child welfare system are accessing all the human service benefits to which they may be entitled. A demonstration of what's being designed for the Linkages Toolkit on this topic will also be shared. Participants will be invited to provide input into the development of this new Linkages practice area.

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## Day Two Workshops

9:30 am - 10:45 am

- F. Reinvigorating Linkages: Using Communication Strategies Effectively** **Salon C**  
Rod Delfer, Robin Bostain, Tracy Thomas & Janet Stortz, Shasta County  
Ericka Danczak, Prashant Kamboya & Michael Meyers, Orange County  
Debbie Benevente, Tulare County

Ever worry that your county's Linkages effort is losing steam? This workshop will focus on communication strategies—from sharing success stories to shifting the culture toward collaboration—that can breathe life back into your CalWORKs/CWS partnership. Learn from a panel of your peers about how they are promoting Linkages in their locations.

- G. Safety Organized Practice & Linkages** **Sacramento**  
Susan Brooks, Northern Training Academy  
LaDeena Coates & Richard Phillips, Tehama County

As Safety Organized Practice (SOP) is becoming standard child welfare practice in many California counties, there is an opportunity to ensure Linkages is integrated into the safety net for strengthening family stability and self-sufficiency. This will be an interactive workshop designed to identify how economic barriers for families can become contributing factors to harm and danger for children and explore ways that Linkages can help.

- H. New Linkages Counties: A Facilitated Discussion on Challenges & Moving Forward (Butte, Kings, Lassen, Nevada, San Benito, San Joaquin, Yuba)** **Garden**

This workshop offers an opportunity for Linkages Coordinators from counties that are newly involved with Linkages to come together, exchange ideas and learn from each other. What barriers have you faced this year? What successes can you share? We'll focus on the year ahead as we discuss challenges, brainstorm solutions and discover ways to move forward.

- I. Linkages as an Early Intervention Strategy: DR, ER & Court** **Maxi's**  
Belinda Benassi, San Luis Obispo County  
David Yada, Hilda Sanchez, Gloria Rojas-Jakini, Los Angeles County  
Richard Ching, Santa Clara County

Several long-time Linkages counties have established successful, sustainable innovations in Differential Response, Emergency Response and Court relations. This workshop will review how these approaches help identify Linkages families early in the intervention process and reinforce prevention strategies that help keep families safe and stable. Bring your ideas or questions for the panel.

- J. Evaluation Brown Bag: Discussion with Amy D'Andrade Ph.D.** **Terrace**

Bring your questions, ideas and comments for our Linkages evaluation expert to this workshop. Following up from her plenary presentation, Dr. D'Andrade will be available to provide informal support to workshop participants about their evaluation efforts—from creating your logic model to measuring results.

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