
PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE

The **Principles of Family Support Practice (Principles for Partnership)** were developed to create the foundation for County-community partnerships based on mutual respect and accountability. These principles will serve as a benchmark for how the County's health and human services system, and its community partners, will interact and work with families and communities in their efforts to achieve the five Board-approved outcomes for children and families: Good Health, Economic Well-Being, Safety and Survival, Social and Emotional Well-Being, and Education and Workforce Readiness.

The following **Principles of Family Support Practice** will now guide the delivery of health and human services to children and families in Los Angeles County:

- **Staff and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.**
- **Staff enhances a family's capacity to support the growth and development of all family members, adults, youth, and children.**
- **Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs, and to other communities.**
- **Programs affirm and strengthen a family's cultural, racial, and linguistic identities, and enhance their ability to function in a multicultural society.**
- **Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community building process.**
- **Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive, and accountable to the families served.**
- **Practitioners work with families to mobilize formal and informal resources to support family development.**
- **Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.**
- **Principles of Family Support Practice are molded in all program activities, including planning, governance, and administration.**

County departments and their community partners will integrate these statements of best practices into their ongoing work, and in the design of any initiatives intended to improve outcomes for children and families. Through the adoption of these principles, the health and human services delivery system will evolve in ways that build the capacity of families and communities to meet their own needs; not just giving them fish, but helping them to learn to fish.

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These **Principles for Partnership** will serve as a benchmark for how the County's health and human services system and its community partners intend to interact with families and communities in ways to ensure the achievement of the five Board-adopted outcomes for children and families; and

Adopt the following two additional principles as concrete ways to operationalize the **Principles of Family Support Practice**:

- (1) **County departments and community-based organizations work to increase a family's capacity to meet its needs within networks of peer relationships, e.g., other family members, friends, and members of the community; and**
- (2) **County departments and community-based organizations work to increase a community's capacity to act on its own behalf.**

Identify at least two main mission-oriented initiatives within their organizations that will implement approaches aligned with one or both of the two additional principles over the next two years; and

Advocate for the County's community partners to adopt these principles.

Request that the Children's Planning Council (CPC), in alignment with its four strategic directions:

- (1) Adopt the two principles as essential to achieving the five outcomes for children and families;
- (2) Advocate for each Service Planning Area/American Indian Children's (SPA/AIC) Council and its community partners to embrace these two principles;
- (3) Advocate for each member organization of the CPC to adopt these two principles; and
- (4) Invest in SPA/AIC Council capacity to support initiatives that are aligned with these two principles.