



April 2017



Albert and his kids, Brenden and Sami

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Wraparound Helped Us Build a Foundation

Albert and his daughter Sami and son Brenden are comfortable and content today, but there was a time not long ago when it seemed they were destined to be apart. Sami (16) was headed for “one of those places out of state” or a transition plan out of care. Brenden (13) had special needs and Albert was having trouble finding a place for him. Both kids had different challenges.

Albert wanted the kids to be with him, and he was willing to make a plan to raise them alone, but he met with resistance.

“People in charge were telling me, ‘Don’t do that,’ or ‘You have to do things this way.’” He realized that he had to work within the system, but many things didn’t make sense to him. “I was afraid to speak out,” Albert said. “It was really stressful, and I lacked confidence.”

Then Wraparound came into their lives. Albert and Sami were both skeptical at first. Albert described the first time Wraparound came to their home.

“They talked about creating ‘our plan.’ What were our goals, our dreams and how we would get there? No one had ever asked me that.” With the help of Wraparound, Albert began to visualize what his family could look like in the future.

“I couldn’t believe it at first, there was no pressure to say or do certain things.” They asked informative questions and wanted to know what we liked. Eventually I learned to speak up, and I had the freedom to say what was on my mind without regret or consequences. I found my voice!”

Albert appreciated that the plan came from his family. It didn’t have to look a certain way or be approved. Wraparound also helped each family member find resources and the confidence they needed to develop positive relationships with each other.

Soon, the family began to look forward to Wraparound visits.

“Our meetings were productive, and I learned something positive about myself every time,” Albert said.

Sami agreed. One Wraparound staff member even became her mentor.

“She let me be me,” Sami said. “She could see if I was upset or feeling overwhelmed or angry, and she would just be there, listening, not telling me how to feel.” She learned to talk things out before she acted on her feelings.

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In the past, Sami was getting by day by day. Now she talks about her goals for the future. She wants to assist children with special needs, and she plans to help in a classroom this spring. She is also researching the cosmetology field. She now sees herself as part of a supportive family, and she has something to contribute and look forward to.

Albert said his son Brenden was withdrawn and prone to anxiety. Brenden was calmer when he kept to himself and played video games, preferring not to interact with people. Wraparound staff would just “be” with him with no expectations. Brenden began looking forward to their visits and showing Wraparound staff members things he could do. Albert said it was the first time Brenden met people he liked. In the past six months, he has blossomed. He is paying more attention to his surroundings and beginning to interact.

Albert feels he now has self-respect and dignity. He’s confident in his role as a parent and has hope for the future of his family. He puts his children first, and he said Wraparound taught him he had the ability to be a great parent.

“Wraparound guided us all the way through,” said Albert. “They had positive regard for our family.” And yet, Wraparound didn’t tell them what to do. “It was up to us to do what made sense, and the support was tremendous.” Their conversations were never negative and they gave Albert and Sami a space to talk things out. Albert said he could call and ask for a meeting any time, and if he called with something urgent, they called right back. Soon after that, Albert felt confident enough to lead family meetings, a tradition which he continues.

“Wraparound is for everyone,” Albert said. “It’s all about you and your family. They help bring out what’s best in you. It’s already there, you just don’t realize it. What they offer is ‘you.’ If you say no, then you’re saying ‘no’ to yourself.”

## Editor’s Column:

# A Season of Change

As the winter comes to a close and we transition to spring, we appreciate the energy that comes with change at the Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice (RCFFP). I am excited to be the new director of this committed and tireless team. Wraparound remains at the core of the RCFFP team, and its principles inform each of our practice areas.

Also new this year is the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and state-mandated Child and Family Teaming (CFT), which is modeled on Wraparound. While CFTs will expand the benefits of teaming to more families, it will not replace Wraparound, which remains a crucial tool for families.

Our goal at RCFFP, as we fully engage in this transition of seasons and leadership, is to explore how best to enhance key Wraparound assets, including parent partners. I come to this work humbled by the knowledge, skill and ability of the Wraparound community, and I look forward to working with you as I build my own skills, with a focus on maintaining the fidelity and passion for this critical work.

I honestly want to be informed by the community directly as I delve into this practice. In that vein, if you would like to be a part of this process, please contact me on my direct office line: (530) 757-8600 or by email: [dmsarpe@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dmsarpe@ucdavis.edu).

Sincerely,



*Delia Sharpe, Director  
Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice*

# Wraparound as Inspiration for the Continuum of Care Reform

By Catalina Hillestad, analyst, California Department of Social Services

The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), which took effect January 1, 2017, addresses global issues of permanency and well-being of children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems. It draws much of its foundational framework from the Wraparound model. According to the CCR Vision Statement, the reform strives to have “all children live with a committed, permanent and nurturing family with strong community connections.”<sup>1</sup> In addition, the practice of partnering to provide appropriate services and supports with the Child and Family Team (CFT), as in Wraparound, is integral to the permanency and wellness vision of CCR.

Wraparound and CCR are both structured in a paradigm that focuses on family engagement, case plan development, monitoring and adapting, goals for transition and the CFT. A core principle for Wraparound is coordinating care services and agencies to ease the burden of crisis on families. CCR augments that goal by seeking to “strengthen cross-agency networks of services and supports, coordinated through an effective...[CFT]...process, which support the ultimate goal of finding and maintaining a stable, permanent family.”<sup>2</sup> Research further shows that maintaining the familial connection is of utmost importance for the healing and wellness goals of children and youth who have experienced trauma, so in addition to the permanency paradigm, CCR requires that “all resource families need the knowledge, skills and abilities that are trauma-informed and attachment-based to best support the children placed with them.”

Partnering in tandem with Resource Families, Resource Agency staff will provide caregivers with services and support they need to provide quality support for the child.<sup>3</sup> The foundations of Wraparound can be seen in the focus on the importance of family engagement and the structuring of a case plan. CCR expounds upon and expands the services and requirements available to the children and youth in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems, while reaching an even wider population of families in need.

Wraparound services and CCR have, at their crux, the wellness of children, youth and families as their goal. Using a team-based approach through the CFT model, CCR draws on the foundations of Wraparound’s strengths and expands the services and goals to reach an even wider audience.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup>All County Information Notice (ACIN) No. I-50-16. July 8, 2016, p. 12.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Excerpts from CCR Report related to Integrated Services p. 6, 13.



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# Parent Partner Draws on Experience from His Youth

**“Seeing and being a part of growth and change in a family brings joy to my heart.”**

If it hadn't been for a handful of caring folks, Darron Jones might never have attended college and become a social worker. Jones was an at-risk youth who grew up in Compton and is now a senior parent partner at the San Diego Center for Children. He understands how transformative parent partners can be in the lives of the children and parents they serve.

As a teen, Jones had several inspirational people in his own life, chief among them a high school basketball coach who became like a father. A helpful sister-in-law stepped in to facilitate the college application process, even after a school counselor told Jones' mother he wasn't fit for college. He earned a health sciences degree with an emphasis in community health education from San Diego State University.

As a parent partner, Jones draws deeply on his own experience, as well as his training as a social worker, to help provide parents and children with the tools to be successful in home, school and community settings. He gets to know the families he serves on a personal level, and he allows them to get to know him, as well.

“I'm able to relate because I know what it feels like to run an extension cord from the neighbor's house to get lights,” Jones said. “I can go in and help people understand that they're not unfit parents.”

Jones said keeping an open mind and a non-judgmental attitude is key.

“This has allowed me to build great relationships and a sense of security and trust with the families I serve. I have found that when I become a working, moving part of the families I serve, we can work as one, as successful families often do,” he said.

In addition to his own childhood experience, Jones draws on his parenting practice to assist his clients. He helped his own daughter cope with an audio processing disorder and anxiety, and he felt fortunate to have the tools help her navigate the system.

Jones said he is also grateful to be able to educate parents specifically on Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). This condition is prominent among the parents and children he serves, and being able to provide education and support about it has been extremely valuable to his clients.

Jones recommends that parent partners educate themselves about RAD and its characteristics. “Being able to deliver education surrounding this disorder has allowed me to reconnect parents to children, as well as explain why attachment and connection are vital to a healthy relationship between parents and children.”

Overall, Jones said the opportunity to play a positive role in the change that takes place in the families he serves is extremely satisfying.

“Some say that change is good; some say change is hard. I say change takes a commitment to improve. It shows discipline on behalf of the families we serve in Wraparound,” he said. “Seeing and being a part of growth and change in a family brings joy to my heart.”

# California Wraparound Hub Reports

## Northern California Hub Meeting Notes

The Northern Hub met in Fairfield on February 2, 2017 and was hosted by Seneca Center. Co-Chairs Nicole Nelson and Lauren Crutsinger facilitated the meeting.

Updates from CDSS included the Legislative rollout of CCR phase II implementation featuring Home-Based Family Care and Short Term Residential Treatment Programs. Wraparound training standards are also being completed. Changes in Wraparound eligibility have broadened to include any child at risk of out-of-home placement. There is one rate: \$8,573 per eligible child. CORE practice model is also being updated and should be available this spring. CFT implementation and statewide orientations are being scheduled. The Medi-Cal manual has also been updated in conjunction with the CFT and Therapeutic Foster Care.

Everyone is invited to the integrated practice model monthly calls on the first Wednesday of every month, as a way to keep up on what's happening. The call includes questions and answers, discussion and some training components. Send questions to [cwscoordination@ca.gov](mailto:cwscoordination@ca.gov).

CDSS county representative/support has changed. Lupe Grimaldi, integrated services manager, will be filling in for ShaRena Chapman's assigned counties until a replacement is hired. ShaRena Chapman supported the Central Hub.

Updates from UC Davis Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice included distributing *Wraparound Connections* newsletters and offering ideas on how to share them when bringing them back to your agency. If you want to nominate a family to be interviewed for the newsletter, please contact Lynne. [ljones@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ljones@ucdavis.edu).

Training for the new Wraparound Standards is currently being developed. Learning Objectives include the areas of knowledge, skills and attitude. The training subcommittee for the CWAC is reviewing the training standards. The Resource Center is developing a three-day CFT foundational training that includes an overview, skills building and facilitation. CCR trainings will also be coming to your area. County-specific trainings are the only ones happening at the moment. Please contact your county to discuss your training needs.

The remainder of the meeting was a participatory workshop facilitated by Lauren and Nicole on staff recruitment and retention. Using the Collaborative Helping Map developed by Bill Madsen, small group breakouts used this tool as a means of working through organizational issues for this topic, including organizing a vision and creating goals, identifying obstacles, identifying what supports your vision, and developing a plan of action. The groups highlighted obstacles, including staff burnout (including the high intensity of Wraparound), emotional connections, challenging relationships with families and other staff/partners, field safety and travel, lack of seasoned leadership, job market, recruitment and hiring process, and training opportunities. A myriad of staff positive retention factors was also listed. Providers and county partners then developed action plans that they could take away and use to address issues in their counties/organizations.

The next HUB meeting is on Thursday, May 4, 2017. Location TBA.

## Central California Hub Meeting Notes

The Central Hub met in Fresno on January 13, 2017 and was hosted by Uplifts Family Services. Hub co-chair Tabitha Baldwin opened with the agenda review and announcements. Co-Chair Shana Pompa, program manager for Casa Pacifica Santa Barbara County also participated.

CDSS announcements and information included the following: Mary Sheppard has been promoted to Branch Chief (Child Protection and Family Support Branch). CDSS is in the early stages of changes to the Wraparound training standards. Changes were made to Wraparound implementation by CDSS due to CCR. Some of these changes include 1) Changes in the definition of an eligible child. Eligible children are described as wards or dependents who are at risk of out-of-home care. 2) The single Wraparound rate is now set at \$8,573. Unless a county is part of the Title IV-E Waiver project, rules regarding federal Title IV-E funds still apply, meaning IV-E cannot be used to pay for services. For federally eligible children, counties may claim 50% of the rate (\$4,287). Changes went into effect on January 1, 2017. Read WIC 18250-18258-Wraparound section. CDSS' stance is that Wraparound is still most effective with kids who have intensive needs. If you have comments, questions or concerns regarding the changes, please email [WraparoundQuestions@dss.ca.gov](mailto:WraparoundQuestions@dss.ca.gov).



The final letter can address some of the specific questions that you submit.

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Newsflash comes out once a month. The newest edition (version #6) talks about why CCR is important. Permanency is the focus of CCR, and there are a number of workgroups going on regarding CCR. CANS and TOPS will be the assessment tools used to evaluate children. This is a pilot.

There is an update on Child and Family Teaming/Meetings (CFT) in ACL 16-84 regarding the requirements and guidelines for creating and providing a child and family team. You can send questions to [CWSCoordination@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CWSCoordination@dss.ca.gov).

The California Wraparound Advisory Committee Meeting (CWAC) is April 18 at CDSS.

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) update: DHCS is finalizing 3 items: 1) Information notice on TFC 2) Information notice on claiming for TFC 3) Medi-Cal Manual (3rd edition), which includes information on TFC (there is no tentative release date at this time). The TFC Implementation Committee will have quarterly meetings in 2017 on the following dates (by invitation only): March 22, June 13, September 13 and December 7.

UC Davis Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice (RCFFP) Updates include: RCFFP is working on county-requested trainings at this time. If you need training, contact your county representative to make a request that, if approved, will go through CDSS to RCFFP. Training for Trainers for CFT's is being developed. The focus will be on CFT overview, skill building and facilitation. Revised training also consistent with Wraparound Standards will also be developed and focus on knowledge, skills and attitude. Nominees for families for *Wraparound Connections* newsletter interviews are requested. We are also looking for parent partner articles.

Hub participants followed with these updates:

**Fresno/Madera County:** Uplift Services really likes the minute orders (treatment and placement orders; exchange of information order) with the CWS and probation referrals. This is very helpful for providing services quickly. Juggling the new Katie A. program and working side-by-side with them has been nice. They are focusing on connecting children to long-term therapists. There is a good working relationship with Madera County, and the prescreening process is going smoothly.

**Janiene (DSS Fresno County):** They are streamlining referral packets and working with the therapeutic treatment team to make sure they get their education needs (IEPs) and obtain the best possible treatment for children. They are serving 84 kids in Wraparound (12 probation, 5 AAP, the rest CWS) and 60 kids are currently in group homes. They are trying to get kids that are turning 18 into permanent placements. The county feels they work well with providers.

**Shanel Moore (Madera county DSS Administrator):** They want to build their Wraparound program, and their focus is on making sure they are identifying who needs Wraparound. They have hired a lot of new staff and are training them. They want to add more CWS youth to the slots.

**Jorge/Marissa (Fresno Probation):** They will have 5 POs working on SB 163. They have 11 children in Wraparound. Jorge has noticed things improve when probation youth come home with Wraparound, but they need to pay special attention to CSEC kids because they do well when they go to out-of-state group home placement but when they come back home they get right back into problems. Probation appreciates all the collaboration.

**Brittney (Madera County Probation):** They are still learning the Wraparound process.

**Monterey County:** Earl Kelly (Rebekah's Children's Center): They have 37 out of 43 capacities. Current focus is on learning about parent support groups, as well as parent advocacy, helping parents/children dealing with probation, discussing the benefits of Wraparound, navigating the system, providing parent education around setting, structure, and teaching morals and values to children. Rebekah is hosting family nights with parents and children and engaging them through activities such as bowling and going to the movies.

**Kern County:** Cliff/Christina (Aspiranet): There are 100 kids served, and they are the sole Wraparound provider in Kern County. They have six children as non-dependent Wraparound and 89 AAP. Concerns continue with hiring and retaining facilitators. In collaboration with RCFFP, they have really good working relationships with the county. They are hosting a Training for Trainers for CCR next month for two days in Kern County. Kern County is seeing more intense needs with children.

**Kings County:** Chris (Family Builders): Currently serving 28 children receiving Wraparound with 15 pending. Capacity is 60. Chris believes referrals are down due to new CWS staff. In addition, there is a problem with Katie A. paperwork, which is why cases are pending. To increase referrals, they are doing a lot of Wraparound presentations to educate the referring parties about Wraparound. They are also doing parent-to-parent trainings, which include biological and foster families.

**Santa Barbara County:** Shana (Casa Pacifica): They are serving the full capacity of slots in Santa Barbara County at 25, with 7 children on the wait list. Most referrals are from probation (60%) versus CWS (40%). Working with the CSEC population and Santa Barbara County RISE program (a program specifically to treat CSEC victims) is center-stage. Santa Barbara is looking to provide ongoing training with new staff that come into Wraparound.

The next HUB meeting will be hosted by Aspiranet in Bakersfield on Friday, April 28, 2017.

# Southern California Hub Meeting Notes

The Southern Hub met in Escondido on February 27, 2017 and was hosted by San Diego County.

Co-Chairs Rebekah Cox and Jarred Vermillion facilitated the meeting.

Updates from multiple providers in person and via conference call included increased coordination among service providers and other Wraparound programs serving families. San Bernardino has hired new facilitators and is assisting the county in the increase of youth stepping down from group home care. Jarred announced he will be transitioning out of Oak Grove Center and increasing time as a trainer and staff member for UC Davis focused on Child and Family Teaming. Dawne Shaw reports an increase in new families at Oak Grove Center and Skye talked about the emphasis on skills building. In San Diego, Kevin reported they are developing family and youth supports for families at the San Diego Center for Children. All shared their status with implementation of the CCR and the positives and challenges that have occurred so far.

Lynne Jones from the Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice announced training updates on Training for Trainers for Child and Family Teams (CFTs) that is being developed. The focus will be on CFT overview, skill building and facilitation. Revised training also consistent with Wraparound standards will be developed and will focus on knowledge, skills and attitude.

There is ongoing CFT orientation training scheduled in March, April and May from UC Davis and the State Integrated Services Unit. The orientation is intended for county child welfare, mental health, probation, and provider staff who have limited or no knowledge of the Continuum of Care Reform or its requirements for Child and Family Teams. Refer to the UC Davis website for

specific information on locations and dates.

Caroline Caton from the Integrated Services Unit at CDSS discussed the collaborative effort between CDSS, the California Department of Education, and several representatives from Local Education Areas and is finalizing a one-page reference document for social workers and educators. The document is intended to highlight key pieces of information about the CFT process for educators and the Individual Education Plan for Social Workers. Companion documents that provide thorough descriptions of each process will be released later in the year via a joint letter. The one-page reference document may be available sooner, as part of the next CFT Information Notice in late spring.

CDSS is developing an All County Information Notice to provide counties with information and guidance regarding statutory changes made to California Wraparound because of the Continuum of Care Reform's elimination of the Rate Classification System.

The California Wraparound Advisory Committee (CWAC) will be meeting in Sacramento on April 18. CDSS is hopeful that the new co-chairs of our Southern Wraparound Hub will be able to attend. More information about the upcoming meeting will be forthcoming.

There's a technical assistance call the first Wednesday of every month for those who have questions or want updated information.

New Hub business included a discussion on child welfare attorneys attending CTF meetings and the reasons why that might happen. There was a consensus to gather more information and under what circumstances this might be appropriate and what protocols have been developed. New business also included ideas for increasing membership of the Southern Hub and how moving the Hub to different locations in the region may be impacting the turnout.

The new Co-Chair, Dawne Shaw from the Oak Grove Center, was elected to replace Jarred Vermillion. There was a celebration to honor and thank Jarred for his service as a chair for the Southern Hub. It was also noted that Marissa Espinosa is also moving to a new position at Casa Pacifica in Ventura County and will no longer be directly involved in Wraparound in her agency. However, in her new position, she will have a direct influence in CFT and integration of Wraparound in the County.

The next meeting will be held May 22, 2017, hosted by Victor Community Services in Victorville.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Upcoming Hub Meetings—Spring 2017

### Northern Hub Meeting

**Thursday, May 4, 2017 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Host and Location: Seneca Family of Agencies-Fairfield office

1234 Empire St., Fairfield, CA 94533

Co-Chairs: Nicole Nelson and Lauren Crutsinger from Seneca Family of Agencies

E-Mail contacts: [Nicole\\_Nelson@senecacenter.org](mailto:Nicole_Nelson@senecacenter.org) and [Lauren\\_Crutsinger@senecacenter.org](mailto:Lauren_Crutsinger@senecacenter.org)

Support E-mail contact: [brenda\\_hernandez@senecacenter.org](mailto:brenda_hernandez@senecacenter.org)

### Central Hub Meeting

**Friday, April 28, 2017 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Host and Location: Aspiranet, 4900 California Ave., Suite 300 A

Bakersfield, CA 93309

Co-Chairs: Tabitha Baldwin M.S., LMFT, LPCC, Clinical Associate Director Wraparound, Matrix, Tulare; SMH, TBS, Crossroads, Uplift Family Services in Fresno County (559) 446-3076

and

Shana M. Pompa, MFT, Wraparound SB 163 Program Manager, Casa Pacifica, Centers for Children and Families in Santa Barbara County (805) 319-7560, ex.7560

E-mail Contacts: [tbaldwin@upliftfs.org](mailto:tbaldwin@upliftfs.org) and [spompa@casapacificca.org](mailto:spompa@casapacificca.org)

### Southern Hub Meeting

**Monday, May 22, 2017 from 10 a.m. -3 p.m.**

Host and Location: Victor Community Services, 15095 Amargosa Rd., Ste. 201, Victorville, CA 92395

Co-Chairs: Rebekah Cox, Wraparound Supervisor, Victor Community Support Services in Barstow (760) 255-1496 or [rcox@lsscommunitycare.org](mailto:rcox@lsscommunitycare.org)

and

Dawne Shaw and Skye Padilla, Oak Grove Center in Murrieta  
[dawnes@oakgrovecenter.org](mailto:dawnes@oakgrovecenter.org) and [skyp@oakgrovecenter.org](mailto:skyp@oakgrovecenter.org).

## We need you!

*California Wraparound Connections* helps to spread the innovations occurring in Wraparound throughout the state. No matter what your role in Wraparound is, you have a story worth sharing.

If you are a Wraparound family member, we'd like to hear about what worked for you and your family. If you work in Wraparound, then perhaps you have an idea, an approach or a lesson learned to share.

### Ways to contribute

- Nominate a family to be profiled as a cover story. (We come to you! Please share past cover stories, so families understand that we are strength-based!)
- Write a parent partner column (about 500 words). Or, alternatively, volunteer to be interviewed about your selected topic, and we will write the article.
- Write a feature article or short article (1,000 words or 500 words) about a success, lesson learned or innovative practice.
- Submit poetry or other creative endeavors by children, youth and family that reflect Wraparound.

If you are interested, please contact Monica Caprio at [macaprio@ucdavis.edu](mailto:macaprio@ucdavis.edu) to obtain information on how you can contribute. We look forward to hearing from you!



## For more information

Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice

Center for Human Services

UC Davis Extension

University of California

1632 Da Vinci Court, Davis, CA 95618

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[www.humanservices.ucdavis.edu/resource](http://www.humanservices.ucdavis.edu/resource)