

## Resource Family Approval

Good morning, everyone.

This is Jennifer Rodriguez from the quality parenting initiative

you blast Center and I want to thank you all for joining

us this morning for our Beyond 101 qpi RFA webcast as everybody

knows this is first in a series of webcasts that we are doing

this year to be responsive to topics that are kpi sites have

been interested in so we are really hoping that you will

use today as an opportunity not just to hear from seed.

SS but really to also communicate to cdss about what materials

you think would be helpful what issues you are experiencing

out in the county and any ideas that you have about how the

resource family approval process can align with the quality

parenting initiatives core values of partnering with caregivers

and ensuring that we make sure that every single child who

comes into foster care has excellent parenting so this is

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designed to be interactive.

If and we are I want to just repeat the the intro we encourage

you to send in questions and comments and I will be keeping

track of those during the webcast in the event.

We do not have time to respond to your questions or comments.

We will be providing these to Kimberly and she can respond

afterwards. So please send out any information and as a last

reminder, just remember this is in place of our regular,

California qpi.

Webcam all site webcast this month.

We will be back on track with our regular webcast next month

for all sites.

And just remember that we will be changing to our earlier

time of nine o'clock next month.

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So without further ado I'm going to turn it over to Kimberly

Wrigley who are really excited to have presenting with us

today. Thank you everybody for having me and my name is Kim

Wrigley. I'm the resource family approval program manager.

I've been involved with the RFA program for several years

now since we started it up again and we started off originally

as our own initiative really working through it during this

early implementation phase and over the last year.

We've really merged and become part of the Continuum of Care

Reform Act RFA really fits beautifully into CCR with Just

this Continuum of Care reform really trying hard to meet

children's needs and get them into a safe and nurturing family

setting by stepping them down from group home care into a

home-based family setting so I'm really excited to have been

involved with this from the beginning here.

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We'll go through a few slides.

And then yeah, we're going to have one of our early implementing

counties talk a little a couple of our early implementing

counties talk a little bit about some of the things that

they've done to really work Q Pi into to the RFA program.

I think it really qpi again gets to the heart of some of

what we're trying to work with the resource family approval

program. And after that then yes, we will have time for questions

and hopefully we'll have answers to all of them.

Even if that answer is I'll get back to you.

So with Resource Family one of the things we've really learned

during this early implementation phase is it's not just a

simple program when we first started it was we're eliminating

duplication. Trying to streamline the process make it family-friendly

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and child Center sounded like a really easy concept and the

concept is great and it's exactly what we want to do, but

how to operationalize that has been really quite challenging

because it's really what we've learned is it's taking out

just what we know and really making a cultural shift within

our mind a philosophical shift within our mind.

It's changing what are best practices were how we used to

know. What was best practice and incorporating into this

new Resource Family model those experience word licensing

we needed that expertise to come over but it's no longer

a licensing process.

Same thing with adoption folks.

We needed their expertise, but it's not an adoption home

study. So really how we bring all these folks together and

make this cultural philosophical shift in our mind as to

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what Resource Family really is and rebranding what it is

and how it impacts the entire organization.

I think as we first started We didn't necessarily have all

the right players at the table because we thought we just

needed the folks working through family approval units here.

And we've really learned how much of an impact it has on

every aspect of the child welfare and probation systems and

the impact it has on the court systems as well.

So how do we take what we're used to this big organizational

culture and make it much more holistic and really bring people

together how Do we get out of the silos that you know, our

own subject matter expertise have built up over the years

and when I say we it's not just within the counties.

It's within the state as well.

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So we really have built up these different divisions these  
different departments.

But how do we now bring them all back together?

Because we're all looking at children were all looking at  
families and how we best meet their needs.

So how do we get out of those silos to really come together  
and work collaboratively?

That fear of change when we look at, you know, when we look  
at Children and Families, but they are the ones going through

the biggest changes and living their lives in limbo for the

longest periods of time and yet when County staff when State

staff are asked to do the same thing, it's scary and all

of a sudden were in that same position that a lot of our

families are an and and you know trying to deal with that

fear of change when we're very much used to our routine and

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were very much used to our old practices.

How do we handle that not just from the top to the bottom

but to the bottom up because we're all experiencing it and

we all want to have that morale and support of each other

just like we want to give that morale and support to our

families and children.

So how do we manage that and keep that optimistic and positive

outlook so that our own fears.

Our own concerns are not having any type of negative impact

on our families.

I think that's been really a big one there when I really

look at what we've been doing with in our counties in our

state is how do we talk to staff and how does staff prepare

themselves so that they relay the right messaging to our

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families when they're kind of scared too.

So I think that's been a really big lesson because we're

used to having all the answers ahead of time and then just

doing it whereas with RFA.

It's been very much a collaborative partnership a collaborative

process of partnership with counties with probation with

families. You know, how do we come all together?

And achieve this without without having the answers and we're

actually operating we're implementing and still figuring

out what the best policy is at time.

So that's very scary.

And and how do we manage that and then trying to answer the

question? What is success going to look like?

We're you know, we're trying to look at some of those bigger

questions so that when we report out on on how our fa has

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worked how it is working.

What does success look like and trying to dress what those questions are.

Is it placement?

Be for children over time if the stability is increased.

Is that show success with the RFA program fewer complaints against families.

Does that define success?

So really trying to figure out what does success look like?

So that's some of the things we've been looking at two.

when we look at our fa we kind of look at what are all of

our old processes were and this is just a quick little get

back to basic for a moment here.

Just for those of you who may not be quite as familiar with

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RFA. We had three approval systems that were in existence

before technically four if you include the guardianship study

and as you can see from this chart here, none of them really

looked at all the different aspects that we really want to

look at when assessing a family training a lot of folks thought

training was required for adoptions most agencies.

Did require training of their families, but nowhere in the

adoption regulations.

Does it talk about mandating training for our families a

psychosocial assessment?

How do you really know much about a family if we really haven't

talked to them and really understand the Dynamics the values

their coping strategies when there are a work taking care

of children in the home.

So not having that really limited our ability with with understanding

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families and being able to support them.

So when we look at all of these He's not one of these I would

say is not unimportant to really looking at a family and

supporting the family.

So with resource family, we've taken all of these and they

are as you can see every box is checked their again.

I keep trying to point to my chart.

Sorry folks.

So that's just a quick one on one.

We've added all these things and it's not to be a hindrance.

It's not to create a lot of extra work, but it really is

to get a really great sense of the family so that we can

Help them so we can support them and then ultimately make

better matches with our families with children so that they

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can best meet their needs.

So this requires a lot of changes for folks for our licensed

foster homes for our certified foster homes, pre-approval

training is before they were really used to having training

just with their folks with people that came out.

It came into this system saw something on TV or talk to a

friend who has a foster parent thought that was great.

I want to do this.

So now by including relatives into this everybody's getting

trained everybody's receiving the same.

Training and that brings a new Dynamic to the training groups.

So I think that's a big change.

I look at it as a really positive change to our relatives

have a lot to add to the training groups and it's a support

that was missing for our relatives and it really helps non-relatives

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understand how families came to be how birth families came

into the system and and having a better understanding of

the Dynamics.

Mix that come into the children that are in their care so

criminal exemption exemptions for those counties that CCL

did all of their criminal background checks for them CCL

also is responsible for the criminal exemption process.

So this is going to be a new change for counties that traditionally

CCL did their licensing for them is looking at the criminal

exemptions now and trying to determine whether they're going

to be approved or denied.

And that assessment of the family I can't speak enough about

that that assessment of the family doing it upfront makes

a better overall assessment of the family for short term

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care, but it allows us to streamline the process so that

they're also been approved for guardianship or adoption.

So it really helps us understand up front who these people

are and how they can best meet the needs of children again,

I keep going back to how we support them and then it will

streamline the process.

Permanency if that ends up being the child's case plan when

I say permanency, I should correct myself permanency is a

lot of things that includes reunification.

But if the payment plan is not for the child to be reunified

with her family by having this assessment up front as part

of the approval process.

It can speed up the timeliness for their child to go to guardianship

or to adoption and it really also helps us again not get

into this quandary.

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Sometimes we had families that meant the Licensing requirements

or maybe they were able to be approved as a relative.

But when we got to the time to assess them for adoption there

were some concerns and maybe you know, some of these concerns

could be mitigated.

Maybe they couldn't but trying to figure out whether this

family could take care of a child without the constant daily

support a social services in your life.

What did we do with those families when we had those concerns

three years down the road when we're looking at adoption.

The child's been placed in that.

Home and that creates a real dilemma for adoption workers.

So by looking at this all up front, we have a much better

idea and it gives us a much longer period of time to work

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with families if there are some concerns because we know

about him from the beginning so some of the progress today

we have been busy busy Little Bees.

We started restarted the process I should say about three

four years ago now and we've now divided up early implementing

counties into two cohorts we started with five counties the

first one being San Luis Obispo who began implementing November

1st 2013 and then we had the other four counties in our cohort

1 all on board by July of 2014 and we looked at that and

we said that's not enough.

We need to learn more.

So we amended the statute last year at a be 403 where we

could bring on additional count.

Maybe it was SP 1013.

Sorry one of our bills we amended the statute and then we

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were able to bring on additional counties.

So now we have eight more counties coming on.

Guard all of them have started implementation, San Joaquin

will beginning on July 1st, and we're really excited about

that because we have a larger group.

We have a more diverse group.

We got real large counties such as orange and then we've

got small counties such as YOLO to of our counties had not

been doing the licensing aspect before so this is new for

them. So that's really helpful for us as we prepare for Statewide

implementation a couple of these counties had historically

not been qpi counties.

A lot of them were doing some of the practices associated

with qpi, but they weren't a qpi pilot County.

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So, how are we going to work with that?

so again, we've got this really great diverse group of counties

onboard now that we're really excited to continue learning

about another thing we're really working on now is foster

family agencies.

This has a big impact on everybody.

Not just the County's not just the state but the FFA is as

well because beginning July 1st, not July January 1st, 2017,

Everybody Must Be approving families to the resource family

approval standards, and that includes the FFA face.

So again, we wanted to look at how can we learn from them?

How can we study this before we go Statewide in January.

So we now have the authority to bring on some FAS as early

implementers. And in fact today, we have a meeting in the

afternoon to start some of that work.

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We have selected some early implementing FAS after today that information we can be made public as to who they are. We just got to you know, it can get through today with our first initial meeting, but we're really excited.

We try to get a again diverse.

Group there.

We had a whole lot of interest we had to actually turn some folks away because there were just too many for us to bring able to bring on his early implementers, but we're really excited by the interest and anticipate learning a lot from them as well.

And then a yeah, we're going to be working on how we provide that technical assistance to the FFA as much the same way.

We've been providing technical assistance assistance to the

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counties as well.

So we've been getting a lot of feedback from Regional meetings

with CWD a part of what we've been doing now for outreach

and education is we travel to all of the regional meetings

through cwda.

We've been going out to the probation advisory Council meetings

see POC.

I forget what that stands for it.

Chief probation something another meetings with the chief

probation officers.

We've been going out and doing a lot of Outreach education

and trying to help prepare folks for Statewide implementation.

So really helping them develop their implementation plans,

which is a required part of the statute All Counties must

submit an implementation plan.

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So we're getting their input on how we can help best prepare them for that.

Some of the things that we've been getting the anecdotal feedback from our early implementing counties is the benefit to all of our children and families and the one big benefit.

I'm sure I've mentioned this before across the board is the training for relatives the pre-approval training and the post approval because we're now into a post approval stage with a lot of our early our cohort one counties.

Everyone is appreciating the training non-relatives as well.

They've really indicated in there.

Valuation forms the benefit they have to having relatives joined them in the training we've heard from some of the county staff that yes, sometimes it takes a little extra

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facilitating because you've got two very different groups of people that are there they came into the system and very different ways but learning from each other and that has been really beneficial to all of them.

With CCR one of the big things we're really looking at is their Recruitment and Retention of resource families the capacity-building we need to do as we're really trying to step children out of group home care in a safe healthy manner into families prepared to take them on and one of the ways that we've been able to do that is through our relatives historically relatives when they were approved were approved for that child.

So if they wanted to take on other children, they had to go get their foster care license.

Through RFA that's no longer necessary.

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And in fact all of our cohort one counties our cohort to  
are still too new in this but all of our cohort one Counties  
have actually had relatives request to take a non-related  
children as well.

So I think that's real exciting, too.

You know RFA it's not always easy and trying to figure out  
some of the ways to get families through the process have  
taken a lot of flexibility and creativity from the counties.

So I think the counties have really done an excellent job  
of trying to do some of that out of the box thinking to figure  
out how to approve their families in a timely manner.

A lot of the counties have gone out and purchased the Mobile  
Live Scan the portable Live Scan units so that way they can  
take the Live Scan to the family instead of the family having

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to travel to get Printed one of the things with RFA that's

required is Health screenings.

Some counties have actually brought a public health nurse

into the trainings so that they can do the health screening

right there assisting with the paperwork and all the documentation

whether it's in the home or a trainings.

There's been a lot of creative ways for the counties to support

the families and I think that's very exciting and at least

one county is actually has reported out that they've seen

some placements to Ability in their County we are looking

will be talking to our counties to see more about how we

can draw other numbers.

Their data has been a little challenging but how we can look

at the other counties and whether or not that's maintaining

true as placement stability.

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Is that increasing or not?

So that's some of the things we'll be looking at now some of the challenges to consider, you know, I think one of the biggest challenges that all of our Counties have experienced is workload RFA is more work.

It's more work upfront.

And at the same time they still have their other existing programs that they're running.

So trying to assess how much staff they need that has been a big Challenge and we've learned a lot about that.

I think as they were preparing.

We hadn't really fully thought out about the ongoing caseload that counties will continue to have through annual updates that are required of our resource families as well as all

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the new families coming in and then they do still have their

Licensing in a relative approval units to so the workload

that they have coming up front.

out here One of the biggest concerns and one of the biggest

challenges that we've asked all of our counties to look at

is the fear about losing relative placements will relatives

be intimidated by the process.

Well, it'd be too much of a barrier for them to be approved.

Well, they lose this resource and so far that actually is

not holding out to be true.

We do have some early data that does show that are relative

numbers are stable and in some cases of increased and when

we look only at resource families Of our cohort 1 counties

over 50% in a one counties case 80% of the resource families

that are approved our relatives.

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So that is a really exciting statistic.

So that's a something for counties for families to look at when they're looking at the resource family approval process.

But so far what we're seeing is that it is a challenge to get the relatives through the process, but it's not deterring them. and really when we look at the development of supports and the strategies to assure the cooperation participation,

I think as people get more comfortable with the process this again has been so exciting and uplifting because we come into this wanting to help people and with some of our old procedures you get kind of stuck in the routine and you don't

get to do that social worker Basics that we all really wanted to do when we came into this so through our RFA people are

Like getting back to those basics of support and listening

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and partnering with our resource families, and I think that's been really helpful and it's really building those relationships between the counties and their free the resource families there. So I think something a lot of people are interested in on the line here and I'm sure they'll be some questions coming in and I'll be able to answer them as best as I can is what happens to me what happens to me if I'm a licensed foster parent today if I'm An approved relative today, what's going to happen?

So we've got time nothing's going to happen to you at the flip of a switch because this is we want things to happen.

We want stuff to transition in the best family friendly manner as possible.

So what the statute says is All Families do need to be resource families by 12 December 31st, 2019.

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So that gives us a good three and a half years from today's

date to do this transition.

For families that have an existing Foster license certified

Foster family home or they're approved a relative and they

have an approved adoption home study.

You're going to be deemed a resource family.

We're still looking at the details of how that will look

but in terms of having to do some extra work extra assessments

that won't be necessary or deemed to be a resource family.

For those of you that do not have an approved adoptive home

study at this point in time.

If you had a placement for any duration of time in the calendar

year 2017, you will do an assessment of the family A psychosocial

assessment and then you can be approved as a resource family

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based on the successful completion of that some of what we

are going to work out because I'm sure a lot of folks are

concerned about that is again going back to the heart of

RFA and that's the support.

We really want to make sure as these are all of you existing

families are transitioning that you feel supported by your

counties you feel supported by the state and that you're

all working together to help you through that process.

So that is going some of how we're going to build in to the

system here of how we do the conversion.

And if there are any concerns that may come about that the

county is open and transparent with you and is working with

you to address those concerns.

We are not looking to lose.

Families we are not looking to deny you we want to support

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you. So that's going to be a really overarching goal of our

conversion of our families that do need to complete some

of the work.

For families that had no placement at all during the calendar

year 2017 you will need to if you're interested in still

providing care to children in the Child Welfare probation

systems, you will need to reapply as a resource family and

start the process from the beginning and really the reason

for that is because we haven't had really anybody in your

home for that whole year period a lot of things can happen

within a family in a year.

So it really is to your benefit so that we can really start

fresh with you and have a understanding of Of what's been

going on in your life and that last year?

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Once a family does convert to the resource family approval

program, then their old license their old approval is forfeited

by operation of Law, and then everybody's license or approval

relative approval is forfeited by operation of law by 12:30

119. So again, we're making sure we got plenty of time to

do this and we want this to be a smooth transition for you

and not something scary and overwhelming so we will You need

to work with that.

There's a lot of details that still need to be worked out

when January 1st 2017 hits.

It's for all new incoming family.

So at the moment we're really focusing on making sure that's

working. Well, and we're working behind the scenes on what

this conversion will really look like in practice.

So so here's a kind of skipped a slide there really quickly.

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I just wanted to point it out to you.

If you're wanting more information about RFA.

These are some great websites here.

They Cal silic one has lots and lots of information about

readiness assessments and Tool kits to help counties prepare.

Both websites have the written directives which really are

the regulations for the program sample implementation plans

from the existing RFA counties are on both websites a lot

of Information and I'm going to point I get him like pointing

out that I keep forgetting, but they qpi site there.

We have that on every of our race every one of our resources

at every PowerPoint we do with about resource family because

qpi is a huge part of our fa and at this point in time.

I think we were going to talk to Marlene from Orange County

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and then Rosario for Ventura County so that they can talk

a little bit about how qpi has been built into Into their

programs. Thanks Kim.

That was a really comprehensive overview.

You captured some the definitely captured the essence of

what's been happening throughout California.

Definitely what's happening in Orange County.

I think in terms of Q Pi just you know to be really brief

here. There's not a PowerPoint, but just to give you some

some main concepts of what we're doing here that and how

we've woven Q Pi into R.

RFA response is weave.

Should we change the structure of our programs and we have

three units so to speak within our RFA structure.

We've created an application unit and their mission is to

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do the emergency placements and to work with families during

that initial 30 days to address all the requirements of the

application. And then once that is complete the caregivers

application is moved on to to our section that is referred

to as Reese recruitment training and assessment.

And so the assessment workers will do the family study and

there that is we're hoping to accomplish that within 60 days.

And then once the home is approved we're going to assign

cases that to what we call the placement Focus worker and

this is where Orange County gets really Innovative and Takes

a leap into a new area that is definitely at the heart of

qpi is how to support children in placement how to provide

some part of the in supporting children and placement is

supporting the caregiver.

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So these social workers will play a critical role in ensuring that not only the needs of the child are met in the placement, but that's done in conjunction with the caregiver in the home, and we've also created Created what we hope is a very supportive training process.

We have we took our 33 our training process and reduced it down to three three non-sequential sessions that a caregiver can get through within 8 days.

So we have an eight hour class of trauma-informed parenting a three-hour class of the Child Welfare overview.

And then we're inches away from CPR and first aid for caregivers, so tried to create a training process that for pre-approval that hits the highlights that helps caregivers feel prepared and we are currently building our post approval process.

So that what we're trying to establish is a training curriculum

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that feels not like Hoops that caregivers have to jump through

but that feels like support that is available to them all

year long in conjunction with the requirements of the written

directives. We actually recently had a great story where

we had some relative caregivers who were adopting a grandchild

and they've previously adopted other grandchildren and they

were at the end of the training day the eight-hour training

day and they stood up and shared in the class with both other

relatives and recruited families that were in the training

and said that they had to die.

Did in the past that the trauma-informed parenting curriculum

that they had just listened to not only captured their experiences

that they've had to date but it really validated some of

the struggles that they've had they were so glad to receive

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it and wish that they had received it in adopting their their earlier children.

So we're really trying to build a process that brings the caregiver into partnership in a true way with children.

Our child welfare services, just to keep it brief.

That's what some of what Orange County is doing the weave in qpi.

Hi there little sorry.

Okay, so in Ventura County and I agree like the way that CCR has impacted and qpi has impacted and how nicely they have shape RFA for us and then Tura and looking at the key elements of CCR in terms of assessing the family providing them with support for strength.

Training in services that are resource parents received in our County.

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We do have a pretty strong recruitment development and support program that is expanding to have more community service coordinators work with our families traditionally that program had only been made available for our foster parents and as of a year and a half ago the training that foster parents had for being provided had been Rebranded and really focus on trauma informed when we came together to start the implementation efforts for RFA RDS program.

The team was part of our implementation and we started looking at what changes needed to be made to the RDS program and the training we felt that the trauma informed training that trouble her components.

All of that was already nicely integrated.

We just needed to expand and enhance to make it available.

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Well for resource families, which we have been able to do

we do offer a three-hour orientation and that is currently

being done by our RFA staff some of our Academy trained RFA

world to approval social workers and eventually are licensed

social workers.

We're a small smaller County than Orange County.

So we are still were not able to divide it in three different

units, but where we're going to Eventually be doing is having

existing relative or pool staff in licensee staff March into

RFA. We have quality Parenting Agreement that has been model

out of another state.

I believe there was Florida but there's been a lot of efforts

with qpi and Ventura County hosted a qpi conference.

I'm going to say probably about a year ago that we were involved

so the quality of parenting and If we have identified their

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beliefs and the core values and that's already been implemented

right from the beginning and our orientation and the families

continue to receive.

So once they go through the approval process, which is the

24 hours of pre-service training.

Once they go through that process.

They do sign a partnership agreement when they're taking

a placement of a child the partnership agreement does talk

a lot about those support that they're going to be receiving

the support that they are expected to be providing the quality

of care that they're expected to provide to our children

and how their cooperation and collaboration with the team

in the family is important and I think that so far from the

families that we have had that are you know relatives or

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in a firms that have gone to the training.

They have given us really good feedback.

And I know that in the beginning there was doubt And hesitation

just like other County tough days, but now in our Spanish-speaking

families as well have said that they are very thankful for

their training.

So even though we barely implemented in March, we have been

receiving good feedback over all the training where they're

feeling that they're getting a better understanding about

Chow well firm, and they're getting a better understanding

of what is required of them.

But other than that, I mean very similar to what you know,

Kim you have mentioned in also Marlene, it's really putting

CCR qpi philosophies and they tie berries nicely into RFA

and what RFA is about and I think that we have maximized

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the way that we can included right from the beginning when we're training staff or when we're training resource perspective resource parents.

So that's those are the efforts that we have made in our County. Thank you Rosario.

So I think at this point in time we'll go to questions and Jennifer. I know why you had sent me some questions.

Should we start there?

I think we should so the first question that we have for you is both Marlana Rosario.

We're just talking about training and the changes that they've made to training.

So we have participants who would like to know are there requirements around the type of training?

## Resource Family Approval

And the subject matter have there been changes made to the

hours how much of this is dictated by state policy and how

much is left up to the county to decide.

So they're their state standards and in the counties can

have additional policies on top of that.

So with RFA the minimum state standards for pre-approval

training is 12 hours.

And in that 12 hours, there is a laundry list of topics.

X that must be covered within those 12 hours and I don't

think you guys want me to read through it all it's pretty

it's pretty lengthy.

But if you do go to any of those links and you can either

look it up in the welfare and institutions code 165 19.5

or you can go to the written directives and again on the

websites. There's links to the written directives.

## Resource Family Approval

The training is in section 6 I think it's 606 but don't hold

me to that one.

But in section 6 it has the list of topics there.

So there are topics and then there's also the flexibility

that if a family needs additional training perhaps in a specialized

area, then they County can request the family go through

some additional training besides the standard ones.

The County's do have the ability to create a consistent standard

above the 12.

As if they believe that's in there County's best interests,

so they still got to cover the basic standards.

But maybe they're going more in-depth if they've got a large

amount of areas.

Maybe they've got a lot of a diverse population but diverse

## Resource Family Approval

demographic within their County so they may focus on some

of the cultural needs of children a little bit more in that

pre-approval training but so counties can set a higher standard

you've heard both in.

Orange County's is at 12:00 right now, but I think Ventura

I can't remember but it was above that.

When you do go above it has to be the same for all families.

You can't say relatives are getting 14 hours and non-relatives

are getting 20.

Whatever your standard is.

It has to be the same as long as it's a minimum of 12 and

then all families are required to do a minimum of eight hours

post-approval training and some of the same things apply

there in terms of counties can go above that as long as it's

consistent. And or if a particular family has a specialized

## Resource Family Approval

in need and the topics for post-approval have to be at least

one or more of the pre-approval topics, but then it can also

include a lot of specialized topics to maybe you're in a

high geographic area with a lot of children that are equally

eligible. So maybe you're going to do a lot more training

about ikhwan the Child Welfare act there.

Maybe you're in a county with a lot of commercially sexually

exploited you so you they focus on some specialized training

there, but there is a lot of flexibility with the training

as well.

So it doesn't all have to be in the classroom face-to-face

instruction counties can look at what's best for them, but

it can be online training.

It can be in the home training.

Resource Family Approval

There's a lot of built-in flexibility.

Great.

Thank you.

And just as a reminder for all the participants you can start

sending in questions now in your chat box on the webcast

and I know Marlo both Marlene and Rosario mentioned specific

ways that they had modified their training.

That sounds really interesting some in in Ventura.

They've integrated the California the qpi California partnership

plan into their training in both Ventura and orange stay

focused quite a bit on trauma.

Informed parenting and I'm assuming how to provide strong

parenting when children exhibit normal behaviors it will

there be some sort of centralized repository for counties

who want to see what other Counties have how they've modified

## Resource Family Approval

their training we're working on that.

I believe on the cows work website.

There is some some of the different counties curriculum posted.

I'll have to double check on that.

But I think I think there is some of the curriculum or the

modules. Of training that the RFA counties are using our

up on the cows with website and we'll continue to do that.

If it's not there that is something we plan to do and will

continue working on and the County's themselves are having

a lot of conversations because as we move forward and go

Statewide we're going to have families living in different

jurisdictions particularly relatives who may be living out

of County and how can we ensure that?

They're getting the proper training that they need to be

## Resource Family Approval

approved, but maybe they need to seek it in another.

Our County so trying to figure out how we can be consistent

and family-friendly.

So those are some of the tasks we're still working on in

the conversations were having great and if folks aren't who

are participating in the webcast if you have thoughts about

how training can be delivered in a way that meets the needs

of families who might not be able to get to a traditional

classroom setting or who might need more individualized coaching

orientation. Please feel free to also send those he's in

now as well and we'll share with the group.

So another sort of broader picture that I think a question

that goes along with the last question is you talked about

the core elements of the statute and what some of the counties

are doing.

## Resource Family Approval

So how much of RFA gets left up to individual counties to change and modify how much of it is directed in policy.

So it's all directed and policy.

Actually kind of wrote down an answer here there.

But really the standards that RFA sets forth are the standards

for this state so and the directives the written direct is

in the statute actually flat out say that you cannot change

or modify.

You can put any standards in that conflict or supersede with

any section of the RFA standards.

So what's there has to be there.

They can't be modified.

They can't be changed.

Some of the things of counties are looking to add additional.

## Resource Family Approval

Standards with to meet their own County needs so that's some of the things that we're having conversations about the challenges with that is whether or not you're denying somebody an approval based on something that's not in the written directives and if there was an appeal filed on that the judge is going to look to the written directives to see to base their decision on so really the directives are the directives.

Does that help answer that does help set the directives are the directives and then where are the areas that you're seeing flexibility though training?

There's definitely flexibility within the training.

We're looking at within we're revising our bedroom policies with how many children can be in a room trying to meet the different needs of families and of the children and still respecting the rights of the Current children in the home.

## Resource Family Approval

So right now licensing rig say you can only have up to two children in a home.

We are looking to expand that to be a little bit more friendly with families, especially with relatives who may have more unique housing needs and maybe some of our community-based families. So we're looking at how to do that and we're really trying to find the right balance to meet the child coming into the home as well as it children already in the home and looking at all the Unique issues that you know go along with that gender age a lot of those factors trying to look at that.

So we're trying to build in some flexibility, but still make sure that the children are safe in the bedroom.

So that's another area.

## Resource Family Approval

We're trying to build in some flexibility the assessment of the family that really helps us understand who families are and it really helps us address.

What may have been listed as concerns before maybe there's some stuff in their criminal history that didn't necessarily need an exemption for so they're still moving along in the process, but may look really scary on paper but through the assessment were able to build in the flexibility to explain explain in writing what's going on here and why this is no longer an issue or if there are some concerns.

This is the maybe these children aren't the best match for this family, but the these children are so I think we've got flexibility built in there to really talk about what's going on within a family system.

And can you share it all from the early implementing County

## Resource Family Approval

some of the ways that you've seen them develop their psychosocial

assessment for families have they taken what's been used

for for example for adoption cycle and just expanded that

to all families have they modified that have they started

over from scratch?

What are some of the key elements that you've seen included?

So one of the things that's been a little challenging with

this, is that the terminology G2 because the psychosocial

assessment it really is a process.

It's an information gathering and you are evaluating and

you're assessing the family but the written product the written

report or written assessment really is the actual written

product that has the assessment the information you gathered

from the psychosocial assessment.

## Resource Family Approval

It has the information you gathered from the home environment

information from training and that's all put into the written

report and one of the things I like to outreach and help

people. And is when you're going around and you're checking

out a person's home and looking at the building and grounds,

you're assessing that family right there.

So that actually is part of the psychosocial and I think

so one of the lessons we really learned over the last couple

of years is that maybe we looked at this whole process into

linear a fashion and I think some of the written reports

that final products looked a little bit linear.

So we're trying to figure out how to integrate that more

because everything you're doing with the family is really

part of Your psychosocial assessment but I think the counties

they came up with starting places talking with their adoption

## Resource Family Approval

folks looking what they're using an adoptions to help figure out how to gather the right information how to assess that information and then how to summarize it up in the written report. So they've all created their similarities in the reports, but definite differences to and then something we're actually working on within the state right now in collaboration with the county.

A lot of folks not just the County's is having a consistent written report guide and I'm saying guidance did a template because there are a lot of great tools out there.

There's tools that adoption agencies are using that are really great templates for a written report.

There's a ones that are used Across the Nation.

I think a lot of people are familiar with safe.

## Resource Family Approval

Those have a lot of great aspects to them and we don't want

to eliminate a county's ability to use the tools as long

as they're in the requirements of RFA.

So we're preparing a written report template guide that the

content has to be used across the state for all agencies.

But whether you use it in the template form that the state

creates or you cut and paste that content into your own template

or you look to an existing template already out there and

maybe make some minor revisions to align with the written

directives. That's some of the stuff we're looking.

Out so that there's consistency across the state and that

one County if they're taking another County's child aiming

they know what they're looking for within the reports.

Okay, great and to expand on this this is a very specific

question here.

## Resource Family Approval

Well, the RFA process have any impact on private domestic home study processes this from one of our participants.

So the impact it would have on adoption agencies are adoption agencies who are also licensed as Foster Family agencies.

So Resource Family approval is for agencies that are for Lease that plan to care for a child and the Child Welfare probation systems.

So if you're a private adoption agency and you're not doing anything with foster care, you still follow the adoption process in terms of the assessment of the applicant.

So you're still doing your traditional adoption home study, but if you're a duly licensed agency and you're looking for fam families to place with foster children or probation children, then you would need to follow the RFA process.

Resource Family Approval

Great.

Thank you.

And so now a couple questions here on training.

So can the specialized training that caregivers receive the

different based on what their individual needs are so is

there a possibility that you would have not a standardized

training that an individualized training that was base where

hours were based on what the needs of the caregiver were?

Well, I think that the topics are standardized for pre-approval.

Post approval but additional training can be family specific

if it's Anna specialized area or if a county feels across

the board that all our their families need an additional

specialized training there.

Is that flexibility to do that?

Yes, and we actually have a comment from a participant as

## Resource Family Approval

well who is with Harmony hums FFA and she comments that they

serve a rural area that spans.

As a huge geographic region and they actually provide all

of the pre-service training individually in the home to the

caregiver as a way to ensure that every family gets the appropriate

level of quality training and also giving them one on one

time with the family to assess their needs and I assume the

part of what that report would would be and so she comments

this could be considered a strategy providing training to

families that have transportation or other barriers.

Absolutely.

I think that's that's fantastic very Friendly great.

So we have three or four questions here about FAS.

So people would like to know a little bit more about FAS

Resource Family Approval

at this point.

The the directive seemed to speak to County.

So folks would like to know when will FFA has be provided

some written requirements or directives and books are eager

to begin implementation early and to start thinking about

what's on the horizon for them of changes.

So we are working on them.

M as we speak actually we anticipate having they'll be for

a face or being called a little bit differently because they

fall in a different part of the Continuum of Care reform

statutes, but there's going to be interim regulations for

sfa's that include not just the requirements for fa how many

acronyms can we say here but also the requirements that FAS

will need to do with CCR in general so our anticipated release

date for the interim.

## Resource Family Approval

Layton's I believe is July of this year.

So I know they're actively being worked on drafts.

I believe what I'm not.

I'm not the one leading that work group up.

But I my understanding is that drafts will be shared out

with folks to get feedback which folks I'm not sure about

that's information.

I can look into but they are in the process right now.

So what we're going to be doing is taking a lot of the RFA

standards and incorporating them into these interim.

FAA regulations and they'll fall under us right.

Now you guys follow the title 22 and there's the different

articles the RFA part will fall into a specific article of

these interim Rigs and in terms of a county, I mean agencies

## Resource Family Approval

anxious to come on board love to hear that and I think that's

very exciting.

I know in County Land Sometimes some of them are a little

bit slower to come on board with RFA and a little nervous

so that excitement love to hear that death Only want you

thinking about how you're going to implement how it's going

to affect your entire organization.

I'm related to that with your FFA early implementers is part

of the idea that you will learn from their implementation

process to inform the development of the written directives

and policies.

Absolutely.

I think one of the big things to remember as we do have written

directors out right now, we're going to have new written

directors out for counties and for FAS in July as our anticipated

## Resource Family Approval

date, but that's not the final version.

Version there is no way that is the final version and that's

the beauty of written directives which will eventually turn

into regulations.

But that way it's gives us more flexibility to amend and

change policies as we're being informed from sfa's from counties.

What's working.

What's not working?

We're constantly trying to improve the program and eventually

will end up in regulations.

But right now we're using this more flexible process because

we are learning so much so absolutely.

Great, and then I have a couple questions here about our

relative caregiver.

## Resource Family Approval

Yeah, so what are the expectations that are different for our relative caregivers as they transition to being resource families and what type of efforts have you seen and counties to make sure that they're connected with resources and support.

In terms of M in the expectation for the relatives are going to be the same as our non-relatives because we really feel like relatives were added being treated differently and we're not getting the same quality of services before so through the conversion process.

We really want counties to be right there in the home and helping them through this process in terms of on hand services and supports I think a lot of that really is coming down and doing that in the home training trying to find out providing childcare if you're having trouble getting to training because you've got four kids bouncing off the walls.

## Resource Family Approval

I've heard of some of the counties being able to and I'm

not sure which funding sources are using but helping families

particularly relatives if with replacing the carpet in their

home or getting some Transportation vouchers, To find some

of these unique ways Marlene and Rosario may be able to speak

more of some of the on hands things that they're particularly

doing that I get to all that part of the question there,

but we really we don't want relatives to be afraid of the

conversion. The goal is not to get you out of here.

We need you and we know you can provide wonderful care to

children. We just want to make sure that you've got all the

skills and the Experience that training can help provide

you to and that, you know, we can bolster you up in areas

that maybe you're not as familiar.

## Resource Family Approval

And so that's really what we're trying to do with the assessment.

And I think that's Kim's point is a great Point around ensuring

that fear that caregivers had in particular relative caregivers

where it's a family member who is at stake and that their

fears get addressed.

So if folks have ideas about ways as or strategies that counties

are have used or can use to really communicate that to relative

caregivers. I know Kim would welcome that and we can share

with the rest of the group as well.

I'm going to pause for a minute and just give Marlene and

Rosario the opportunity to weigh in if they have any feedback

on this question.

I said, oh sorry.

Oh one of the things that have been tried county is doing

is to offer childcare for the for the training not up during

## Resource Family Approval

orientation. But all the rest of the sessions for the training

people will have the option of having Child Care.

The other part is for relatives nephrons.

We went when we approve an emergency placement.

This RFA social worker does a referral Two kids have families

together that is an agency that we have contracted that it's

able to meet with a family in their home.

In assist them in provide the support that is more and I

know that our face nachos specific, but it's specific to

that child place in the home.

There are able to be connected almost right away upon placement

to start getting that in-home support in more like parenting

issues that come up is specific to that.

Placement but those are some of the things that we've been

Resource Family Approval

talking about also to be able to have our Live Scan machine

that is something that we are in the process of getting but

we still don't have it.

Hi, Miss.

Morley was speaking.

I had another thought to to add to that was the complaint

investigation process.

I know is one of the challenging area for families and how

we look at relatives, but this non-relatives to really trying

to find ways to make sure that that's a Well, it'll never

be enjoyable.

But to really make sure that it's not as intimidating a process

as I know it is right now.

So actually I was just listening when I was listening Rosario

talk this popped in my head.

## Resource Family Approval

I would love to get feedback from qpi experts out there and

from I know we got families on the phone.

If you could really look at it section 9 in the written directives

look at the complaint process because we know we're not all

the way there yet and we know that section needs more work.

I'd love to get feedback.

Back on how we can make that a more qpi version of What complaints

can look like we are working on some forms where we are minimizing

the number of forms that are used and trying to change some

of the terminology that's used.

But if and I was just thinking the other day a story was

shared with me one of the ways that really were looking at

this. I know this sort of off topic but I County we had just

sent us in a question because they had a complaint on the

## Resource Family Approval

family and the complaint worker is separate from the are

if a worker the way we have the directive set up and they

did their part and I don't know what the complaint was for

but then they were asking us a question.

I loved the question that can the RFA worker then really

go through and just really instead of having to if the complaint

didn't need a citation or it wasn't significant violation.

Can they really just work and educate the family and I loved

that because I think that really goes to some of the heart

of qpi that we want to do with complaints and if the answer

was yes.

I think it was some sort of reasonable and prudent parent

issue if I recall so that was absolutely the right question

and the right direction that the county wanted to go is supporting

the family and I think this was a relative and working with

## Resource Family Approval

them about what led to the complain instead of necessarily

going to this Extreme Action here, but I know we need more

work done and I'd love to get information from people on

that and can this is where I think this this issue around

the complaint allegation process.

Your right has been a key.

or issue for qpi and our state policy work and I know we've

been working really closely with community care licensing

over the past year in developing a clearer complaint allegation

procedure and materials for caregivers that explain the process

that and then directives for State Licensing workers around

exactly this that sort of transitioning from a law enforcement

monitoring role to one where their job is really to Port

great parenting and so to deal with things informally whenever

## Resource Family Approval

possible to make sure that issues that are not licensing

issues but are really case management issues get dealt with

at the case management level rather than being moved into

the title 22 process.

So I know we should connect definitely would like to get

beat on that and and I and I know a couple of RFA Counties

have do have a system in place where the family can have

not a mentor but a support person in place with him during

the investigation.

So I think that's some of the things that they've done to

as a Supportive Service to the families.

Great, and I know one of the comments on Supportive Services

is how important for all caregivers but in particular relatives

just the support of somebody to help navigate the child welfare

system, you're all together how intimidating that can be

## Resource Family Approval

when you are a family member who has to interact at this huge bureaucracy and whether there is any standardized part of the training that will include navigation of the child welfare system.

Yeah, one of the required to there's an Annotation that's part of our requirements and within that orientation really is an overview of the child protective system Services System and within that really is that navigating through it through the system all and I think that's one of the things that the feedback we've heard from the counties that relatives are getting out of the training is that they really have a better sense of how the system works and so that it is happening and that is part of what we have in our directives.

All right, this is Merlin.

## Resource Family Approval

Tell a goddess from Orange County before we move too far

away from the question about how you know, we've how we're

addressing relatives within the process Orange County has

really relative care has been kind of the Baseline for us

because in building our model because they already have children

in their care as we begin to move them through the the requirements

of RFA.

So we've done Number of things to remove barriers in the

process and that's really been kind of our Mantra here in

Orange county is will this be a barrier?

So we reduced our training from 33 hours to 12 hours hoping

to Circle back and provide things that we had to take out

to provide that post-approval but we didn't want the length

of training in the amount of training to be a barrier for

someone currently caring for a child or Even multiple children

## Resource Family Approval

and knowing that if we remove a barrier for a relative caregiver

that also removes a barrier for a recruited family and I

could go on and on about all of that but catching up with

the the conversation with complaints.

One of the things that has happened within the written directives

and we you know Orange County has strongly advocated for

this that under title 22.

We had a 90-day completion.

Time frame for complaints and my understanding that under

the written directives.

It's now 60 days is that accurate?

I can look real quick or I can't recall off the top of my

head. I know that that was something that we had talked about

is, you know people like resolution and and one of the things

## Resource Family Approval

that I've found with caregivers is the anticipation of what

the outcome of the investigation is going to be.

It creates a lot of apprehension over a 90 day period so

I think that we move to a 60-day requirement.

I think that was something that you may happen can and if

it's not in the current process it may be coming in directed

the next directives in July.

Yeah, I think it's going to because I'm not seeing it right

quickly here.

So I think that's going to be in our version 3 we have a

huge. Laundry list of items we no need to go into version

3 so sometimes we didn't get it out earlier version.

We know we need to put it in the next version.

That's a definite, you know step in the right direction with

complaints in terms of you know, as we are now going to conduct

## Resource Family Approval

complaints on relatives.

The time frame will be shorter.

I think all of us like when there's a problem like a complaint

we have allegations pending the sooner that we reach resolution

the better that we feel so in many ways, I think they're

written directives and the Higher RFA process is creating

a more family-friendly environment for relative caregivers

in intern recruited caregivers as well.

And I just wanted to mention also on the qpi front that qpi

is launching with cdss.

Also the peer mentor program where we're going to have caregivers

in qpi counties trained on the licensing regulations and

available to support other caregivers in the complaint allegations.

Hasn't said that all goes together nicely.

## Resource Family Approval

We have another participant who offers the suggestion that he recommends a quarterly meeting for caregivers to share complaints made about them with a team for support and getting through the complaint because this complaint process is even though we know that that sort of doesn't have the force of law that makes it like possible to go to jail to caregivers.

It feels that way.

Yeah, I'm so we lose so many families do to hurt feelings and misunderstandings and lack of communication.

So that is a suggestion before we leave relatives.

We have a couple more questions here.

So one is do any of the changes were discussing affect financial support for relative caregivers.

So for example, fixed-income grandparents who are taking in grandchildren with no financial support.

## Resource Family Approval

So one of the We look at is the during the approval process

is the financial stability of a family not their income.

You know, you don't, you know, you could be rich and not

financially stable or you can be poor and super financially

stable. So we do look at your stability in your ability to

manage your expenses in a responsible Manner and then there

will be funding available for all resource families were

looking at a rate structure.

We don't its we've got our with Continuum of Care reform

there's a huge rates work group that's looking at the funding

for families and we are looking at the proposal.

I believe that's being looked at is that all resource families

whether you're related or non-related when you're approved

will receive the same amount of money.

## Resource Family Approval

So whether you're with an FFA or you're with a county the

family will receive the same that's once you're approved

as a resource family.

They're still finding things that happen.

If a relative receives a placement prior to approval there's

emergency assistance funds.

There are some challenges and then there's the CalWORKs for

families that are relatives that are currently approved and

they don't have their child placed in their home is not

federally eligible.

There is the approved relative caregiver funding option where

most counties have opted in so that they can bump get bumped

up to that.

At foster care rate there are still some issues that we have

with funding for relatives that are placed prior to approval.

## Resource Family Approval

I'm not sure if you guys want me going into detail or that

but we know there are some funding problems and we're actually

working with the federal government to see what we can do

to address some of those and the issue in a very simplified

manner is when the emergency assistance funds run out in

the first 30 days until full approval occurs.

There's no required funding available at that point.

So family relatives can go get CalWORKs.

Some counties have been using their County only funds to

supplement a payment to the family, but that period needs

work and we're aware of the issues and we are trying to address

them right now.

Thank you.

Kim additional relative questions are the current relative

Resource Family Approval

placement assessment criteria in welfare and institutions

code 360 1.3 incorporated into the RFA assessment process.

So I don't have that one pulled up.

But if you're talking about if it's about the relative approval

process will not will be going away.

There's elements that were pulled into the standards for

Resource Family approval.

But if we're talking about the preference to be considered

first. In that county should be looking at relatives first

for a placement resource that absolutely is still staying

the same any time a child is detained or any time a child

is having to change placements the First Avenue that a county

or an agency should be looking at is relatives.

Great and last the clarification that so you are saying that

relatives will in fact get allegations now.

## Resource Family Approval

Allocations allegation.

Oh allegation blades that they'll be subject to complaint

allegations. Oh because it's different now.

Okay, sorry.

Okay, I understand the question.

So in terms of approval, there's not a separate everyone's

approved to the same standard and that means everyone subject

to the same standards if there's a concern within the family,

so yes, you would be if there's a concern that you're not

adhering to one of the standards.

if a complaint could be filed against doing an investigation

determining, you know, if that complaint results in a citation

the right word.

Sorry at that point forward you do have due process rights.

## Resource Family Approval

So there is the ability to appeal a decision that's been made about you.

But that's also the same for relatives or non-relatives.

And sticking on complaints for just one second before we go back to a comment about support for relative caregivers with this idea of having other caregivers, whether their relative caregivers or Foster families who are peer mentors during the process.

So other resource family peer mentors can the health and safety code be changed to allow unannounced visits for complaints in order to have the I have a mentor present present.

Is that something that you think would be up for discussion?

I think absolutely up for discussion.

Absolutely and I'm hoping Jennifer I'll get a list of some of these ideas because I don't have a pen and paper why paper

## Resource Family Approval

in front of me, but I don't have pain absolutely up for discussion.

We do have the department has put forth a bill with a lot

of amendments to CCR and R fa itself.

It's a be 1990.

7 if folks like reading built so I know we've put some new

information in there about complaints, but I'm not recalling

what it is at the top of my head.

It's definitely we wanted to work but there's also that balancing

act because sometimes there is the need for an unannounced

visit and I need I have to go back and look because I'm not

super familiar with the complaint process.

It's been While since I've read through that section of the

directives and all flat out tell you guys my background was

adoptions. So I'm more familiar with that side of things

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but in terms of making change, we do want to make positive changes. So it's absolutely up for discussion.

But we also do depending on the nature of the complaint have to balance out the urgency of the issue.

Absolutely as with all licensing issues balancing out.

Yeah, the well-being of the child was absolutely but where

we cam, you know, absolutely we want we don't want to lose

you guys because you were treated horribly during the process

and I know that sometimes occurs.

We have a comment that it would be great.

If the orientation includes experience relative caregivers

who can help break down the language and show that there

are others out there who have succeeded and successfully

navigating the system and being able to raise their kin.

Absolutely.

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I do think a couple of the counties have incorporated that

into some of their trainings and a lot of these ideas.

They're great and we do we are putting some of these best

practice ideas for counties up on On up on our Cal swag websites

so that we went counties are looking how they're going to

prepare for implementation.

They look and go.

Oh, that's a fantastic idea.

So This is Marlene from Orange County with the use a code

trainer model currently for our trauma-informed parenting.

We use currently licensed foster parents.

And now that we're under RFA.

We are eagerly attempting to locate potential and identify

potential relative Co trainers to participate in the training

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as well.

Awesome.

Yeah, exactly what it makes it more real and it makes it

feel It's intimidating when you got somebody's been there

done that.

So on a different topic here, how does RFA impact intensive

treatment foster care families?

We're working on a lot of that right now.

So we've got the basic approval standards to become approved

as a resource parent.

And then if you're wanting to provide a higher level type

of care to a family there would be need to be some additional

training. We're looking at that intensive treatment, but

we're all and then we're also looking Add some of the KDA

stuff and the Therapeutic Foster parenting and What needs

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to go and be involved to be that type of resource parent.

So those are some of the things we're actually currently

working on.

I think there is some new statutes in a things.

We need to incorporate into version 3 of the wood and directives

because I think we've got some of the starting blocks for

that to be built in but really you would this is where you

would start and then if you're interested in going to that

next level there would be some additional training you would

have to go through Lutely, the we we need we need that too.

Right?

Thank you.

And then some other questions so is are they going to be

any different in regards to caregivers being able to get

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information about the history of the child and I think where

this question is coming from is that historically adoptive

parents have gotten more information about the background

of the child then a relative might even get let alone a foster

parent. Yeah, so that information that's provided at the

time of an adoptive placement agreement that all falls within

the adoption laws and codes and the only thing really changing

with adoption is how a family is approved to provide long-term

care. So that will still happen in adoption level.

However, I know there's been a lot of there's been some AC

ins or ACLS put out QP is really looked at a lot of this

about making sure information is shared.

The caregivers and I think you know different areas have

been able to join the bandwagon a little bit better of doing

that and some have been a little bit more resistant or slower

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to realize that they should be sharing information with caregivers.

So again RFA being such a shift in the entire practice really

with child welfare and probation systems.

I hope that that will improve so, you know, there's no changes

in the current law about what information can be shared.

With a caregiver, but you know, we hope and that's something

that we can look at how we can attempt to clarify that that

information should be shared and how we can do that within

the directives.

I'm definitely open to feedback.

So we're not changing anything but we're really hoping that

it is better understood with the implementation of RFA.

Yeah, and as always with for folks on the phone Kim is right.

There is a really helpful.

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I think a cin that cdss.

Put out that clarifies that all information about the child

should be shared with caregivers unless the statute specifically

prohibits it if you all are having challenges whether it's

challenges with County Council accepting that legal interpretation

or other challenges with your court.

It would be really helpful for cdss to hear about those and

hear about any ideas you have about how to sort of spread

it. Actually, it's not just getting people to accept the

The legal interpretation.

I also think it's really a culture change of treating our

caregivers differently and we really have seen that's one

of the things with our early implementing counties as people

were really concerned that families that kind of knew what

the approval process looked like in the past would be very

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difficult to sell on RFA and it really wasn't the caregivers

that that were the hardest to sell.

It's been staff and really it's because because we kind of

get stuck in our old school way of thinking and it's sometimes

hard to take you out of that.

So really it's I agreed to completely with what you said

Jennifer is just that helping a staff understand why this

is so important and really just retraining people on the

necessity of it.

Right?

So here's that here's a question that's along a different

line. So caregivers would like to know what will they call

themselves after?

Our County implements are will they no longer be a foster

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parent? Well, I think in terms of the law if you have not

been approved as a resource family, you're still considering

it approved relative or a foster parent and then when conversion

happens or for anybody knew coming in?

Yes, you're a resource family.

And when you look at a lot of the Amendments we're making

to the statute every where it talks about and boy, this is

why we've got a lot of amendments occurring within the the

law right now anywhere where it says approved relative or

licensed foster home it now says comma or Resource Family

so we are making all of those amendments but the terminology

has to remain for a time period because there are laws that

apply to licensed foster homes.

There's laws that apply to approved relatives and now there's

laws that apply to Resource families.

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So we're not eliminating the old terminology at this point.

We're just adding New one but if you've been approved to the resource family standards, you're a resource family.

So everybody should get really used to hearing that phrase

Resource Family.

Yeah turbo.

I think it's really exciting because we're really its rebranding

what it means to be a caregiver, you know, unfortunately

foster parent has not its reputation of it being a foster

parent has lost its reputation.

I think through media and you know those bad apples that

are out there.

So hopefully this is Is a good way of rebranding and really

making it cool to be a resource parent because you really

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have all this knowledge base now around you and we really

know about you that we really hope the reputation will increase

their really here an expert in here and you're an expert

at there you go.

I like that Jennifer you're an expert in parity.

And so I have a few questions on different topics here.

One of them flows nicely from that last one.

When is will there be added support?

For resource families who have intensive treatment children

in their home.

So I think this goes back to the discussions that you said

that are currently in developed.

Yeah, definitely and development and already the statute

absolutely allows for specialized training for families on

a case-by-case basis.

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So if they've got a child with those type of needs in their

home, they should be getting additional training.

Great and back onto training pre-approval and post-approval.

You mentioned that there will be eight hours post approval

is that annually and if not, what are the requirements for

annual training?

Yes.

It is.

Annual I should have said that from the start All Families

will have eight hours of annual post-approval training and

on an annual basis.

They have to do an update to their approval.

It's it doesn't expire but it does need to be updated.

Annually, and then the only way to close it out then is if

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the county or agency were to rescind your approval or you choose to close it out yourself.

So even if the annual update hasn't been done timely you're still approved until a county if the county until it's such

Tama County chose decided they needed to take an action.

But yeah sandal great and onto complaint investigations.

So we'll counties be required to inform FAS regarding County investigations or social worker input regarding incidents.

I think I will have to look into that a little bit more again.

This is not my area of expertise.

I it's a good question seems reasonable to me, but if I could get back to you on that one.

And then another question here that goes kind of to the heart of RFA which is will all RFA families be approved for adoption legal guardianship or only those who want to offer this level

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of permanency.

So that's a great question because it's one of the things

I think that's been out there.

That's a little bit confusing when you are approved as a

resource resource family, you're approved for all types of

care foster care adoption guardianship your proof for all

those types of care.

That doesn't mean you have to To adopt it doesn't mean you

have to become a legal guardian and it doesn't mean that

when the workers coming into your home.

And if you're saying I don't ever want to adopt that that

would be a reason to deny you what it means is when you've

been approved as a resource family you the agency has determined

you have the ability to provide all these types of care.

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So the motivation is more being the caregiver, but also being able to help provide a child.

Eminence in lots of areas, whether it's reunifying that child with their birth family preparing a child for permanent and another family if it's not with you or providing permanents to yourself, and I'm also going to like to clarify that approval and placement decisions are very separate decisions.

So you could be approved as a resource family and you can provide these types of care, but the child's worker is still going to make the Cement decision and that means for initial care but also for adoption so the child if they're placed in your home for a couple of years and their case plans moving more towards adoption.

The child's adoption worker still needs to make a decision that that is the right placement the right adoptive match

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for that child because you're approved but you're not guaranteed

placement. I hope that makes sense.

But yeah, you're not you don't ever have to provide a type

of care.

You don't want to we just have to know that you had the ability

to do so so that you don't have to go through a secondary

approval process down the road because we seen statistically

many of our families do end up going adopting or becoming

a guardian at some point in time.

There's a pretty huge percentage there.

Absolutely and I think that goes to the heart of RFA because

that's really where our fa came from its we had a number

of relatives who were caring for children or foster parents

were caring for children who wanted to provide permanency

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and then were denied.

Yeah as an Tom right so yeah, then important move and then

here's a question that I actually think is a comment so I'm

going to change it into a comment.

And so the comment is that the post-approval training should

really be individualized to caregivers and their specific

children and the specific challenges that they're focusing

with that the model of sort of providing one-size-fits-all

training and doesn't work well for any parents but in particular

for parents that are Struggling with sort of the unusual

situation of parenting with in child welfare.

Absolutely.

So with the post-approval training it has to include at least

one of the topics listed but the way the statute is written.

It's one or more of those topics and it can be something

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in addition or separate from that.

It just has to cover at least one of those topics and really

that topics anybody's going to benefit from increasing their

knowledge in that laundry list.

I mentioned earlier but it should be individualized absolutely.

Does it make sense to maybe if you've got a teenager in your

home that you're having to get training on Toddlers and appropriate

discipline for a three year old?

Great.

And so I think we're almost out of time here at 12:29.

And so if you did not get your question answered know that

you will get answers to questions generally after the webcast,

but one last question for you Kim if folks have additional

suggestions for you ideas materials questions, what should

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they do?

So I'm not sure whoever's in charge of the PowerPoint if

you could go back to that power.

Point on that thank you.

So right here.

I'm doing it again.

I keep trying to point you to it that email box at the bottom

there RFA at DSS dot ca.gov.

That is the best way to send your questions your comments

your feedback into my staff is on a rotational basis of a

covering that we do get a lot of questions.

So it may take a little time to get back to you.

But that that would be the best way way to reach us.

Great, and I see that it was just sent out to all participants

as well the email inbox great.

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So I want to thank Kim for taking the time to make a presentation

that responded specifically to what folks want to know and

to answer all of these questions and encourage everyone to

really reach out to Kim with any additional questions or

comments. So, thank you all qpi.

And thank you Kim, especially thank you.

I appreciate it.