

Sacramento County Cultural Broker Program

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
National Conference

*NAVIGATING THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
AND THE CRITICAL NEED FOR CULTURALLY
RESPONSIVE ADVOCACY.*

APRIL 2023



Panelist Introduction

Kim Pearson, Division Manager, Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS)

Tiffany Glass, Human Services Program Planner, DCFAS

LaDonna Lee, Cultural Broker, Better Life Children Services

Popcorn Question

When you think of the African-American/Black community and child welfare, call out what comes to mind.



PRESENTATION TAKEAWAYS - The Cultural Broker (CB) Model

- What are CB's?
- Why use CB's?
- The CB Practice in action. What does this really look like?

The “WHY” for Sacramento County



- ❖ In 2015, African-American/Black children 0-17 accounted for approximately 11% of the general Sacramento County population and comprised 18% of the population in poverty
- ❖ Children identified as African-American/Black accounted for almost 31% of all allegations received and substantiated allegations, 32% of entries into care and almost 35% of children in foster care in 2015
- ❖ Mistrust in the African-American/Black Community
- ❖ Case Reviews
- ❖ Community Feedback
- ❖ Accountability to make efforts to move the dial

What are Cultural Brokers?

- Liaisons
- Cultural Guides
- Mediators
- Catalysts of Change



Cultural Broker Model Goals



- *Reduce* entry rates
- *Increase* Kinship Placements
- *Increase* Reunifications

Why Use Cultural Brokers?

- Address disparities in services for African-American/Black youth and families
- Address disproportionality in Child Welfare
- Help parents successfully navigate the Child Welfare system
- Teach and model advocacy

Doing the Work

Cultural Brokers:

- Crisis intervention
- Home visitations
- Attend court hearings
- Attend team meetings (CFTs, IEPs etc.)
- Attend meetings with the family's social worker, attorney or service provider in an effort to align communication
- Linkages and referrals to community agencies



Where in Child Welfare Can Cultural Brokers Help?

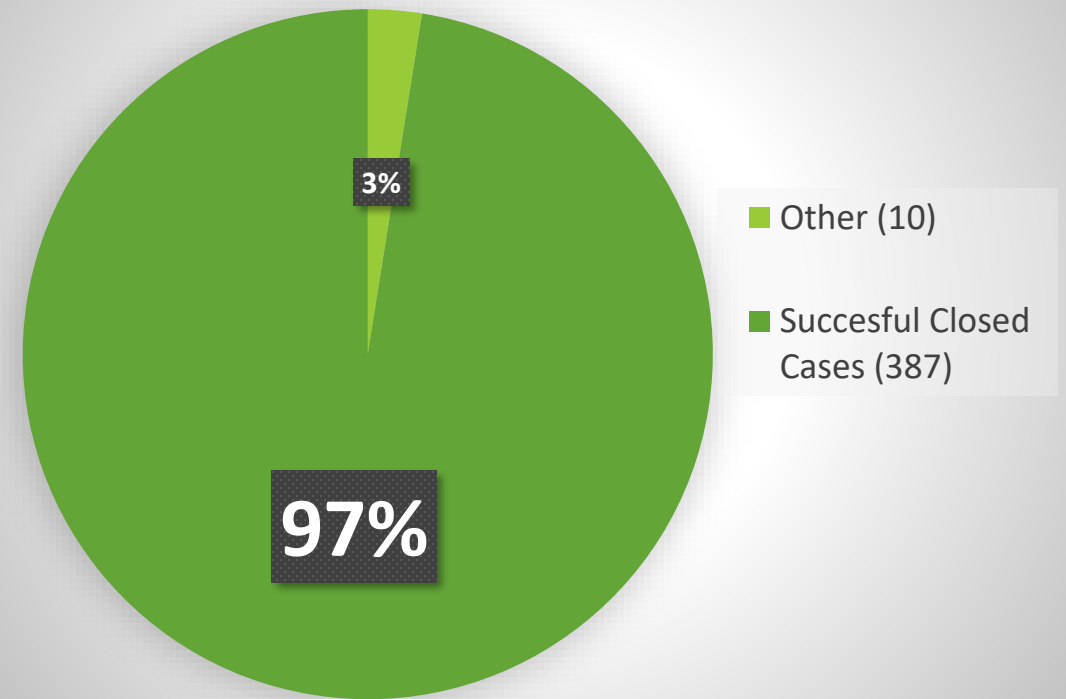
- All CPS Service Components
 - Emergency Response, Informal Supervision, Court Services, Permanency, Extended Foster Care, Adoptions
- Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Supports
- Safe Sleep Baby 2.0 Joint Response
- Embracing Equity – Early Intervention Family Treatment Court
- Building Circle of Supports
- Community Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting
- Bringing Families Home – Housing Support
- Fathers 2 Fathers Support Group

Outcome Data

- **552** Families referred to Cultural Broker Program.
- **155** Families still open to the Department (71 are still open to Cultural Brokers).
- **72%** or **397** of **552** Families are now closed to Child Welfare.

97% FAMILIES *OF CLOSED CASES TO CHILD WELFARE* EITHER REUNIFIED, ACHIEVED PERAMENCE, OR HAD THE INVESTIGATION CLOSED.

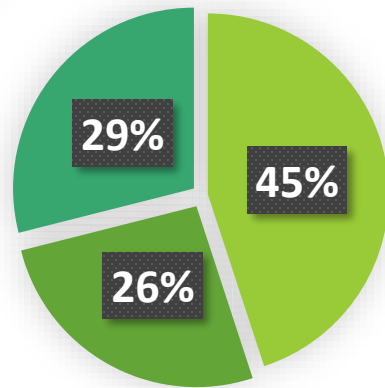
Cultural Broker Closed Case Status



Outcome Data



Successful Closure (n=387) Breakdown



- Reunified (n= 174)
- ER Referral Closed (n= 101)
- Permanency/EFC Youth (n= 112)

➤ **26% (101)** Families had their ER referral closed without court intervention.

➤ **45% (174)** Families reunified

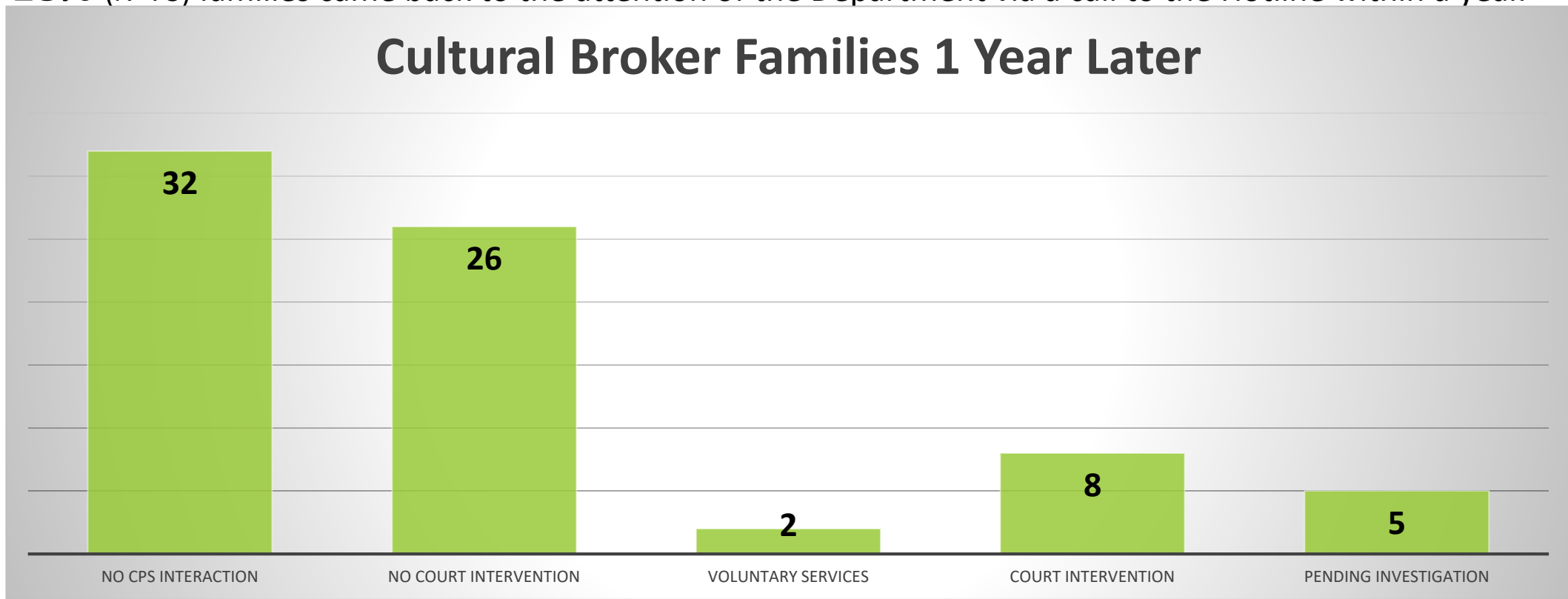
➤ **29% (112)** children/youth achieved permanency.

And..... 1 year Later....



18% (N=73) families came back to the attention of the Department via a call to the Hotline within a year.

Cultural Broker Families 1 Year Later



Cultural Brokers in Action

- ❖ Engagement
- ❖ Safety & Risk
- ❖ Court
- ❖ Course Correcting/Re-engage
- ❖ Closure/Connections



Cultural Brokers and Families in Action



Cultural Broker LaDonna Lee and Executive Director Cora Hardy with Cultural Broker Family
Pictured in National Children's Bureau Summer 2020

Cultural Brokers Action by the Numbers

- 1000 children and youth served
- **Attended** 1000 initial and ongoing court hearings
- **Provided advocacy at** 300 Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings
- **Participated in** 450 Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings
- **Participated in over** 200 teamings to identify resources

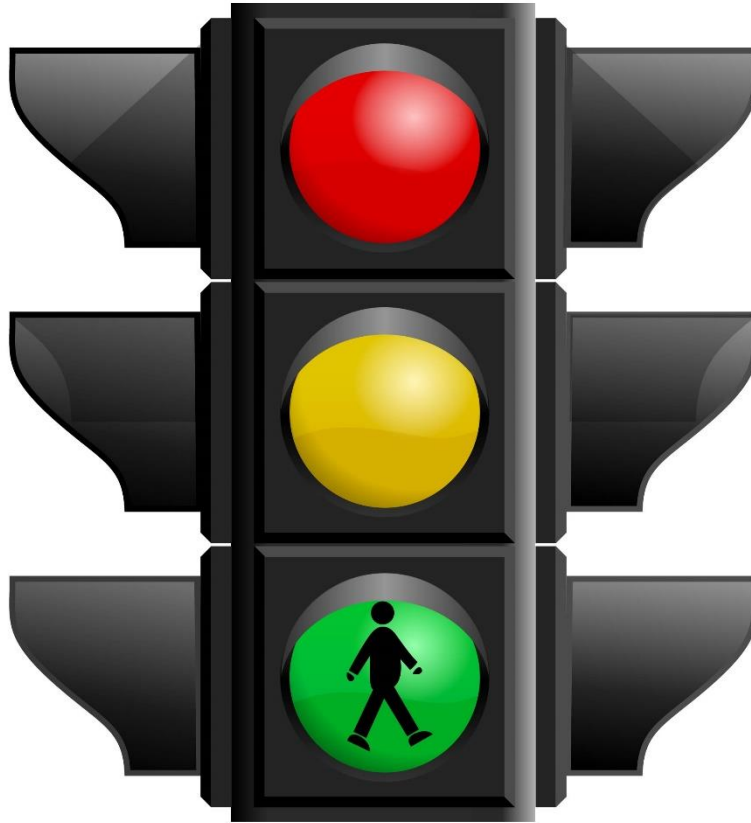
What Questions Do You Have?



The Holiday Ham



The Traffic Light





Kim Pearson, Division Manager

pearskb@saccounty.gov

916-875-1299

Tiffany Glass, Program Planner

glassti@saccounty.gov

916-874-8604