

San Luis Obispo County is committed to the mission of permanency, and recognizes that every youth in foster care will establish permanent and caring relationships with the supportive adults in their lives. The goal of permanency is that no youth will leave the foster care system without a committed relationship to at least one adult..

“It is important to know that there is someone I can count on who wouldn’t turn their back on me.”
-Foster Youth

“Former foster youth repeatedly state that a life long connection and a relationship with a supportive and committed adult, related by blood or not, is one of the key factors associated with their resilience and the single greatest impact on their ability to navigate the transition to adulthood”

-(CPYP, 2005)



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Independent
Living Program

Permanency Making Connections for Youth

Permanency means finding a permanent connection with at least one committed adult who provides:

- A safe, stable and secure parenting relationship
- Love
- Unconditional commitment
- Lifelong support in the context of reunification, a legal adoption, or guardianship, where possible.

-California Permanency for Youth Project

Five-Step Model

What is a Permanency Case Manager?

A Permanency Case Manager's (PCM) role is to search for, engage and sustain permanent relationships for the youth on their caseloads.

There are five steps to family search and engagement utilized by the Permanency Case Managers. This five-step model is designed to locate, engage, connect and support relationships between youth and their connections.

Step One: Setting the Stage

- Prepare the youth for participating in the permanency journey.
- Gather all professional and agency staff to discuss permanency including goals, safety and need for family/significant connections (building a team).
- Discuss responsibilities and expectations of each team member.

Step Two: Discovery

- Conversations with the youth about who is important to them.
- Case Mining.
- Searching.

Step Three: Engagement

- Review and evaluate found potential adults.
- Team will assess what kind of relationship the youth and adult are willing to have with each other.
- The team supports family connections, visits and activities.

Step Four: Planning

Preparing the youth and the family members for a future visit is vital to the outcome and success of the relationship between the youth and significant adult.

- Discuss expectations (fantasy vs. reality) with the youth and prepare them for the visit. This is a continual conversation and does not take place at one contact.
- Discuss the expectations of the visit with the family members/significant adults.
- The team of professionals need to be clear on their expectations and parameters of the visit including contingency plans.
- Initial visits should be brief, supervised and include activities that lend to making memories.
- After the initial visit, youth will have the opportunity to process their feelings with a supportive adult (i.e. therapist).
- Planning is an on-going process that will take place before every visit.

Step Five: Decision Making

The primary goal of step five is to support the family in making decisions about their future commitment to the youth.

- All legal options can be explored and discussed with the team and family/significant adults.

- The family/significant adults and youth will be able to sustain and strengthen their relationships with minimal assistance from agencies.

The Five-Step Model is the product of a collaborative process among agencies, professionals, family members/significant adults and youth.

Permanency Team Meetings (PTM)

PTMs are designed for youth ages 10-15 years with the goal of identifying and establishing permanent connections and to ensure that the continuity of family relationships are preserved.

PTMs address four key components:

- To address the reality of non-reunification.
- To focus on all potential adoption/guardianship options.
- To explore issues of education, family relationships, health and well-being, extra-curricular activities, hobbies, etc.
- To establish permanent connections and resources for children/youth in Permanency status.

At each and every PTM, all reasonable efforts will be made to finalize a permanent plan for the youth.