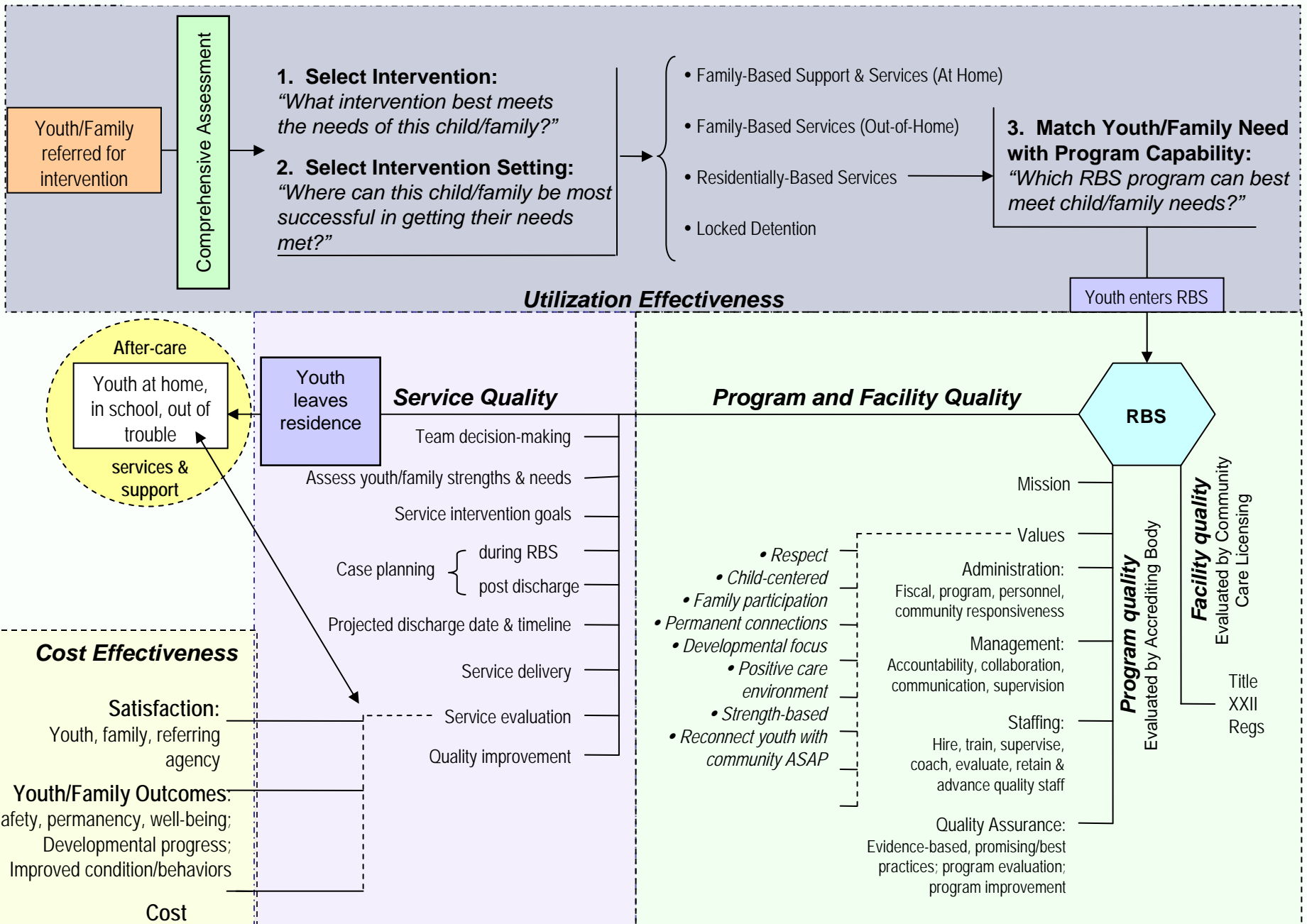


# Residentially-Based Services Reform

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Reconnecting, Children, Families and  
Communities

# Emerging Model for Desired System of Residentially-Based Services (RBS)



# The RBS Reform Framework

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## A Quick Overview

California RBS Reform Symposium  
Sacramento, CA  
December 3, 2007

# A Blueprint - Not a Prescription

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- ❑ Changing the nature of care by changing the context for care
  - ❑ Building on what we've learned
  - ❑ While recognizing that we got a lot more to learn
  - ❑ A shift from an infectious disease model
  - ❑ To supporting recovery by increasing youth and family connection and resiliency
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# Six Elements

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Matching

Planning

Serving

Involving

Reinforcing

Insuring

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# Matching

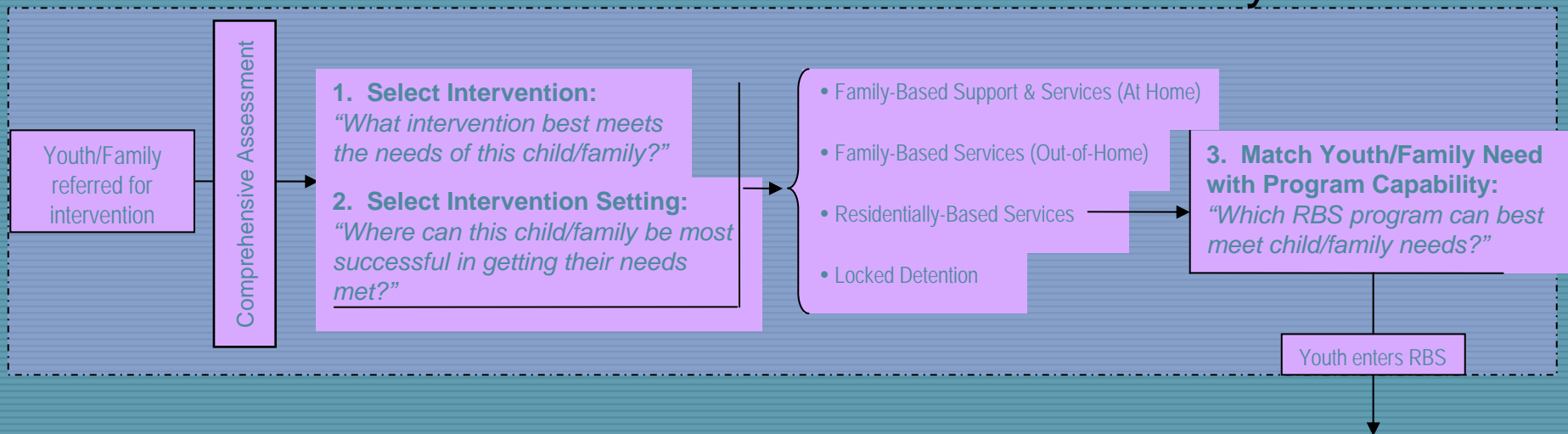
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- ❑ Providing the right help to the right people at the right time and in the right place
  - ❑ Objective screening and assessment for all children at risk of placement
  - ❑ Structured and informed decision-making
-

# Multiple Decisions

What kind of interventions to use

How those interventions fit in the big picture for the child and family



Which interventions to use?

# Planning

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- Seeing RBS as an element of a larger plan:
    - Where are we headed?
    - How will we get there?
    - How will RBS help us make progress?
    - What else are we doing?
    - How will we know if we are on the right track?
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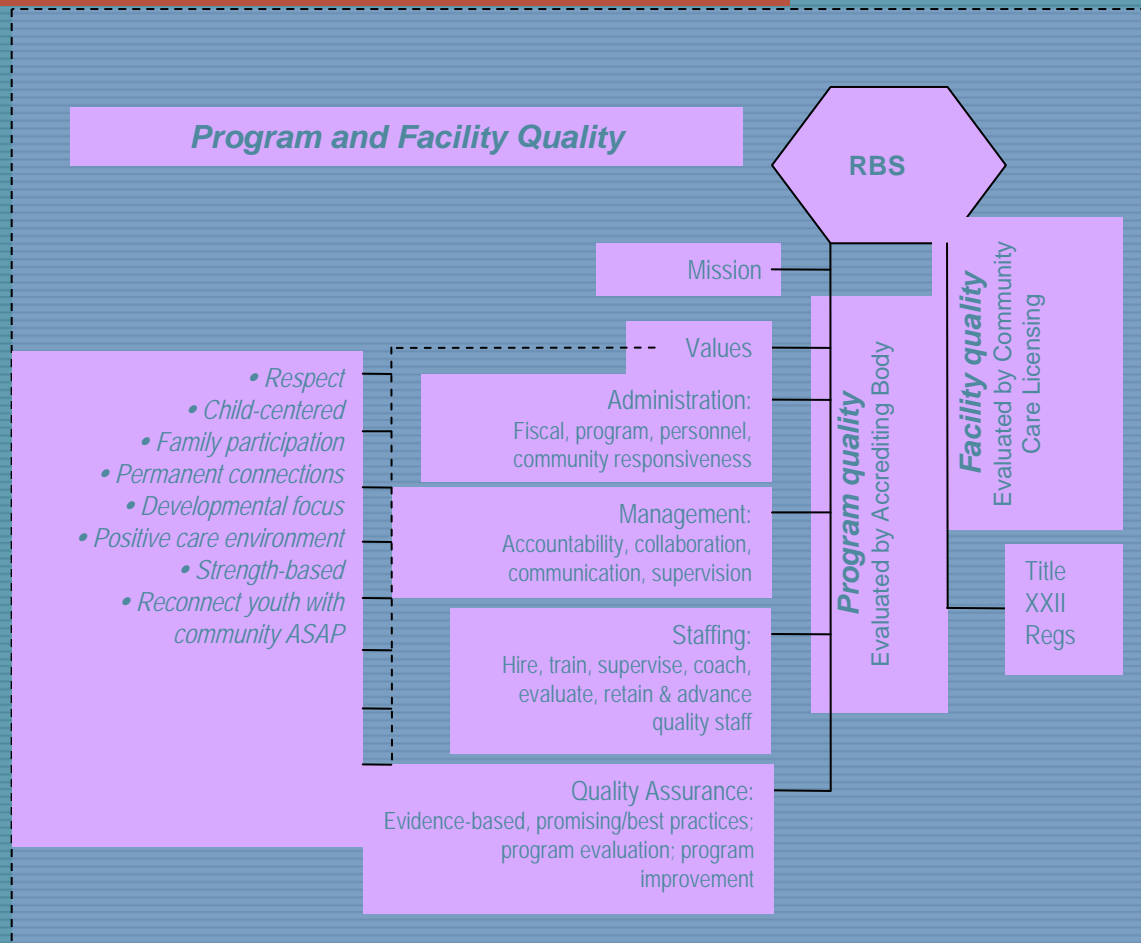


# Serving

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- ❑ Unfolding and emphasizing the therapeutic interventions within RBS
  - ❑ Changing from a place where children are raised ...
  - ❑ To a place where individually targeted help happens quickly and intensively
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# An Updated Vision



Nature of the **place**

Nature of the **purpose**

Nature of the **program**

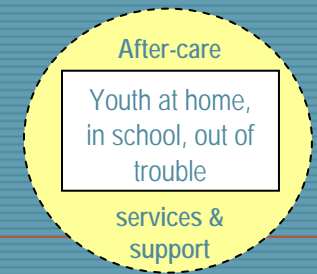
# Involving

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- ❑ Parallel services to build a bridge for reconnection:
  - ❑ Families are involved in what happens in the facility
  - ❑ Facility staff are involved in what happens in the home, school and community
  - ❑ Establishing a sustainable community connection for every child
-

# Reinforcing

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- ❑ Leaving an RBS facility is the beginning, not the conclusion of healing
  - ❑ Aftercare and follow-up services support both the initial transition –
  - ❑ And the bump that frequently comes a little further down the road
  - ❑ Many facility-acquired skills have to be relearned in the community
-

# Insuring

- RBS is a package deal requiring:
  - Input
  - Infrastructure
  - Instruction
  - Implementation
  - Improvement

## **Cost Effectiveness**

### Satisfaction:

Youth, family, referring agency

### Youth/Family Outcomes:

Safety, permanency, well-being;  
Developmental progress;  
Improved condition/behaviors

Cost

## **Service Quality**

Team decision-making —

Assess youth/family strengths & needs —

Service intervention goals —

Case planning { during RBS —  
post discharge —

Projected discharge date & timeline —

Service delivery —

Service evaluation —

Quality improvement —

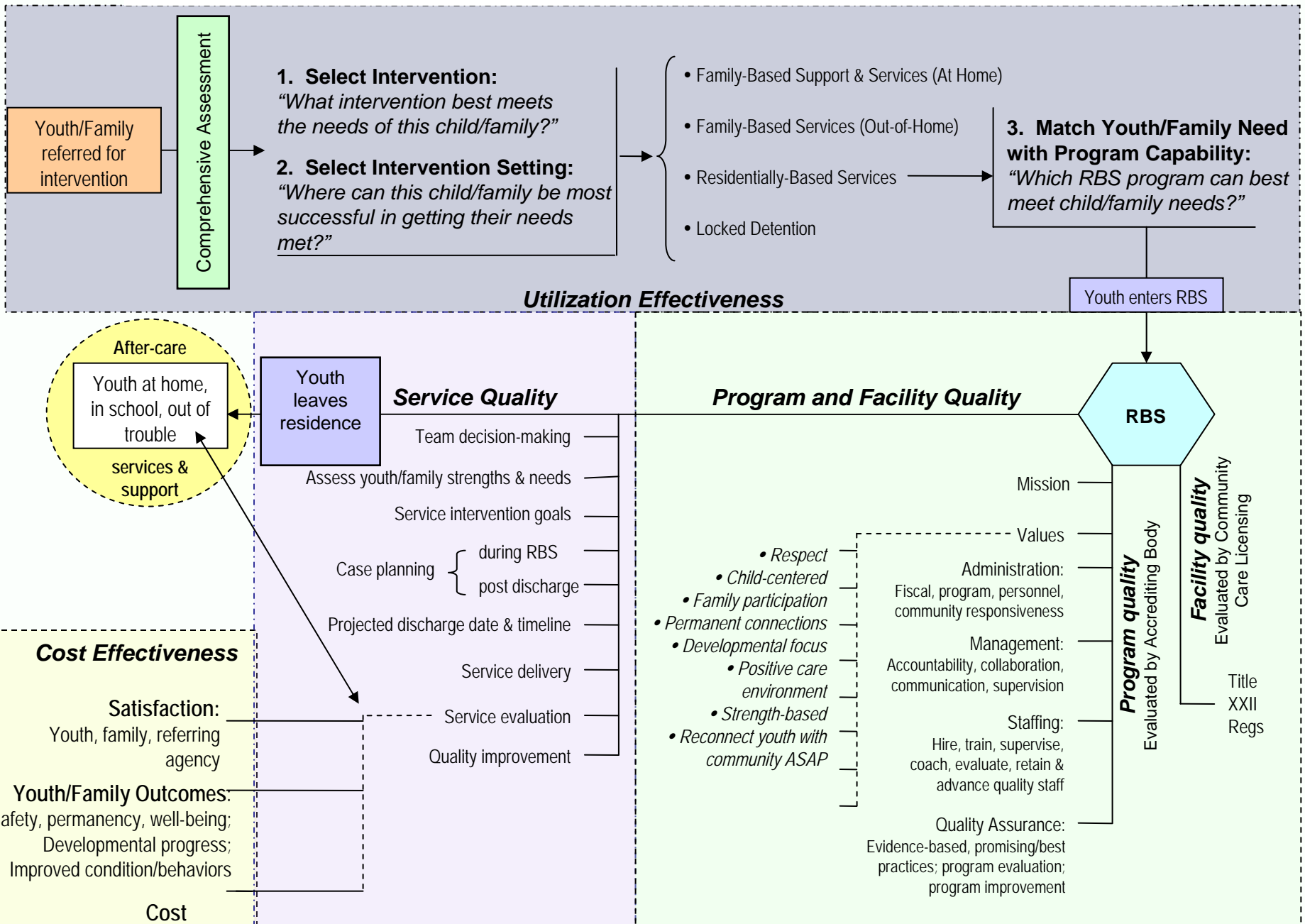
# Artifacts of RBS

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- ❑ A committed and empowered change team
- ❑ MOUs and contracts
- ❑ Assessment tools
- ❑ Funding arrangements
- ❑ Documentation systems
- ❑ Feedback loops



# Emerging Model for Desired System of Residentially-Based Services (RBS)



# AB 1453 (Soto)

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## Overview

California RBS Reform Symposium  
Sacramento, CA  
December 3, 2007



# Legislative Findings

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- ❑ General dissatisfaction with how group homes now used in foster care system.
  - ❑ Current role and outcomes for group homes not well-defined.
  - ❑ Laws and regulations have not changed to match evolving expectations of foster care system, such as permanency.
  - ❑ Group homes not authorized or funded to deliver services to prepare and support families in providing a permanent home.
-

# Statewide Implementation Plan

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- ❑ CDSS must convene workgroup to develop operational plan to transform current group home system into system of Residentially-Based Services (RBS).
  - ❑ Plan due to Legislature by January 1, 2011.
  - ❑ Plan must be based on RBS Framework document.
  - ❑ Plan must use experience of RBS models which will be tested by counties.
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# Residentially-Based Services Defined

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- ❑ RBS means behavioral or therapeutic interventions delivered in non-detention group care settings.
  - ❑ RBS are most effectively used as intensive short-term interventions when a family setting would not ensure the safety of the child or would prevent the effective delivery of needed services.
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# RBS Components

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- **Environmental interventions:** safe, stable, and structured living environment
  - **Intensive treatment interventions:** to mitigate conditions that led to child's placement in group care
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# RBS Components - 2

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- **Parallel pre-discharge community-based interventions:** to identify and prepare a family for the return of the child
  - **Follow-up post-discharge support and services:** to assist the child and family after discharge from group care
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# Alternative Program and Funding Models

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- Counties and private nonprofit agencies are encouraged to enter into **voluntary agreements to test alternative program and funding models** for transforming existing group home programs into RBS programs.
  - Knowledge gained by testing these models will be used in developing the **operational plan for statewide implementation**
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# Alternative Program and Funding Models - 2

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- Initially, up to **four counties** (or consortia of counties) may participate, including the two Title IV-E Waiver counties (Los Angeles and Alameda), at their option.
  - Participating counties will be selected by CDSS based on **letters of intent**.
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# County-Provider Agreements

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- ❑ Must be **approved by CDSS**
  - ❑ Must incorporate **all of the components** of the RBS concept in Framework document
  - ❑ Must reflect **collaboration** among provider and local public agencies (CWS, Probation, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drugs, Schools) for delivery of needed services to children and families
-



## County-Provider Agreements - 2

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- ❑ Must provide for **annual evaluation** report, including outcomes and costs
  - ❑ Must provide for **amendments** based on evaluation and experience
  - ❑ Must be **consistent** with county's **System Improvement Plan**
  - ❑ May not exceed **five years**
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# Waivers for Testing RBS Models

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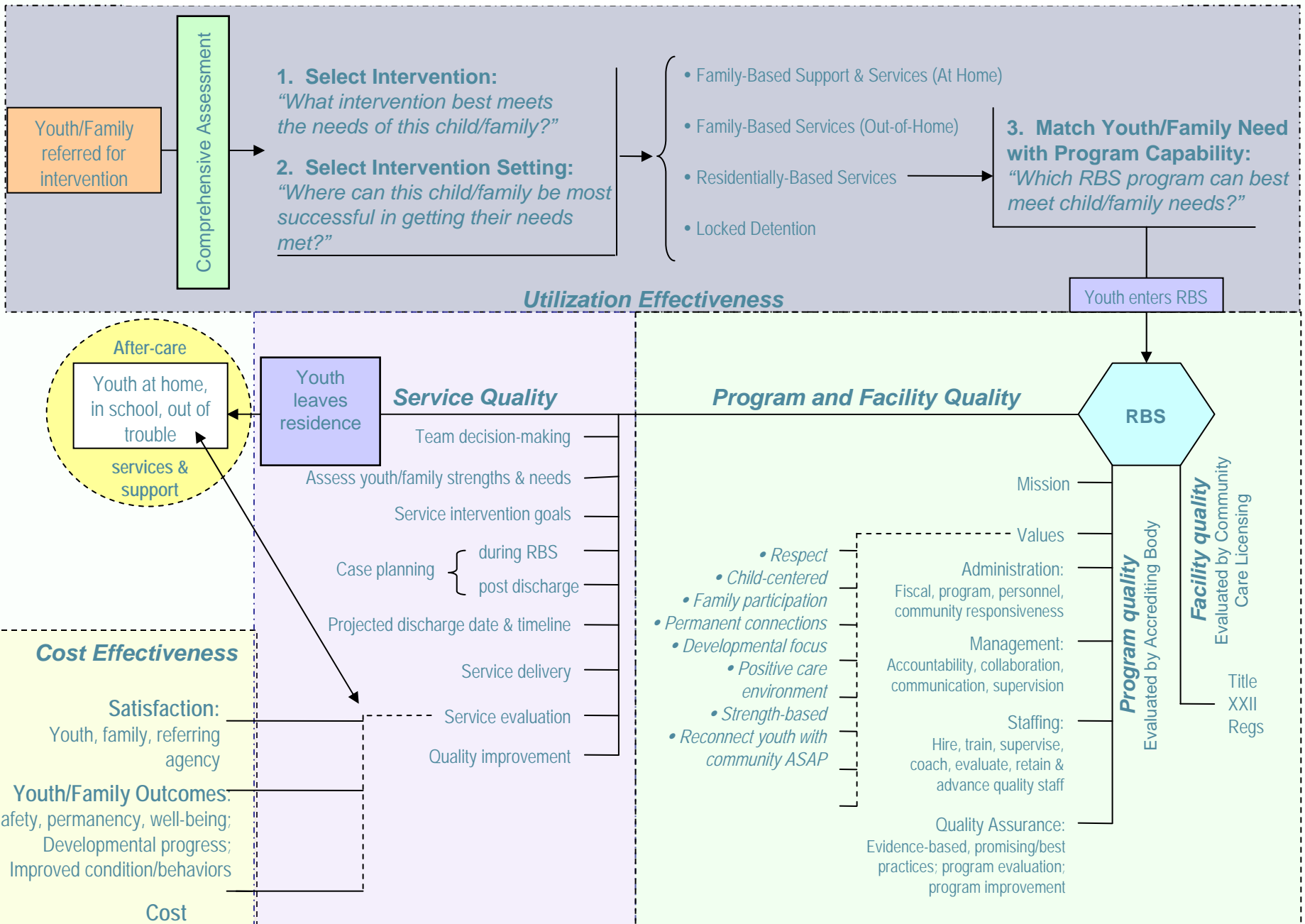
- Counties may request CDSS **waive CWS regulations** to enhance development of case plans and delivery of services by RBS programs.
  - Counties may request CDSS to **approve alternative funding models** for RBS programs, in lieu of the current AFDC-FC RCL system.
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# Cost Neutrality for Waivers

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- Waivers must **not increase State General Funds costs** for AFDC-FC payments, measured on annual basis.
  - **Additional costs** for higher levels of care, new support services to families, and aftercare for children to be **offset** by savings from reduced lengths of stay, and reduction of entries and reentries into foster care.
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# Emerging Model for Desired System of Residentially-Based Services (RBS)



# County Selection Process

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## RBS Reform Initiative



# The Opportunity

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- ❑ To be earliest counties to design and implement alternative models for RBS
- ❑ 4 slots available for “early implementers”
  - Waiver counties (LA, Alameda) given preference
- ❑ Single county or “consortium” may apply
- ❑ More counties may participate in later phases during 5-year AB 1453 period

Consortium = small group of counties sharing common characteristics and willing to test similar reform models

# Expectations for Selected Counties

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- ❑ Commit to participation through 2012
  - ❑ Agree to terms of Memorandum of Understanding to be developed by RBS Reform Coalition (MOU renewed annually)
  - ❑ Send representative to RBS Reform Coalition Leadership Team meetings in Sacramento
  - ❑ Participate in evaluation of RBS Reform effort
  - ❑ Utilize technical assistance opportunities
  - ❑ Become part of a learning community
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# Benefits of Participation

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- ❑ Regulatory and funding flexibility to implement RBS reforms upon plan approval
  - ❑ Casey allocation to help support a full-time coordinator of reform effort (1 coordinator per county or consortium)
  - ❑ Technical assistance from RBS reform consultant team
  - ❑ Evaluation support from contracted evaluator (Harder + Co. Community Research)
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# Benefits of Participation

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# Selection Process

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- ❑ Interested county or consortium submits Letter of Intent to CDSS
  - ❑ Use guidelines to describe interest, motivation, capacity & approach to RBS reform
  - ❑ CDSS and review team from RBS Reform Coalition select counties based on following criteria...
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# Timeline for Selection Process

<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Milestone</i>
<b><i>Dec 3, 2007</i></b>	<b><i>Draft Selection Process Reviewed at RBS Symposium</i></b>
<b><i>Jan 15, 2008</i></b>	<b><i>County/Consortium Letters of Intent Due</i></b>
<b><i>Apr 4, 2008</i></b>	<b><i>CDSS Announces County Selection Results</i></b>
<b><i>Apr – Jun 2008</i></b>	<b><i>Selected Counties Develop RBS Reform Plans</i></b>
<b><i>Jun 27, 2008</i></b>	<b><i>Selected Counties Submit RBS Reform Plans to CDSS for Review</i></b>
<b><i>Jul – Sep, 2008</i></b>	<b><i>CDSS Authorizes Regulatory &amp; Fiscal Waivers Needed for Approved RBS Reform Plans and Authorizes Necessary Agreements</i></b>
<b><i>July 2008 – Jan 1, 2009</i></b>	<b><i>RBS Reforms Implemented in Selected Counties</i></b>

# Selection Criteria



1. Priority of reform effort
2. Leadership involvement
3. Consumer & stakeholder involvement
4. Outcomes selected
5. Program & fiscal design concept 
6. Opportunities for system change
7. Change in role of RBS in system of care
8. Consortium design
9. Other relevant facts
10. Letters of support

See Guidelines for RBS  
Reform Letter of Intent

# Program and Fiscal Design

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- a. Target population
- b. Proposed screening & assessment system
- c. Proposed service delivery system
- d. Organizational change efforts
- e. Collaboration
- f. Provider capacity
- g. Innovations in funding

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See Guidelines for RBS  
Reform Letter of Intent

# Questions?

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