



TRIBAL ENGAGEMENTS: THE SDM[®] SYSTEM AND CHILD WELFARE DECISION MAKING

The Structured Decision Making[®] (SDM) system is a suite of research- and evidence-based assessment tools used by social workers to help guide decision making at key points in the child welfare system. Implementing these tools effectively requires bringing diverse voices to the table to ensure that accurate, consistent, and equitable decisions are being made for all families in California.

Toward this goal, Evident Change and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) have been hosting a series of activities to deepen tribal engagement in the overall implementation of the SDM[®] system in California.

Please help us circulate this communication widely to tribal representatives who may be interested in joining these conversations! Ongoing SDM communications and training materials for California tribal partners can be found on the materials site: <https://docs.evidentchange.org/CATribalPartners/>.

- **Workgroup Series:** In December 2020, a series of workgroups with California tribal representatives began to develop a series of recommendations for statewide efforts to strengthen current child welfare assessment practice, SDM implementation, and shared decision making between county representatives and tribes. Interested participants are encouraged to request registration information for future events, or to respond to the survey linked below.
- **SDM Training and Technical Assistance for Tribes:** A series of SDM trainings are being offered specifically for tribal child welfare representatives. Past trainings on the SDM safety assessment and safety planning can be found on the [California Tribal Partners material site](#). Please also feel free to contact CDSS or Evident Change directly with specific requests for SDM support.
- **Ongoing SDM Communication Survey:** You can let us know your preferred level of involvement in ongoing communication about statewide SDM activities such as the California SDM Core Team through [this quick survey](#).

You can reach out to Claire Crowley at ccrowley@evidentchange.org with any questions.