California
Child and Family Services Review
2012 County Self-Assessment

Santa Barbara County

March 2012

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California's Child and Family Services Review County Self-Assessment Cover Sheet	
County:	Santa Barbara County
Responsible County Child Welfare Agency:	Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services
Period of Assessment:	September 2009 - February 2012.
Period of Outcome Data:	July 2010 – September 2011
Date Submitted:	February 24, 2012
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County Self-Assessment Cover Sheet (continued)

Submitted by each agency for the children under its care	
Submitted by:	**County Child Welfare Agency Director (Lead Agency)**
Name:	Kathy Gallagher
Signature:	
Submitted by:	**County Chief Probation Officer**
Name:	Beverly Taylor
Signature:	

In Collaboration with: County & Community Partners	Name(s)	Signature
Board of Supervisors Designated Public Agency to Administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Funds	Kathy Gallagher	
County Child Abuse Prevention Council	Barbara Finch	
Parent Representative	Rosy Garcia	

As Applicable[1]	Name(s)
California Youth Connection	N/A
County Adoption Agency (or CDSS Adoptions District Office)	Deborah Hartman – Adoptions Manager
Local Tribes	N/A
Local Education Agency	N/A

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Approval	
BOS Approval Date:	
Name:	
Signature:	

☒ Name and affiliation of additional participants are on a separate page with an indication as to which participants are representing the required core representatives.

[1] **As applicable**, provide the name of a representative from each of these entities as pertinent to relevant outcomes (the adoption composite would include a representative that was engaged in that portion of the CSA, likewise, IEP measure (5A), IWCA (4E), etc. No signature is required.

Introduction

Assembly Bill 636 (Steinberg, 2004) established a new Child Welfare Outcome and Accountability System replacing the former Child Welfare Services (CWS) Oversight System which had focused exclusively on regulatory compliance. Pursuant to AB 636, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) developed the California – Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR). The C-CFSR brings California into alignment with the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) by establishing a new review system designed to promote improved Child Welfare Services (CWS) outcomes for children and families in each county in California. The vision created by the C-CFSR is that every child in California would live in a safe, stable, permanent home nurtured by healthy families and strong communities. Thus, "the purpose of the C-CFSR system is to significantly strengthen the accountability system used in California to monitor and assess the quality of services provided on behalf of maltreated children" (All County Information Notice 1-50-06).

The basis of the C-CFSR improvement and accountability system lies in a philosophy of continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, and community involvement with an overall focus on improving outcomes for children and families. The Outcomes and Accountability System is a four part system of continuous quality improvement incorporating a Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR), County Self-Assessment (CSA), System Improvement Plan (SIP), and Quarterly Data Reports reflecting the County performance on Federal and State Measures. The CDSS, in conjunction with the University of California at Berkeley (UCB), developed Outcome Measures that indicate how each county Child Welfare system in California is performing. Santa Barbara County conducted the PQCR in January 2012 in partnership with Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties. The focus area for the CWS/Probation PQCR was Timely Reunification and the information obtained will be used to further inform this self-assessment. The CSA is a macro analysis of how local programs, systems and factors impact performance on the Federal and State Outcome Measures in three major areas: Safety, Permanency, Well-being. The information and subsequent analysis included in the CSA form the basis for developing a System Improvement Plan. The following report is the fourth Santa Barbara County CWS and Probation County Self Assessment.

The initial self-assessment was developed in June of 2004, the second CSA was completed in October 2006, and the third in May 2009. Therefore, the following report covers information over approximately a three year period, incorporates information from the recent PQCR, and is in the format prescribed by CDSS.

The C-CFSR designates the County Probation Department as an equal partner with CWS and our County Probation partners were participants in the self-assessment process, as well as actively involved in many of the collaboratives that support improved outcomes for children in Santa Barbara County. Probation outcome measure data is acquired through the State CWS/CMS system. Since October 2011, Probation data has been entered on a consistent basis. Thus, Probation data is somewhat limited; which is why the majority of the data references in the Self-Assessment are focused primarily on CWS performance, unless otherwise indicated. The area of greatest relevance to both agencies is in improving outcomes for youth while in foster care or when emancipating from the foster care system.

Santa Barbara County CWS conducted its Self-Assessment from September 2011-February 2012. The reports provided by CDSS combined with Safe Measures reports and internal data analysis sources provided sufficient data to inform the Self-Assessment process. As in the previous Self-Assessments, Santa Barbara County focused on obtaining extensive input from our many public and private partners, believing that their knowledge of and experience with CWS and Probation were critical in identifying the strengths, needs, and gaps in our service delivery system. The process focused on soliciting feedback from several existing groups who are integrally involved in promoting the safety and well-being of children and families such as KIDS Network, the Child Abuse Prevention Council; CWS Team meeting targeting all CWS supervisors/managers. Information obtained from these groups will be referred to as *Focus Group Feedback*. The process for obtaining focus group input was fairly standardized throughout the self-assessment. The groups were provided with information regarding the Outcomes and Accountability System and the associated components. Information was shared regarding County CWS performance on the AB636 Outcome Measures; and the progress made on the current System Improvement Plan (SIP). In addition, participants were educated to viewing data with an informed eye with consideration given to economies of scale, interaction and

contradiction of the measures, and individual measure considerations. Participants were then asked to consider the data and utilizing their expertise to help define the strengths or our community and service delivery systems in providing for the safety, permanence, and well-being of children and families, as well as what might be needed to improve those outcomes. Participants, in most focus groups, were divided into small groups to discuss the areas of safety, permanence, and wellbeing for children and families. Participants were then provided an opportunity to review and prioritize the top strengths and needs identified by each of the groups.

Additionally, an electronic survey was conducted via email using the Survey Monkey program for the purpose of acquiring additional feedback from the CSA participants and other key stakeholders such as the Juvenile Court "Brown Bag".

In total, more than 150 people representing the public, private, and consumer sectors participated in the process, which was used to inform this Self-Assessment. Santa Barbara County CWS and Probation extends our deep appreciation to the many people and agencies that devoted considerable time and effort to this process.

CSA PARTICIPANTS

NAME	AGENCY
Alvarez, Leticia	SB County Department of Social Services
Amador, Valerie	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Baker, Sherrie	Pathway Family Services
Beckstrand, Maggi	Community Member
Beedles, Bonnie	SBCEO Center for Community Education
Bownan, Caryl	Community Member
Boysen, Jack	Good Samaritan Shelter
Campos, Nicole	Easy Lift Transportation
Casberg, Sylvia	Commission 4 Women
Castro, Angel	Families United Searching for Hope
Chavarria, Lorena	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Chui, Pauline	Family Advocacy VAFB & Child Abuse Prevention Council
Coleman, Shawna	SB County Probation Department

CSA PARTICIPANTS

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Davis, Louise	SB County Public Health Department Prenatal Services
De Franco, Julie	SB County Child Welfare Services
Dearth, Walker	Community Action Commission – Head Start
Diaz, Stephanie	SB County Department of Social Services
Dominguez, Karin	SM-Bonita School District
Donati, Chris	SB County Department of Social Services
Drake, Devin	SB County Department of Social Services
Esparza, Monica	SB County Education Office
Espinoza, Marisela	Community Action Commission
Farro, Christine	SB County Department of Social Services
Flores, Donna	Good Samaritan Shelter
Garcia, Arthur, Hon.	SB County Superior Court
Garcia, Rosy	Parent
Garrison, Lisa	SB County Department of Social Services
Gonzalez, Myra	SB County Child Welfare Services
Haro, Laurie	SB County Department of Social Services
Hartman, Deborah	SB County Department of Social Services & KIDS Network
Hayden, Jenna	SB Foster Parent
Hoesterey, Melissa	SB County Department of Social Services
Hubner, Carol	Legal Community
Ibarra, Gilbert	SB County Probation Department
Jenna, Pat	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

CSA PARTICIPANTS

NAME	AGENCY
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Karlson, Lynn	YMCA – Santa Barbara
Kelly, Francene	Legal Community
Krueger, Amy	SB County Department of Social Services
Landeros, Coco	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Lorien, Toni	SB Deputy County Counsel
Mann, Julie	SB County Department of Social Services
Martinez, Sheila	SB County Department of Social Services
McCarty, Ann	North County Rape Crisis Center & Child Abuse Prevention Council
McElhinney, Sarah	SB Deputy County Counsel
Medina, Heather	SB County Department of Social Services
Melendez, Nora	Community Action Commission
Mills, Jennifer	Angels Foster Care of SB
Mulder, Sharol	Foster Parent Association
Murphy, Lorraine	SB County Department of Social Services
Nantze, Madeleine	Legal Community
Navarro, Cynthia	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Neira, Delfino	SB County Department of Social Services
Osterhage, Judy	SBCC Foster & Kinship Care Education
Ostrin, Robert	Legal Community
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Passaro, Brian	SB County Human Services Commission (C-CTF Commission)
Perkins, Barbara	American Charities Foundation
Pires, Pat	Community Member
Pollon, Joe	Allan Hancock College
Ponce, Carlos	SB County Department of Social Services

CSA PARTICIPANTS

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Reynolds, Derek	SB County Probation Department
Robles, Rosario	Parent
Rumelt, Ellie	CALM & KIDS Network
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Solorio, Patricia	Future Leaders of America
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Taylor-Linzey, Elizabeth	Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital & KIDS Network
Tower, Jason	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
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Valle-Rico, Rosa	SB County Education Office
Vazquez, Magaly	SB County Education Office Transitional Youth Services
Walch, Linda	SB County Department of Social Services
Weaver, Edwin	SB County Child Welfare Services
Wheatley, Pat	First 5 Santa Barbara & KIDS Network Member
Wolf, Janet	SB County 2nd District Supervisor & KIDS Network Chair
Zabaleta, Tekki	SB County Education Office
Zacarias, Gabriel	Families United Searching for Hope
Zacarias, Sophia	Families United Searching for Hope
Zulliger, Katharina	Liaison for CAPIT, CBCAP, PSSF; Kids Network Coordinator; PSSF Collaborative

Demographic Profile

Demographics of the General Population
http://www.countyofsb.org/

Santa Barbara County sits approximately 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles and approximately 300 miles south of San Francisco. The two neighboring counties are San Luis Obispo to the north and Ventura County to the south. The county has four distinct areas: Santa Barbara Coast, Santa Ynez Valley, Santa Maria Valley and Lompoc Valley.

Santa Barbara Coast: Located in the southern portion of the County, this area is bordered on the south by the Pacific Ocean and on the north by the Santa Ynez Mountain range, one of the few mountain systems in North America that run east-west rather than north-south. Because of the unique north and south borders, and its year round mild 'Mediterranean' climate, Santa Barbara has been described by many as the "American Riviera". This region includes the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria as well as the unincorporated areas of Hope Ranch, Summerland, Mission Canyon, Montecito and Isla Vista.

Santa Ynez Valley: Located in the central portion of the County, nestled between the Santa Ynez and San Rafael mountain ranges, this area includes the communities of

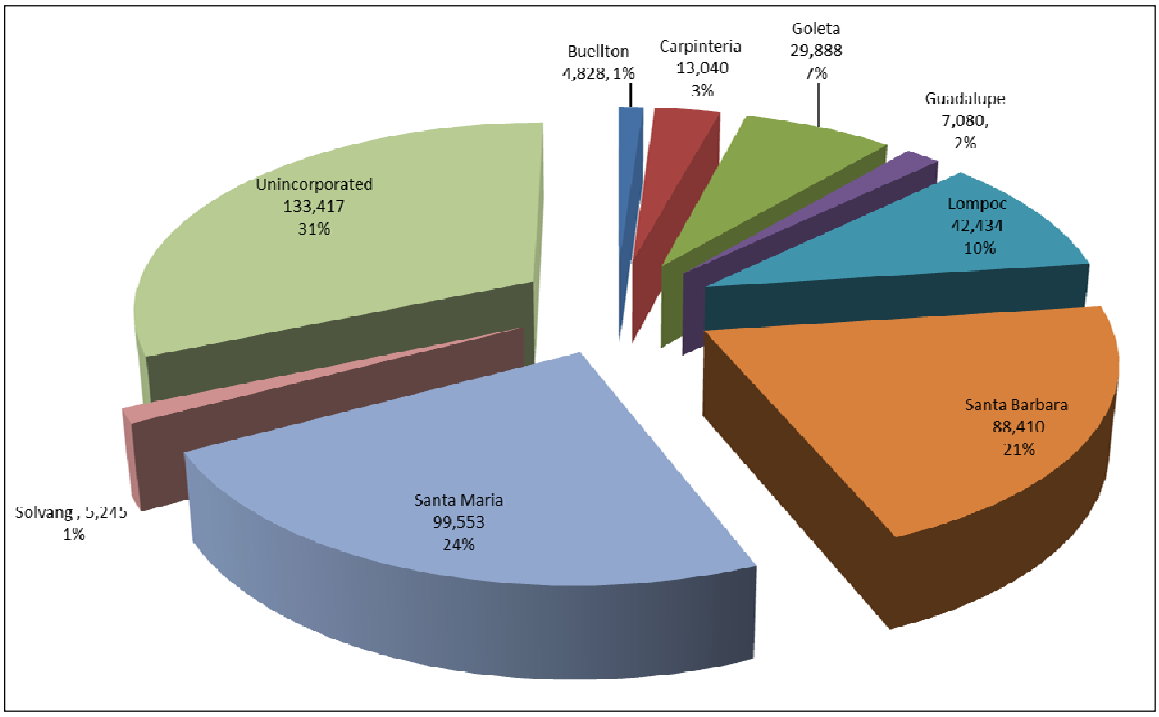
Buellton, Solvang, and Santa Ynez, as well as the Chumash Reservation. Cachuma Lake is also nestled between the mountain ranges, offering recreational activities and a water supply to the County. The Valley's climate has recently attracted many winemakers to the area, adding vast vineyards to the rolling hills that lead to the Los Padres National Forest. This region includes Santa Ynez, Solvang, Buellton and the unincorporated cities of Los Olivos and Ballard.

Santa Maria Valley: Located in the northern portion of the County, this area is bordered by San Luis Obispo County on the north. Much of the new development within the County has taken place here and, as a result, the area has experienced significant change in the past decade. This region includes the cities of Santa Maria, Guadalupe, New Cuyama, Cuyama, Ventucopa and the unincorporated towns of Orcutt, Los Alamos, Casmalia, Garey, and Sisqouc.

Lompoc Valley: Located in the western portion of the County, this area includes Vandenberg Air Force Base, which is a major contributor to the economy. Lompoc Valley offers small community living, a link to agriculture, and the economic engine of the nation's primary polar-orbit launch facility. This region includes the city of Lompoc, Vandenberg Village, Vandenberg Air Force Base Mission Hills.

Santa Barbara County is comprised primarily of several different ethnicities. In the Santa Maria Valley you will find a large Hispanic population. The majority of the families that live in this area are primary Spanish speaking but there is a large group of indigenous farm workers from the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca who only speak Mixteco. In addition, Santa Barbara County has one active Indian tribe, which is located in the Santa Ynez Valley, the Chumash. The following chart provides a glance of population in Santa Barbara County.

2010 Census Population Totals and Percent



423,895 Total

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments July 20, 2011 3

http://www.countyofsb.org/

Together these areas contribute to the unique profile of the County, blending the characteristics of each area into one world-class county. Santa Barbara County is known as a popular tourist destination, which plays an important part of the County's economy, affecting the lodging industry, eating and drinking establishments, recreation revenue, and retail sales, which account for almost 21, 500 jobs countywide in 2010.

Required Elements	Sources	County	State
County Population	US Census Bureau	423,895	37,253,956
White, Non-Hispanic	http://www.census.gov/	92,002	
Hispanic		181,687	
African American		1,271	
American Indian & Alaska Native		3,642	
Other		145,293	
Active tribes in the County		1	115
Children attending School	California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp	66,048	6,190,425
North County		28,936	
Santa Ynez Valley		3117	
Lompoc Valley		9,878	
South County		24,117	
Children attending special education classes	California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp	6,590	628,927
North County		2265	

Santa Ynez Valley		274	
Lompoc Valley		868	
South County		3183	
Children born to teen parents	Center for Health Statistics http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/chs/pages/default.aspx	209	
Children leaving school prior to graduation	California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp	786	114,916
Children on child care waiting list	Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council http://www.sbceo.org/~ccpc/	16,007	
North County		6632	
Santa Ynez Valley		467	
Lompoc Valley		3423	
South County		5485	
Children in subsidized school lunch program	California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp	36,744	3,465,446
North County		19,395	
Santa Ynez Valley		689	
Lompoc Valley		5,867	
South County		10,632	
Children receiving age appropriate immunizations	http://www.kidsdata.org	4009	
Babies born with low birth weight	Center for Health Statistics http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/chs/pages/default.aspx	329	
Families receiving Public Assistance (CalWORKS)	DSS Case Analysis Department of Social Services/Santa Barbara County	4,508	
North County		2583	
Santa Ynez Valley		65	
Lompoc Valley		884	
South County		976	
Families Living below poverty level	US Census Bureau http://factfinder.2census.gov/	91,573	
Persons under 65 years with no health insurance	US Census Bureau http://factfinder.2census.gov/	76,107	
County unemployment rate	Employment Development Department http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/	9.70%	12.30%

Educational Systems Profile

Demographics of the Children Enrolled in Schools

Santa Barbara County has a total of twenty three (23) school districts. During the 2010 school year there were 66,048 students enrolled and in comparison to the last three years enrollment has remained about the same. Of those students, 6, 590 of them were enrolled in special education classes.

Dropout rate in California is 18%. Nearly 1 of every 5 students in California dropped out before graduation. Dropout rate for Santa Barbara County is currently at about 12.8%, which is important that this is monitored on a regular basis as research indicates children who drop out of high school have a higher likelihood of facing challenges though out their lives. Research further shows that those children are more likely to be involved in criminal activities, abuse of illegal substance, use of alcohol, becoming teen

parents, and be unemployed. The most recent data shows that approximately 786 students dropped out in the last year. Meaning that of those children enrolled in one of 7th through 12th grade, 786 left prior to completing the school year.

Number of Children on Child Care Waiting lists

Childcare in our county continues to be of great importance in supporting the children's development on multiple levels and also increases the likelihood of academic success.

Of the total 76,536 children 0-12 years of age in Santa Barbara County, 35,182 are estimated to need early care and education services because their parents are working, in training or have other reasons for wanting early care and education services. Of the children estimated to need care, 6,854 are infants or toddlers (0-2 years), 12,881 are preschoolers (3-5 years) and 15,448 are school-age (6-12 years). Table 18 shows the number of children by age in each region estimated to need care.

Table 20: Early Care and Education Need vs. Capacity by Region

Region	Inafant-Toddler Need	Infant-Toddler Capacity	Pre-school Need	Pre-school Capacity	School-Age Need	School-Age Capacity	Total Need	Total Capacity
South County	2,382	574	4,589	4,485	6,347	2,774	13,318	7,833
Santa Ynez Valley	269	52	475	515	612	322	1,356	889
Lompoc Valley	1,000	190	1,940	1,243	2,505	589	5,445	2,022
North County	3,203	608	5,877	3,443	5,984	4,380	15,063	8,431
Countywide	6,854	1,424	12,881	9,686	15,448	8,065	35,182	19,175

Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council

http://www.sbceo.org/~ccpc/

Community Health Demographics

Number of children receiving age appropriate Immunizations

As required by the California School Immunization Law, all children must have current, age appropriate, immunizations prior to entering school. The Santa Barbara County Immunization Project's goal is to assure appropriate, on time immunizations for infants, children, adolescents and adults in the county. Outreach and education programs are complemented by population based assessments to measure vaccine coverage. The project acts as a resource to provide accurate and timely immunization information to private and public health care providers, to schools and child care centers, and the general public.

In 2010, five thousand five hundred and twenty five children (almost 93.2%) of all children enrolled in kindergarten, had their required immunizations in Santa Barbara County, which is slightly higher then 2009 (92.7%). The state average for the same year was 90.7%.

Number of Babies Born with Low Birth Weight

Santa Barbara County's rates for low birth weight compared favorably with the states', but still did not meet the goals. While the overall number of infants born at low birth weights is small (372 babies of the 6,039 total births in Santa Barbara County in 2009), these infants are much more likely than babies of normal weight to have health problems and require specialized care in a neonatal intensive care unit, accounting for a significant amount of all funds spent on infant health care. Very low birth weight children are at the highest risk for poor health outcomes, including learning disabilities later in life

Santa Barbara County has numerous high quality health care providers in the private and public sectors, which very few people have access too. Many of the residents do not have access to needed health service and lack the medical insurance, which continues to be a major problem. The cost of health insurance appears to be the major factor, leaving about 1 in every ten residents (12.1 % of all residents) with out insurance. The State average of uninsured is currently at 14.5 %. In Santa Barbara County about 6.0 % of the children ages Newborn to 17 years of age do not have health insurance, which is in correlation with the number of families in this county living below the poverty level.

Number of Children born to Teenage Parents

Teen pregnancy and births are important demographic factors to address, as children born to teenage mothers are more likely to be of a low birth weight and have a higher rate of infant death. Teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of high school and children born to teen mothers have a higher tendency to exhibit behavior problems and chronic medical conditions. According to the data available, Santa Barbara County had 208 children born to teen parents in 2010 alone. 207 of those children were born to teen mothers between the ages of 15-17. Two of those children were born to teen mothers under the age of 15. In California alone 433 children were born to teen mothers under the age of 15 and 13,308 children were born to teen mothers between the ages of 15-17 in 2010.

Poverty and Economic Factors

Unfortunately, Santa Barbara County has been impacted by the recession over the past three years. Overall, a total of 12,200 jobs were lost in the region, since employment peaked in 2007. 200 of these jobs were lost between 2009 and 2010. The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four is $22,050 and in Santa Barbara County these statistics reveal a dramatic increase in poverty rates since 2007. Snapshots of these statistics include;

· 52% growth in individuals living below the FPL

· 63% growth in children living below the FPL

· 73,741 residents living below the FPL

· 20,963 children living below the FPL

The increase in poverty throughout our County is of great concern and contributes greatly to the stressors many families face. A full 18% of Santa Barbara County residents live below the Federal Poverty level as compared to the state average of 15.8%. Two of the primary reasons for the increase in poverty are the lack of jobs and the housing market.

The real estate sector of the County's economy continues to feel the impact of the drop in housing and housing-related economic activities. In comparison, the median home price in California was $302,000 in January 2011, which was a 1.6% decrease compared to January 2010. Statewide home sales were 10% less in 2010 than in 2009. Unfortunately the tax revenue is also negatively impacted resulting in less funding available to community programs, such as public schools.

Therefore, information surrounding the issue of children receiving subsidized school lunches is important when observing the economic factors within a community. The percentage of public school students qualifying for the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program (FRL) 2 in Santa Barbara County increased 14% between 2000 and 2010. Currently there are over 36,744 (55.9%) students in Santa Barbara County on Free and Reduced Lunch. Of those students about 53% reside in the Northern part of the county.

Number of Families receiving Public Assistance (Calworks)

An increase in applications for public assistance has occurred in the last several years. Countywide Non-Assistance CalFresh3 (food stamps) caseloads increased 82% between 2006/2007 and 2011; in 2011, 59% of recipients were children.

Public Assistance

The County administers local, state, and federal programs to assist eligible needy families and individuals in our community through the Department of Social Services. These programs provide financial and supportive services that strengthen the family unit and promote self-sufficiency.

CalWORKs is California's version of the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which was brought about by welfare reform in 1996. Welfare reform ended cash assistance as an entitlement to low-income families, requires work as a condition of welfare payments for most families, and imposes a five-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits for adults. Santa Barbara County delivers inter-agency services through our Workforce Resource Centers to help clients work toward self-sufficiency. Families participating in CalWORKs cannot receive assistance from General Relief, but may receive assistance from CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps), and are simultaneously enrolled in the Medi-Cal program. In fiscal year 2010-11, the County's Department of Social Services will help an estimated 4,761 Santa Barbara County families make ends meet each month with CalWORKs, and will place approximately 1,050 individuals in jobs by fiscal year end. Of the cases, 21% are in South County, 20% in Mid County, and 58% in North County.

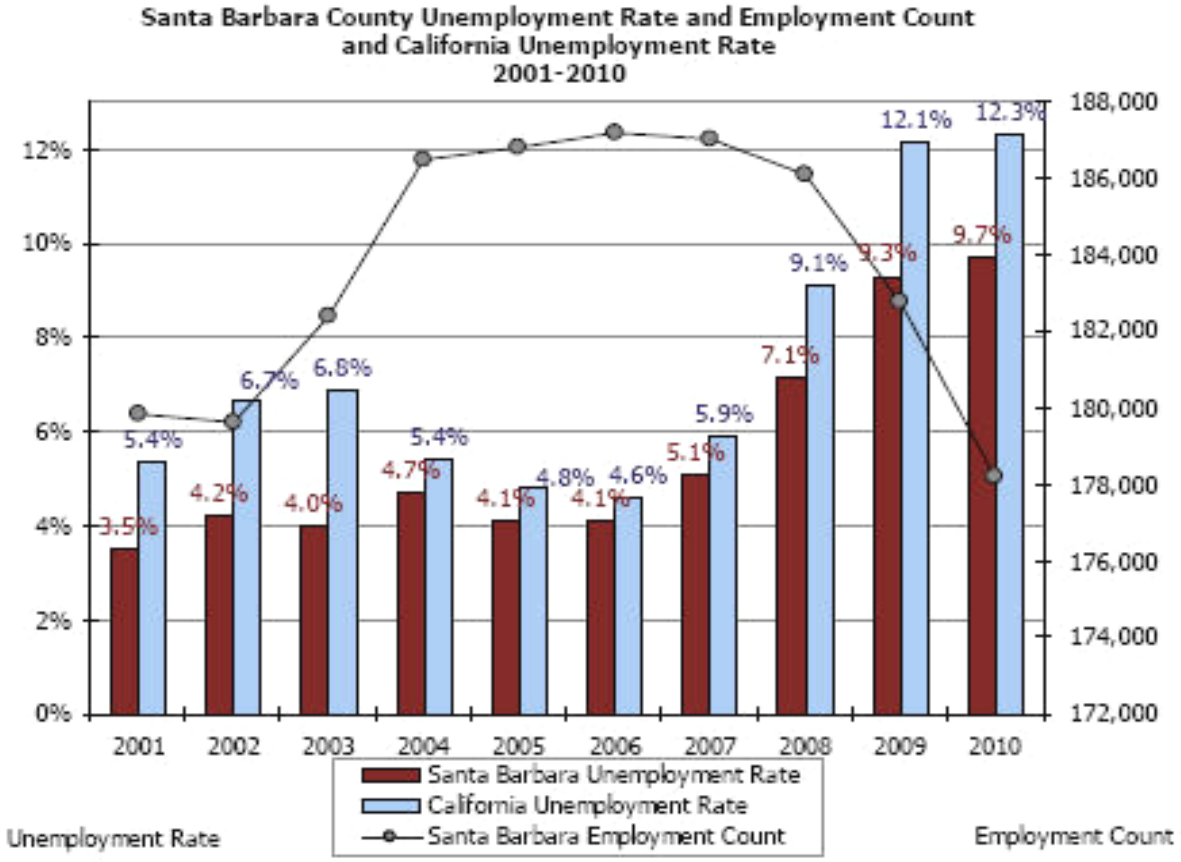
CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) is jointly administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services and the US Department of Agriculture, and is the only nationwide program available to all who need it, if eligible, regardless of age or family composition. The program safeguards the health and well-being of recipients by raising the levels of nutrition among low income households. In FY 2010-11, the County will help an estimated 12,737 families with nutrition assistance each month. Of these, 24% are in South County, 20% in Mid County, and 56% in North County.

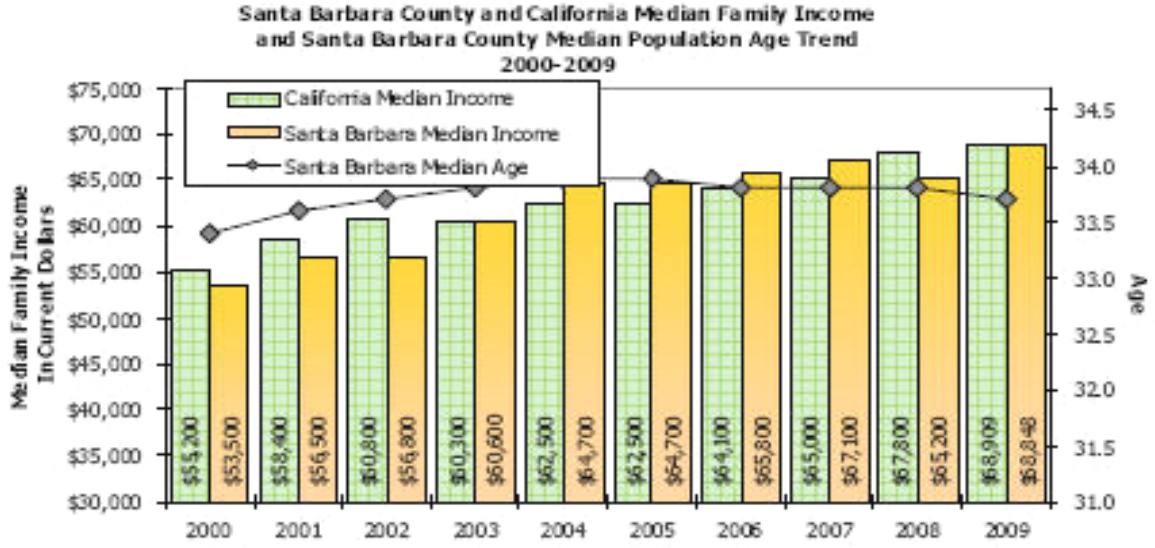
General Relief is state-mandated, county-funded and county-administered program that provides financial relief to the unemployed and incapacitated who are not eligible to assistance from any other source. The program provides short-term assistance while the recipient seeks other means of support; it is a safety net for the poorest of the poor, an assistance of last resort. In FY 2010-11, General Relief assisted an average of 486 families each month countywide. Of these, 31% are in South County, 27% in Mid County, and 42% in North County.

Medi-Cal is California's version of the federal Medicaid program. Medi-Cal helps the uninsured in our community receive the medical services they need. Special programs are available to help pregnant women, the terminally ill, those needing long-term care, and the aged, blind, and disabled. On average in fiscal year 2010-11, the County will help an estimated 29,044 families with Medi-Cal coverage per month. Of these 28% are in South County, 18% in Mid County, and 54% in North County.

County Unemployment Rate

The unadjusted unemployment rate in Santa Barbara County was 8.7% in December 2011, up from 8.3% in November 2011, and down from 9.7% one year ago in December 2010.





Source: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau 2010

Crime Rate

http://oag.ca.gov/

According to the California Department of Justice, there were 1,897 violent crimes committed in Santa Barbara County in 2009. The crimes included homicides, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Of those crimes committed 755 were committed in the Northern Region and 514 were committed in the Southern Region. The rest occurred in the Lompoc Valley and in the unincorporated sections of Santa Barbara County. In addition, there were approximately 4,740 property crimes committed in Santa Barbara County alone.

Other Demographic Influences

Santa Barbara County is comprised of two distinct regions. The Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Santa Ynez Valleys (collectively referred to as "North County") and the Santa Barbara coastal region ("South County") are geographically separated and have divergent priorities. There are distinct economic, cultural and political differences between "North" county and "South" county. Additionally, there are significant differences in the array of services available to children and families in the various communities and regions. However, given the distances and lack of transportation between communities, families in need of services are in large part limited to accessing local resources, which may have long waiting lists. This becomes further problematic when children are placed outside of their communities, resulting in difficulty coordinating visitation and service deliver for families. In addition, bilingual and bicultural services in the north county are inadequate, presently resulting in unacceptable wait times for services.

The high cost of housing continues to be a countywide concern. Although home prices have seen a significant decline over the last several years, the majority of the county population is priced out of the housing market – particularly in South County. The major growth in housing – and thus population - has been in the Santa Maria and Lompoc regions. The high cost of housing in the South County also creates serious challenges in recruiting foster homes, recruiting and retaining staff, and developing transitional housing for all former foster youth.

Child Welfare Services Participation Rates

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Number of Children age 0-18 in population

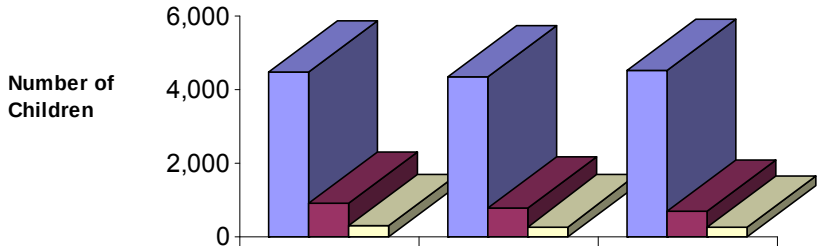
There were approximately 98,047 (ranging from 0 through 17 years of age) children residing in Santa Barbara County in 2010. Between 2009 and 2010 there was an increase in the population of 5,587 children. In contrast, California's child population declined by 692,323 between 2009 and 2010. Santa Barbara County's highest increase of children was in the Hispanic population and children in the 6-10 and 11-15 year old age groups. This data was obtained from the Child Welfare Dynamic Report System, which was updated from the California Department of Finance. Revised data are not available for 2009, so 2008 data were used for 2009 and 2010 data were used for 2011.

For this reason analysis of trends that span 2009/2010 is not recommended per the Berkley website.

Reports of Suspected Abuse and/or Neglect Received

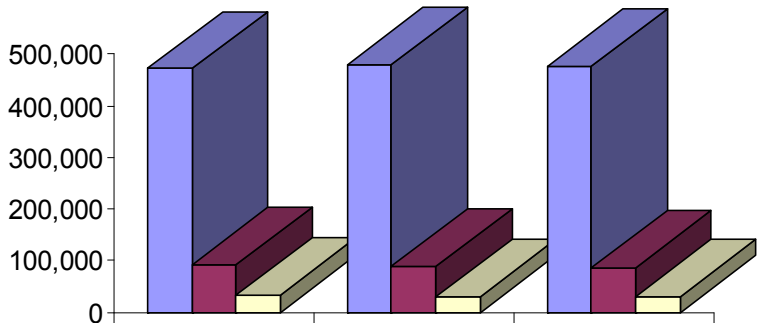
In 2010, 3957 referrals were received and there were 4,333 children with a maltreatment allegation in Santa Barbara County Of the 4,333 children with allegations made, 793 children had substantiated allegations. In that same year a total of 274 children entered foster care. By July of 2010 there were 545 children in foster care. Of those children in care the majority of the children were removed from their homes due to general neglect and/or Caretaker Absence/Incapacity

Participation Rates ~ Santa Barbara



	Jan-Dec2009	Jan-Dec2010	Jan-Dec2011
Children with Allegations	4,489	4,333	4,540
Children with Substantiations	893	793	683
Children with Entries	298	274	244

Participation Rates ~ California



	Jan-Dec2009	Jan-Dec2010	Jan-Dec2011
Children with Allegations	471,876	479,645	475,908
Children with Substantiations	92,667	88,838	84,756
Children with Entries	31,771	30,781	29,695

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

In Santa Barbara County, the numbers of children with substantiations appear to be slowly declining in the past three years, as does the number of children with entries into foster care. This is a strong indication that Differential Response, and Voluntary Family Maintenance efforts have had a positive impact on decreasing the number of children with substantiations and/or the number of children with entries.

Children with one or more Allegations for Jan 1, 2010 to Dec 31, 2010

Ethnic Group	Allegation Type										Total
	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Severe Neglect	General Neglect	Exploitation	Emotional Abuse	Caretaker Absence/Incapacity	At Risk, Sibling Abused	Substantial Risk	Missing	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Black	7	32	1	78	.	22	19	1	.	.	160
White	76	213	27	472	.	93	59	2	.	.	942
Hispanic	249	672	68	1,231	.	307	172	23	.	.	2,722
Asian/PI	1	18	1	8	.	3	1	.	.	.	32
Nat Amer	.	3	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Missing	41	112	7	205	.	70	30	.	.	.	465
Total	374	1,050	104	2,003	.	495	281	26	.	.	4,333

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2011 Quarter 4 Extract.

Jan 1, 2010 to Dec 31, 2010
Children with First Entries
Santa Barbara

Age Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Under 1	5,353	44	8.2
'1-2	10,982	47	4.3
'3-5	16,566	45	2.7
'6-10	25,997	55	2.1
'11-15	26,952	38	1.4
16-17	12,197	14	1.1
Total	98,047	243	2.5

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2011 Quarter 4 Extract.

Ethnic Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Black	1,187	17	14.3
White	29,283	65	2.2
Hispanic	60,898	159	2.6
Asian/P.I.	2,963	2	0.7
Nat Amer	339	0	0
Missing	3,377	0	0
Total	98,047	243	2.5

Children in the under 1 and 1-2 age groups have a higher incidence of entry in to foster care than older children. Although the overall number of African American in the population is relatively small, they are disproportionally represented among children with entries. Additionally higher entry rates are seen among Hispanic children. Entrances in the Northern part of the county are consistently higher than in Southern Santa Barbara County.

Public Agency Characteristics

Size and Structure of Agencies

County-Operated Shelters

Santa Barbara County CWS contracts with Family Care Network, a private non-profit Foster Family Agency, to provide 13 shelter beds for children 0-18. The shelter beds are provided by several FFA homes certified by Family Care Network, and are located primarily in the North County Region. Santa Barbara County also contracts with an experienced licensed foster family for a total of 6 beds in the South County region. The shelter is a county owned building in Santa Barbara that is leased to the foster family for shelter operation. Children experiencing significant emotional and/or behavioral needs that cannot be supported in a traditional shelter care home are placed in emergency shelter at Casa Pacifica, a level 12 RCL in Ventura County. Children placed in shelter at Casa Pacifica are stabilized, assessed, and discharged to an appropriate long term placement that can meet their needs. The shelter census is tracked by CWS administrative professionals who release an updated listing each day to all CWS staff. Every effort is made to avoid shelter care when possible by placing with a relative/NREFM, or locating an appropriate County FFH. It is expected that children will be moved as soon as possible into appropriate least restrictive placements, ideally no later than 7-14 days from date of placement. Shelter care resources are adequate at this time but are continuously monitored by the management team to ensure children are moved quickly and shelter care resources remain available.

County Licensing

SB County Department of Social Services (DSS) operates its own Foster Care Licensing program under an MOU with Community Care Licensing (CCL). The countywide licensing unit is comprised of one Social Services Supervisor and 2.5 Social Workers. The licensing program is also supported by one full time Administrative Office Professional (AOP).

Licensing Social Workers are responsible for completing licensing duties including but not limited to, criminal record checks, buildings and grounds inspections, case management, and complaint investigations. Additionally the licensing unit is responsible for all Relative/NREFM home approvals. Licensing works closely with the CWS foster parent recruiter as well as the community colleges in an effort to continuously improve

the licensing program. The Parent Resource for Information, Development, Education (PRIDE) curriculum is offered on an ongoing basis by the community colleges as well as related courses through the foster kinship development program.

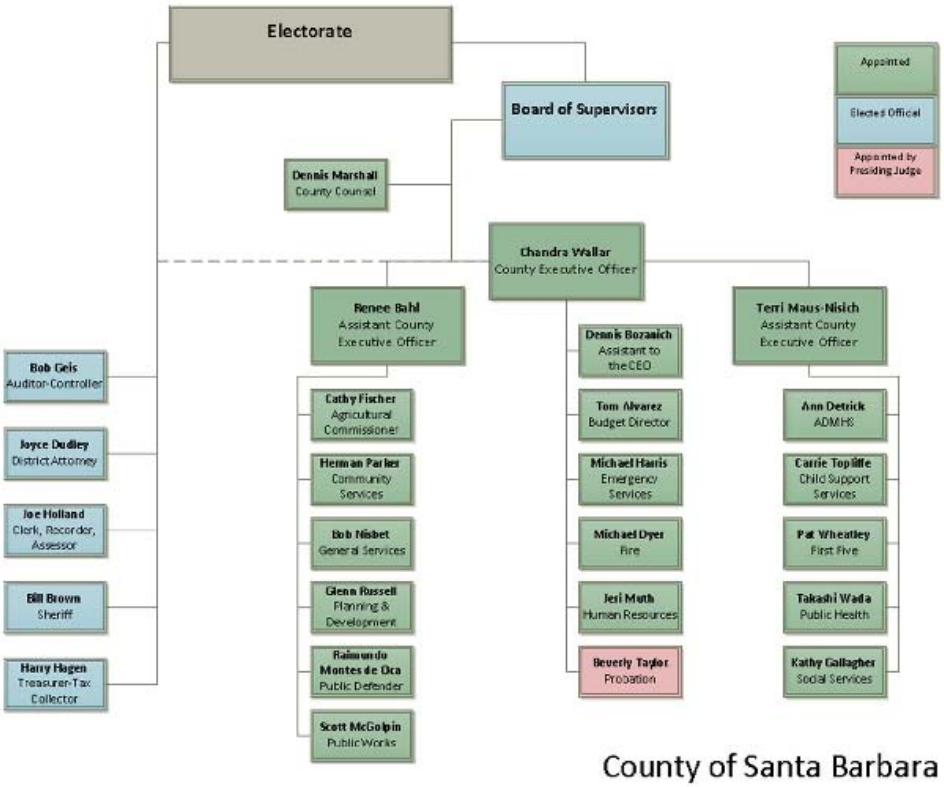
County Adoptions

The County Department of Social Services (DSS) is licensed to provide Adoption Services. The countywide adoption unit is comprised of one Social Services Supervisor, and 6.5 Social Workers. The adoption unit is also supported by one full time Administrative Office Professional (AOP).

Adoption social workers have secondary assignment and responsibility for assisting in development and implementation of the concurrent plan for children in family reunification. Should reunification not be successful the adoption worker is responsible for working with the primary ongoing social worker to determine the most appropriate permanent plan for the child. Following the 366.26 hearing the Adoption social workers becomes the primary worker, providing case management, and implementing the court ordered permanent plan to achieve permanency for children through adoption.

The adoption program has partnered with several private adoption agencies including Aspiranet, Kinship Center, Adopt a Special Kid (ASK), and Family Christian Connection Adoptions (FCCA) to utilize Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (PAARP) funds to conduct adoption home studies. By leveraging PAARP funds the adoption program is able to provide additional support to the children and families served, and enhance the ability to achieve timely permanency through adoption.

County Governance Structure



The County is divided into five Supervisorial Districts based on population as required by State statue. The County has a five member Board of Supervisors (BOS) and a County Executive Officer (CEO). There are a total of 23 County Departments responsible for all County services. Five departments are headed by elected officials: the auditor-controller, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator. The Chief Probation Officer and the Court Executive Officer are appointed by the local Superior Court Judges. The remaining Department Directors are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Director of Social Services reports to the CEO and the BOS. CWS is directly managed by one Deputy Director (reporting to the Director) and three Division Chiefs reporting to the Deputy. Each Division Chief is based in one of our 3 primary regions (Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria) and generally manages a range of programs/projects and two to five Social Service Supervisors each. In addition the Social Services Operations and Support Division provides multifaceted program support from fiscal oversight to data analysis. The Division Chief responsible for the Operations Division reports directly to the CWS Deputy Director.

The Chief Probation Officer (CPO) is appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and oversees all activities of the Probation Department. Historically, a Deputy Chief Probation Officer (DCPO) provides administrative oversight for each of the Probation Department's three operational divisions (Adult, Juvenile, and Institutions). Presently, there is one DCPO who oversees the Juvenile and Institutions Divisions

while the CPO oversees the Adult Division. There are recruitment efforts underway to fill two DCPO vacancies. Once personnel are in place, a DCPO will be assigned to the Juvenile Division. While in years' past there have been two Probation Managers overseeing operations in the Juvenile Division, there is now one Probation Manager who has responsibility for the Probation Department's Juvenile Division operations in all areas. There are three Supervising Probation Officers (SPO) assigned to the Juvenile Division. One oversees the Field Services and Court Services Units in Santa Barbara, another oversees the Field Services Unit in Santa Maria, and the third oversees the Court Services Unit in Santa Maria. A SPO assigned to the Adult Division oversees the Lompoc Probation Office, including its juvenile operations. The Juvenile Division Manager has programmatic responsibility for juvenile operations in that office. The Probation Department's foster care activities are centralized in the Santa Maria office as a stand-alone unit supervised by the SPO for the Court Services Unit.

Staffing Characteristics/Issues

In FY 11/12 there were approximately 678 total positions in the Department of Social Services distributed throughout three distinct regions over a 100 mile geographic spread, South County (Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Goleta), West County and the Valley (Lompoc, Buellton, Santa Ynez), and North County (Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Cuyama). Ethnicity for the entire department shows staff at 64% Hispanic, 31% Caucasian, 4% Asian, and 1% Black. The vacancy rate for the whole department was 5%.

A point-in-time report for February 2012 showed 4 staff on leave of absence and 10 vacant positions in the CWS Branch, some of these positions have been approved to fill and others have not been requested and or authorized. Of our current CWS supervisory and social worker/practitioner workforce, approximately 40% have a Masters and 52% have a Bachelors education in social work, psychology, or a related field. During FY 10/11, separations from CWS totaled 7, including 4 Social Workers/Practitioners, 1 Division Chief, and 2 Department Business Specialists. These separations resulted in a 7% turnover ratio during FY 10/11. It should be noted that 3 of theses separations were due to retirement. The turnover ration for reasons other than retirement is less than 4%, indicating a fairly high retention rate in CWS.

During FY 11/12, there were 108 full-time and 3 part-time positions in the CWS Branch. Allocated positions distinct to CWS include:

39 Social Services Workers
15 Social Services Practitioners
11 Social Services Supervisors
7 Department Business Specialists
20 Administrative Office Professionals
7 Social Services Case Aids
7 Foster Care Eligibility Workers
1 Foster Care Eligibility Supervisor
4 Social Services Division Chiefs

Social Workers are assigned to Central Intake (Hotline), Assessment and Investigation (ER), Voluntary Family Maintenance, Court Services (detention-disposition), Ongoing Services (FM/FR), Permanency (PP/Adoption),Transitional Services (Emancipation, Group Home, Wraparound, AB12), and Licensing/Relative Approval. As of the writing of this report 7 new Social Service Worker/Practitioners have been hired and will begin induction training late February 2012. The above caseload information as well as feedback obtained through the CSA process and PQCR will be used to inform decisions about appropriate caseloads/staffing in each respective unit as well as where new workers will be assigned in order to provide relief to Social Workers who have been carrying high caseloads.

Referral/Caseload Averages (Calendar Year 2011)[1]

Please note that the average number of workers in each of these units is based on total FTEs for the unit and does not reflect vacancy rates when averaging the number of referrals per worker. Understandably when vacancies arise, the referrals/caseloads handled by the remaining staff increases.

Child Welfare Services Referral Investigations 2011				State Standards	
Unit	Monthly Referral Average	Social Worker Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	Average Cases or Referrals per FTE	SB 2030	Current Standard
Central Intake Unit	339.75	3.0	113.25	116	322.5
Lompoc AIU	57.75	3.0	19.25	13.03	15.8
Santa Barbara AIU	90.75	4.0	22.69	13.03	15.8
Santa Maria AIU	110	7.0	15.71	13.03	15.8

Child Welfare Services Caseloads 2011				State Standards	
Unit	Cases	Social Worker Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	Average Cases or Referrals per FTE	SB 2030	Current Standard
Voluntary Family Maintenance	102	3.0	34	14	35
Court Services	76.67	7.0	10.95	NA*	NA*
Santa Maria Ongoing	181.42	6.0	30.24	14.88**	31**
Lompoc Ongoing	106.42	4.0	26.61	14.88**	31**
Santa Barbara Ongoing	58.42	2.0	29.21	14.88**	31**
Permanency	197.25	5.5	35.86	23.69	54

[1] https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/safemeasures.aspx

* No standards developed

** Combined FM/FR caseload standards

Transitional Services	94.42	3.0	31.47	NA*	NA*
Licensing/Relative Approval	NA	2.5	NA	NA*	NA*

The Probation Department currently has 117 persons who serve as Senior Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) or DPOs. These sworn peace officers serve in a variety of assignments throughout the agency, most of them in the Adult and Juvenile Divisions. They perform a number of duties mostly centered around the supervision of offenders placed on probation by the criminal and juvenile courts or released on parole from State facilities, and the preparation of numerous types of court reports. A handful of them are assigned to programs within the Institutions Division or in personnel assignments.

There are presently 46 Senior DPOs assigned to positions throughout the three operational divisions. Twenty-four of them are assigned to the Adult Division, 12 are assigned to the Juvenile Division.

There are 68 DPOs assigned to positions in the Adult and Juvenile Divisions. Forty-two of them are assigned to the Adult Division while the remaining 26 are assigned to the Juvenile Division. There are currently two vacancies in the Adult Division and one vacancy in the Juvenile Division in this classification.

There are an additional 15 unfunded positions in these two classifications throughout the Probation Department.

There are two DPOs who perform case management and supervision duties for all probation youth in foster care programs. These include those placed in group care programs or with relatives. Cases are generally assigned to them based on the geographic location of the actual placement, specifically, Northern or Southern California. Historically, the total number of probation youth in placement has been between 25 and 30. However, in recent months, the Probation Department has realized a gradual increase in placement cases. Generally, the total number of probation youth in placement currently is between 30 and 35.

Probation case management system information indicates that there were 33 youth in group or relative care on 10/1/11 and 39 in group or relative care on 1/1/12. CWS/CMS information from 10/1/11 indicates a total of 54 youth in foster care including 37 in group or relative care. Another 17 were listed in other categories such as “runaway” or “other.” CWS/CMS information from 1/1/12 indicates a total of 58 youth in foster care including 36 in group or relative care. Another 22 were listed in other categories such as “runaway” or “other.” The CWS/CMS system tracks information that is not tracked in Probation’s case management system. Additionally, data is entered into each system according to different practices and at different times. Therefore, data for any given timeframe may not reflect the most up-to-date information. In terms of actual group or relative placements, however, the two sources are generally consistent with any variance attributable to any number of data collection or input issues.

There is one Administrative Office Professional (AOP) assigned to the Placement Unit. The duties of that position include screening youth with various placement programs, coordinating with program staff members once a youth is placed, and data entry and management in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).

During the period starting July 1st, 2010 and ending June 30th, 2011, there were a total of 4,073 delinquency referrals to the Probation Department from law enforcement agencies. Of those, 953 resulted in the filing of WIC 602 petitions with the Juvenile Court. As of June 30, 2011, there were a total of 748 wards being supervised by the Probation Department pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 602. Thirty-eight wards were placed in foster care, including five with relatives, while 182 remained in the home. (This number also includes 11 wards who were participating in SB 163 Wraparound services.) Of those in out-of-home care, 22 were placed in group/foster homes and 16 were placed with relatives. As of June 30, 2011, there were a total of 205 cases under non-ward probation supervision including community diversion, court ordered diversion, deferred entry of judgment, and probation without ward ship.

Bargaining Unit Issues

County Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 620 represents clerical and technical classifications including administrative office professionals and Department Business Specialists. Local 721 represents services and eligibility classifications including social workers, probation assistants, and eligibility workers. Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) and Juvenile Institutions Officers (JLO) are represented by the Santa Barbara County Probation Peace Officers Association (PPOA). In light of County budget shortfalls, the county sought concessions during recent negotiations which impacted both Local 620 and Local 721.

Financial Material Resources

Child Welfare Services are funded from a variety of sources, including Title IV-B, Title IV-E of the Social Security Act of 1935, as amended, Title XIX, Title XX and TANF. These federal funds are matched by the State of California and by local county proceeds of taxes to draw funds for services rendered to eligible children and families. The chart below indicates the basic allocations available to support program operations:

Net CWS Allocation (CFL 11-12-18):

Net CWS Basic Plus Premises Dist.	2,905,005		
State - Realignment	30,624		
Title IV-E	(1,799,014)		
Title IV-B	(79,946)		
SCIAP	(30,357)		
State Block Grant	**1,026,313**	**439,848**	**1,466,161**

Total Allocation	**6,281,115**	**3,755,899**	**1,568,219**	**11,605,233**
Other Programs:				
Adoptions	312,493	414,235		726,728
SCIAP		30,357		30,357
CWSOIP		214,025		214,025
Licensing	72,848	154,801		227,649
PSSF	292,603			292,603
STOP	34,240	79,893		114,133
ILP	119,918	89,929		209,847
Emancipated Youth Stipends		9,594		9,594
Child Care MOE - County			8,260	8,260
County Only CWS			35,046	35,046
	832,102	**992,834**	**43,306**	**1,868,242**
Total All Funding Allocations	**7,113,217**	**4,748,733**	**1,611,525**	**13,473,475**

KIDS Network and Child Abuse Prevention Council

KIDS Network

The KIDS Network, an advisory and coordinating body created by the Board of Supervisors and administratively managed by the County Department of Social Services, has been designated to provide Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) oversight; the Network also serves as the PSSF Collaborative. The KIDS Network has a fourteen-year history of collaborative planning and program development in Santa Barbara County. Participation is broad-based, including over 120 members from public agencies, the courts, law enforcement, education, community-based organizations, school-linked programs and parent groups. The KIDS Network has been instrumental in establishing the following key initiatives in the County:

- Coordinated with Adult and Aging Network on “Everyone Matters” campaign to inform and mobilize the Santa Barbara Community to strengthen families, children and seniors in need through donations, volunteering, and/or advocacy.
- Highlighted the issue of uninsured children in the County which led to current structure of Children’s Health Initiative of Santa Barbara.

- Collaborated with Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health to bring children's data website with over 150 indicators to Santa Barbara County with local data programming valued at $80,000 provided free of charge to County.
- Publish highly regarded Scorecard to measure Children's well-being trends produced entirely in-house.
- Host Youth Impact Awards (largely funded through outside contributions) to garner high impact media visibility and generate community support.

Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)

The Santa Barbara Child Abuse Prevention Council is an independent entity under County government with a membership that includes the following groups: Child Welfare Services, Human Services Commission, Armed Forces Family Advocacy Program, Community Action Commission, Public Health Department Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Family Resource Center Network (Santa Maria, Lompoc, Guadalupe, St. Ynez, New Cuyama, Santa Barbara, Isla Vista, Carpinteria), First 5 Santa Barbara County, Community volunteers, Developmental Disability Services, Early Care and Education Providers and Organizations, Parent Consumers and Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Agencies. Staffing is provided in-kind by the Department of Social Services through the KIDS Network. The County Board of Supervisors has authorized an annual contribution from the Children's Trust Fund for public awareness and outreach activities of the CAPC.

Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition

The Santa Barbara Child Abuse Prevention Council participates in a regional coalition with San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties. The regions meet monthly to share resources and plan joint activities. The Santa Barbara Child Abuse Prevention Council chair serves as the liaison to the regional coalition, and support staff attends the meetings as well. Joint prevention activities included a Parent Leadership Conference, producing Mandated Reporter resources and cross-county support of local activities.

The CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF liaison also serves as staff to both the KIDS Network and the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC). The KIDS Network, the County's Children's Inter-Agency Council serves as the PSSF collaborative. Activities of the Child Abuse Prevention Council, which is an independent entity under County government, are funded through the Children's Trust Fund, staffing is primarily provided in-kind. A collaboration of members of both councils and the Human Services Commission is responsible for allocating CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF and CTF funds.

During FY11/12, the allocations for community-based prevention services include $292,603 for Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), $ 120,717 for Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT), and $23,956 for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention. $120,156 of the Children's Trust Fund balance was allocated for community-based direct services, and another $40,000 was allocated to support CAPC activities.

In Santa Barbara County, prevention funds are braided and used for two collaboratives, providing targeted child abuse and neglect prevention services in North and South County. Services include home visiting and therapeutic services as well as case management through Family Resource Centers. Major components of the collaboration are transfer of expertise from clinical /therapeutic providers to family resource and child care staff, as well as increased accessibility of services for families. The Children's Trust also provides funding for a residential program targeted to single mothers with young children. All funded agencies participate in the Child Abuse Prevention Council and offer parent leadership activities as part of their services.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council provides education, public awareness and parent leadership activities, which include a Child Abuse Prevention Academy at both community colleges, educational activities targeted at Early Care and Education providers, and sponsorship of state and local parent training opportunities, such as annual Parent Leadership Conference organized by Parent's Anonymous and OCAP. The CAPC coordinates with the Family Resource Center Network and belongs to the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, formed with San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties.

Political Jurisdictions

Tribes

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, PO Box 517, Santa Ynez, CA 93460 is the only federally recognized tribe and reservation in the county. County CWS refers all possible ICWA eligible children via letters to the identified Tribe and Bureau of Indian Affairs and records this in CWS/CMS. When the child in question may be Chumash, a phone referral is also made. In the case that a child is or might be eligible Chumash, the Tribe reviews the request and requests CWS assistance when needed. Significantly, the Chumash Tribal Health Clinic is a well-funded facility that offers a wide array of medical, dental, behavioral (AOD and mental health), community health, and nutrition programs for it's members.

School districts/Local educational agencies

There are 22 K-12 school districts (over 100 public and 40 private schools) and two community college districts in Santa Barbara County. Individual schools are listed on the public schools and private schools pages.
http://www.sbceo.k12.ca.us/districts/Welcome.html and http://www.sbceo.k12.ca.us/schools/private.html)

- Ballard School District - Enrollment: 115
- Blochman Union School District - Enrollment: 90
- Buellton Union School District - Enrollment: 680
- Carpinteria Unified School District – Enrollment: 2,500
- Cold Spring School District - Enrollment: 197
- College School District - Enrollment: 425
- Cuyama Joint Unified School District – Enrollment: 321
- Goleta Union School District - Enrollment: 3.600
- Guadalupe Union School District - Enrollment: 1,088

- Hope School District - Enrollment: 1,025
- Lompoc Unified School District – Enrollment: 10,181
- Los Alamos School District – Enrollment: 240
- Los Olivos School District - Enrollment: 680
- Montecito Union School District – Enrollment: 420
- Orcutt Union School District - Enrollment: 4,740
- Santa Barbara Elementary School District - Enrollment: 6,024
- Santa Barbara High School District - Enrollment: 10,598
- Santa Maria-Bonita School District - Enrollment: 12,933
- Santa Maria Joint Union High School District - Enrollment: 7,114
- Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District - Enrollment: 1,200
- Solvang School District – Enrollment: 581
- Vista del Mar Union School District - Enrollment: 104

Community college districts

- Allan Hancock Joint Community College District - Enrollment: 11,341
- Santa Barbara Community College District - Enrollment: 18,562

As a whole, county schools have difficulty meeting the needs of foster and probationary youth. A lack of coordination between the 22 public school districts, and over 150 public and private schools, with differing contacts, policies, procedures, and information systems (or lack thereof), continue to create a challenge for CWS and Probation in obtaining Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs), Special Education Services, and academic records for foster youth. According to the California Department of Education Santa Barbara County mirrors the state as a whole with approximately 9.5% students receiving special education services. Foster Youth Services through the County Education Office and County CWS have formed a partnership working diligently on the issues impacting foster youth related to ensuring educational continuity and success (AB490). Through this partnership, strategies for improving educational outcomes for foster youth continue to be developed/expanded and corresponding protocols established to solidify the working relationships between Foster Youth Services and CWS. FYS continues to support social work staff in having ready access to educational providers and records information for all children in foster care and the Independent Living Program youth. Funding for the program has been cut significantly however and resources stretched, resulting in delays in information and reduction of available staff. http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.asp

Law Enforcement Agencies

The following five agencies represent the bulk of law enforcement efforts in the county:

- Santa Barbara County Sheriff, Sheriff Bill Brown, 4434 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 (includes all unincorporated areas of the county and cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, and the various Santa Ynez Valley jurisdictions.

- City of Lompoc Police, Chief Timothy L. Dabney, 107 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc, CA 93436

- City of Santa Barbara Police, Chief Cam Sanchez, 215 East Figueroa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- City of Santa Maria Police, Chief Dan Macagni, 222 East Cook Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454

- City of Guadalupe, Chief George Mitchell, 4490 10th Street, Guadalupe, CA 93434

Child Welfare Services and Probation work in collaboration with local law enforcement on several joint ventures. Approximately 18% of all CWS referrals come from the law enforcement community. Law enforcement is available to accompany Social Workers and Probation Officers on responses as needed. CWS also has a written agreement with each jurisdiction to assist CWS with "after-hours" responses by utilizing Sheriff's Dispatch and "on-call" Social Workers. CWS and Probation also participate with law enforcement, and community based organizations (CBOs) as a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Committee, and the Santa Barbara Regional Narcotic Enforcement Team (SBRNET).
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Cities

There are eight incorporated cities within the county and 13 unincorporated communities. All cities in Santa Barbara County have populations under 100,000 and the interface between the cities and CWS generally takes place with the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction in the context of child abuse and neglect investigations. In addition, CWS participates in the City of Santa Maria collaborative entitled Families for the First Decade (FFD) which focuses on improving the lives of children by offering resources and support for all family members. FFD project is a collaborative of over 100 local community based organizations, public agencies, faith communities, educational institutions, and businesses that strive to offer enhanced services and integrated services/support for families.
http://www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us/

Peer Quality Case Review Summary

Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation held a joint Peer Quality Case Review in February 2012. Child Welfare Services and Probation chose Timely Reunification as the common focus area for the Peer Quality Case Review. A total of 18 cases were reviewed, twelve (12) Child Welfare cases and six (6) Probation cases. For CWS 50% of the cases had achieved timely reunification and 50% had not achieved timely reunification (reunified in more than 12 months, or did not reunify at all).
For Probation, three (3) of the youth did not reunify, two (2) reunified, and one (1) youth remained in care. In addition, two focus groups were held, one with CWS and Probation Supervisors and the other with Juvenile Court Stakeholders. While the Peer Quality Case Review provided positive feedback on the strengths and dedication of Child Welfare Services and Probation staff, it also provided valuable information on

areas needing improvement in order to achieve timely reunification. This information will be further discussed and addressed in the System Improvement Plan, as Child Welfare Services and Probation develop their plan to improve upon practices and services to better serve the youth and families of Santa Barbara County.

Many of the findings from the Santa Barbara County's Peer Quality Case Review are reflective of the information cited in the literature reviews. For Child Welfare Services, the literature review, *Timely Reunification and Reunification Foster Care and Child Welfare Services; The Center for Human Services~Northern California Training Academy; May, 2009,* identified the need for effective parent-child visitation, the importance of family engagement, and developing a family support system.
(Needell, B.,Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Glasser, T., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Putnam-Hornsteinn, E., Frerer, K., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Winn, A., Lou, C., & Peng, C(2009), *Child Welfare Services)*

The following strengths were noted for CWS:

- High percentage of Relative placements - Used to engage family and to support reunification plan
- High frequency of parent-child visitation – Reviewed regularly to evaluate opportunities to increase/liberalize
- Positive social worker engagement with family in culturally competent and culturally humble way

The following strengths were noted for Probation:

- Willingness to support and accommodate family visitation while being flexible with youth's behavior issues
- DPO's made themselves available to family and wanted families to succeed with giving them ownership
- Effective communication, clear expectations, boundaries, treatment objectives and court orders

The following Challenges were noted for CWS:

- High Caseloads which do not allow for quality casework
- Lack of TDM's - Not used consistently, benefit not understood by social workers
- Lack of resources available in languages other than English, including therapy, parenting, translators, and social work staff.

The following challenges were noted for Probation:

- Case planning – need to streamline them, use of SMART objectives, identification of risks, needs, and services, incorporation of parents and treatment providers in planning
- Consider and utilize least restrictive measures prior to placement (such as Wraparound and relative caregivers)
- Establish clear transitional plans for youth and family members

The following Recommendations were made for CWS:

- Lower Caseloads to decrease worker burnout/turnover
- More visits supervised by Social Workers instead of Case Aides
- Set a standard for TDM's - Educate Social Workers on the benefit, define function, Institute regularity of use.

The following Recommendations were made for Probation:

- Clear policies on expectations for sex offenders
- A state policy that governs sex offenders as current foster care policies don't fit that population
- Training – sex offenders, mentally ill offenders, for parents, case planning, motivational interviewing, UC Davis Center for Family Focused Practices classes
- A "Probation Summit" to review best practices from other counties and avoid reinventing the wheel
- Open houses for parents on different programs
- Use of General Fund monies to assist families with transportation issues
- Modify the Review Hearing report format to include less resume and more discussion on the case status, plan, reunification efforts, and concurrent planning
- Wider use of relative caregivers and local placement options
- Consider transitional housing options for sex offenders leaving care and who cannot return home

Outcomes

The following measures serve as the basis for Santa Barbara County's Self-Assessment and are used to monitor the County's performance on the outcomes, composites, and process measures that comprise the California Child Welfare and Outcomes and Accountability System. The primary data source is the CWS/CMS January 2011, Quarter 3 extract by the Center for Social Research, University of California, Berkeley, based on information obtained from the California Child Welfare Services, Case Management System (CWS/CMS) over time. Child welfare and probation data is reported to the state through the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS). Child Welfare Services and Probation are responsible for inputting data in CWS/CMS as part of the caseload management process for children and families receiving child welfare or probation placement services.

Probation youth may be placed in foster care for a variety of reasons including those that result in youth being placed for dependency issues. The nature of the home environment and a parent's ability to effectively supervise and provide for a youth are considerations. Additionally, a youth's delinquency may contribute to a decision to place him or her into foster care. While there is no one offense that establishes a need for placement, sex offenses generally are more likely to result in foster care placement than other offenses. The nature of those crimes, the need for specified treatment, and the likelihood that a victim remains in the home are factors that often result in a sex offender be placed.

Most youth on probation are males and they constitute the majority of probation youth in foster care. The percentage of females in foster care tends to be higher than the percentage of females on probation. Probation youth in foster care tend to be 15-17 years old.

Reports for California from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website, URL:

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Additional data for some measures is provided by SafeMeasures® reports by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency Research Center.

Children's Research Center Safe Measures

Children's Research Center website. URL:

https://safemeasures.org/ca

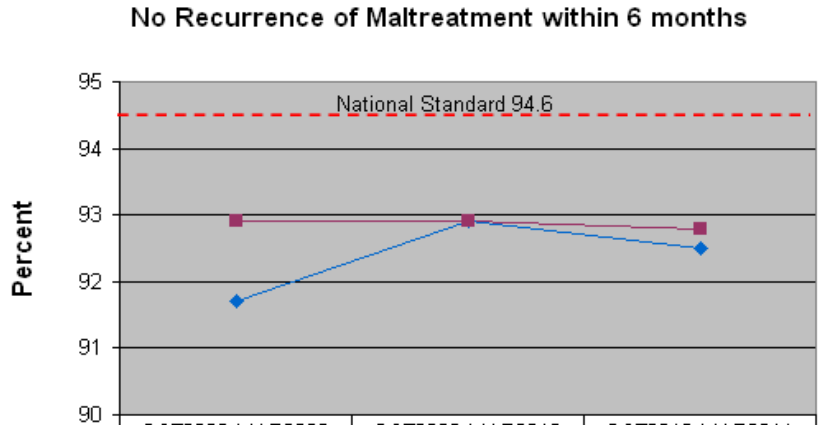
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Process Measures:

S1.1 No Recurrence of Maltreatment
S2.1 No Maltreatment in Foster Care

S1.1 No Recurrence of Maltreatment

This measure reflects the percent of children who were victims of child abuse/neglect with a subsequent substantiated report of abuse/neglect within 6 months.



	OCT2008-MAR2009	OCT2009-MAR2010	OCT2010-MAR2011
Santa Barbara	91.7	92.9	92.5
California	92.9	92.9	92.8
Count	386/35	355/27	384/31

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/S1M1.aspx

Santa Barbara County's performance in the area of No Recurrence of Maltreatment has improved and generally mirrored California's overall performance since October 2009. However, we have been unable to reach the 94.6% National Standard. This information is specific to CWS as this measure is not applicable to probation cases.

During the October 2010-March 2011 time frame, Santa Barbara County's percent of No Recurrence of Maltreatment within six months was as follows:

Based on allegation type:	
Sexual Abuse	87.2%
Physical Abuse	93.9%
Severe Neglect	91.7%
General Neglect	92.1%
Caretaker Absence/Incapacity	95%
Emotional Abuse	100%

Based on Ethnic Group:	
Black	80%
White	91.7%
Hispanic	92.8%
Other	96.7%

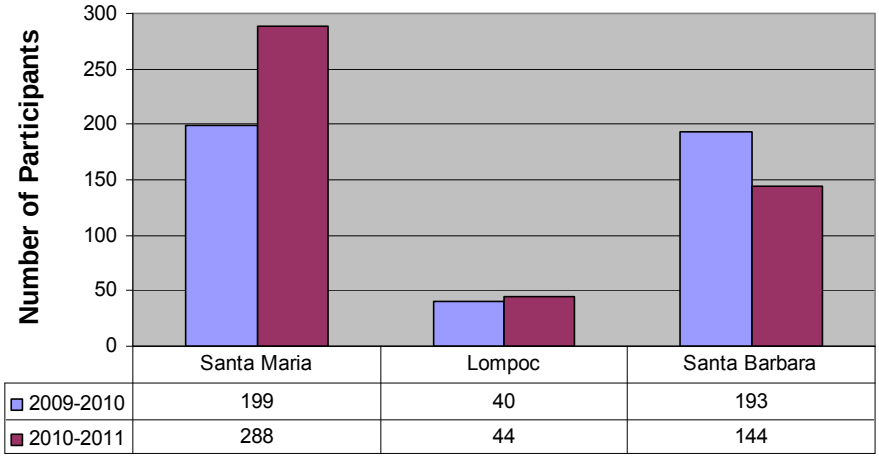
Based on Age:	
0-4	90.7%
5-8	91.4%
9-11	96.7%
12-14	89.1%
15 and older	98.3%

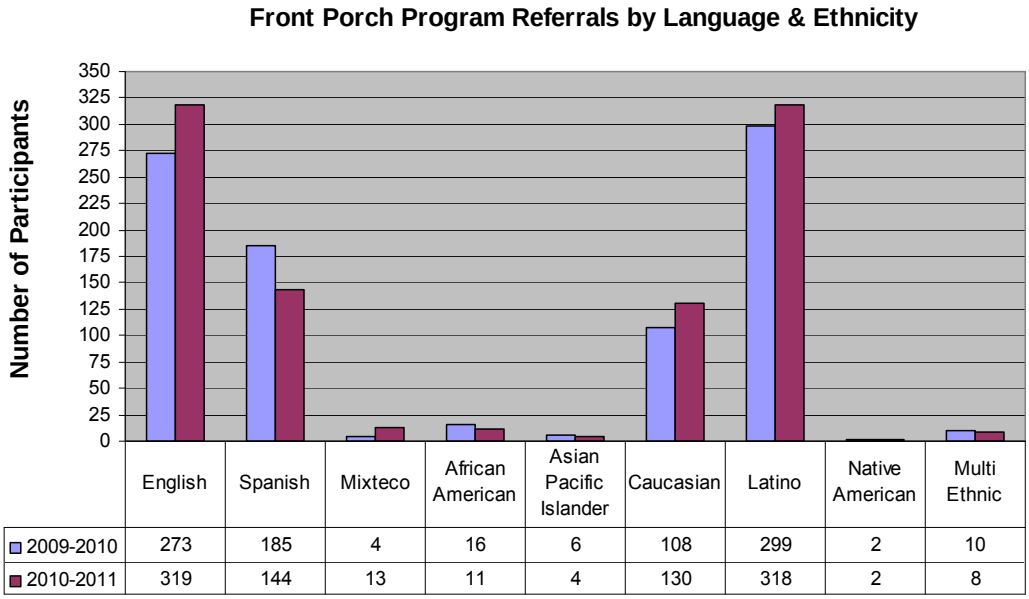
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/S1M1.aspx

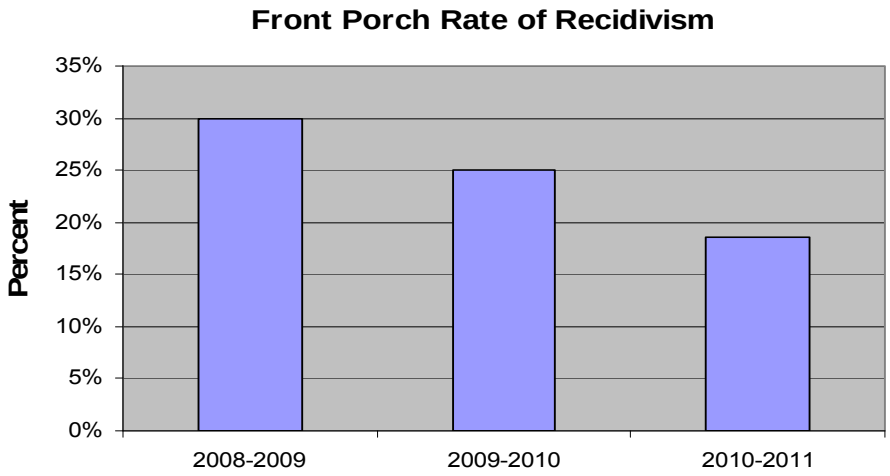
Safe Measures data indicates that in terms of a referral's disposition, the highest rate of recurrence has occurred in cases where the disposition was that the child was "Already in case". It is Santa Barbara County's practice to promote substantiated referrals to cases in order to address the issues.

PSSF Family Preservation Funds support Differential Response Services (Front Porch) that are geared toward reducing the rate of recurrence of maltreatment in Santa Barbara County. The Front Porch program works with two community based service providers, CALM and Community Action Commission that in turn engage Family Resource Centers for cases that require basic needs support. Families that are referred to Path I or II, are engaged for voluntary case management and support services by the two community-based providers. Front Porch staff are mandated reporters and work closely with the families, which often results in continued concerns and or previously unreported issues which require a new Suspected Child Abuse report. As illustrated in the following table, the Front Porch program has been extremely effective at decreasing

the rate of recidivism for families.







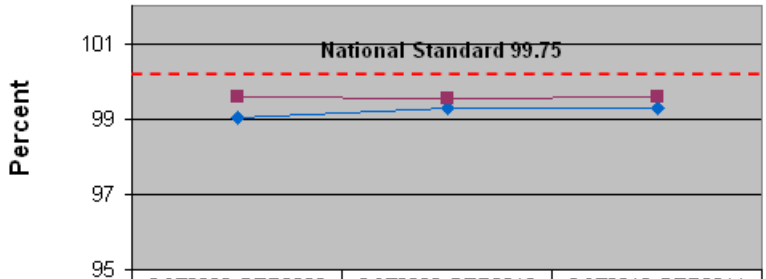
In 2010,1526 allegations were reported for children in the 0-5 year old age group. In 2011, 1,601 allegations were reported for children in the same age group, an increase of 75 allegations for 2011. The difference in the number of children in the 0-5 age group referred to Front Porch between 2010 and 2011 was 79. It appears that Santa Barbara County is referring families with children of the 0-5 year old age group to Front Porch at approximately the same rate.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx

Differential Response services were initiated in 2006. The rate of children per 1,000 for all entries to foster care from 2006 through 2011 were:
2006: 3.4
2007: 3.1
2008: 3.2
2009 3.2
2010 2.8
2011 2.5
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/EntryRates.aspx

Differential Response, along with other services, such as Voluntary Family Maintenance, Great Beginnings, TDMs, and Safe Care do appear to have had a gradual favorable influence on preventing children from entering foster care.

S2.1 No Maltreatment in Foster Care

This measure reflects the percent of children in foster care who are abused or neglected while in placement.



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	99.03	99.30	99.30
California	99.59	99.54	99.60
Count	866/9	806/6	787/6

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National Standard for this outcome is 99.75. Although performance on this measure is consistently close, Santa Barbara County has not met the National Standard during this time period. CWS and Probation have policies and procedures in place for the handling of abuse in out of home care as outlined in All County Information Notice 05-09. Licensing staff conduct screenings and licensing of foster parents and other individuals living in the foster home. All Social Workers and Probation Officers are trained to assess the appropriateness of placement and expected to conduct timely monthly home visits to children in placement. Staff track and report occurrences of abuse and neglect in relative, non-related extended family member and county-licensed home foster care settings. It is the policy of Santa Barbara County that all Allegations of abuse in out of home care are handled as immediate referrals. Joint investigations are conducted by the Assessment and Investigation Unit and the Licensing Unit for allegations on relative, non-related extended family member and county-licensed homes. Community Care Licensing has jurisdiction to investigate allegations in Foster Family Agency's or Group Homes.

Safe Measures shows there is a higher tendency for Maltreatment in Foster Care for children in care for care more than 24 months, than those in care between 12 and 24 months and those in care less than 12 months. During this three year period, 22 children experienced maltreatment in care. Based on a comparison of Safe Measures subset, the only correlation related to maltreatment in foster care appears to be time in care.

Time Period	Time in care: Less than 12 months	Time in Care: Between 12 and 24 months	Time in Care: More than 24 months
10/1/08-9/30/08	0	2	8
10/1/09-9/30/10	0	0	6
10/1/10-9/30/11	0	1	5

PERCENT	Age Group							All
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	18-20	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not Maltreated	100	97.3	98.69	99.45	100	100	100	99.24
Maltreated	0	2.7	1.31	0.55	0	0	0	0.76
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/S2M1.aspx

For the October, 2010-September, 2011 time period, the highest rate of maltreatment in foster care was amongst children in the 1-2 year old age group.

PERCENT	Ethnic Group						All
	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian/PI	Nat Amer	Missing	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not Maltreated	100	99.49	99.08	100	100	100	99.24
Maltreated	0	0.51	0.92	0	0	0	0.76
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/S2M1.aspx

During the same time period, the highest percentage of maltreatment in foster care based on ethnicity was amongst Hispanic children.

PERCENT	Gender			All
	Female	Male	Missing/Unknown	
	%	%	%	%
Not Maltreated	99.75	98.73	.	99.24
Maltreated	0.25	1.27	.	0.76
Total	100	100	.	100

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/S2M1.aspx

Males experienced a higher rate of maltreatment in out of home care during the same time period.

Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were no reported cases of abuse or neglect while in placement of the 64 probation youth who were in a foster care setting during that time. This is consistent with both the State average of 99.62% and the Federal standard of 99.68%.

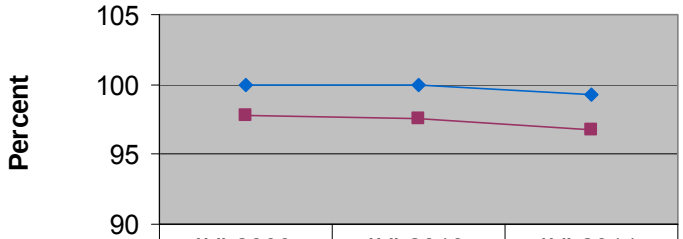
There were no youth in this group in an age range lower than 11-15 years. Most of them were also in a group care setting. While abuse or neglect for older youth in group care is not impossible, both attributes presumably make it less likely to occur.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Process Measures:
2B Timely Response for Immediate Referrals and Timely Response for 10-day Referrals
2C Timely Social Worker Visits with Child
8A Children Transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood

2B Timely Response for Immediate Referrals and Timely Response for 10-day Referrals.

Timely Response measures the percent of cases in which face to face contact with a child occurs, or is attempted, within the regulatory time frames required when the abuse or neglect allegations indicate significant danger to the child.

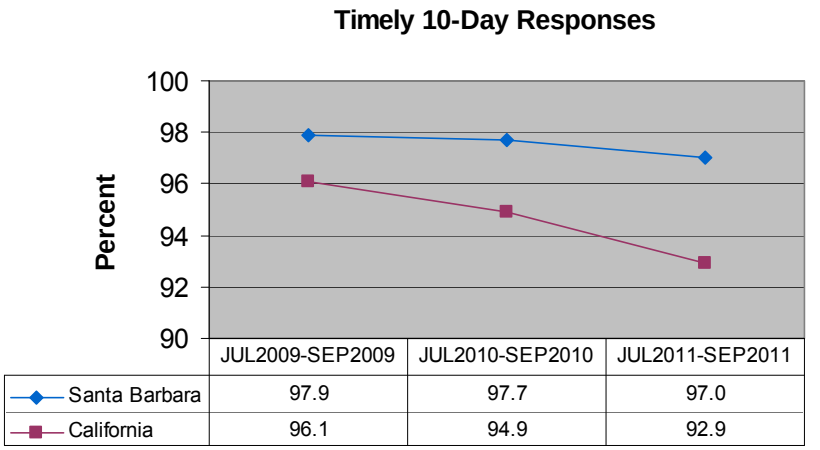


	JUL2009-	JUL2010-	JUL2011-
Santa Barbara	100	100	99.3
California	97.8	97.6	96.8

Count	153/0	151/0	138/1

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

For immediate referrals, Santa Barbara County had maintained 100% Timely Response compliance during the previous two time periods, but missed the timely response criteria by one child in the July 2011-Sept 2011 time period. Performance on this measure is largely a result of careful monitoring through the use of Safe Measures. Although timely response is an area of strength for Santa Barbara County it remains a top priority and is one of the Department's Key Performance Indicators. This information is specific to CWS as this measure does not apply to Probation.



Count	608/13	627/15	585/21

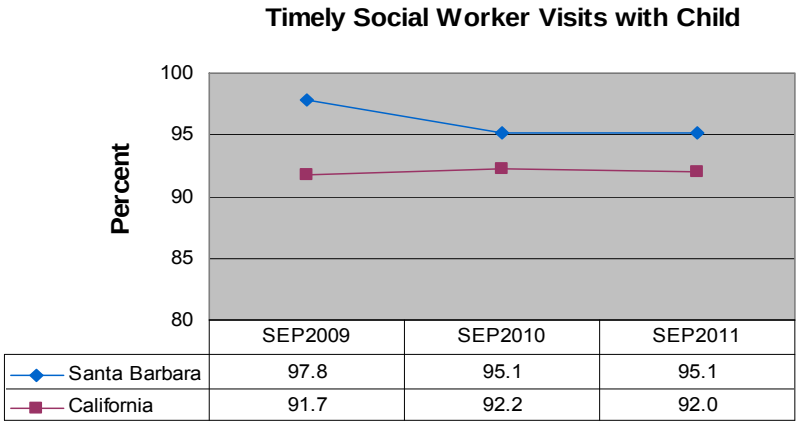
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_2B.aspx

PERCENT	Age Group							All
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	18-20	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Timely Response	100	97.3	98	96.5	96.2	96.7	.	97
No Timely Response	0	2.7	2	3.5	3.8	3.3	.	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	.	100

Age appears to be a factor in a timely response for 10 day referrals, probably as a result of prioritizing risk factors in a referral. It is also noted that during this review period, time to assign a referral took anywhere from 1 to 4 days, which impacts the worker's ability to respond within 10 days.

2C Timely Social Worker Visits with Child

Timely Social Worker Visits with Child determines if Social Workers are seeing children who have an approved case plan on a monthly basis, when required. When monthly visits are not required, for such reasons as "Out of State," it is not included in this measure.



Count	759/17	713/37	734/38

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_2C.aspx

Santa Barbara County performs well in regard to timely Social Worker Visits with Child; only 16 out of 58 counties had a higher percentage rate of timely Social Worker visits. There is no National Standard or Goal for this measure. The State of California, in the All County Information Notice I-43-11 requires that all foster children under the jurisdiction of the court must be visited by their case worker each month, that a majority of those visits must occur in the child's residence, and that at a minimum, 90% of foster children are visited by their caseworkers on a monthly basis by October 1, 2011. Thus, continued success in this measure is notable in that it remained consistent at a time when quarterly visit exemptions were eliminated per Federal regulation. Although this measure is an area of strength for Santa Barbara County there is room to improve in this measure. It remains a top priority and is one of the Department's Key Performance Indicators. This information is specific to CWS as the CWS/CMS system does not track visitation for Probation Officers. However, Probation does report to the State its activities relative to its foster care outcomes, including visitation with youth in foster care and their parents. For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, Probation performed 252 monthly visits to youth in relative or group care. One valid exception was noted during this timeframe.

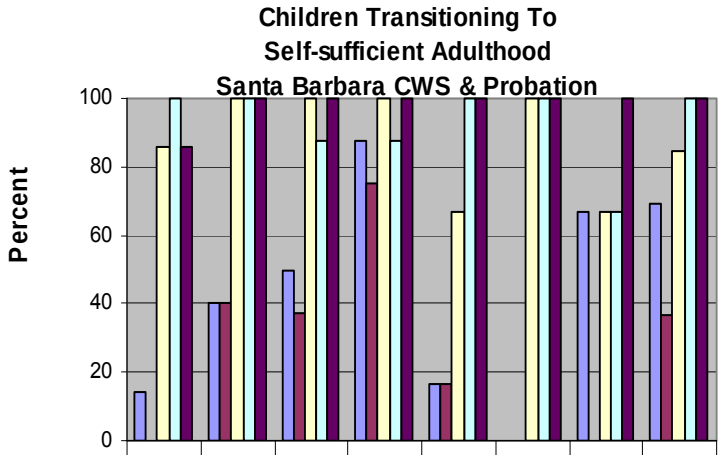
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations without increasing re-entry to foster care.

Process Measures:

2C – Timely Probation Officer Visits with Child

8A – Children transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood

8A Children Transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood



	OCT09-DEC09	JAN10-MAR10	APR10-JUN10	JUL10-SEP10	OCT10-DEC10	JAN11-MAR11	APR11-JUN11	JUL11-SEP11
Completed HS or Equivalency	14.3	40.0	50.0	87.5	16.7	0.0	66.7	69.2
Obtained Employment	0.0	40.0	37.5	75.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	36.5
Have Housing Arrangements	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	66.7	84.6
Received ILP Services	100.0	100.0	87.5	87.5	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Permanency Connection with an Adult	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Data Source: SOC 405E, Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Quarterly Statistical Report, July-September 2011, (Version 3) http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG1940.htm CA Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Data Analysis Bureau

In January 2012 the Transitional Services Unit was established to combine the group home, emancipating youth, and non minor dependents. This specialized unit will provide intensive case management and coordination to ensure our youth and non minor dependents are supported in their transition to adulthood and have important connections, support and resources to achieve their goals and dreams. Emancipation/Transition Planning conferences are held for all foster youth at age 171/2 to assist youth with preparing for their emancipation/transition to extended foster care. During the review the SB CWS ILP contract was put out to bid with a modification in which the contractor would devise a program in which both individual and classroom services are provided to address the educational, recreational, and life skills of youth. Family Care Network was awarded this contract and consists of one supervisor and two case managers. During the most recent review period 23 youth graduated from high school and report they will be attending college.

Santa Barbara County also has an MOU with Family Care Network to provide both THPP and THPP-Plus services for transition age youth. The THPP-Transitional Housing Placement Program provides a safe living environment for youth 16-18 while helping youth learn and practice life skills in order to achieve self-sufficiency. The THPP-Plus program is for youth ages 19-24, who have emancipated from the foster care system. The program provides a greater degree of freedom while continuing to prepare the participants for self-sufficiency.

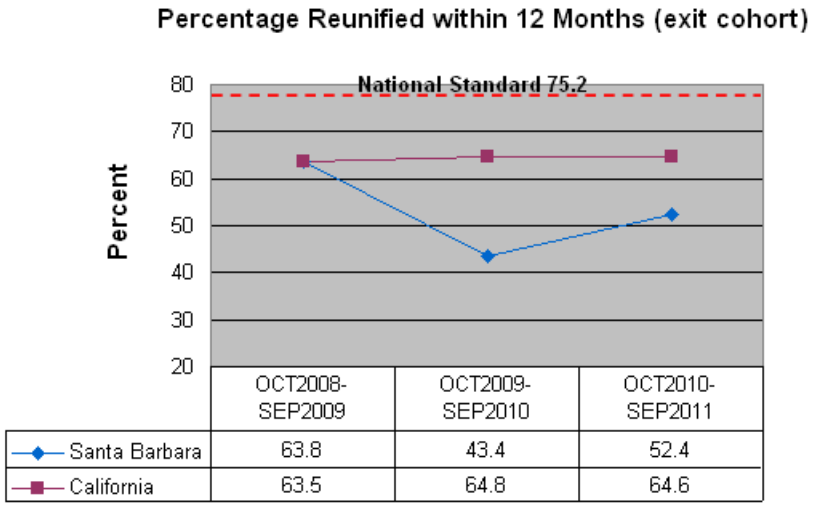
Santa Barbara County is fortunate in that the Workforce Investment Board Director is housed within the Department of Social Services. This has allowed for the development of a broader understanding of program and funding capabilities to better meet the needs of foster youth. Furthermore, foster youth have been identified as one of the target populations. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth component supports the youth of our community and their transition to working adulthood by addressing the development of the entire youth through a number of services including:

- Tutoring, study skills and instruction
- Alternative secondary school services
- Summer employment opportunities
- Work Experience
- Occupational Skills Training
- Leadership development
- Supportive services
- Adult mentoring
- Follow-up services
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling

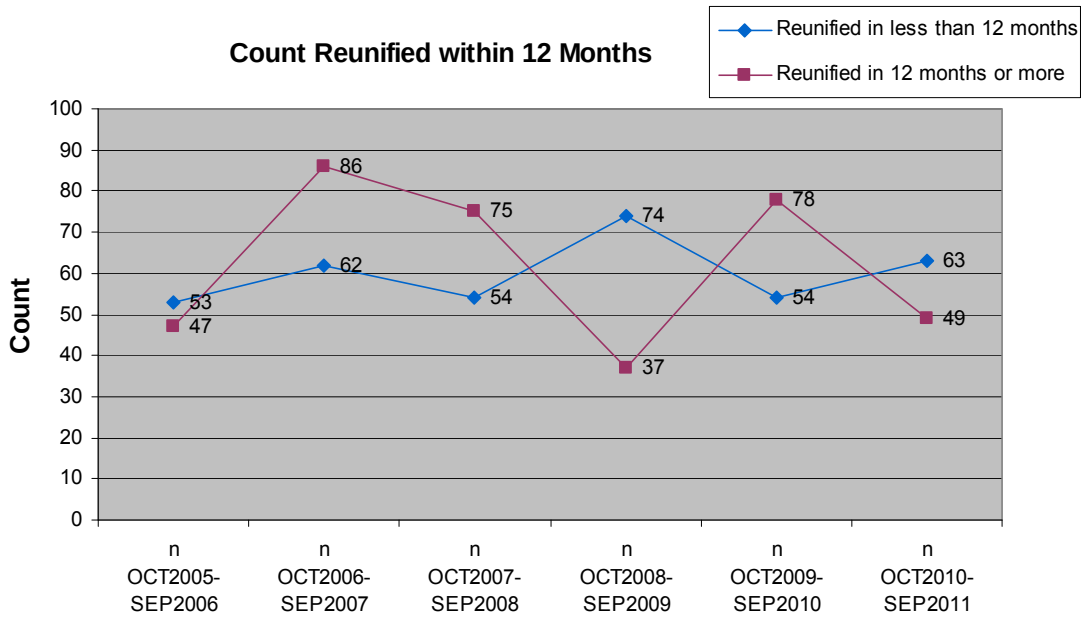
Reunification Composite:
C1.1 Reunification within 12 months – exit cohort
C1.2 Median Time to Reunification – exit cohort
C1.3 Reunification within 12 Months – entry cohort
C1.4 Re-entry Following Reunification – exit cohort

C1.1 Reunification within 12 months – exit cohort

This measure indicates the percentage of children reunified within 12 months of removal.



http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare



http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National Standard or Goal is 75.2%. Santa Barbara County has not been able to reunify children in less than 12 months at the National Standard rate during this review period. The closest the county has come to reaching the National Standard was during the October 2008-September 2009 period, at which time our reunification rate in less than 12 months was at 66.7% rate. The second graph demonstrates that since the October 2005-Sept. 2008 time period, Santa Barbara County's trend has been to fluctuate, up and down, from as low as 40.9% to as high as 54.6%, with the exception of the October 2008-September 2009 time period, which rose to a high 66.7% of reunification within 12 months. .

Santa Barbara County's highest percentage average for substantiated allegation type during this review time period has been in the categories of: General Neglect and Caretaker absence, as indicated below. Severe Neglect, General Neglect and Caretaker absence comprise 74.1% of all substantiated allegations, which are then promoted to cases. Neglect and Caretaker Absence/Incapacity maltreatment usually involve chronic parental problems which are not readily resolved in a 12 month time frame, particularly cases involving substance abuse/addiction and chronic mental illness. Currently 329 of 560 (58.7%) parents with case plans have substance abuse contributing factors and 214 (38.2%) have Mental Health contributing factors documented in CWS/CMS.

Allegation Type	Disposition Type
	Substantiated
	%
Sexual Abuse	7.1
Physical Abuse	11.5
Severe Neglect	5.3
General Neglect	54.7
Exploitation	0.1
Emotional Abuse	4.1
Caretaker Absence/Incapacity	14.1
At Risk, Sibling Abused	3.1
Substantial Risk	.
Missing	.
Total	100

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx

Another factor is that during Santa Barbara County had the following number of Voluntary Family Maintenance Cases during the corresponding time frames:
October 2008-September 2009: 838
October 2009-September 2010: 1024
October 2010-September 2011: 1063
Source: SB County CWS Report Card

In Santa Barbara County, the criteria for opening a Voluntary Family Maintenance case includes that the child is at imminent risk of placement and/or Juvenile Court action, the family will accept voluntary services and is willing to sign a case plan, the Structured Decision-Making Risk Assessment tool has assessed risk at the level of Very High or High.

Cases that do not meet the criteria for Voluntary Family Maintenance cases enter the Juvenile Court system due to the highest level of challenges and risks involved or the parent's unwillingness to engage in voluntary services to address the concerns that required CWS intervention, which are all indicative of a longer reunification time. Additionally, Voluntary Family Maintenance cases cannot be opened for children for which the parents' whereabouts are unknown, and/or incarcerated, or living in another country which also leads to longer reunification time.
Another factor that has that been identified regarding the reunification rate within 12 months is that staff are incorrectly entering data in CWS/CMS which negatively impacted reunification rates. For example, workers are selecting reasons other than returned home when the child is returned home, such as "other". For trial visits, CMS is not updated to indicate that the child returned home, or the placement is ended but the Placement Episode is not ended until much later, and sometimes not until the case is closed.

Success in this measure is attributable in part to PSSF Reunification funding which currently supports the following activities for families in the process of reunifying:

- Transportation to and from visits
- Substance Abuse Screening and Support Services
- Counseling

Additionally, the Visitation policy has been revised to include more frequent observation by social workers in order to assess appropriateness of visitation and determine progress along a continuum of most to least restrictive in an effort to assess the appropriateness of reunification in a timely manner. The enhanced reunification contract funded by CWSOIP monies has also contributed to faster reunification times by providing resources such as supervision and transportation to families outside of traditional business hours on evenings and weekends.

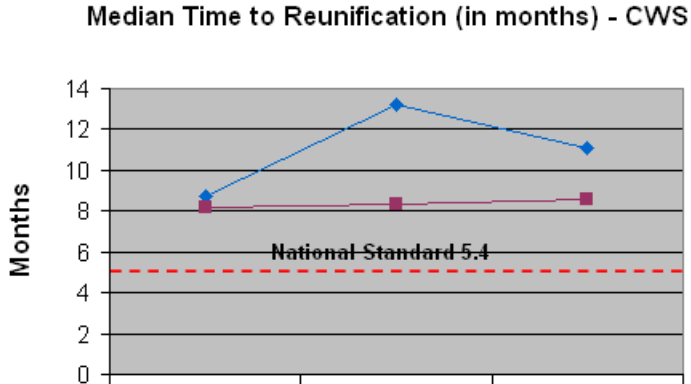
Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were a total of five (5) probation youth who were reunified with their parent or guardian in 12 months or more. This represents 100 percent of all youth. For the first time in a number of years there were no youth reunited in less than 12 months. Explanations for this change include remaining in a specific program for a longer period, returning home after the age of 18, incarceration or subsequent commitment to a detention program, or emancipation.

For the previous year, 10-1-09 to 9-30-10, there were a total of 12 cases that met this measure's criteria. Nine (9) of those youth were reunited within 12 months while the other three (3) were reunited after 12 months but before 24 months in care.

C1.2 Median Time to Reunification – exit cohort

This measure computes the median length of stay in months for children reunified.



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	8.7	13.2	11.1
California	8.2	8.3	8.6

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National or Federal Standard is 5.4. This goal has been challenging to meet, along with the other reunification measures in this composite. The median length of stay is calculated as the date of discharge from foster care minus the latest day of removal from the home. Of those children that did reunify during the October, 2010-September, 2011period, the average median time in months to reunification was as follows:

Age Group	Months in care
	Median
Under 1	4.7
'1-2	10.9
'3-5	11.4
'6-10	12.5
'11-15	9.8
16-17	8.2
Total	10.4

Placement Type	Months in care
	Median
Pre-Adopt	.
Kin	9.6
Foster	10.4
FFA	14.3
Court Specified Home	.
Group	5
Shelter	.
Guardian	.
Other	.
Missing	.
Total	10.4

Ethnic Group	Months in care
	Median
Black	8.2
White	9.5
Hispanic	12.7
Asian/P.I.	.
Nat Amer	.
Missing	1.2
Total	10.4

Removal Reason	Months in care
	Median
Neglect	10
Physical	11.5
Sexual	1.1
Other	17.3
Missing	.
Total	10.4

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M2.aspx

Child Welfare Services

Children under the age of 1 experienced significantly less time in placement than the other age groups. Factors that may impact this short reunification is 1.) The fact that reunification for children under the age of three are limited to six months per the Welfare and Institutions Code, 2). That often, parents with infants are more motivated to reunify, and 3.) More frequent visitation is court ordered to promote bonding between infants and parents. Reunification time for children in the age groups falling between 1 and 2 are also impacted by the six month reunification time. A child's age is a safety factor to consider when a decision is made to reunify, and since a child 3 and older are not limited to six months of reunification, more caution may be taken to recommend or order reunification for children in this age group, in comparison to children in the 11-17 age groups.

The data regarding reunification time based on placement type reinforces that children reunify more quickly when placed with kin, than in other types of placement. The median time during this period for reunification of youth in group homes was 5 months and all the children were 13 years of age or older. Again, the youth's age may have impacted the decision to reunify these youth. Additionally, SB 163 focuses on reunifying youth in group homes, thereby providing the benefits of wraparound services.

Language barriers, immigration problems, adaptation to a new culture, socio-economic backgrounds, belief structure and culturally relevant services all may play a role in a longer reunification time for Hispanics.

Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, the median number of months in care for all probation youth was 17.1 months. Youth in the 11-15 age range spent a median average of 13.2 months while their counterparts in the 16-17 age range spent a median average of 18 months.

This contradicts conventional wisdom which suggests that probation youth generally spend less than a year in foster care, with some exceptions. Notably, sex offenders tend to remain in care longer than other types of juvenile offenders because of the nature of their offenses and subsequent treatment needs, and because many victims remain in the home where the offense occurred and/or the offender also lived. Probation youth periodically abscond from placement programs and, when apprehended, are often returned to group care. In most cases, the original placement order remains in effect.

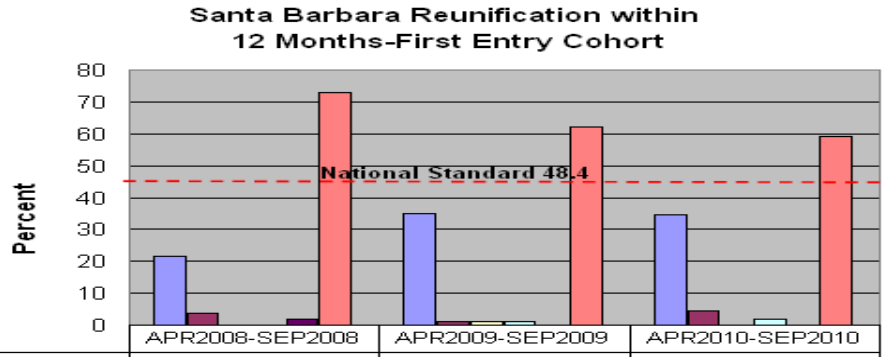
The State average for probation youth for the same period was a median average of 9.4 months in care; 8.3 months for youth in the 11-15 age range and 9.8 months for youth in the 16-17 age range.

The longer length of time that older probation youth remain in care is also not surprising given that many youth who enter care at older ages are more likely to exit foster care under circumstances other than reunification.

For the previous period of 10-1-09 to 9-30-10, the median number of months in care for all probation youth was 8.6 months. Youth in the 11-15 age range spent a median average of 9.9 months while their counterparts in the 16-17 age range spent a median average of 8.2 months. The State average for probation youth for the same period was a median average of 9.6 months in care; 8.9 months for youth in the 11-15 age range and 9.8 months for youth in the 16-17 age range.

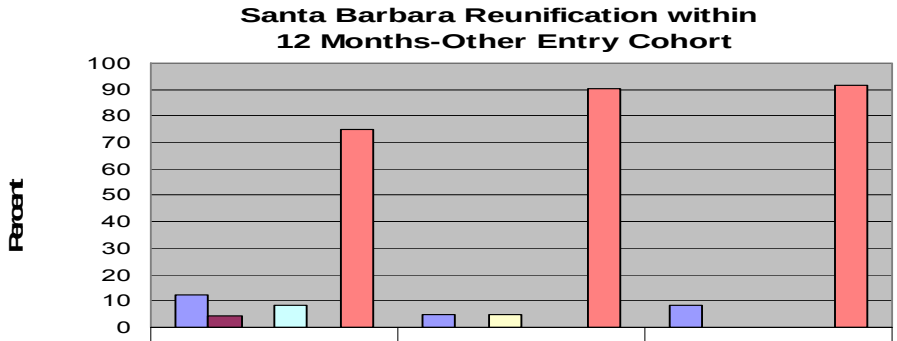
C1.3 Reunification within 12 Months – entry cohort

This measure computes the percentage of removal for a cohort of children reunified within 12 months after entering foster care for the first time during a 6-month period. The 12-month cutoff to reunification is based on the latest date of removal form the home, with children who have been in care for less than 8 days excluded. Children with a current placement of “trial home visit” are included in the count of children reunified in less than 12 months if that visit lasted at least 30 days, its start-date fell within 12 months of the latest removal date, and it was the final placement before the child left foster care to reunification.



	APR2008-SEP2008	APR2009-SEP2009	APR2010-SEP2010
Reunified	21.6	35.0	34.5
Adopted	3.6	1.0	4.5
Guardianship	0	1.0	0
Emancipated	0	1.0	1.8
Other	1.8	0	0
Still in Care	73.0	62.1	59.1

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare



	APR2008-SEP2008	APR2009-SEP2009	APR2010-SEP2010
Reunified	12.5	4.8	8.3
Adopted	4.2	0	0
Guardianship	0	4.8	0
Emancipated	8.3	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Still in Care	75.0	90.5	91.7

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National Standard or Goal for Reunification within 12 months for the Entry Cohort is 48.4. Santa Barbara County's average percent of reunification within 12 months for the first entry is 30.4. Attaining this goal has also been problematic, along with the other reunification measures in this composite. However, the graphs above clearly demonstrate that Santa Barbara CWS fares significantly better with children for whom this is their first entry

Probation

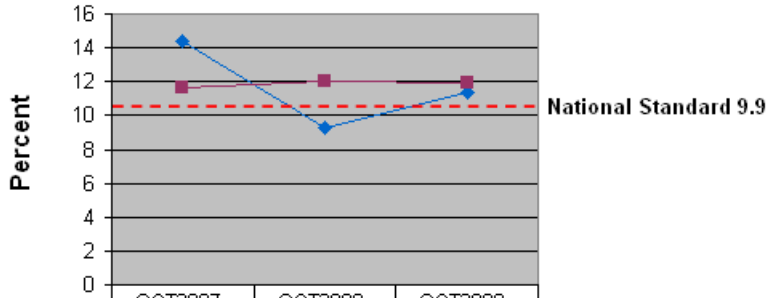
For the period 1-1-11 to 6-30-11, there were a total of six (6) probation youth who met the criteria. All of them remained in care at the conclusion of the six month review period and did not reunify

By comparison, for the period 1-1-10 to 6-30-10, there were a total of three (3) probation youth who met the criteria; two (2) of them remained in care while one (1) youth was listed as "other." The County average of those remaining in care was 66.7.

In some cases, probation youth in foster care exit that care and placement setting as the result of non-compliance or a law violation. In either case, the behavior resulting in the exit is commonly addressed as a violation of probation terms and results in an arrest and subsequent period of detention. The youth's case may then be handled through non-foster care options available to the Juvenile Court.

C1.4 Re-entry Following Reunification – exit cohort

This measure computes the percentage of children reentering foster care within 12 months of reunification.



	OCT2007-SEP2008	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010
Santa Barbara	14.4	9.3	11.4
California	11.6	12.0	11.9

Count	24/123	13/119	18/129

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National Standard or Goal is 9.9. Santa Barbara County's rate of reentry for the given time period is 12.2%

Reentry following Reunification for age group is indicated below:

PERCENT	Age Group						All
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Reentered in less than 12 months	.	9.1	14.3	15.4	5.3	25	12.2
No reentry within 12 months	100	90.9	85.7	84.6	94.7	75	87.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M4.aspx

The 9.1% of the children under 1 through 2 year olds who reentered in less than 12 months from the date of discharge was comprised of 2 children. One child reunified in 11 months and subsequently received 11 months of Family Maintenance before being

removed again. The original removal reasons were related to general neglect and caretaker absence/incapacity, with substance abuse as a factor and the subsequent removal was for general neglect with substance abuse as a factor. The other child in the under 1 to 2 year old age group who reentered foster care reunified with their parents at the 18 month hearing. The initial removal reasons were substance abuse and incarceration. After being reunified, the child was subsequently removed due to substance abuse.

The 14.3% 5-8 year olds who reentered care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge was comprised of 6 children. One child was removed due to physical abuse and the parents resulting arrest (Caretaker Absence). That child reentered care when they were subsequently physically abused by the non-offending parent, to whom the child had been returned. 2 children were siblings to the first child described in the previous paragraph. Two other children, siblings, were removed due to physical abuse and general neglect. They were reunified with one parent, who subsequently placed his children in settings where the children's' safety could no longer be assessed, necessitating the childrens' removal. The last child was removed from their mother due to general neglect and substance abuse. The child reentered care due to the mother's substance abuse and lack of compliance with the case plan. Despite the fact the children were receiving services while in Family Maintenance, they reentered care.

Reentry following Reunification for placement type is indicated below:

	Kin	Foster	FFA	Group	Shelter	Guardian	Other	Missing	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Reentered in less than 12 months	11.4	18.8	4.8	40	.	.	.	.	12.2
No reentry within 12 months	88.6	81.3	95.2	60	.	.	.	.	87.8
Total	100	100	100	100	.	.	.	.	100

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/C1M1.aspx

For relative versus non relative placements at time of reunification the reentry rate for children who had been placed with nonrelatives was 11.8% compared to a reentry rate of 12.9% for those who had been placed with relatives, a relatively small difference.5

Another relevant factor has been the reentry rate for youth placed in Group Homes prior to reunification:

October 2007-September 2008 5 of 11 children reentered - 45.5%
October 2008-September 2009: 0 of 2 children reentered - 0%
October 2009-September 2010: 4 of 10 children reentered - 40%

Only two youth placed in group homes reunified during the 2008-2009. The low number of only 2 youth reunifying yielded a higher probability of no reentry into foster care. Given the characteristics of children who have resided in group homes, there are risks of reunifying these children with their parents. Additionally, an increase in the number of children placed in group homes decreased performance on this measure as they are

more likely to reenter care. This is an example of how varying goals in Child Welfare Services interact and may negatively impact a County Self Assessment measure.

An increase in poverty rates may be another complicating factor in re-entry following reunification. A recent study examined reentry between 12 months and 24 months and the authors note that poverty is a strong predictor if a child will reenter foster care following a period of reunification.
(*A matter of time: the importance of tracking reentry into foster care beyond one year after reunification. Shaw, Terry V.; Webster, Daniel; Journal of Public Child Welfare, 5(5), November-December 2011, pp.501-520*)

One strategy to reduce reentry following reunification is the Aftercare Program which provides case management services to CWS children and families to assist them in fully integrating into appropriate community supports upon the termination of CWS supported services. Implemented in 2011, the aftercare Program utilizes the case management principles of the successful Differential Response/Front Porch Program to provide in-home case management services upon termination of both VFM and Court-Ordered FM cases. The goal is to ensure families are connected to a minimum of two community supports to help ensuring child safety and well-being as well as prevent re-entry.

Probation

For the period 10-1-09 to 9-30-10, there were a total of 12 probation youth who had exited foster care and reunified with a parent or guardian. None of them subsequently re-entered foster care within 12 months of reunification. This represents 100 percent of all such youth. Probation youth in foster care tend to enter care at older ages and often times exit care as adults. Thus, the likelihood of them returning to care is low. The Federal goal for the percentage of youth re-entering care is 9.9%.

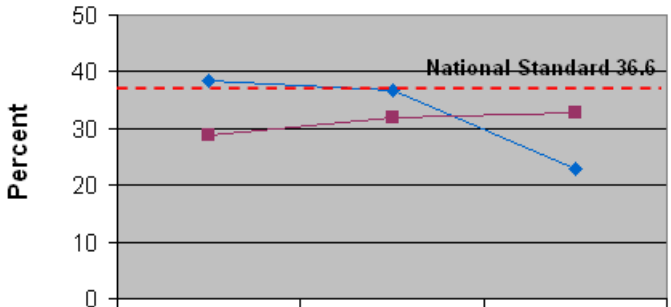
In the previous year, 10-1-08 to 9-30-09, there were a total of 19 probation youth who had reunified with a parent or guardian. One of those youth subsequently re-entered foster care within a 12 month period while the remaining youth did not. The one (1) youth who did re-enter care was in the 11-15 age range.

Adoption Composite:
C2.1 Adoption within 24 months – exit cohort
C2.2 Median Time to Adoption– exit cohort
C2.3 Reunification within 12 Months – 17 months in care
C2.4 Legally Free within six Months– 17 months in care
C2.5 Adoption within 12 Months - legally free

C2.1 Adoption within 24 Months – exit cohort

This measure computes the percentage of children adopted within 24 months of removal. The denominator is the total number of children who exited foster care to

adoption during the period, the numerator is the count of these children who were adopted in less than 24 months.

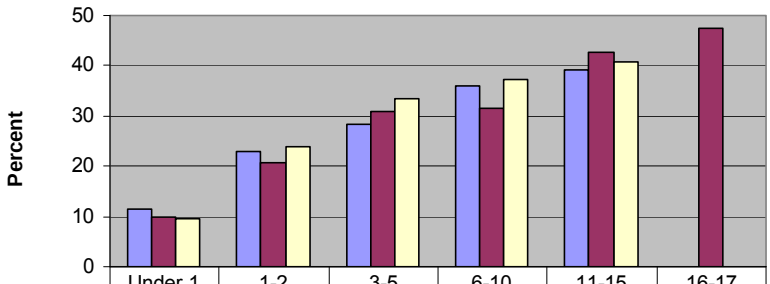


	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	38.5	36.8	22.8
California	28.7	31.9	32.9

Count	35/56	28/48	23/78

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Below is a chart showing the rate of children adopted in less than 24 months, based on their ages.



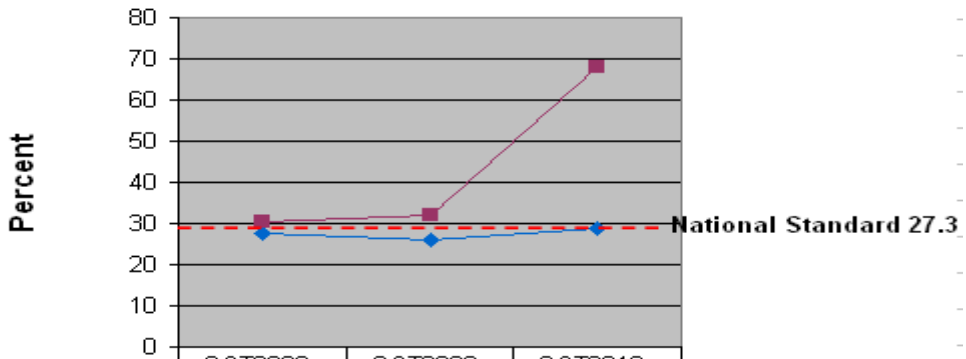
	Under 1	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-17
OCT2008-SEP2009	11.6	22.8	28.4	36.0	39.3	0
OCT2009-SEP2010	9.9	20.8	30.9	31.4	42.7	47.6
OCT2010-SEP2011	9.4	24.0	33.5	37.4	40.9	0

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National Goal is 36.6%. Santa Barbara County surpassed the goal during the first two time periods, but did not meet the goal during the third period. Success on this measure is largely attributable to a shift from County adoption workers completing home studies to private agency adoption workers completing home studies through the Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (PAARP). Despite the success of this strategy in increasing timeliness to adoptions, declines appeared to be influenced by an increase in continuances, contested hearings, and appeals during this time frame was noted which negatively impacts this measure .

C2.2 Median Time to Adoption – exit cohort

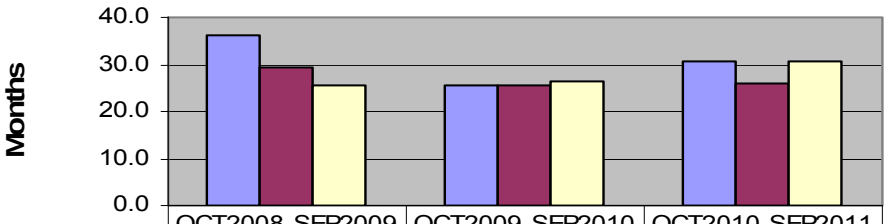
This measure computes the median length of stay (in months) for children discharged to adoption. Length of stay is calculated as the date of discharge from foster care minus the latest date of removal from the home. Only placement episodes ending in adoption are included. This measure contributes to the second permanency composite.



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	27.7	26.1	28.8
California	30.6	32.0	68.0

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

The National Standard is 27.3. Santa Barbara County's median time to adoption have been 27.7, 26.1, and 28.8 months, during the three designated time frames. The standard was met only during the October 2009-September 2010 period.



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Kin	36.0	25.5	30.5
Foster	29.5	25.5	26.0
FFA	25.4	26.3	30.8

Number of children adopted by placement type.

Count	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Kin	34	38	45
Foster	22	8	9
FFA	35	39	47

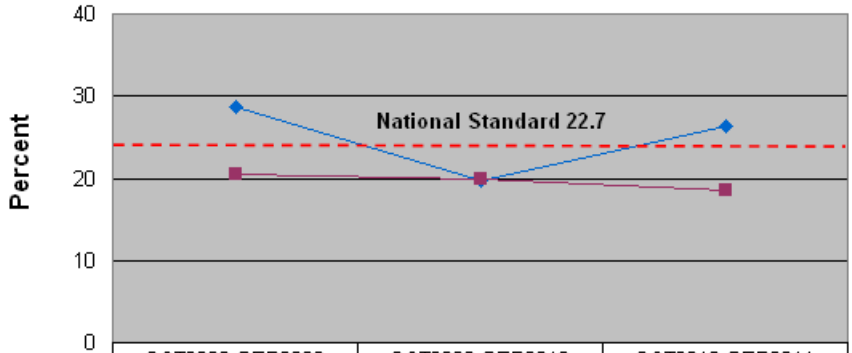
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

Challenges appear to pertain to the children older than 2 years old, and those placed with Kin. The Welfare and Institutions Code provisions for children under the age of three at the six month review hearing likely has an impact on the median time to adoption for children aged two or older. Kinship adoptions have traditionally taken longer than Foster Homes and FFA adoptions, due to the complexities of relationships in kin adoptions, and the education and processing that is required to lead relatives through the multitude of forms and processes germane to an adoption and a government agency.

While adoption of probation youth is a technically available option it is rarely pursued. Generally, probation youth in care are older and are placed in group settings where reunification with a parent or guardian is the plan. In cases where a youth is placed with a relative or non-relative extended caregiver, reunification is often not generally anticipated. However, relative and non-relative caregivers don't express an interest in adoption even though they are expressly advised that it is available to them. Instead, most are content with a long-term arrangement as a placement while others pursue legal guardianship. While 15 probation youth may have been eligible for adoption along this measure, adoption has not been pursued in Santa Barbara County for the reasons stated above.

C2.3 Adoption within 12 Months (17 months in care)

This measure identifies the percentage of children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer as of the first day of the year, who were then adopted within 12 months. The denominator consists of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer on the first day of the year. The numerator includes those children in the denominator who left foster care to adoption by the last day of the year (i.e., a placement episode termination reason of adoption).



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	28.6	19.7	26.3
California	20.4	20.0	18.5

Count	68/162	45/177	71/184

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

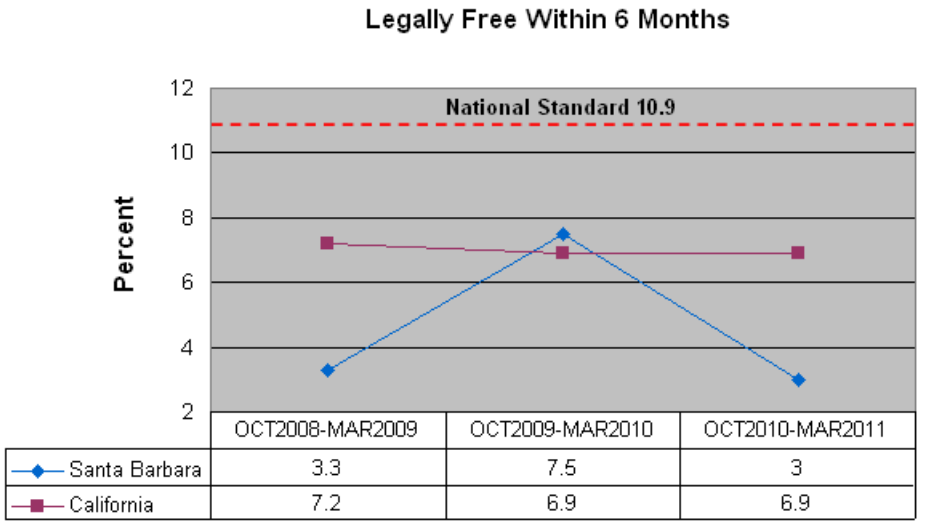
The National Standard is 22.7. Santa Barbara has exceeded that standard during two of the time periods, October 2008-September 2009 and October 2010-September 2011.

Older children, particularly those in the 11- 17 year old age brackets present a challenge in meeting the National standard of 22.7, as reflected in the chart, below. Again longer reunification timeframes for older children as well as increases in contested hearings and problems with timely notice of court hearings have negatively impacted performance on this measure.

	Age Group						All
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Adopted by last day of the year	.	52.2	65.2	31.9	7.8	.	27.8
Not adopted by last day of the year	.	47.8	34.8	68.1	92.2	100	72.2
Total	.	100	100	100	100	100	100

C2.4 Legally Free within 6 Months (17 months in care)

This measure computes the percentage of children who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, were not legally free for adoption on the first day of the period, and then became legally free for adoption within the next 6 months. The denominator consists of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer who, on the first day of the period, were not yet legally free. The numerator includes those children who were then declared legally free within the next 6 months (including the first and last days of the 6 month interval). This measure contributes to the second permanency composite.



Count	5/139	13/151	6/182

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

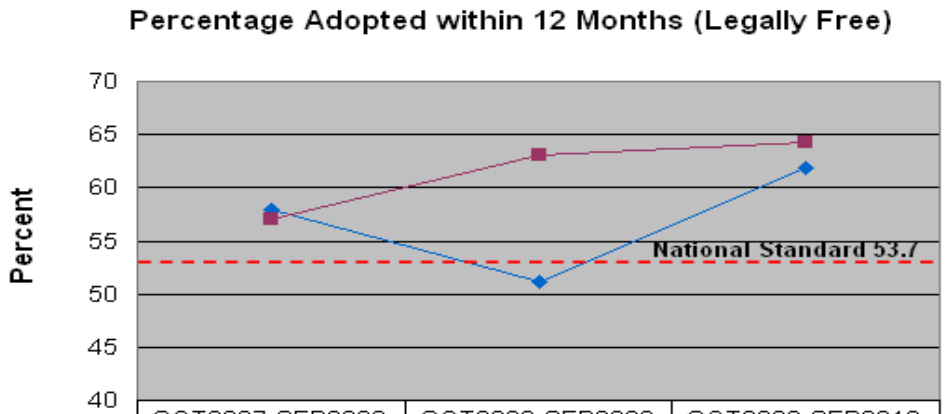
The National Standard is 10.9. Santa Barbara County has not been able to meet this standard during any of the time frames. The county recognizes that this is partly due to a data integrity issue in that adoption social workers focus on completing the adoption process and often do not enter termination of parental rights in the proper fields until after the adoption is finalized. With timely data entry it is anticipated that performance on this measure would significantly improve.

Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 3-31-11, there were 15 probation youth listed as "not legally free within six months." While probation cases are listed here as not being legally free for adoption, there have been no cases where adoption of probation youth has been pursued or considered. Thus, while technically true, the measure does not reflect the true nature of the cases as reunification, long-term foster care, emancipation, or exit through some other means remain the anticipated outcomes.

C2.5 Adoption within 12 Months (legally free)

This measure computes the percentage of children leaving foster care to adoption within 12 months of becoming legally free. A child is considered to be legally free for adoption if there is a parental rights termination date recorded for all parents with legal standing. If a parent is deceased, the date of death is reported as the parental rights termination date.



	OCT2007-SEP2008	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010
Santa Barbara	58	51.1	61.9
California	57.1	63.1	64.3

Count	51/36	45/41	39/20

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

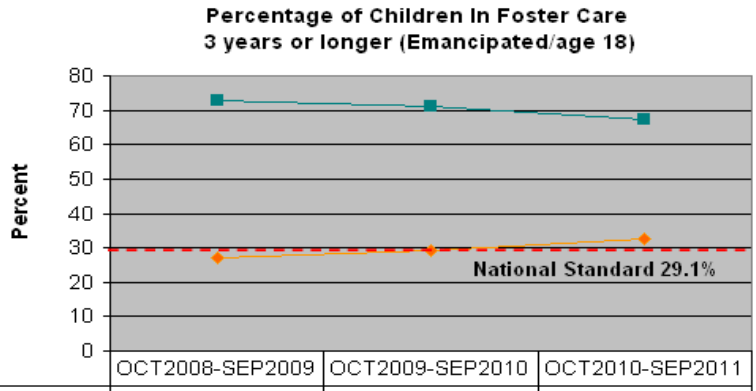
The National Standard is 53.7. Santa Barbara exceeded the national standard percentage during two of the three time frames, October 2008- September 2008 was 52.3%. Historically, Santa Barbara County has generally performed well in this outcome. Success in this measure is influenced by concurrent planning efforts which allow caseworkers to achieve the goal of permanence within a specific time frame. Santa Barbara County CWS emphasizes initiation and/or completion of permanency tasks as soon as the child enters placement in order to achieve permanency and stability for the child in the most expedient manner possible. Use of the concurrent planning framework moves children through the child welfare system quickly to achieve the goal of permanency through adoption when reunification is not successful. Timeliness of adoptions has also been influenced by the increased collaboration between CWS and private adoption agencies to complete PAARP home studies. However, contested hearings, appeals, and delays in notification of court hearings all negatively impact performance on this measure.

Long Term Care Composite:

C3.1 Exits to Permanency (24 months in care)
C3.2 Exits to Permanency (legally free at exit)
C3.3 In care 3 years or longer (emancipated/age 18)

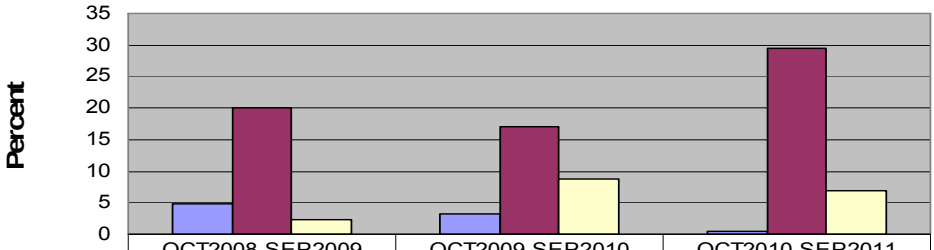
C3.1 Exits to Permanency (24 months in care)

This measure computes the percentage of children discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to turning 18 who had been in foster care for 24 months or longer. The denominator consists of all children in foster care for 24 continuous months or longer on the first day of the year; the numerator includes those children with a placement episode termination date that occurred by the last day of the year and before the child's 18th birthday, and a placement episode termination reason coded as reunification with parents or primary caretakers, discharge to guardianship, or discharge to adoption.



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Discharged to permanent home	27.2	29.1	32.6
Exited to non-permanency by the end of the year or still in care	72.8	70.9	67.4

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Reunification	4.9	3.3	0.5
Adoption	20.1	17.0	29.4
Guardianship	2.2	8.8	7.0

Count

Reunification	9	6	1
Adoption	37	31	55
Guardianship	4	16	5

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

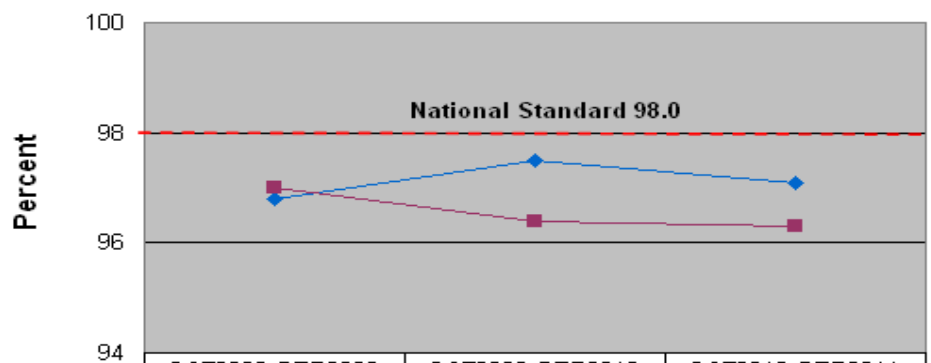
The National Standard is 29.1%. The following is a breakdown of children who were discharged to a permanent home, opposed to exiting to non-permanency or are still in care. Santa Barbara County's performance has surpassed the National Standard in the second and third periods, showing that the county is improving in this area. One of the reasons for success in this measure can be attributed to an increased focus on Permanency by Santa Barbara County CWS. In 2007 the Adoptions unit was restructured and became the "Permanency Unit". Additionally changes were made to the concurrent planning policy and procedure which emphasized earlier and more comprehensive concurrent planning efforts as well as permanency planning. This change was made in an effort to ensure permanent plans for all youth not just those who are considered adoptable. The corresponding increase in exits to permanence is reflective of those changes.

Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were a total of eight (8) probation youth who met the criteria. Four (4) are listed as having "exited to non-permanency by end of year" while another four (4) were listed as still remaining in placement.

C3.2 Exits to Permanency (legally free at exit)

This measure computes the percentage of legally free children who were discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18. The denominator consists of all children leaving foster care during the year who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge; the numerator includes those children who have a discharge date that is prior to their 18th birthday and a discharge reason coded as reunification with parents of primary caretakers, discharge to guardianship, or discharge to adoption. A child is considered to be legally free for adoption if there is a parental rights termination date recorded for all parents with legal standing. If a parent is deceased, the date of death is reported as the parental rights termination date.



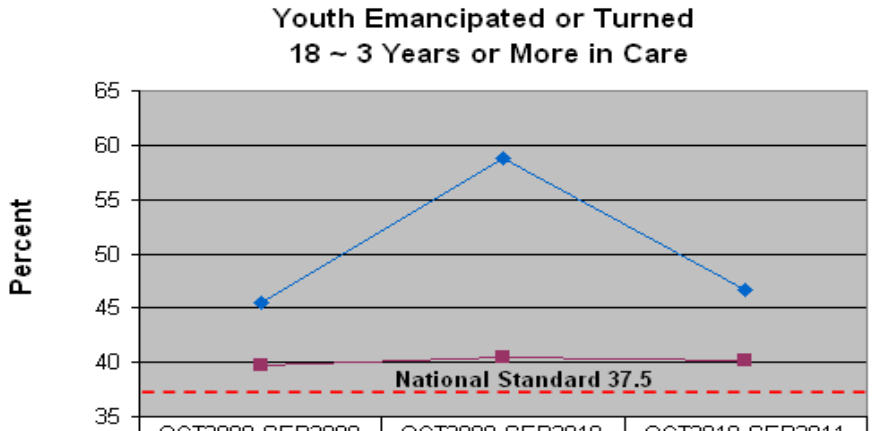
	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	96.8	97.5	97.1
California	97.0	96.4	96.3
Count	90/2	78/2	100/3

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National Standard is 98%. Santa Barbara County has been very close to meeting this standard all three time periods. Due to Santa Barbara County's relatively small population, small numbers such as these easily results in an inability to meet the National Standard by a very small percentage. In fact we have missed the standard by only 1 child during each of the corresponding time periods.

C3.3 In care 3 years or longer (emancipated/age 18)

This measure computes the percentage of children in foster care for 3 years or longer who emancipated or turned 18 while still in foster care. The denominator consists of all children emancipated or who turned 18 while still in foster care during the year; the numerator includes those children for whom latest date of latest removal from home to the date of emancipation, or the date the child turned 18, was equal to or greater than 3 years.



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	45.5	58.8	46.7
California	39.8	40.5	40.2

Count	15/18	20/14	15/16

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The National Standard is 37.5%. Santa Barbara County's positive trend began in 2006. However, a slight increase in the number of children in care longer than 3 years, compared to the number of children who emancipated or who turned 18, can make a significant difference in the percentage change. For example, during the October 2009-September 2010 period, there were 5 more children who were in care for less than three years than in the review period of October 2010-September 2011, resulting in a 10.4% unfavorable difference.

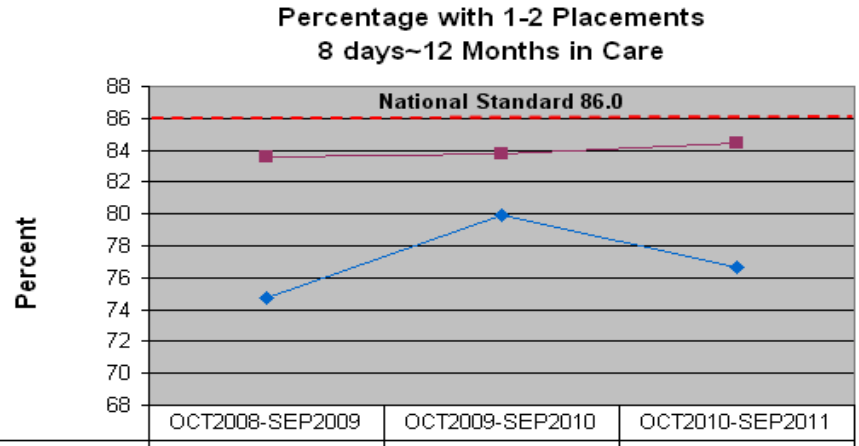
Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were nine (9) probation youth who met the criteria. However, all of them were listed as being in foster care for less than three (3) years and all but one (1) were in the 18 years of age group. None were reported as being in care longer than three (3) years and emancipating or remaining in care at age 18. Since most probation youth who enter foster care do so at older ages, it is more likely they will be in care less than three (3) years but remain in care up to and beyond their 18th birthday.

Permanency Composite:
C4.1 Placement Stability (8 Days to 12 Months in Care)
C4.2 No more than two placements within 12 months
C4.3 No more than two placements within 24 months

C4.1 Placement Stability (8 Days to 12 Months in Care)

This measure computes the percentage of children with two or fewer placements in foster care for at least 8 days, but less than 12 months. Time in care is based on the latest date of removal form the home. The denominator is the total number of children who have been in care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months; the numerator is the count of these children with two or fewer placements.

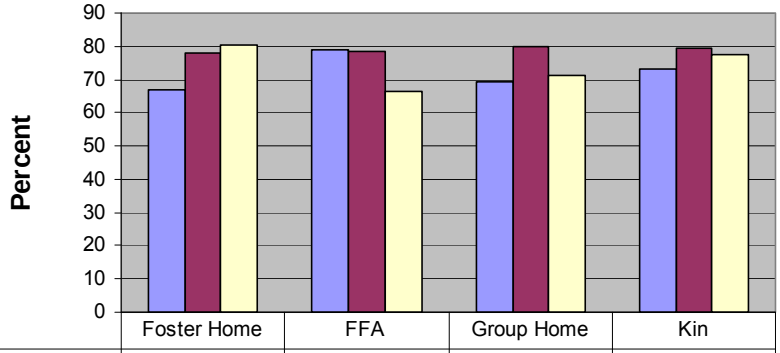


	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
Santa Barbara	74.7	79.9	76.7
California	83.6	83.8	84.4

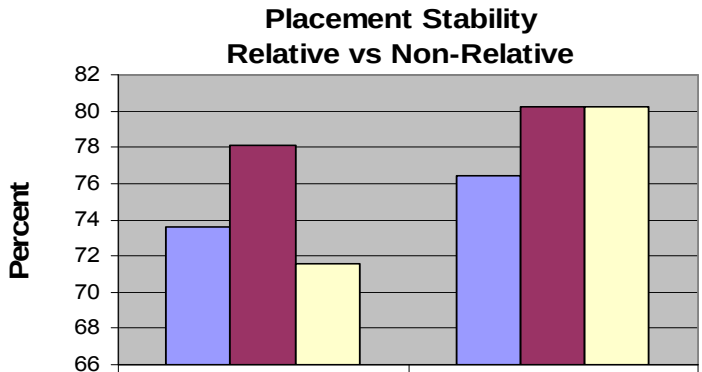
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Santa Barbara County CWS and Probation had identified Placement Stability as an area of focus in our System Improvement Plan (SIP) initiated in March of 2007. This measure continued to be an area of interest in the March 2008 update to the SIP as noted by the following. This outcome and the following two outcomes are related to placement stability.

The National Standard for C4.1 is 86%. Santa Barbara County CWS has been unable to meet this standard during the three year period. There was improved performance between the first and second quarter, performance declined however in the October 2010-September 2011 period. Placement stability under this outcome for children placed with relatives remained consistently higher than nonrelatives during the same time frames. It should also be noted that the total count for children was lower in the October 2009-September 2010 period, the period with the best performance. It was noted in the previous PQCR report that it appeared that as CWS caseloads increase, performance on related measures declines. Despite being the subject of the county's PQCR, performance in this measure has declined, with a -2.9% change.



	Foster Home	FFA	Group Home	Kin
OCT2008-SEP2009	66.7	78.8	69.2	73.0
OCT2009-SEP2010	77.8	78.3	80.0	79.3
OCT2010-SEP2011	80.4	66.3	71.4	77.5



	NonRelative Guardian/NonRelative	Relative Guardian/Relative NonGuardian
OCT2008-SEP2009	73.6	76.4
OCT2009-SEP2010	78.1	80.2
OCT2010-SEP2011	71.6	80.2

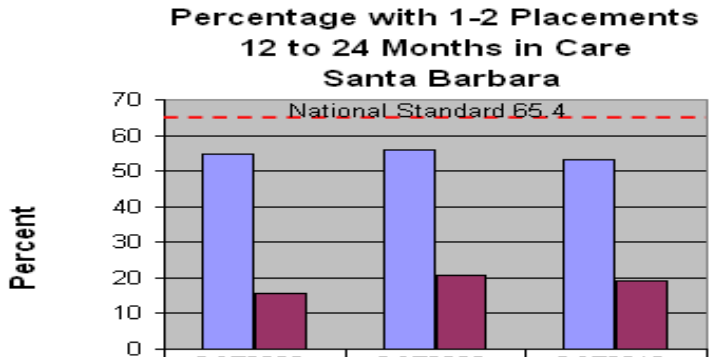
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were a total of 26 probation youth who were in foster care less than 12 months (but more than eight days). From this group, 25 youth, or 96.2 percent, were in two (2) or less placements while one (1) youth was in more than two placements.

C4.2 No more than two placements within 12 months

This measure computes the percentage of children with two or fewer placements in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months. Time in care is based on the latest date of removal form the home. The denominator is the total number of children who have been in care for at least 12 months and less than 24 months; the numerator is the count of these children with two or fewer placements.



	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011
<=2 placements	54.7	56.0	53.1
>2 placements (prior)	15.6	20.8	19.0

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

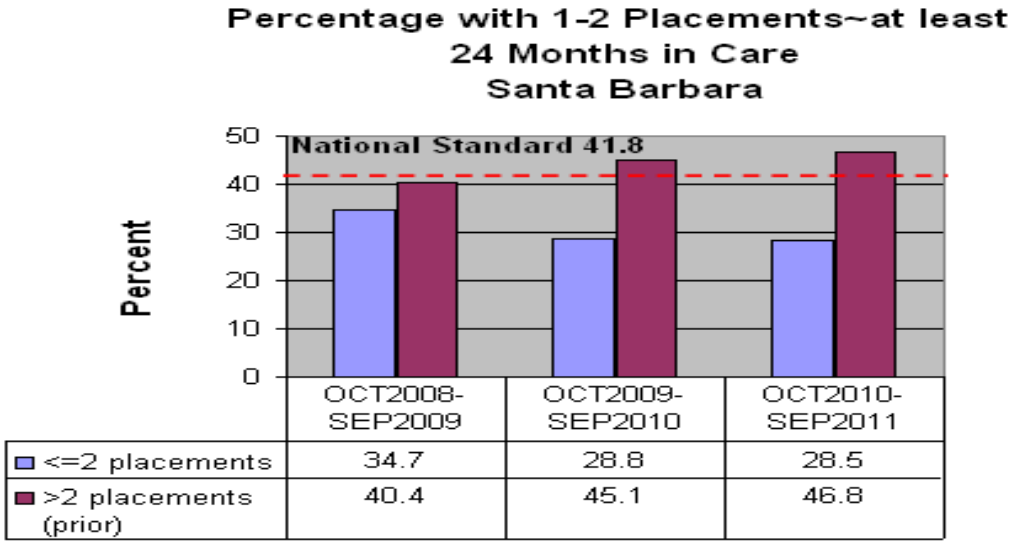
The National Standard is 65.4%. CWS's most recent performance has declined to 53.1%. In fact, our performance has generally declined since the October 2006-2007 time period. There was a high peak of monthly average of 591 children in placement in 2009; however the number has declined to a monthly average of 515 in 2011. Santa Barbara County continues to limit placements in emergency shelter care to 14 days maximum in order to accommodate the need for additional children taken into custody. There is an inherent conflict between the need for available emergency shelter beds and adequate time to assess the child's needs and arrange an appropriate placement for them that would provide the highest level of stability.

Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were a total of 20 probation youth who were in foster care at least 12 months but less than 24 months. From this group, 19 (or 95 percent) were in two or less placements while one (1) youth was in more than two placements. It appears that the one (1) youth who had been in more than two placements was also counted previously as a youth who had been in more than two placements in the C4.1 category of youth. The State average for the same period is 78.7 percent of youth were in two or less placement programs.

C4.3 No more than two placements within 24 months

This measure computes the percentage of children with two or fewer placements in foster care for at least 8 days, 24 months or more. Time in care is based on the latest date of removal from the home. The denominator is the total number of children who have been in care for at least 8 days but less than 24 months; the numerator is the count of these children with two or fewer placements.



http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Probation

For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were a total of 15 probation youth who were in foster care at least 24 months. From this group, five (5) were in two or less placements, six (6) were in two or more placements from previously, and four (4) were in two or more placements recently. It appears that five (5) youth were carry-over cases from the C4.2 category while four (4) others had subsequently changed placement programs. The State average for this measure includes a total of 1,504 probation youth; 656 (43.6 percent) were in two or less placements, 440 (29.3 percent) were in two or more placements from previously, and 408 (27.1 percent) were in two or more placements recently.

Many practices and resources in place work in improving the placement process and promoting stability for children/youth in out of home care. CWS workers and supervisors consistently praise the additional available supports for locating and maintaining placements. The Placement Search Assistant (PSA) is responsible for locating available placements for youth who cannot be placed with a relative by conducting a comprehensive placement search upon referral by the social worker. Home Connection Finders (HCFs) perform searches for both relatives or non-related extended family members who are interested in connection or providing placement for youth in foster care. Both services have been highly successful in increasing the available pool of placement resources for social workers to consider in assessing alternatives for youth in care. Additionally concurrent planning assists with placement stability by reducing the total amount of time a child will remain in foster care before being reunified or exiting to some other form of permanency. Team Decision-making (TDM's) are another an effective strategy that supports success in this measure however need to be used diligently in placement changes. Short timeframes for placement changes and competing caseload responsibilities often result in infrequent TDM's however.

In the fall of 2011, CWS conducted placement training for all social workers in an effort to support placement stability. The focus of the training was considerations in making placement decisions, initial placement and ongoing evaluation of placement with relatives/NREFM, assessing initial and ongoing placement in group homes, and concurrent planning. In addition, follow-up unit trainings were conducted to focus on critical placement issues and challenges specific to each unit to allow for more in depth exploration of concerns related to placement.

Resource and staffing constraints continue to make doing a good job difficult in spite of very strong motivation to do the best job. Policy and practice changes originally instituted to improve placement practices may work against making good placements from the start. In CWS, the 14-day maximum stay in emergency shelter care may interfere with quality placement efforts when the placement worker has only a few days to secure placement because she/he had only just received the case. The SB 163 Wraparound program has also proved effective particularly when moving youth to lower level placements or returning home. However for both Probation and CWS there are not enough placement options available, particularly within Santa Barbara County, for the kinds of children and youth needing placement including those eligible for the SB 163 Wraparound Program. This can lead to placement outside the county in group homes which interferes with the development and maintenance of beneficial family, personal and community relationships, as well as reunification goals. While some probation youth are placed in group care within Santa Barbara County, many are placed in programs outside of the county.

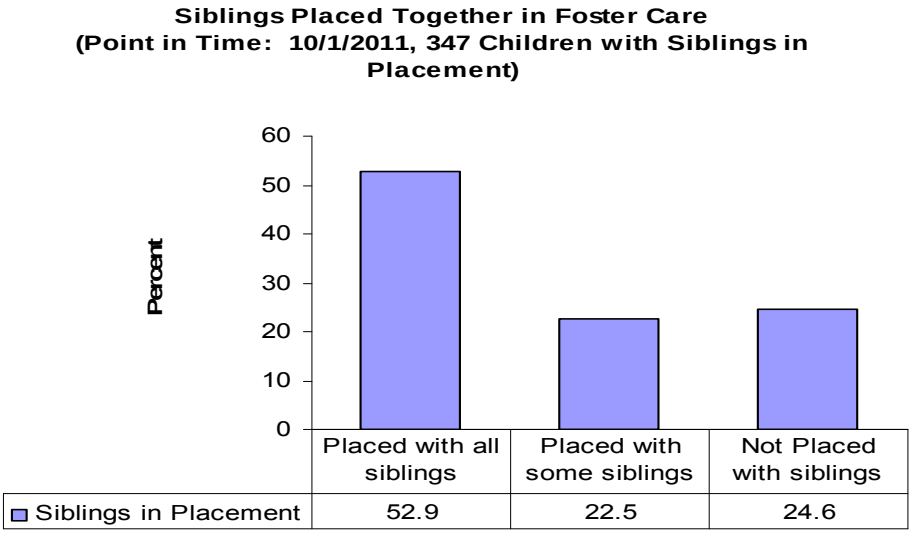
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Process Measures:

4A Siblings Placed Together in Foster Care
4B Foster Care Placement in Least Restrictive Settings – point in time/in-care
4E Rate of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Placement Preferences

4A Siblings Placed Together in Foster Care

Sibling groups are identified at the county level, and not the state level. A sibling group size of “one” is used to signify a single child with no known siblings in the supervising county. Sibling groups are constructed from an unduplicated point in time count of all children who have an open placement episode in the CWS/CMS system. A set of sibling identifier variables (derived from the CWS/CMS Client Relationship table) and placement address variables (derived from the facility address information from the Placement Home table) are used to locate all whole, half, and stepsiblings, as well as maternal siblings.

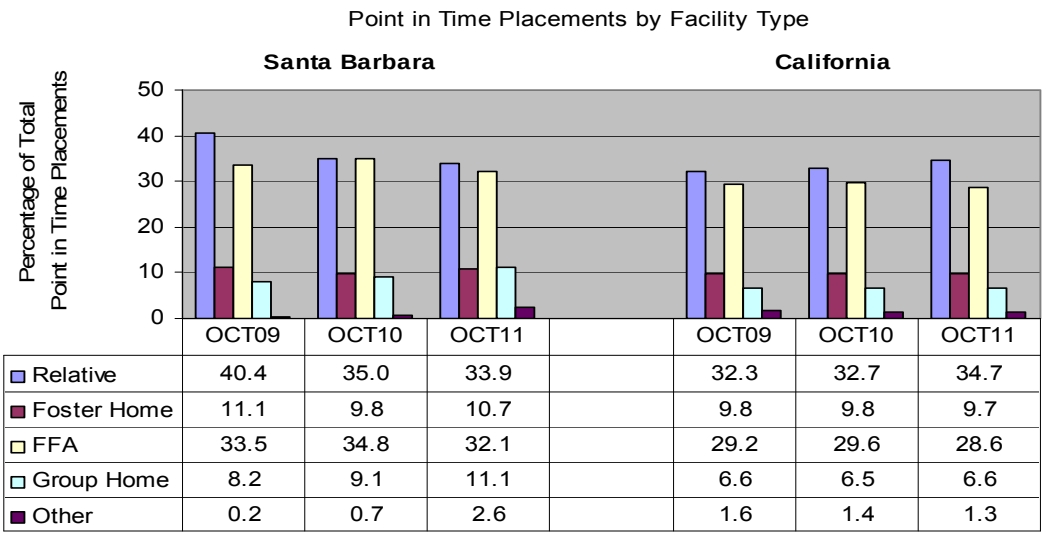


http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

Significantly, the rising number of sibling groups including large sibling groups of 3 or more are impacting the counties ability to keep them placed together when relative placements are not available. A point in time report of all children with siblings in placement on 10/1/2011 indicated that of 347 children, 174 (52.9%) were placed with all siblings, 74 (22.5%) were placed with some siblings, and 81 (24.6) were not placed with siblings. Santa Barbara County makes every effort to place with relatives whenever possible as this has proven an effective strategy to maintain siblings groups.

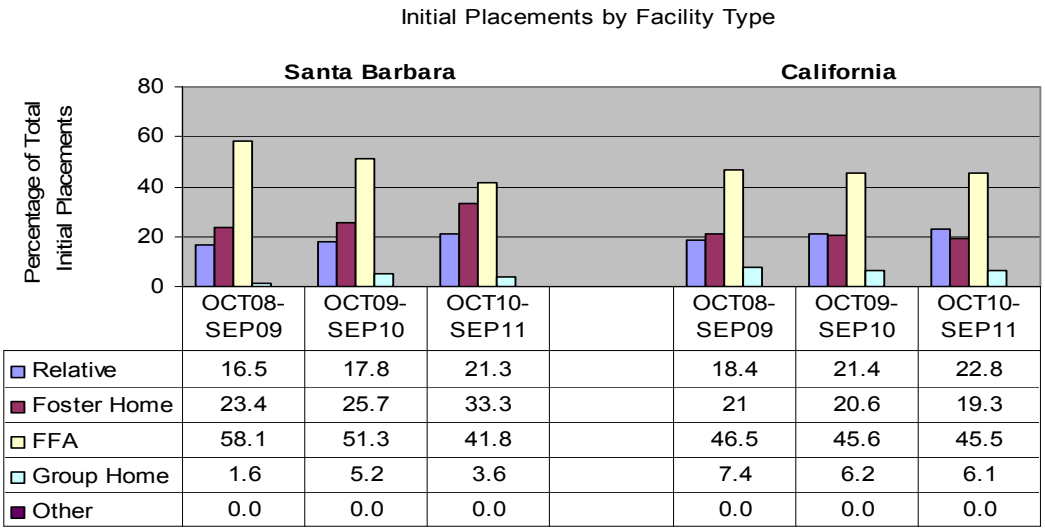
4B Foster Care Placement in Least Restrictive Settings – point in time/in-care

These reports provide information on all entries to out-of-home care during the time period specified – Point in Time/In-Care. Children are assigned to the county where there is an open case or referral (child welfare) or an open case, referral, or state id county code (Probation) on the count day.



	OCT09	OCT10	OCT11		OCT09	OCT10	OCT11
Relative	40.4	35.0	33.9		32.3	32.7	34.7
Foster Home	11.1	9.8	10.7		9.8	9.8	9.7
FFA	33.5	34.8	32.1		29.2	29.6	28.6
Group Home	8.2	9.1	11.1		6.6	6.5	6.6
Other	0.2	0.7	2.6		1.6	1.4	1.3

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare



	OCT08-SEP09	OCT09-SEP10	OCT10-SEP11		OCT08-SEP09	OCT09-SEP10	OCT10-SEP11
Relative	16.5	17.8	21.3		18.4	21.4	22.8
Foster Home	23.4	25.7	33.3		21	20.6	19.3
FFA	58.1	51.3	41.8		46.5	45.6	45.5
Group Home	1.6	5.2	3.6		7.4	6.2	6.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

Santa Barbara County has generally exceeded the state average for relative placements however, has seen recent declines in this trend. Foster Family Agency placements are exaggerated because the County uses a Foster Family Agency for shelter bed placements, in addition to foster care. Santa Barbara County has unfortunately consistently exceeded the state average for group home placements, a trend which is on the rise. Currently, 59 children are in group home placements with only 34% of those children being placed in Santa Barbara County. Of those youth in group home placements, 50 (85%) are between the ages of 11-18, 9 of the youth (15 %) are between the ages of 6-10: the latter represents a two-fold increase since 2008 and speaks to the lack of available placement resources for higher needs youth.

Probation

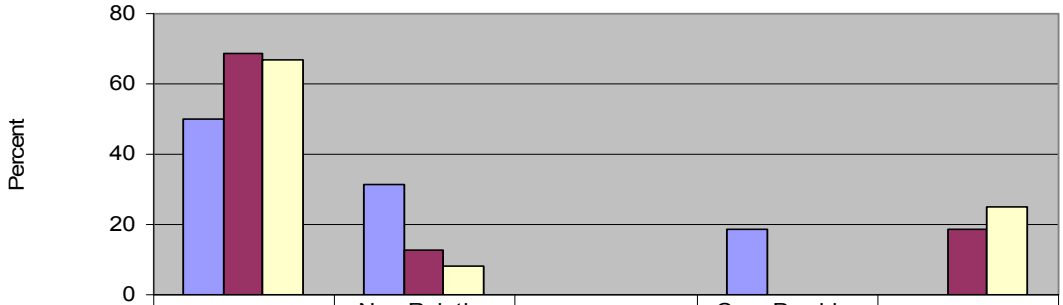
For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, there were 16 probation youth who entered foster care for the first time. From this group, 12, or 75 percent, were placed in group home programs and four (4), or 25 percent, were placed with relative caregivers. For the State, 95.7 percent were placed in group home programs and 2.5 percent were placed with relative caregivers.

For the point-in-time children in foster care assessment of 10-1-11, there were 53 probation youth listed as being in foster care at that time. From this group, 33 (62.3 percent) were in group home programs, five (5) (9.4 percent) were with relative caregivers, one (1) (1.9 percent) was listed as being in non-foster care, four (4) (7.5 percent) were listed in an "other" category, and ten were listed as being in a "runaway" status. For the State, 56 percent were in group home programs, 3.8 percent were with relative caregivers, and the remainder were in various other settings.

Historically, probation youth have been placed in group home programs when put into foster care. Generally, foster homes and specialized foster home programs are not available for probation youth. The less restrictive alternative to group care for probation youth is with relatives and non-relative caregivers. Overall, SB Probation has increased relative placements since the implementation of the last SIP.

4E Rate of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Placement Preferences

Rate of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Placement Preferences Santa Barbara



	Relatives	Non-Relative Non-Indian Family	Non-Relative Indian Family	Care Provider Ethnicity Missing	Group Home
OCT09	50.0	31.3	0.0	18.8	0.0
OCT10	68.8	12.5	0.0	0.0	18.8
OCT11	66.7	8.3	0.0	0.0	25.0

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

Santa Barbara County's ICWA rates are based on a small number of ICWA children placed in foster care. Only 12 foster children met the ICWA criteria. A point in time report from October 2011 reflects that 1 (8.3%) foster child was placed with non-relative, non-Indian (or unknown ethnicity) substitute care providers, 3 (25%) were placed in a group home and 8 (66.7%) were placed with a relative. There are no identified ICWA

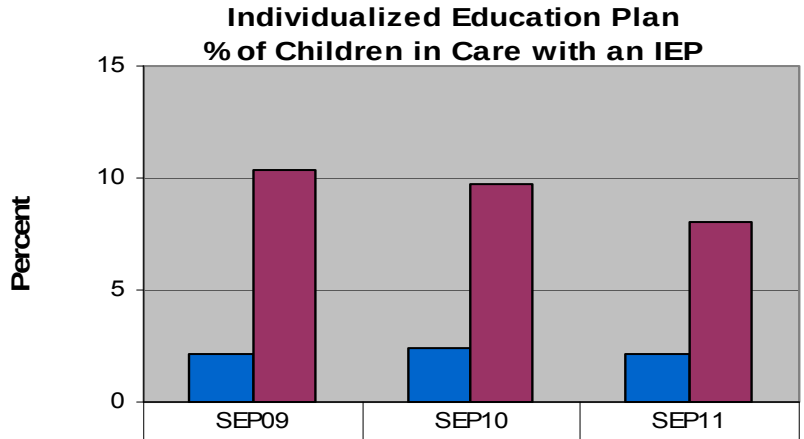
youth in placement for Probation. Placement preferences for ICWA eligible children are closely adhered to and every effort is made to work collaboratively with tribes to identify available resources for the child and family.

Well-being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for the children's needs. **There are no identified measures available for this outcome currently.**

Well-being Outcome 2: Children receive services appropriate to their educational needs.

Process Measures:
6B Individualized Education Plan

6B Individualized Education Plan



	SEP09	SEP10	SEP11
Santa Barbara	2.1	2.4	2.1
California	10.4	9.7	8

Count	608/13	565/14	559/12

http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

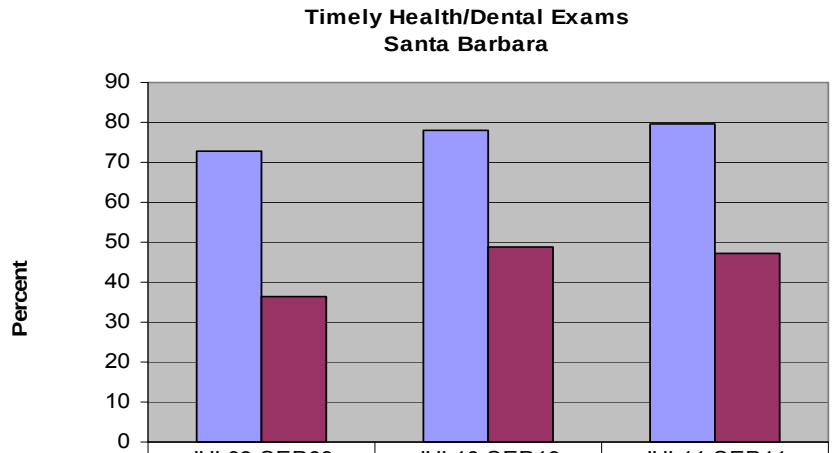
Santa Barbara County realizes that the low rate of children with IEP's is likely attributable to inconsistent data entry into CWS/CMS. Data for all students in Santa Barbara County reflects that 9.5% of youth have an active IEP (See Pg 33) and that percentage is likely higher among children in foster care. Improvement in this measure will be a continued focus for Santa Barbara County CWS.

Well-being Outcome 3: children receive services adequate to their physical, emotional and mental health needs.

Process Measures:
5B Receipts of Health Screenings: Percent Children in care with CHDP, dental exams, psychotropic medications, and immunizations that comply with periodicity Table
5F Authorized for Psychotropic Medications

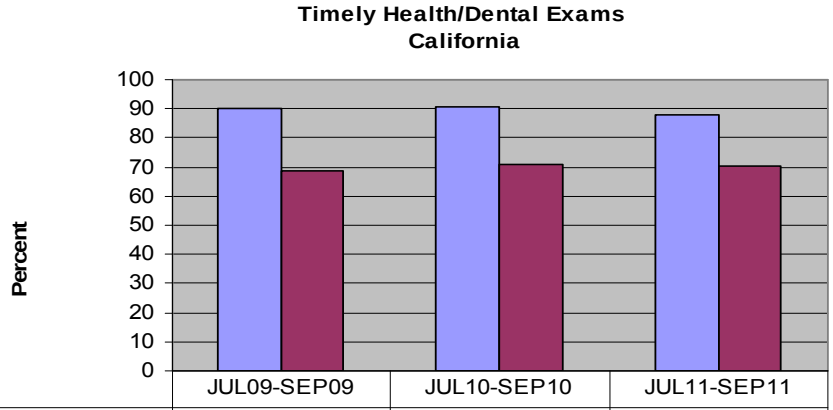
5B Receipts of Health Screenings: Percent Children in care with CHDP, dental exams, psychotropic medications, and immunizations that comply with periodicity table.

These reports track the percentage of foster children receiving timely health and dental exams



	JUL09-SEP09	JUL10-SEP10	JUL11-SEP11
Timely Medical Exams	72.7	77.9	79.7
Timely Dental Exams	36.6	48.8	47.1

Count: Medical	407/153	399/113	380/97
Count: Dental	288/166	212/202	185/208



	JUL09-SEP09	JUL10-SEP10	JUL11-SEP11
Timely Medical Exams	90.2	90.6	88.0
Timely Dental Exams	68.8	70.8	70.4

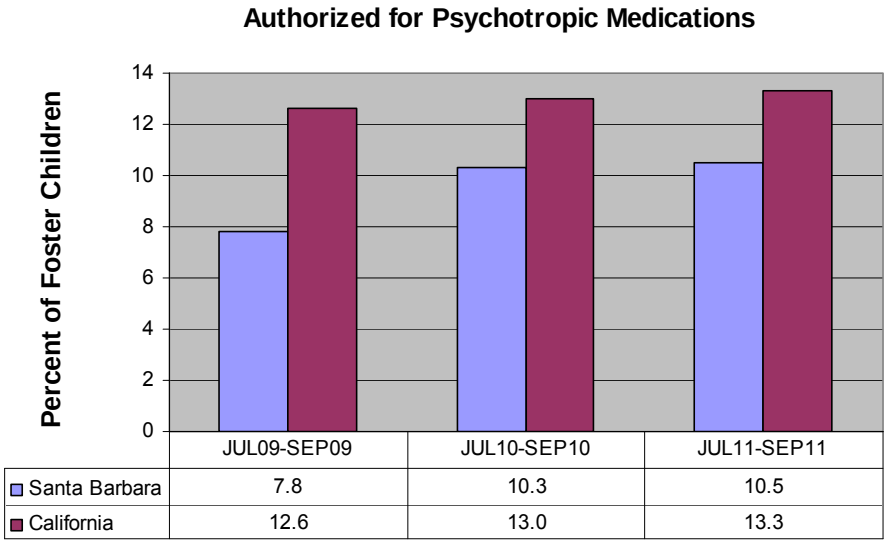
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

Although we have seen great improvement in this measure over the last year due to the addition of a Public Health Nurse to CWS, there is still improvement needed in this measure as performance is significantly lower than the state average. Santa Barbara County realizes that the low rate of children with timely medical/dental exams is largely

attributable to inconsistent data entry into CWS/CMS. Additionally there is a lack of Denti-cal providers in the county which negatively impacts timely dental care. Improvement in this measure will be a continued focus for Santa Barbara County CWS.

5F Authorized for Psychotropic Medications

These reports track the percentage of foster children authorized to receive Psychotropic Medications.



http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS

The addition of a Public Health Nurse for Child Welfare Services has also assisted in improving timely and accurate data entry related to court ordered psychotropic medications. In 2012, Santa Barbara County CWS initiated a routine quality assurance report on psychotropic medications and indicators as to whether there is a current court order. This measure places a focus of attention on the issue of psychotropics for children in care.

Systemic Factors

Relevant Management Information Systems

The Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) is the principal information system for County CWS. Santa Barbara County went “live” in July 1997 using all facets of the application and is considered a “full-utilization” county. All CWS staff is trained in the utilization of CWS/CMS. However given the relative inexperience of our line staff and the multiple demands on their caseloads, the CWS/CMS system continues to present a challenge for ensuring data entry timeliness and integrity. CWS continues to place an emphasis on the utilization of CMS as a case management tool to enhance line staff usage. All supervisors and managers began use of the Safe Measures tool in November of 2005 and continue to utilize the tool regularly to monitor staff responsibilities and performance on various outcome measures. In August 2006,

all Social Workers/Practitioners were given access to their caseload in Safe Measures in order to afford the line staff an opportunity to better understand the link between their data entry and the outcome measures as well as to promote self-monitoring of data integrity.

The Operations and Support Division continues to provide oversight regarding data integrity and shares relevant information with managers and supervisors to enhance the completion and accuracy of key fields in the CWS/CMS system. Training and new policies/procedures often result as the data integrity issues are identified and strategies to improve accuracy are developed.
In March 2006, CWS implemented the California Structured Decision Making (SDM) tool in order to improve assessments, increase consistency and accuracy in decisions related to safety/risk, and to provide clearer oversight of the decision making process. The use of Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment is monitored monthly in order to promote the consistent use of the tool. With Safe Measures, supervisors, managers and social workers have the ability to review their own caseloads to evaluate whether SDM is being used in the case management process.

Foster Care Eligibility workers have been utilizing the state's CalWIN program to process all foster care and adoption assistance payments since March of 2006. The CalWIN system was not fully designed for the foster care program and its specific requirements. New policies and procedures for Foster Care Eligibility Workers and CWS Social Work staff were implemented to ensure timeliness and accuracy of corresponding entry of placement information in CWS/CMS, which have been successful.

The Probation Department utilizes the CWS/CMS for placement related information on all of its foster care cases, and has been for approximately one year. The information that is recorded in the system is generally limited to the data that is required by Federal and State reporting programs. When possible, staff members enter other data that may be of use in other respects. The DPOs who provide case management for foster care cases, two separate SPOs, and a number of support staff members have been trained in using the CWS/CMS. The Probation Department also utilizes its own pre-existing case management system, (IMPACT), for all probation cases, including those in foster care. Thus, staff members who work with foster care cases need to enter data into two separate case management systems. The probation case management system is a stand-alone program provided and supported by a private vendor that is not compatible with CWS/CMS. Case plans, petitions, and other documents related to foster care cases are generated in the probation case management system as that remains the primary system for all court related matters.

The designated Office of Child Abuse Prevention liaison for the Department of Social Services oversees the community-based contracts funded with CBCAP, CAPIT, PSSF and CTF dollars. In addition to reporting on performance measures developed individually to measure outcomes for families in regards to the services provided, such as The Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI-2) data, the family resource centers participating in the collaborative use Family Development Matrix data to measure progress for the families. The AAPI-2 is a 40-item questionnaire used to assess the parenting attitudes and child rearing practices of adolescents and adults. The purpose

of the inventory is to determine the degree to which respondents agree or disagree with parenting behaviors and attitudes known to contribute to child abuse and neglect. Supplementary to the performance related data, vendors collect quantitative data, such as numbers of families served, ethnicities, type of service, etc. through excel spreadsheets and provide those semi-annually to the liaison. The liaison aggregates the data and submits the annual update to OCAP.

Case Review System

Court Structure/Relationship

The Juvenile Court of Santa Barbara County is operated by the Superior Court holding hearings in both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara. The Santa Maria location calendars all cases from the north and west county regions, while Santa Barbara calendars those cases from all south county regions. During the review the north county Juvenile Court transitioned from Judge James Herman to Judge Arthur Garcia. CWS and Probation cases are heard in the Santa Maria Juvenile Court by the Assistant Presiding Superior Court Judge Arthur Garcia. South county CWS and Probation cases are heard in the Santa Barbara Juvenile Court by Judge Thomas Adams.
Child Welfare Services and Probation have a positive working relationship with the Juvenile Court, the attorneys, CASA's and each other. When differences of opinion arise all parties work together to discuss and resolve issues. Additionally, Child Welfare Services and Probation routinely send staff to the annual Beyond the Bench convening to further build knowledge, skills and competency in Court matters. County CWS and Probation managers meet monthly with the presiding Juvenile Court Judge to review process related issues and to keep the courts appraised of various systemic issues impacting CWS and Probation in delivering services to the client population. In addition, less formal Brown Bags meetings are held with the respective Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and the South County judge which includes all court stakeholders. Topics of discussion during this review period have included the implementation of AB 12/ AB 212, the expansion of the electronic transmissions for court material, access to mental health services, discussions related to noticing and continuances, the expansion of Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) and the federal Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) grant.

Santa Barbara County CWS has successfully maintained a Family Drug Treatment Court program since 2009, which has served to increase timely reunification and permanence for children. During the review Child Welfare Services was awarded the federal (CAM) grant which supported further expansion of the program and increased collaboration among the court, community based organizations, the Department of Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services and UC Santa Barbara. FDTC is an intensive program for Child Welfare Services families involved in dependency proceedings, whose primary issues are drug and/or alcohol abuse. Families accepted into this program receive a high level of case management to include weekly court appearances. This program is comprised of two designated social workers who provide case management to families; one of which also serves as the service coordinator for CAM. Weekly FDTC staffings among stakeholders are held at court and monthly CAM meetings are held to include all collaborative CAM partners. In FDTC families work

through the three phase program and participate in a graduation ceremony hosted at the court to honor their success and encourage new participants. There were 49 FDTC cases during the October 2010-September 2011 review period. Analysis of the outcomes for FDTC suggest that less than 1% of parents who participated failed to complete the program, that participants in FDTC reunified sooner than non participants and ultimately have a lower recidivism.

Use of Continuances: Child Welfare Services and the courts continue to work collaboratively to address the role of continuances and their impact on delaying permanence for youth in placement. However, a review of the data shows that there was a significant increase in the number of continuance during the fiscal year from 277 to 607. An assessment of factors contributing to the increase in continuances reflect that they are in part the result of a large increase in the number of contested hearings, requests from attorneys, continuances due to the scheduling of trials and settlement conferences, improper noticing, failure to produce parents in custody, and missing or late reports. Additional factors cited include an overall increase in caseloads which impacts the entire system, a transition in the presiding judge from James Herman to Arthur Garcia and the correlating change in expectations in the courtroom. Continuances in delinquency proceedings do not generally impact the placement of a probation youth into a foster care program. If continuances occur they do so mostly during the jurisdiction (fact-finding) phase and not during the disposition phase where placement is considered. A probation youth awaiting placement is usually detained in a secure setting and will go into group care. As such, continuances do not affect the outcome or unnecessarily delay a placement or reunification for occurring.

SB CWS is working with County Counsel to identify ways to address the increase in contested hearings, continuances and the differences in the legal expectations of some of the attorneys. As noted previously improper noticing on behalf of CWS has been addressed with the development of a new tracking process and additional supervisory oversight. Concerns regarding the submission of late or incomplete reports have been linked in large part to a handful of social workers which are receiving support, training, and additional supervisory oversight.
Child Welfare Services and County Counsel have been proactive throughout the years in objecting to continuances whenever possible. It is the goal of SB CWS to build on our past successes and reduce continuances wherever possible in the interest of expediting timely reunification and permanence for our children and families.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR): CWS makes recommendations for TPR when it has been determined that the child is adoptable and after thorough assessment adoption is in the child's best interest. The WIC 366.26 report is prepared by the primary social worker and the adoptions assessment is prepared by the secondary adoptions worker. Santa Barbara County's 2011 Adoption Composite of 103.76 exceeds the State Goal of 99.2. Timely entry of TPR information into the CMS/CWS database continues to be a data quality issue needing attention, and data quality has an effect on applicable measures of efficacy and timeliness. In FY 2009/10 there were 79 adoptions, in FY 2010/11 there were 84 adoptions and in FY 2011/12 there have already been 72 adoptions as of January 1, 2012.

The Juvenile Court Facilities: The Santa Barbara Courthouse is located in historic building constructed in the 1930's with limited accommodations for patrons. The Santa Maria Juvenile Court is in a new, more spacious building attached to the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall. There is a significantly larger waiting area, more seating, and a pleasant, partially enclosed room with a table and small chairs for children. In addition, there are meeting rooms for counsel and CWS on the premises.

Alternative Dispute Resolution: Family mediation is not currently being utilized. However, at the recent Beyond the Bench Conference the use alternative dispute resolution in the form of mediation was discussed as being particularly useful. This topic was recently posed at the Brown Bag meeting and will be explored further as a potential tool to decrease continuances and increase timely reunification and permanence.

CWS Process for Notification of Hearings: At the time of Detention social workers notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing. In the event that the social worker is unable to provide either in person or telephonic notification, a designated CWS Office Professional mails a written notice of the Detention hearing via first class mail. Cases involving dependent minors are reviewed in the court system as they move through the legal process. If the parties are present at the Detention hearing and waive notice the court provides notice on Jurisdictional and Dispositional hearings. However, if the parties are not present or do not waive notice then a designated CWS Office Professional provides written notice of Jurisdictional and Dispositional hearings via first class mail. After the Dispositional hearing the 6, 12 and 18-month review hearings are typically scheduled in advance. 3-Month Interim Review hearings are occasionally utilized to assess the appropriateness of reunification and to provide the court with updates regarding case plan compliance and case specific matters such as engagement in visitation. A designated a CWS Office Professional provides notification of hearings on all routine noticing. 366.26 notices are tracked and completed by an identified CWS Office Professional who utilizes a combination of CWS/CMS and a spreadsheet to guide and track timeframes for noticing. Timely 366.26 noticing has been a focus area for SB CWS as improper and late noticing were notably resulting in court continuances. In evaluating the process for 366.26 noticing it was determined that incorrect or absent contact information was a factor. To address this and ensure timely notification an emphasis has been placed on ensuring that Due Diligence are initiated in a timely manner and a spreadsheet was developed to track timeframes.
ICWA 30 noticing is completed 15 days prior to the Disposition hearing by a designated CWS Office Professional. The Office Professional will continue to notice all tribes until such time that the court making a finding on ICWA; all response letters have been received, or until 60 days after notice is sent without a tribal response.
Additionally, Office Professional Supervisors and their Division Mangers are working closely with staff to ensure timely notification on hearings.

Juvenile offenders and their parents are noticed of hearings by certified mail from the Superior Court or from a member of the Probation Department depending on the status of the case. Generally the Probation Department will advise parents and other parties about a hearing for an offender who is detained. Personal service may be pursued if mail or telephone contact has been unsuccessful. When juveniles and their parents attend calendared hearings they are advised then of any subsequent hearings. The same general practice is followed for all probation cases including those in foster care.

Process for Parent-Child-Youth Participation in Case Planning

SB Child Welfare Services employs a strengths based, family centered, needs driven, solution oriented and culturally competent approach to case planning. The use of Team Decision Making Meetings and Family Meetings provide a forum in which the family and community partners assists in increasing knowledge about a family to develop an appropriate case plan. Community partners to include Public Health, probation officers, parole officers, alcohol and drug treatment providers, teachers/principals, health care professionals, Tri County Regional staff, mental health professionals, Safe Care professionals, and attorneys are among those invited and frequently attend. SB Child Welfare Services utilizes translation service whenever appropriate to ensure cultural competency and the engagement of our non English speaking clients, which are largely Spanish and Mixteco populations. In particular they use of Oaxacan and Mixteco interpreters has increased during the review in line with an increase of CWS contact with these cultures. Moreover, court reports and case plans are provided in Spanish as needed.

The goal of SB Child Welfare Services is to provide the least intrusive intervention to meet the needs of the family while ensuring safety and mitigating risk factors. The emphasis for case plans is on family engagement and attending to safety and risk factors. Structured Decision Making tools are used to guide the assessment of safety and risk factors. The Structured Decision Making Family Strengths and Needs Assessment are used to guide the development of case plans in collaboration with the family. Identifying the unique strengths of a family, outlining the challenges and brainstorming ideas to develop a plan assist in the timely ability to reunify and end cases at the soonest and safest time.

When TDMs are not held for case planning, Social Workers confer with parents, children, and service providers in case planning activities discussing risks, strengths, needs, services, and available resources. Children, depending on age, are also involved in the case planning process and are generally required to attend Court. SB County has private attorneys who are contracted with the State to represent children in dependency hearings. The attorneys are very involved with the cases and have regular contact with both the children they represent and the social worker via email, telephone, and their investigator regarding case concerns and progress. Case plans are developed with the goal of meeting the unique needs of the family and are reviewed with the family on a minimum of a monthly basis.

SB Child Welfare Services believes that children deserve to grow up in their family of origin with their parents whenever it is safe and appropriate to do so. In the event that a child can not safely be maintained in the home every effort is made to identify family and non related family members as potential placement resources. SB Child Welfare Service and the Probation Department, utilize a Home Connection Finder to assist in the identification of family and non related family members in the life of the child. Target populations for CWS served by the HCF include children entering care, as well as children placed in group homes and youth emancipating from care. For probation cases, this may be during the initial stages of a case or whenever placement is considered. Not all cases are referred to Home Connection Finders as Probation Officers often

exhaust possibilities during the course of investigating the case circumstances. When a child is put into protective custody efforts are made to obtain the name of a relative or non-related extended family member as a resource. This resource is explored and placement approval is made when possible. Families and prospective foster parents are encouraged to attend Team Decision-Making meetings, consider being a foster care placement, and consider adoption as a concurrent plan.

Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services and Probation recognizes the importance of youth participation in case planning and engagement in ILP and transitional services. ILP training was held for CWS and Probation staff in 2009. The training focused on the revised TILP and the requirement of collaboration between the youth and the social worker/probation officer. The individualized nature of the TILP was stressed as a "working document" that would be reviewed both on an ongoing basis during monthly face to face visits or THPP meetings, as well during emancipation/transition conferences. An additional training on ILP is calendared for the coming month which will serve to ensure depth of knowledge on ILP, the TILP assessment and the implementation of AB 12.

Santa Barbara County CWS staff has used CMS to generate case plans since July 1997. Case plans are written by the majority of our social worker/practitioner staff and utilize the Structured Decision Making's Family Strengths and Needs Assessment to target focused intervention services. The majority of case plans written are completed in conjunction with the court report for the upcoming Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, or Permanent Planning court hearings and correspond to the mandatory judicial reviews. Case plans that are not prompted by the need for judicial review for updates include the initial (60 day) case plan, family preservation case plans, and guardianship services only cases. In these instances, the reminder section in CWS/CMS and Safe Measures are utilized to assist staff in maintaining current case plans for all clients.

Safe Measures indicates that SB County CWS compliance in approved case plans has been consistent since March 2008 due to our efforts to improve data integrity and the use of Safe Measures to monitor our compliance. An analysis of the information reveals that Case Plans are typically developed in a timely manner, as they are routinely filed in Juvenile Court with the corresponding court reports within the legally mandated time frames. Throughout 2008, Safe Measures reflected a range from 93% to 99.87% compliance rate for case plans. This shows there has been a substantial improvement in both case plans being completed and approved by supervisors in a timely manner.

The assigned DPO is responsible for preparing a case plan for any Probation youth entering foster care. The plans are completed in accordance with Federal and State requirements, i.e., every six months minimally. They are formulated with input from the youth involved and the parent or guardian. They are completed in a format approved of by the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and which contain all necessary language regarding out-of-home removal.

It is a Child Welfare Services standard that the Social Worker will review monthly the progress the family has made with their case plan. The Social Worker will consider family strengths and needs, and safety and risk elements that pertain to the family's

current circumstance. At a minimum of every six months a Family Strengths and Needs Reassessment is completed, and the case plan is updated in collaboration with the Social Worker, the defined team and the family.

Concurrent Planning

The Permanency Unit is responsible for managing all cases post a Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 366.26 hearing in order to continue to emphasize seeking permanence through adoptions/guardianship for all youth, regardless of age. Concurrent planning tasks are assigned to the primary assigned worker. Adoption social workers have secondary assignment and responsibility for assisting in development and implementation of the concurrent plan for children. During the 2010/2011 fiscal year, 80 children received a family for life through the adoption process.

To enhance the concurrent planning process and the identification of possible connections for children in foster care, CWS sought Child Welfare System Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP) funds in 2005/2006 to implement a program referred to as the Home Connection Finders. In an effort to maximize early identification and location of relatives for possible placements CWS initiated and has maintained a contract with the Community Action Commission to provide family finding services called “home connection finders”. This service seeks out relatives and connections for children in CWS and Probation care with the goal of providing relative placements, long-term connections, and permanency for the children. The information obtained through contact with biological families, non-related extended family members, and the youth is provided to the primary assigned caseworker/probation officer for follow up or referral to the Social Worker and Licensing/Relative Approval Unit. The project has been very successful in identifying connections for CWS and Probation youth and is reflected in that currently 35.1% of SB County’s children are in relative or non-related extended family placements.

Foster Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention

Santa Barbara County does its own licensing and provides enhanced funding to the Licensing program allowing for 2.5 full-time licensing workers. Licensing workers conduct orientations, complete issue new licenses, conduct annual licensing visits, and handle all case management activities and complaint investigations. Licensing staff are also responsible for completing all referrals for initial relative/ non-related extended family member approvals and annual re-assessments. In 2011, 20 new foster parents were licensed and approximately 100 new relative/Non Related Extended Family Member homes were approved for placement. There are approximately 70 licensed foster family homes and 200 Relative/Non Related Extended Family Member homes currently.

The Foster Parent Recruiter provides a concentrated effort on expanding and retaining the pool of available foster parents. Unfortunately this effort has had limited success in increasing the number of foster family homes in the county. Due to the large numbers of adoptions that occur by foster parents there is a great deal of attrition in foster family homes as the majority are interested in adoption and tend to give up their license following adoption. Given the limited resources currently, recruitment efforts have been

more generalized focusing on increasing the total pool of available placements. The Foster Parent Recruiter also serves as a liaison between the Department and resource families to assist in supporting their needs and improving retention.

All potential foster parents attend an Orientation conducted by a County Licensing Worker. In collaboration with the community colleges, caregivers interested in pursuing licensure participate in the Parents Resources Information Development Education (PRIDE) training program. PRIDE classes are offered throughout the year and vary as to location and time, occurring throughout the county during weekend, evening and day schedules to best meet the diverse schedules of prospective foster parents. Prospective candidates also participate in the PRIDE assessment, wherein a contracted assessor attends the classes and evaluates candidates in their homes, working with them to continue through the program or assess themselves out as candidates. The written assessment provided by the PRIDE assessor identifies the resource family's competencies, areas for development, and placement readiness. Pride Assessments are conducted in both English and Spanish, as needed. The PRIDE assessor contract is funded through PSSF funds and serves to promote and support permanency and adoption by ensuring the family is adequately prepared to meet the needs of children through foster care and adoption.

Child Welfare Services continuously works to improve the recruitment of foster families. Recruitment strategies include the use of a recruitment line to ensure contact with the licensing recruitment as well as to provide recorded information about upcoming orientations and events. Child Welfare Services uses public service announcements, community events, foster parent appreciation events, newspaper articles, advertising, and the Heart Gallery to publicize the need for more foster families.

Child Welfare Services supports and works to retain existing foster/resource parents in a variety of ways. A Foster Parent Newsletter is distributed to current caregivers, as well as a monthly listing of classes, workshops, activities and other available resources to support their efforts. Additionally a variety of appreciation activities are coordinated throughout the year including an annual foster parent appreciation carnival in the spring and a holiday party in December. Both activities are open to all foster and relative/NREM caregivers and their children. Additionally CWS partners with both faith based and community based organizations to provide free opportunities for foster parents and children to participate in enriching activities such as horseback riding, plane rides, sports opportunities, camps, and art and music events.

In addition to County CWS efforts to recruit foster parents, CWS has continued to support the expansion of Foster Family Agencies (FFA) in Santa Barbara County to bolster the availability of new resource homes. County CWS has currently established contracts with a local FFA to provide shelter care in the North and West County regions.

The Helping Others in Parenting Environments (HOPE) program provides supportive time limit therapeutic services to substitute care providers as a means to both provide support for foster parents and enhance the stability of youth in placement. Hope services are provided by CALM in the Santa Barbara and Lompoc and Santa Maria Youth and Family Services in Santa Maria and is funded by County Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services.

Santa Barbara County CWS also began participating in the Quality Parenting Project Initiative in January 2011. The Pilot program is designed to recruit and retain "Quality Foster Parents" and is sponsored through the Youth Law Center. During the first year, the Quality Parenting workgroup defined the qualities of a successful foster parent and crafted a brand statement to reflect those qualities in a positive way. Other action items of the group included:

Improving communication with and support for foster parents by:

- Providing a list of frequently used phone numbers to foster parents such as the main office number, eligibility number, and afterhours numbers.
- Updating agency voicemail greetings to include name and number of supervisor as well as number of main office that is always answered by a live person.
- Partnering with Foster Parent Association to do presentations for Social Workers on services available to foster parents.
- Providing more background information to foster parents about children's needs prior to placement and clarifying information regarding confidentiality.

Placement Resources

Placement resources continue to be one of the biggest challenges for Santa Barbara County CWS and are a top priority. Significantly, the rising number of sibling groups including large sibling groups of 3 or more are impacting the counties ability to keep them placed together when relative placements are not available. A point in time report of all children with siblings in placement on 10/1/2011 indicated that of 329 children, 174 (52.9%) were placed with all siblings, 74 (22.5%) were placed with some siblings, and 81 (24.6) were not placed with siblings. The fact that approximately 75% of children are placed with some or all siblings is a testament to SB Counties efforts to place with relatives whenever possible and to maintain siblings groups despite the lack of available placements

Additionally, SB County continues to face challenges in placing children with significant emotional and behavioral needs as well as adolescents. These children are considered "hard-to-place" and frequently end up in group home placement. The SB163 Wraparound program was implemented in May of 2007, as a means of mitigating the need for group home placements. The program targets youth either currently in high level group home placement (Rate Class Level 10-14) or at risk of such placement, and allows counties to utilize the fiscal resources that would have been required to pay for these placements flexibly to support the youth in remaining at home or in a foster/relative home with wraparound services. Although the SB163 program has proved highly effective in preventing group home placements it has not had the intended effect hoped for in returning children placed in group homes to the community. Currently, for CWS, 59 children are in group home placements with only 34% of those children being placed in Santa Barbara County. Of those youth in group home placements, 50 (85%) are between the ages of 11-18, 9 of the youth (15 %) are between the ages of 6-10: the latter represents a two-fold increase since 2008 and speaks to the lack of available placement resources for higher needs youth.

The Probation Department has used SB163 Wraparound services for many juvenile offenders since the program's inception and currently considers that program for any case where placement is a possibility (at risk of removal to a RCL 10 or higher program). While the program hasn't been successful with all offenders referred to it, it has been highly impactful for a number of youth and their families and has prevented removal to foster care. A number of youth have participated in the program more than once. Additionally, the Probation Department has used the program as a means to return youth from group homes to either a relative caregiver or to their own home. There are some program limitations on how this may be used, but it has proven to be a valuable resource in transitioning certain youth back to their communities. Probation cases routinely account for more than half of all SB163 Wraparound program slots. For the period 10-1-10 to 9-30-11, 21 different youth participated in these services.

Probation cases continue to be placed in either group care or with relative or non-relative caregivers. Specialized foster care programs that can adequately deal with juvenile offenders do not presently exist although there is evidence to suggest the use of them may be especially impactful. There are not foster homes for delinquent youth currently as well. Many probation youth may benefit from a foster home environment, but, because of the unavailability of them, they are instead placed in group care, often out of the local area. The development of specialized programs involves other agencies and requires funding issues to be addressed. Additionally, recruiting willing foster parents is a challenge.

The Inter-Agency Policy Council (IAPC), which serves as the executive oversight committee for SB163 Wraparound approved the expansion of the program from 18 to the full 25 State approved slots in 2009. Despite the expanded capacity and effectiveness of the program, census numbers have continued to average between 16-20 and the program has not reached full capacity as hoped. The lack of placement resources for higher needs children continues to be a great concern, and there are few placements available that are willing to accept such children even with the support of SB163 wraparound services. Additionally Santa Barbara County lacks the Intensive Treatment Foster Care program that many other Counties have successfully implemented and as a result does not have the necessary continuum of appropriate least restrictive placements to support the needs of the children in our County.

County CWS utilizes a supportive function for identifying/locating placement matches for children entering or moving within the foster care system. The Placement Search Assistant (PSA) role was developed and is a service provided to the children via a contract with Community Action Commission. The PSA assists social work staff in identifying a possible placement match for a child by communicating with potential caregivers in the placement search process. The PSA contract is funded through CWSOIP dollars.

In an effort to serve children who could be diverted from out of home placement, SB County CWS continues to maximize the use of staff that provide Voluntary Family Maintenance services. The Countywide Family Services Unit is centralized and comprised of 3 CWS social workers providing Voluntary Family Maintenance Services.

Quality Assurance System

The CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Liaison to OCAP is the KIDS Network Manager, who is responsible for collecting, compiling, and analyzing subcontractor data and for meeting all due dates for reporting to OCAP. The OCAP liaison is responsible for all quality assurance process for CAPIT, CBCAP and PSSF funding streams. Program oversight is provided by the County liaison in coordination with CWS management level staff and program leads. PSSF Adoption, Promotion and Support, Family Reunification and Family Preservation funds are handled in collaboration with the responsible CWS program manager. Fiscal oversight is provided by the OCAP liaison and fiscal staff. The Department of Social Services fiscal division maintains complete financial records for all CAPIT / CBCAP / PSSF costs and operating expenses and provides staff support as needed. CAPIT invoices are submitted to OCAP on a quarterly basis, and the required ten percent cash or in-kind match is included in the CAPIT invoice. The County uses ten percent of the total CAPIT and CBCAP allocations for administrative costs. Under the Department of Social Services contracting rules, each contract contains a detailed "statement of work" which includes services to be provided, outcomes to be achieved through the services, as well as a reporting schedule for the contractor. The reporting requirements for CAPIT / CBCAP / PSSF programs reflect the requirements of state reporting. In addition to the reporting requirements, the liaison conducts site visits and communicates regularly with vendors regarding reporting, services and outcomes. Individual technical assistance is made available to each contractor as necessary. It is the responsibility of the liaison to assist agency staff in determining the types of technical assistance needed and in finding appropriate providers of the needed assistance. Vendors are notified via e-mail communication of any concerns or issues that arise based on site visits or the semi-annual progress reports. Vendors are provided with a deadline by which to respond with comments or corrective action. The liaison does notify vendors in writing whether their progress reports have been approved once all issues have been resolved.

There have been no issues of non-compliance with current vendors. However in the case of non-compliance, the liaison does have the ability to terminate a contract after written notifications have been ignored, following the department's contracting guidelines for non-compliance. This is a formal process that would be executed under the guidance of the department's contracting unit.

The liaison does review any corrective action that has been requested either through documentation or through a site visit before issuing approval for the final report.

Each vendor is required to utilize client satisfaction questionnaires to all families served. Client satisfaction data is submitted in aggregate to the County liaison.

The cost of sending County liaisons to meetings, conferences and training events are covered as in-kind contributions by the Department of Social Services, and/or from funds from the County Children's Trust Fund. County Children's Trust Fund moneys are used to pay for training scholarships, tuition and meeting stipends for parents and parent/consumers, and when appropriate, for community volunteers.

The Social Services Operations and Support Division is tasked with supporting a continual quality assurance monitoring system within the CWS branch, providing a unifying business approach to the three regional CWS offices, and support the development of policy/programs for outcome improvement. CWS/CMS data integrity remains a priority issue to ensure accuracy in our data management system and confidence that reports generated are providing an accurate account of our performance. The Social Services Operations Division meets monthly to discuss data elements to support a more comprehensive understanding of the quantitative picture provided by the data. The OPS division is responsible for maintaining the CWS report card which tracks a number of statistical elements in relation to referrals and caseloads. The OPS division is also charged with monitoring the Department's Key Performance Indicators on a quarterly basis: Timely in-person response to immediate referral investigations, timely monthly face to face visits for children in open cases, and timely processing for all new foster care intake applications.

In addition, regional information is gathered, analyzed, and presented in various reports/formats to support the decision-making of the Department's Executive Officers Team, the CWS Team, and CWS Operations Group (CWS OPS). The CWS "Team" meets monthly to confer over policy, outcomes, major program redesign/restructuring, and quality assurance issues. CWS Team is comprised of executive, managerial, supervisory, and analytic/administrative support. CWS OPS is comprised of managers and supervisors who meet and confer monthly for implementation of procedural changes, standardization of practices, and updates on operational functioning of the various units countywide. Supervisors, managers, and Department Business Specialists are then charged with writing Policies and Procedures to ensure countywide uniformity in the delivery of services and the corresponding data entry components. These Policies and Procedures are then presented at CWS Regional meetings and reviewed by each Supervisor in unit meetings. Training is provided by unit supervisors, Department Business Specialists, and/or staff development for the more complex Policies and Procedures.

There are also multiple other quality assurance measures in place to support the integrity of the work being performed by County CWS staff and those community partners with whom we contract to provide direct services to children and families. Contract monitoring and analysis of efficacy is a key element. Team Decision-Making Meetings are tracked and monitored to ensure they are utilized as intended and to provide outcome information. The County Shelter Census Database is updated daily and closely monitored to ensure availability as well as track trends in the use of emergency shelter care. The Recruitment Database tracks county foster homes from first contact through licensing and is used to inform decisions about recruitment and the licensing process. The Foster Family Home Database is used by the foster care recruiter, licensing, as well as the placement search assistant and adoptions to track information on and find available foster homes. The ICWA Matrix Database is used to track Children who may be ICWA eligible from detention through the completed ICWA finding date or enrollment. Full utilization of Safe Measures allows managers, supervisors and case-carrying Social Workers to monitor case information and track individual, unit, and department wide outcomes.

Because of the comparatively few probation cases in foster care, the Probation Department is able to address Quality Assurance needs informally at the unit level. The Juvenile Division Manager, Placement SPO, and Placement DPOs are tasked with remaining current with Federal and State requirements concerning foster care, and incorporating any new regulatory or legal requirements into existing policies. Those persons respond to inquiries from CWS and the Juvenile Court regarding foster care related issues as they might pertain to probation cases. The Placement Unit (manager, supervisor, DPOs, Probation Assistant, and support staff) meet periodically to review practices and modify them as needed.

The Probation Department utilizes an internal approval process for cases where placement into foster care is the preferred recommendation. Officers who perform court investigations, and in some cases supervision officers, are required to discuss with their immediate supervisor any recommendation for placement in foster care. If the recommendation for placement is supported by the SPO, the officer presents the case at the Probation Department's Placement Review Committee (PRC). The PRC meets on a weekly basis and considers recommendations for foster care placement, long-term detention in the juvenile hall, commitment in a specific program designed for certain offenders, participation in SB 163 Wraparound services, or commitment to the State Division of Juvenile Facilities (formerly the California Youth Authority). Most cases presented at PRC are for foster care recommendations. The PRC consists of the Juvenile Division Manager, the Placement SPO, SPO for the officer presenting the case, the assigned officer, and a representative from the County mental health agency, Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) Juvenile Justice team. Other persons may be asked to participate depending on the case dynamics. The PRC will affirm the recommendation of the assigned officer, discuss alternatives to the proposed recommendation, or disapprove the recommendation. The PRC process helps to insure only those cases truly in need of foster care services are recommended for placement.

Service Array

Listed in this section are the current services, programs and activities provided by the public, private profit and nonprofit organizations that support the mission of prevention, Child Welfare Services, and Probation. The following funding streams are used to support and strengthen the service array in the community for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as for children and families receiving Child Welfare and Probation services:

PSSF Adoption Promotion and Support

PSSF adoption promotion and support funds are used to assess and prepare families for adoption as well as to contribute to the success of adoptive placements by funding services to children and adoptive families both pre and post adoption . Currently PSSF funds are utilized to fund services such as Pride Assessment, pre and post-adoptive therapeutic services, scholarships to attend summer camp and recreational activities for children to aid in social/emotional development and provide respite for families, as well

as other resources and supports that will aid permanent placement for adoptive families and their children.

PSSF Time-Limited Family Reunification Services
Family reunification funds are utilized by Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services to cover cost for services that aid the reunification process within the required 15-month period. Such services include individual, group, and family counseling; inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services; mental health services; assistance to address domestic violence; services designed to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries; and transportation to or from any of the services and activities described in this subparagraph. Currently, the majority of PSSF funds are utilized to fund contracts for substance abuse treatment with Good Samaritan to serve the Northern Region, Zona Seca to serve the Lompoc Valley and CADA to serve the Southern region.

PSSF Family Preservation Funds
Santa Barbara County's Differential Response program, Front Porch, which has proven to be very successful in preventing repeated referrals to child welfare services is funded through Family Preservation Funds, targeting children at high-risk of abuse and neglect that have come to the attention of Child Welfare Services. Child Welfare Services, in collaboration with Santa Barbara County First 5, expanded the County's DR model to include the option of providing additional case management and services to families through First 5 funded Family Resource Centers, significantly increasing the reach of the program, as well as the number of families served. The majority of PSSF family preservation funds are used to fund contracts from differential response with Community Action Commission in the Northern Region and and CALM in the Southern Region.

CAPIT/CBCAP/CTF/ PSSF Family Support
These funding streams have been braided and are used to support services to families at risk of abuse and neglect such as:

- Incredible Years Home Visiting program
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Post-partum depression counseling
- Case Management
- Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Parenting and life skills classes.
- Parent Leadership development programs

Clinical providers have teamed up with the family resource centers to increase accessibility for the community for these services. The goal of the centers is to empower at-risk individuals and families through outreach, assessment, case-management, information and referrals, parent education and counseling services to ensure they access services to meet basic needs, such as health insurance and housing.

The Centers includes bilingual/bicultural staff members who live in the community and provide coordinated case management services. The focus is to assist children, individuals and their families towards self-sufficiency. Services are offered county-wide,

with offices in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Santa Maria, Solvang, and more remote areas such as Cuyama, and Guadalupe. Services are provided on a sliding scale or at no cost, thanks to individuals, foundations, businesses and corporations.

In addition, both the provider agencies and the Family Resource Centers work closely with Tri-Counties Regional Center and Alpha Resource Center, two agencies that provide services for children with disabilities and their relatives.

Particular efforts are being made to outreach to the Mixteco population, in coordination with promotores programs, which are comprised of outreach workers recruited from within the community to share information through a traditional social network, and Family Resource Centers. One such program launched by Centro Binacional, is called Naa Vali Datun, which means "healthy children" in Mixtec. The program is designed to teach prenatal health education and address many of the common misunderstandings that keep Mixteca women from accessing available services. With the help of a $30,000 one-year grant from First 5 Santa Barbara County, the organization was able to hire a part-time staff person and pay some of the group's overhead. In addition to holding workshops on prenatal health care every week for pregnant Mixteca women and accompanying women to clinic visits, staff also tries to ensure that women's basic nutritional needs are met and registers their children for health insurance.

Prevention funding is further coordinated with other funding supporting the Family Resource Centers. Santa Barbara County has a network of active Family Resource Centers that provide services across the County. Both First 5 funding and prevention funding services utilize the Family Development Matrix for shared data collection and case managing of all Family Resource Center clients. The family development Matrix allows an agency to work from a strengths, rather than a “deficit” model, documenting where a family is thriving as well as where it needs support and allowing those using it to identify strengths from which to start addressing needs. It also combines both a process that encourages skill building in a program participant, and the development of outcomes that enable the measuring of family progress and facilitates family ownership of their efforts. In addition, it provides a powerful “data set” for needs assessment, program planning and evaluation and soliciting of funds for future work. The Child Abuse Prevention Council coordinates closely with the Family Resource Center Network for joint activities, such as child abuse prevention education, case management and outreach to early care and education providers. Both networks are actively engaged in the community self assessment and prevention funding allocation.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council has been actively engaged in developing parent leadership within agencies and on behalf of the Child Abuse Prevention Council. Santa Barbara parent leaders provide peer-to-peer education primarily to Spanish speaking mono-lingual parents.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council has provided the following training and outreach events in the past year, either in collaboration with their partners in San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties or with other entities within the County.

- “From Research to Practice: Implementing Evidence-based Programs and Interventions” – regional training for child abuse prevention professionals, organized in collaboration with San Luis and Ventura Counties
- Family Resource Center Peer Review – regional sharing and education to improve program and service delivery for family resource centers provided in collaboration with Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, and Strategies
- Parent Leadership Conference Preparation Training and Sponsorship – 10 parent leaders participated in preparatory training and were sponsored to attend parent leadership conference with staff support on behalf of the Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Child Abuse Prevention Academies in North and South County – 3-hour trainings including information on Mandated Reporting, Strengthening Families and Child Trauma targeted to students and the community in collaboration with Allan Hancock and Santa Barbara City College
- Mandated Reporter and Protective Factors Training – year-round, including various disciplines and professional groups, including K-12 educators, early childhood professionals, clergy, medical staff and youth leaders
- “Strengthening Families and Communities: A California Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention Summit, San Diego – two workshops were selected for inclusion in the state-wide conference, both highlighting local work accomplished under the leadership of the Santa Barbara County KIDS Network and Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Strengthening Families Training – Conceived of and created training, designed material and trained staff from 15 different disciplines to allow for roll-out of the Protective Factors in their agency. Due to the work spearheaded by the KIDS Network and Child Abuse Prevention Council, Santa Barbara County has been recognized repeatedly for its early implementer status by the State-level group.
- Regional Convening for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention – Convening to align prevention efforts across counties, among prevention partners and between prevention and intervention communities. Conceived of and implemented by the Child Abuse Prevention Council, in collaboration with San Luis and Ventura Counties. The convening model is now being replicated in other counties and was featured at the State Prevention Conference.

Prevention and Intervention Resources

Child Abuse Listening & Mediation (CALM)- provides services in both the Northern and Southern region of Santa Barbara County. The following are programs offered by CALM:

- **Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment Program -** serves children and their families to help them heal from the devastating effects of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Individual, group and family therapy are offered in a culturally sensitive environment.

- **Family Violence Counseling -** is offered to children and teens who have witnessed domestic violence. Parents who are victims of domestic violence are also eligible for services. Family, individual and group therapy are available. Groups are in cycles of 13 sessions.

- **Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) -** is an empirically-supported treatment for young children (2-7 yrs old) that place emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns. In PCIT, parents are taught specific skills to establish a nurturing and secure relationship with their child while increasing their child's pro-social behavior and decreasing negative behavior. The program helps children between the ages of 2-7 who have behavioral issues and/or where bonding and attachment need to be addressed.

- **Great Beginnings Home Visitation -** is a child abuse prevention program designed to promote the health, growth, and development of children ages pre-natal to 5 and their families. Services include developmental screening, parent education and case management. A multi-disciplinary team uses a strength-based approach to provide home and center-based services.

- **Intensive In-Home Therapy -** provides individual and family therapy services to children and families in home. Services are provided in a place and at a time convenient for the family. Interventions include: parenting education, stress management, building communication, conflict resolution and anger management skills, creating and implementing behavioral plans, and empowering the family. Therapists are available to provide support and crisis intervention 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Incredible Years Parenting -** offers evening classes for parents wishing to increase their knowledge of child development and parenting skills. Parents are taught how to prevent and reduce aggression and behavior problems in young children. Classes are held in 12-week cycles and satisfy the requirements for CWS and court-mandated parent education. Parents requiring more intensive counseling and education are seen individually or conjointly with their partners and/or their children. Classes are given in English and Spanish.

- **School-based Prevention -** is offered for children in the Santa Barbara County school systems, which are visited by CALM's prevention educators on a regular basis during the school year. In the prevention presentations, children are taught how to keep themselves safe from abduction and abuse. Internet safety and the negative effects of cyber-bullying are also taught as part of the prevention program.

- **Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) -** provides medical exams and forensic interviews for children when sexual abuse is alleged, as well as emotional support to family members. Collaboration among team members ensures that the victim is not subjected to repeated examinations and interviews, and contributes to forensically sound evidence.

- **Helping Others in Parenting Environments (HOPE) -** was developed in recognition of the trauma experienced by children who enter the foster care system. HOPE is an array of intensive in-home services available to children and parents in foster home and extended family home placements. The HOPE program combines

skill-based intervention with maximum flexibility so that services are available to families and foster homes according to their unique needs. This service is provided by Santa Maria Youth and Family in the Northern Region and by CALM in the Southern Region.

- **Adults Molested as Children (AMAC) -** provides group treatment for adults who were sexually molested in childhood or adolescence. Groups are offered for both men and women. All clients in group must also be in individual therapy at CALM or elsewhere.
- **Offender Treatment -** is part of CALM's mission to prevent child abuse. CALM provides treatment for adults convicted of and juveniles adjudicated for sexual offenses against children. CALM collaborates closely with SB County Probation, the District Attorney's office and SART in these cases.
- **Postpartum Depression (PPD) -** Mothers suffering from postpartum depression and/or anxiety are able to access a comprehensive array of services including: individual and/or group therapy, psychiatric evaluation, and case management. Drop-in groups are available in English and Spanish.
- **Infant Parent Psychotherapy (IPP) -** treats problems in the infant-parent relationship, prevents child abuse and disorganized attachment, and facilitates optimal infant growth and development. The program promotes secure attachment by strengthening the capacity of both parents and by activating their support networks to ensure that children live in stable and nurturing family environments.
- **SPIRIT -** is a family centered, community oriented, highly individualized, wrap around strategy, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, designed to help families facing serious challenges find solutions to keep children and teens safely in their home, be successful in school and function well in the community.
- **Sober Women Healthy Families (SWHF) -** is a collaborative program in which the therapists works full time in the Good Samaritan Residential Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility in Lompoc. Clients are women and children who reside in the facility. Program provides individual therapy, parenting education, and family therapy to assist with parenting skills, behavioral issues, conflict resolution, trauma and neglect.

Community Action Commission (CAC) - provides services in both the Northern and Southern regions of Santa Barbara County. The following are programs offered by CAC:

- **Front Porch/Differential Response -** Connects families who are identified as at risk of child abuse and neglect to needed community-based services for the purpose of early intervention and prevention services. The program currently services the Northern Region and provides families with housing assistance, parenting education, parent coaching, seek counseling for substance abuse, family issues and mental health.

- **SafeCare-** Is an evidence-based, parent-training curriculum delivered in the home for parents with children ages 0-7 who are at-risk or have been reported for child maltreatment. SafeCare works with families in the Northern Region in their home environment to improve parent's skills in several domains. Parents are trained in child health, home safety and parent/child interaction. In addition, the program services those parents that are in the process of reunifying with their children to ensure a smooth transition and provide support as needed. The current implementation strategy has both a prevention and intervention focus. The target populations currently identified for participation include those families that meet SafeCare® eligibility criteria and are receiving services through the following:

    - Differential Response-Front Porch Program
    - Parenting Teens involved with Probation, Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS), or CWS
    - Teen Age Pregnancy Program (TAPP) participants
    - Family Preservation and Court Involved CWS families

- **Aftercare Services -** The Aftercare Program provides services to CWS children and families that have received formal CWS to assist them in fully integrating into affordable community supports upon the termination of CWS supported services. The Aftercare Program is a pilot project and utilizes the case management principles of the successful Differential Response/Front Porch Program to provide in-home case management services to both VFM and Court-Ordered FM cases. The Aftercare Pilot Program provides culturally sensitive, time-limited case management services. The primary goal is to connect families to natural supports and affordable community services/resources to maintain the progress families achieved during formal CWS intervention. Case managers are expected to have a minimum of two in-person contacts within the first 30 days of service and at least once monthly in-person contact until case is closed. The goal is to ensure families are connected to a minimum of two community supports and /or resources for ensuring child safety and well-being and reduce recurrence and re-entry.

- **Home Connection Finders (HCF) -** The purpose of this program is to identify and locate relatives and or non-related extended family members for the purpose of identifying potential placement for the children that have been detained and or in need of a connection with a significant adult in their lives. This program is currently being provided by Community Action Commission and services the entire county.

- **Enhanced Family Reunification -** Provides countywide Enhanced Family Reunification Support Services such as supervised parent/child visitation and transportation in partnership with CWS for children who have been placed out of their parent's care due to abuse or neglect and have supervised visitation with their parents. Services are offered to families during evenings and weekends in order to promote frequent quality visitation.

Santa Maria Valley Youth & Family Center (SMVYFC) – provides services in the Northern region of Santa Barbara County. The following are programs offered by SMVYFC:

- **Intensive In-Home (IIH) and Helping Others in Parenting Environments (HOPE) -** provides therapeutic programs based primarily in the home. The IHH program serves children who remain home at risk of entering placement and the HOPE program focuses on preserving placement for children who are in placement with a relative or foster home. The programs use a variety of therapeutic techniques to help the families and children. The interventions are focused on evidence based practices to help decrease problematic behaviors and stabilize the home or placement.

- **Children's Services Screener (CSS) -** provides mental health and or developmental screenings and associated treatment recommendations for children that are detained by Child Welfare Services or children who have an open case with Child Welfare Services through a Family Maintenance program.

- **Parenting Classes -** Child Welfare Services (CWS) and the Juvenile Court often require parents to participate in parenting education classes to learn the skills needed to safely and appropriately parent their children. While parenting education classes are provided in the community, the availability and content of these classes do not adequately meet the needs of the CWS families. Santa Maria Youth & Family currently provides a parenting program to meet the specific needs of these clients. The program currently utilizes the Love and Logic model and supplements it with positive discipline and relationship building techniques to support the families during supervised visitation and upon reunification. In addition, classes provide basic parenting education to CWS supervised visitation staff that can then support the transfer of learning with parents during parent-child visits.

Casa Pacifica – Provides services in both the Northern and Southern regions of Santa Barbara County. The following are programs offered by Casa Pacifica:

- **SB163 Wraparound Program –** A family-centered community oriented, culturally sensitive, strength-based, individualized services for children and adolescents with complex and enduring multi-system needs. The intent is to wrap services around the child/adolescent living with the birth parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, specialized foster care, or in independent living settings. The aim of the program is for the youth to build and maintain a normal lifestyle and prevent a more restrictive and more costly out-of-home placement from occurring. Issues addressed are residential, family, social, educational and/or vocational development, medical, psychological and emotional attitudes, along with cultural/ethnic lifestyles. Wraparound targets children and adolescents, with the most complex needs, currently residing in costly and intensive out-of-home placements, and those children/adolescents who, without intensive services would be placed in an out-of-home setting. The program is grounded in a philosophy of unconditional commitment

to support families to safely and competently care for their high needs children in our community

- **SAFTY (Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth) -** Mobile crisis response service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to all Santa Barbara County youth through age 21. The goal is to prevent psychiatric hospitalization and decrease the use of emergency rooms for mental health crisis.

Substance Abuse Resources

Good Samaritan Shelter Services- Provides the community with several programs to address homelessness as well as alcohol and substance abuse treatment. The programs consist of emergency shelter for men, women, and children. In addition, employment search assistance, drug and alcohol treatment and housing search assistance and children services to include afterschool programs. Services in the North County consist of the following: Emergency Shelter, Family Transitional Shelter, Perinatal Services, After School Programs, Drug and Alcohol outpatient services, Acute Care Detox and Clean and Sober Living Homes. Recovery Point Acute Care Detox is located in North County and serves primarily the Northern Region. The program provides case management, one-on-one counseling, drug and alcohol education and information, and a long-term aftercare. The program is licensed by the state and sanctioned by state Medi-Cal. Services are also held in Spanish to support the large monolingual Spanish speaking population in the North County.

Servicing the Lompoc Valley are Turning Point, Another Road Detox, Mark's House and Bridge House. Turning Point offers perinatal services to woman and their children who have been affected by substance abuse. Another Road Detox offers detox services to men and woman. Marks and Bridge House provide clean and sober shelter for homeless families and individuals.

Zona Seca - The mission at Zona Seca, Inc. is to help Santa Barbara and Lompoc in the struggle to become drug free communities by providing professional and cost-effective substance abuse counseling, intervention, prevention and education services for all people in need. In South County, the program offers services in the Youth offenders program, driving under the influence, family violence, drug diversion. In the Lompoc valley the program provides services to the youth offender program, Juvenile drug Court, and the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act program. Zona Seca provides services primarily to Santa Barbara and Lompoc regions.

Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA) – CADA provides a range of adult services from prevention to treatment in substance abuse. Treatment is provided using a research-based curriculum (The Matrix Model) and delivered by state-certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors. Program consist of assessment and referral, adult outpatient treatment program, perinatal program, court mandated treatment programs a project recovery detox center and drug testing. Services available are daily counseling (individual and group), 12-step meetings, acupuncture treatments, drug testing and drop-in services. In addition, placement aftercare and case-management services are offered as well. The mission of the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is building a safer, healthier community by preventing and treating alcoholism and drug abuse.

CADA has several offices in south county and one in north county to serve the needs of the community.

Youth Resources

Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center – The mission of the Drug & Alcohol Treatment program is to help and strengthen adolescents and their families on "the road to recovery" from substance abuse problems through supportive services. These services include counseling, treatment, training, groups, and interventions. Services are offered to all adolescents from the ages of 13 to 18 who are residents of Santa Barbara County. The teens must express a desire for help with their alcohol and/or drug problems.

Family Service Agency – The Juvenile Drug Court program provides individual and family therapy for youth and their families identified as having issues with substance abuse by the Juvenile Probation Department. Juveniles are also enrolled in Zona Seca's Outpatient Drug Treatment program. An FSA therapist provides weekly therapy at our office in Lompoc which includes implementing treatment plans, case management and working collaboratively with Zona Seca treatment staff, Probation staff and the courts.

Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center – Coast Valley provides individual and family treatment services for youth experiencing drug and alcohol problems as well as providing services to the Juvenile Drug Court program on a limited basis. Services are provided in Lompoc and Santa Maria.

Alternative Detention Program - Youth committing technical probation violations or non-violent offenses (such as absenteeism, or using drugs or alcohol) can be enrolled in a supervision program providing tutoring and homework help, guest speakers /programs, and community service.

Restorative Justice Taskforce - In Santa Maria and Lompoc, first- and second-time non-violent offenders are referred to a local Restorative Justice Team Conference with the victim, to develop a plan for paying for or correcting damage or harm. In Santa Barbara, a pilot Restorative Justice Program intervenes with selected youth on probation.

Teen Court - First-time offenders are tried by a group of peers, who determine a legally binding disposition or "sentence" by jury. Offered countywide.

Foster Youth Services (FYS) - serves the educational needs of students who are homeless or in foster care, throughout Santa Barbara County. Provides educational case management services including tutoring, school supplies, assistance with accessing social services, special education, and assistance with college or career planning.

California Youth Connection (CYC) - non-profit organization that was created and lead by current and emancipated foster youth. Santa Barbara County chapter gives

foster youth age 14-24 an opportunity to learn leadership skills, empowerment, and a sense of unity.

Independent Living Resource Center - Provide services for court dependents approaching emancipation that have a disability or type of limiting condition that substantially limits his or her functioning. The program empowers the youth by providing them with information they will need to access tools, strategies and accommodations that make living in the community successful. Such services include Advocacy and Disability Rights, Assistive Technology, Benefits, Transportation, Employment, Disaster Preparedness and parenting with a disability. CDSS received federal approval in January 2008 from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to allow disabled foster youth to apply for SSI benefits before they turn 18 years of age and emancipate out of the foster care system. This approval is enabling California to move forward with implementing the provisions mandated by AB 1331 (Evans). Under AB 1331, the State's 58 counties can transfer a foster youth's case from federal foster care benefits to state foster care benefits for one month to allow the SSA to accept and process a SSI application before a foster youth turns 18 years of age and exits foster care.

Youthful Offender Block Grant Program - State funds that target youth not eligible for commitment to the State Division of Juvenile Justice. Funds support assessment of risks and needs, intensive probation supervision, long-term local commitment program, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and mentoring.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) - The mission of CASA of Santa Barbara County is to assure a safe, permanent, nurturing home for every abused and/or neglected child by providing a highly-trained volunteer to advocate for the child in court.

Check, Connect & Respect (CC&R) - Is a dropout prevention program that uses school-based coaches to help at-risk students feel more connected to the school and learning. The coaches work in collaboration with the student, teachers, and parents to help the student develop habits of healthy school behavior.

Resolving Conflict Creatively Program - Is a program characterized by a comprehensive, multi-year strategy to prevent violence and create caring, peaceable communities of learning that improve school success for all children. The program includes the recruitment, training, and supervision of children to act as peer mediators and teachers.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - supports the youth of our community and their transition to working adulthood by addressing the development of the entire youth through a number of services including employment counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and work experience programs.

Parenting Education and Support Resources

Family Resource Centers - Provide group support (parent education, on-going classes, peer support and group counseling) as well as individual support (resource & referral, assistance on forms and health insurance, translation services, distribution of goods, individual counseling and case management) to families throughout the county.

Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Field Nursing Program - Through this program, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department provides in-home assessment, education, linkage/referral, and comprehensive case management for women at risk of adverse prenatal outcomes. This program provides maternal-infant and family case management services countywide.

Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) - Provides free and enhanced prenatal and postpartum care to Medi-Cal eligible women with low-income. CPSP coordinates nutrition and health education with clinical obstetrical care throughout the county.

Great Beginnings Program - Is a countywide home-visitation program initiated prenatally or at birth. Goals of the program are to promote positive parenting, facilitate optimal child health and development—including linkage to a medical provider, and prevent child abuse and neglect. Great Beginnings uses the Healthy Family America model and is administered by Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM).

Welcome Every Baby (WEB) - Is a free resource for all babies and their families in Santa Barbara County which includes a nurse home visit, a call-line to answer questions about caring for babies and early child development, and online resources. Funded by a grant from First 5 and administered countywide by the Santa Barbara County Education Office, the program offers maternal/newborn screenings, developmental evaluations, breastfeeding support and community referrals.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program - A countywide nutrition program administered by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD) that provides checks to buy healthy foods, nutrition and health education, breastfeeding education and support, and referrals to health care and other community services. According to PHD, 56% of Santa Barbara County mothers who had a child in 2009 (3,407 of 6,039) reported utilizing the WIC program.

Health Care Resources

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Health Care Centers - Provide high quality medical and preventative services to the uninsured and underinsured throughout the county.

Community Health Centers of the Central Coast - A network of clinics facilitating health care access for low-income families with clinic sites in Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Lompoc, and New Cuyama.

Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics – Provide high-quality, affordable medical and dental care to Santa Barbara residents, especially the uninsured and underserved, regardless of their ability to pay.

Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County - Housed at the Health Linkages program run by the County Education Office, the Children's Health Initiative works to promote coordinated outreach, widespread enrollment, correct Utilization and high retention for all public health insurance products available to children. There are over 90 certified application assistors countywide.

Early Care and Education Resources

Head Start - Operated by the Community Action Commission (CAC) of Santa Barbara County, a local nonprofit organization, Head Start provides early care and education services to over 1,100 children through its preschool program, and serves approximately 100 infants and toddlers in center based or contracted family child care. Approximately 60% of these children are enrolled in North County programs, 20% in Mid-County and 20% in South County. A smaller Migrant Head Start/Early Head Start program is operated by the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) in North County.

Hope 4 Kids Preschool & Infant/Toddler Center – provides childcare for infants, toddlers and preschool foster children living in Southern Santa Barbara County.

Children's Resource and Referral of Santa Barbara County - A child care referral hotline which links parents with a comprehensive, continuously updated database of licensed providers throughout the county.

First 5 Early Care and Education Division - This program provides resources and technical assistance for the early childhood education community to support program improvement, workforce development and capacity building at sites throughout the county.

The First 5 School Readiness Initiative - Brings together local low performing Schools, family resource centers, and community-based organizations to offer programs that help prepare children to enter kindergarten as healthy, active learners.

Staff Provider Training

The Department of Social Services contracts with the Central California Training Academy (CCTA) to provide new Social Workers with the state mandated Core Module trainings. Staff Development tracks completion of core trainings on an internal Training Database to ensure that all newly hired Social Workers complete Core training within the first two years of employment. In addition the database tracks training hours for all Social Workers in order to comply with the state mandates of (40 hours every 2 years) for ongoing training for Social Workers.

CWS Staff development in collaboration with the regional training academy provides CWS Induction Training. The induction training schedule is designed to support staff

obtaining all necessary information including most of the core Academy courses, within the first 5 weeks of employment as a social worker/practitioner. The Induction training model provides a short initial classroom based training followed by a more hands-on mentor training by week 5 of employment. Training provided during induction training includes, but is not limited to:

- New Employee Orientation
- Departmental CWS Induction Training
- California State University Fresno (CSUF) Regional Training Academy
- Forensic Interviewing
- Legal Training
- CWS/CMS Training
- Safety Training

Additional training provided to staff includes information related to the California Outcomes and Accountability System, CalWORKs/CWS Linkages Partnership, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Mental Health Issues, ICWA/MultiEthnic Placement Act (MEPA), and SDM.

Santa Barbara CWS maintains a close partnership with the Central California Training Academy for basic and specialized training needs. Furthermore, the Academy continues to provide CWS with a part-time mentor to enhance the transfer of learning for line staff and provide specialized training as requested. Given our close working relationship with our Coastal Region Coordinator, the Training Academy is often able to respond to special requests and provide training specifically relevant to SB County CWS. Additionally, the Training Academy provides a wide range of CWS/CMS training in our CWS/CMS computer-training facility.

In addition to the internal Policy and Procedure trainings, short informational trainings are frequently provided at the monthly Child Welfare Services Regional meetings by CBO's and Contractors. These trainings are for all CWS Staff including Case Aides, Social Worker/Practitioners, Supervisors, and co-located contract staff. Staff are also encouraged to take advantage of other trainings available in the community. Recent examples of training opportunities include Teen Cutting, Drug Endangered Children, and Vicarious Trauma/Self Care.

SB County CWS provides regular Foster Care Orientations to provide prospective foster parents an overview of CWS and foster parenting. SB County CWS has partnered with local community colleges to provide a Foster Care and Kinship Education Program. Utilizing the PRIDE (Parents Resources Information Development Education) Curriculum, foster and relative caregivers receive 9 modules of training covering a broad range of material including the CWS system, working with birth parents, and meeting the developmental needs of youth. In 2009 the "Nuts and Bolts" training was developed as a follow up training to PRIDE to better prepare foster parents for their first placement. The training is designed to answer practical questions about being foster parents like school issues, health/medical/developmental, court, working with birth parents, visitation, etc. The Kinship Education Program also maintains a robust schedule of regular training opportunities including the popular Love and Logic series,

CPR/First Aide, Parenting the Teenager, and Health/Developmental Issues. Caregivers are also provided opportunities to attend additional training offered within the community. The Foster Parent Recruiter, Kinship Education Program, social workers, and the Foster Parent Newsletter, all provide caregivers with training information
The local Foster Parent Association also hosts a monthly "Parents in Progress" Group. The Meeting includes training by a guest speaker, free dinner, childcare, and time for connection and support for foster parents.

Agency Collaborations

Prevention funding and services share multiple funding streams that are working towards the same outcome. The First 5 Family Strengthening Initiative, which funds the County-wide network of family resource centers is well integrated with the family support services funded through PSSF. Not only are case management tools shared, but outcomes are tracked County-wide, in addition to by funding stream.

The Front Porch project at the FRC level is also realized through agency collaboration and includes multiple funding streams and systems that are well coordinated with the remaining prevention services.

Santa Barbara County Promotores de Salud Network is a coalition of bilingual health promoters who work on improving the health literacy of socio-economically challenged communities, increasing access and utilization of health services and enhancing the community's overall health and well-being. The CAPC parent leaders included a presentation on the protective factors in the four-day basic training, as well as providing materials to share with families.

Additional current collaborative efforts include, but are not limited to the following:

- **CalWORKs / CWS Linkages Partnership**: County CWS has received a small grant and is working with the California Center for Research on Women and Families (CCRWF) to provide CalWorks/CWS Linkages services, which aim to provide more coordinated case planning and service delivery to our common DSS/CWS clientele. Goals for the program are:
    - Reduce conflict between CWS and CalWORKs case plans
    - CWS and CalWORKs will become a resource for each other
    - CWS and CalWORKs will be staffing mutual cases
    - Develop relationships between CWS and CalWORKs

  Current Target populations: Mutual open cases, AB429 (recently off aid due to a child coming into CWS.) The process begins when a CWS referral is promoted to case. CWS will identify that there is an open or recently closed CalWORKs case. CWS and CalWORKs will exchange information regarding service providers and staff the case to coordinate the two case plans to avoid conflict and duplication. CalWORKs will notify the Resource Support Team (RST) that there is a shared case so that coordination of their support services can begin.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)** is a local initiative to extend mental health

and developmental services to children birth to 5 years of age. Under ECMH – Special Needs a Postpartum Depression/Attachment Workgroup was formed to address community resources and unmet needs for the identification, prevention, and treatment of Postpartum Depression countywide.

- **Inter-agency Policy Council (IAPC)**, is a bi-monthly meeting of the Directors of DSS, ADMHS, Public Health, Probation, Child Support, and Housing & Development to initiate, approve and oversee inter-agency collaborations and initiatives impacting service delivery countywide.
- **Inter-Agency Program and Fiscal (IAPF)** meeting is a bi-monthly meeting of the Program Deputies and Fiscal Officers from DSS, ADMHS, Public Health and Probation to operationalize the collaborations and initiatives.
- **Juvenile Court "Brown Bag"** is a SB County CWS and Court initiative to facilitate communication between judges, attorneys, CWS, CASA, ADMHS, and various service providers.
- **The Court Managers Meeting** is a monthly meeting to facilitate communication and establish priorities involving the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, CWS, and Probation.
- **Santa Ynez Multi-Disciplinary Team** This team has representatives from local CBO service providers, CWS, Public Health, and the Chumash Tribe to confer and coordinate service delivery for clients in the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys. Referrals are also made for all possible ICWA eligible children.
- **SELPA:** The County Office of Education representative for SELPA participates in both the KIDS Network and the Children's System of Care collaboratives and has been a key player in helping to develop our Early Childhood Mental Health Collaborative.
- **Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)** is a County/CBO collaboration between CWS, law enforcement, District Attorney, Health Care Services, and the Community Based Organization "CALM" to provide coordinated investigation of sexual assault, which involves regional case reviews and one countywide review team.
- **Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB)**, Family Advocacy Office (FAO) sponsors a monthly multi-disciplinary family case management team (FCMT) meeting of human services personnel, which meets, confers, and recommends treatment for domestic and child abuse/neglect incidents that occur with active service personnel and their families. In 2002, CWS Supervisors were recruited to be a voting member of this team.
- **Workforce Investment Board (WIB)** SB County DSS now houses the Workforce Investment Board Director and is developing a more knowledgeable understanding of program and funding capabilities to better meet the needs of foster youth. Furthermore, foster youth have been identified as one of the target populations. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth component supports the youth of our community and their transition to working adulthood by addressing the development of the entire youth through services such as mentoring, community service, leadership and team-building skills. To ensure individualized program support, the funding is divided into in-school and out-of-school funding streams. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis and are geared to youth ages 14-21.
- **SB 163-Wraparound Steering Committee** is a collaboration of CWS, Probation, and ADMHS. A SB 163 plan was submitted and approved by the State during the summer of 2006. The focus of SB163 has been to reduce the number of children

being placed in high level group homes in and out of Santa Barbara County by using placement dollars in a creative, flexible manner to provide services/supports to youth and their families. The provision of Wraparound services went out for proposal and a contract was awarded in April of 2007. DSS is currently in the process of renewing the existing contract for an additional year, as indicated in the current Board approved contract with Casa Pacifica. The Wraparound Implementation Team (WIT) which consists of CWS, Probation, ADMHS, the contractor, County Education Office, a community based organization (CBO) and a Parent Partner serve as the gatekeepers of the SB163 Wraparound program. In addition, the WIT team is responsible for monitoring service delivery and approving family budgets for expenditure of funds to support those they have entered into the program.

- **Substance Abuse Coordinating Council (SACC)** which was formerly known as the Methamphetamine Prevention Network) is a leadership collaborative between community coalitions (Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back, Lompoc Recovery Task Force, Santa Ynez Valley Coalition, Santa Barbara Fighting Back, and Carpinteria Cares for Youth) and county partners (DSS, Probation, ADMHS, Public Health, Sheriff's Office-CLEC/SBRNET, Superior Court, and the 1st District Board Member, Supervisor Carbajal). The purpose of SACC is to serve as a coordinating body of the multiple efforts occurring countywide to reduce the use/abuse of substances in our county. Some of the initiatives before SACC include a Media Project, a Database Project, Brochure Outreach, Medical Presentations Project, Operation Pipeline, and Treatment Program/Grant Updates.
- **Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back** is focused on battling substance abuse issues in the Santa Maria region and is a collaborative involving City Council, the Courts, Law Enforcement, CWS, Probation, the schools, community members, service providers, and the hospital.
- **Sober Women and Healthy Families** is a collaborative between ADMHS, Public Health, and CWS to build a stronger service delivery system to mothers and their children.
- **Marian Hospital Health Collaborative** focuses on providing healthcare to the community. CWS participates in this collaborative with hospital staff, services providers, and concerned community members.
- **Good Samaritan Services Collaborative** monitors the delivery of services through the SAMHSA grant, addresses the needs of the homeless population, and strives for improved coordinated service delivery. Participants in this collaborative include the Good Samaritan Services, ADMHS, CWS, and several CBOs.
- **Families for the First Decade (FFD)** is the City of Santa Maria collaborative of over 100 local community based organizations, public agencies, faith communities, educational institutions, and businesses that strive to offer enhanced, integrated services to families. The FFD project focuses on improving the lives of children by offering resources and supports for all family members.
- **Santa Barbara County Foster Care Commission** works to improve outcomes and well-being for children in foster care under the leadership of the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge and Social Services Director. The CWS and Probation Departments participate along with stakeholders including the Department of Alcohol, drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS), Dependency Attorneys, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), County office of Education, Foster Youth, Foster Parents, Community Based Organizations, and other concerned community advocates.

Current areas of focus for the commission include increasing the number and quality of resources for youth transitioning from foster care to independent living.
The Santa Barbara Foundation sponsored the first Foster Care Summit for Santa Barbara County. On November 4, 2011, over 170 attorneys, judges, advocates, social workers, educational leaders, foster parents, and current foster children participated in a day of information sharing and dialogue. Similar to the CSA process, break-out sessions focused on pressing foster care issues – extending services to youth beyond the age of 18; family finding/engaging fathers; using data to inform outcomes for foster youth; educational rights and opportunities; health care issues; and independent living and transitional youth programs. The day ended with a reconvening of all participants to discuss the highest priority issues, and the identification of several key points for the Santa Barbara Foster Care Commission to focus on in 2012.
Several action items were presented to the commission, including:

- Implementing AB12/212 to extend foster care services to youth until the age of 21
- Coordinating medical and educational information resources and services for foster youth
- Convening regular stakeholder meetings
- Facilitating more contact between foster youth and the professionals in their lives

Local Systemic Factors

No local systemic factors were identified.

Summary Assessment

The County Self Assessment process confirmed many strengths and challenges of Prevention, Child Welfare, and Probation. Input was given by Department staff as well as Community Based Organization's, Consumers, and Community Members. Although the discussion of outcome measures guides the process, the cornerstone of analysis lies in consistently reliable data regarding service provision. Over time strides have been made in data integrity, however, competing priorities for staff time can result in missing information, delayed entry, and concerns for overall accuracy. Given this situation it is important to note that outcome measures do not always accurately tell the entire story. The economy of Scale in many measures means that one number, one child, or one family, may be the difference between success or failure in meeting state or federal standards. It is within this framework that the following strengths, challenges, and recommendations are made:

A. Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

Identified Strengths and Resources in Santa Barbara County that work toward improving this outcome include:

- Front Porch/Differential Response
- Voluntary Family Maintenance Services

- Evidence based Parenting Programs (SafeCare®, Incredible Years)
- Substance abuse services
- Communication and joint investigation model between CWS and Foster Care Licensing

Areas in need of further improvement include:

- Lack of staffing resources may lead to incomplete assessment of complex family situations.
- Inconsistent use of Structured Decision Making assessments.
- Inconsistent understanding/use of TDM

Child Welfare Services has identified the following strategies for the future:

- Continue to use CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funding for prevention efforts and lowering the recurrence of maltreatment
- Fully utilize/expand Differential Response
- Increasing collaboration efforts with family advocates, youth, and parent partners
- Consistent Use of TDM
- Revitalize CalWORKs / CWS Linkages Partnership

B. Children are maintained safely in their homes whenever possible and appropriate

Identified Strengths and Resources in Santa Barbara County that work toward improving this outcome include:

- Intensive In-Home Services (IIHS)
- SafeMeasures utilization to monitor trends and ongoing compliance efforts
- Family Engagement practice
- Structured Decision Making (SDM)

Areas in need of further improvement include:

- Visits are not consistently documented in CWS/CMS in a timely manner
- Greater access to Laptops for social workers to promote timely CWS/CMS entry

Strategies for the future include:

- Continue SafeMeasures utilization to monitor trends and ongoing compliance efforts for timeliness and CWS/CMS entry
- Implement Safety Organized Practice and integrate with Structured Decision Making to provide Social Workers with practice strategies and concrete tools to enhance family engagement

C. Children have permanency and stability in their living situations without increasing re-entry to foster care

Identified Strengths and Resources in Santa Barbara County that work toward improving this outcome include:

- Aftercare Services
- Family Treatment Drug Court
- PAARP Home Studies
- SB163 Wraparound Program
- Foster Parent training and support (Kinship Care Education Program, Pride Assessor, Foster Parent Association, QPI)

Areas in need of further improvement include:

- Increase in continuances and number of contested court hearings that delay time to reunification and 366.26 hearings.
- Lack of placement resources in county, especially for sibling groups, high needs, and older youth
- Reunification timeframes are not realistic for many families that are struggling with complex issues such as substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence.
- 14-day maximum stay in emergency shelter care may interfere with quality placement efforts
- Lack of intensive treatment foster care program in Santa Barbara County

Strategies for the future include:

- Develop placement resources in county, especially for sibling groups, high needs, and older youth
- Continue to explore ways to achieve smaller caseloads for Social Workers
- Continue to work with Court Partners to reduce number of continuances and contested hearings
- Continue to explore permanency options for high needs and older youth

D. The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children

The following strengths were identified:

- Child Welfare Services is successful in placing foster youth with relatives, which often helps to preserve sibling groups
- Use of Home Connection Finder for initial and ongoing family finding efforts

Areas in need of improvement include:

- Lack of placement resources in county, especially for sibling groups, high needs, and older youth

Strategies for the future include:

- Revitalization of relative approval and placement process to increase number of first placement entries with relatives
- Develop placement resources in county, especially for sibling groups, high needs, and older youth

E. Children receive services appropriate to their educational needs

The following strengths were identified:

- Foster Youth Services Program
- ILP program

Areas in need of improvement include:

- Gathering information needed for the Health and Education Passport, and consistent timely entry into CWS/CMS

Strategies for the future include:

- Develop a uniform process for collecting the information needed for the Health and Education Passport, and inputting the data into CWS/CMS.
- Explore use of the Foster Focus system - web-based service that allows education officials and social workers to electronically access educational information such as a standardized test scores, GPA, enrollment history and reports on learning disabilities

F. Children receive services adequate to their physical, emotional, and mental health needs

The following strengths were identified:

- Public Health Nurse co-located with CWS
- Child Welfare Services has an established procedure and quality assurance report for the use of psychotropic medications
- Children's Services Screeners co-located with CWS

Areas in need of improvement include:

- Consistency of data entered into CWS/CMS
- Timely exchange of health records between agencies and placement resources
- Greater accessibility to Denti-cal providers

Strategies for the future include:

- Develop a uniform process for collecting and sharing the information needed for the Health and Education Passport, and inputting the data into CWS/CMS
- Explore options to expand Denti-cal provider network

Glossary

A

ADMHS - Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services is a county agency and collaboration partner with CWS.

AFDC-FC – Aid to Families of Dependent Children – Foster Care is a federal program that provides for monthly payments to foster parents caring for foster youth.

AIU - Assessments and Investigation Unit is the Santa Barbara County CWS unit that investigates child abuse and neglect referrals and, if necessary places children in protective custody and initiates Juvenile Court action.

B

Beyond the Bench - is a Statewide Superior/Juvenile court forum for judges and attorneys involved with Juvenile court matters for child Welfare Services and Probation.

Blue Binder - Local Probation term used to refer to a minor's Health and Education Passport; we use blue binders for easy tracking of documents

C

CAC - Community Action Commission is a local CBO (community based organization) that administers a variety of human services programs.

CADA - Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse is a CBO which serves the South County region provides substance abuse services such as Adult Treatment Program, Perinatal Treatment Program, Detox, and Adolescent Treatment program.

CALM - Child Abuse Listening and Mediation is a local CBO that provides therapeutic services to children and families.

Camp - Los Prietos Boys Camp; a secure detention facility used as a commitment facility.

CAPC – Child Abuse Prevention Council.

CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates who are appointed by the court to support foster children in the CWS system.

Casa Pacifica - is a public/private partnership residential treatment center offering a wide range of assessment, crisis care, medical and educational services for abused and neglected children. They are also the contract provider for SB 163. *(See below)*

CBO – Community Based Organization.

CDSS – California Department of Social Services (State).

CEC - Counseling and Education Center; Probation school day program, on-site at Probation, in both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara.

Children's System of Care (CSOC)/Enhanced Care - (formerly MISC) is a collaboration of CWS, ADMHS, Probation, and Public Health. The collaboration provides services to high-risk youth and their families.

CSS - Children's Services Screener is a mental health screener who assesses children and their families who are entering the Juvenile Dependency system as well as children and families who are being served through CWS Voluntary Family Maintenance services.

CIU - Central Intake Unit is the Santa Barbara County CWS unit that receives child abuse and neglect referrals, evaluates them in terms of statutory definitions for CWS involvement and for immediate safety considerations, as well as to the choice of response time and for the path of response, such as Differential Response. *(See below)*

CMS - Case management System, is the statewide database that CWS staff use to do referral and case management.

Community Conversations (PSSF) – One time grant money to facilitate CWS and community collaboration and initial phase of CWS Redesign.

Concurrent Planning (CP) - is the process of immediate, simultaneous, and continuous assessment and case plan development providing options to achieve early, family-based permanency for every child removed from his/her family.

Court/241.1 – Refers to the Welfare and Institution Code 241.1 whereby the court can order a study to be done jointly by CWS and Probation to determine whether a child belongs under a CWS or Probation jurisdiction.

Court Unit - is the unit that receives cases from the AIU unit, writes Juvenile Petitions, and manages cases received from the AIU unit until such time as the Disposition Hearing occurs. The county-wide unit is comprised of Court Hearing Officers, who present CWS cases in Juvenile Court.

CRIS/211 - Community Resources Information Services is a local Santa Barbara County guidebook and web based directory to public and private human services and resources assembled by the local CBO Family Service Agency.

CSU – California State University (LB – Long Beach, F – Fresno).

CWS – Child Welfare Services.

CWS/CalWORKS Linkages ("Linkages") – intra-agency partnership to better facilitate service delivery and case planning between CWS and CalWORKS.

CWS/CMS – Child Welfare Services/Case Management System is the statewide database that CWS staff use to do referral and case management.

CWSOIP – Child Welfare System Outcome Improvement Project.

CWS OPS – CWS Operations Group.

D

Differential Response – Is a system of responding differentially to all referrals of child abuse and neglect made to the Hotline/Intake (CIU). Every referral is evaluated in terms of statutory definitions for CWS involvement for immediate safety considerations; for the choice of response time for the initial face to face interview and for the path or response. Children can be referred to a community network of response, with the parents'/caretakers' approval.

DSS – Department of Social Services.

DV Solutions - Domestic Violence Solutions is a local CBO which provides support and services to victims of Domestic Violence.

E

ESL – English as a second language.

ECMH – Early Childhood Mental health is a local initiative to extend mental health and developmental services to children birth to 5 years of age.

F

Family Resource Centers - are community based neighborhood centers providing multiple services at local sites, countywide.

Family Services Unit - is the Santa Barbara County CWS Unit that serves all Voluntary Family Maintenance cases.

Family to Family (FTF) - is an initiative to engage the community to better serve children and families.

Families for the 1st Decade – is a Santa Maria City community based collaboration between human services and the schools to address the needs of educationally limited low-income neighborhoods.

Family Drug Court Initiative – an exploratory group sponsored by the Public Defender.

Family Resource Centers – community based neighborhood centers providing multiple services at local sites countywide.

Family Violence Coalition – Regional groups to address Domestic Violence and how it impacts other agencies including CWS.

FDTC – Family Drug Treatment Court.

FFA – Foster Family Agency.

First Five Commission – the governing body for the administration of Prop. 10 child development funds.

Five (5)P's – Purpose, principles, processes, people, performance.

FM - Family Maintenance is a term used by CWS for services delivered to families and children, while the children are residing in the family home. The services are designed to provide in-home protective services to remedy neglect and abuse. FM can be either voluntarily arranged (VFM), *(see below)* or ordered by the Juvenile Court.

FR - Family Reunification is a term used by CWS for services provided to families and children, while the children are residing in out of home placement. The services are designed to remedy neglect and abuse.

Front Porch - is a program operated by Community Action Commission under contract with Santa Barbara County to serve lower risk families. They provide Differential Response services.

FSNA – Family Strengths and Needs Assessment.

FUP – Family Unification Program – Federal program to provide subsidized housing for CWS families to promote family preservation and reunification.

G

Good Samaritan - is a CBO which serves the North County region which acts as an umbrella for various projects, programs, and services including: emergency shelter, transitional shelter, TC House Project P.R.E.M.I.E, First Steps, Recovery Point, Acute Care, and Acute Care Detox.

H

HCF-Home Connection Finders - is a service provided by a CBO which attempt to identify and locate relatives, extended non-related family members, or individuals important to the child, for possible placements for children as well as for individuals who can be life long connections for a child.

Head Start – is the Federal program to assist low-income children and their families.

Healthy Families – is California's medical insurance program for children.

Healthy Start – school based health services established in seven locations countywide.

HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (Federal).

HOPE - Helping Others in Parenting Environments is a program of intensive in-home services available to foster home and extended family home placements. The providers are CALM and Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center.

I

IAPC – Inter Agency Policy Council.

IDT – Information and Data Team – SBC-DSS committee formed to turn data into useful information for workers, supervisors and managers.

ILP - Independent Living Program is a program which supports foster youth toward self-sufficiency. It is managed by CWS and contracted out to Community Action Commission.

J

Juvenile Court "Brown Bag"- is a regular meeting convened by the Juvenile Court judges to facilitate better collaboration between judges, attorneys, CWS, and Probation.

K

KIDS Annual Report and Scorecard – contains performance statistics and measures for children in Santa Barbara County for various agencies from DSS,
Probation, Public Health, Health Care, census data, and others.

KIDS Network - Kids Interagency Delivery System is a network of children service agencies sponsored by the Board of Supervisors and DSS.

Kin-Gap – Kinship Guardian Assistance Payment.

L

La Morada - is a certified facility used for the THPP-Plus program.

Life Skills Educator/Mentor Services - is a program developed to support and educate parents who are raising children to create a home environment that is safe, healthy, and fosters the child's age appropriate development. CWS families who are at risk of having their children removed or who have had their children removed due to neglect can receive these services.
Linkages - is an intra-agency partnership to better facilitate service delivery and case planning between CWS and Cal WORKS. Common families are identified and documented in a referral.

M

MHAT – Mental Health Assessment Team (SB County) – provides emergent concern and immediate response to assess the mental health status of families in crisis.

MHSA – Mental Health Services Act.

MISC - Multi Agency Integrated System of Care is Santa Barbara County's Children's System of Care, collaboration between Mental Health, DSS, Probation, and Public Health, as well as CBOs that include CAC, CALM, and Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center.

MISC Network Providers - ADMHS contracts with medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers in the County to provide services to MISC clients.

N

Noah's Anchorage – YMCA Youth Crisis Center.

NREFM- Nonrelative Extended Family Member - a caregiver who has an established familial or mentoring relationship with the child.

O

OP - Short for Office Professional; a member of support staff working with staff in a clerical capacity.

P

PA - Short for Probation Assistant; a member of the support staff working on a case in a paraprofessional capacity.

PARP – Parent's and Reading Partners.

PAARP - Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program, provides reimbursement to private adoption agencies through CDSS for completing adoption home studies that result in adoption of youth from foster care.

Permanency Unit - Santa Barbara County CWS unit that provides services to children in out of home placement with the goal of achieving family based permanency. It includes children who are in adoptive planning.

PO/DPO/DPO Sr. - Short for Probation Officer, Deputy Probation Officer, or Deputy Probation Officer Senior; provide direct case work service.

PP-Permanency Placement Services - term used by CWS for services that are designed to provide an alternate permanent family for children who cannot safely remain home and who are unlikely to return home.

PRC - Placement Review Committee is a multi disciplinary team type of meeting held every week which involves Probation staff, mental health representatives, education representatives, and Child Welfare services focused on discussing Probation cases and whether they are appropriate for consideration of removal from the home for a court recommendation resulting in extra parental placement.

PRIDE - Parents' Resources Information Development Education is a training curriculum provided by Santa Barbara City College and Allan Hancock College to enhance foster parent training for relatives and non-relatives.

PRO-292/Yellow Sheet - Probation department form used to open and/or close a bed for a Probation placement case.

Promotores – Community Health Workers for migrants.

Provider Network ACCESS - is the function, provided by ADMHS, whereby social workers request services for CWS cases from an approved Provider Network.

PSA-Placement Search Assistant provides CWS support by locating available and appropriate foster or group home placements for children.

PSSF – Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Federal).

R

RAW-Relative Approval Worker is a specialized CWS worker that performs the approvals for the placement of children in relative and non-related extended family homes.

Regional Training Academy - (or Training Academy) is the regional provider for CWS Training.

Resource Family - foster family, (relative or non-relative).

S

SAFTY – The 24/7 mobile crisis response to children with complex emotional and behavioral needs.

SARB – School Attendance Review Board.

SART – Sexual Assault Response Team is a County-CBO collaboration between DSS, Law Enforcement, District Attorney, Health Care Services, and CALM to provide coordinated investigation of sexual assault.

SB163 Wraparound (DSS) - is a collaboration of CWS, Probation, ADMHS, parent partners, and CBOs whose focus is to reduce the number of children placed in high level group homes in and out of Santa Barbara County by providing creative, flexible services and supports to youth and their families.

SB 163 Wraparound (PROB) - Intensive, wraparound services utilized to return a minor home from placement or prevent a minor from going to placement; services focus on engaging the entire family in rehabilitation and changes in thinking to maintain stability in the home.

SCI – Special Care Increment.

SDM - Structured Decision Making is a tool utilized by CWS staff to help them in making critical case assessments and decisions in order to minimize the trauma of child maltreatment and to prevent its recurrence.

Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) - consortium of participating school districts formed to ensure that quality special education programs and services are available to meet the individual needs of special education students.

Shelter Services for Women - is a local CBO providing services to victims of domestic violence.

SMVYFC -Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center is a CBO providing services to children and families in North County (Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Casmalia, Cuyama, New Cuyama) including therapy and parenting classes.

SPO - Short for Supervising Probation Officer; equivalent to the role of first line supervisor.

STOP – Supportive Therapeutic Options Program.

T

T's & C's - minor's terms and conditions of probation; a case specific set of rules.

TAPP – Teen Age Parenting Program.

TAY – Transition Age Youth.

TBS - Therapeutic Behavioral Services is a mental health service available to Medi-Cal eligible youth under 21 years of age who have serious emotional problems.

Therapeutic Justice Advisory Council – interagency policy level council formed to promote and advance alternate court models such as Mental Health Treatment Court and Teen Drug Court.

TDM - Team Decision Making meetings where CWS concerns, family strengths, and resources supports are identified and discussed between CWS, birth families, service providers, youth, and natural family supports. TDMS are used:

TFC - Therapeutic Foster Care is a CWS, CALM, and SMVYFC collaboration to enhance resource, training and support for resource parents who care for children with serious behavioral and emotional needs.

THPP- Transitional Housing Placement Program is a Community Care licensed placement opportunity for youth ages 16-18 that are currently living in a foster care placement. The goal of the program is to provide participants safe living environments while helping them learn and practice life skills in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

THPP-Plus - certified placement opportunity for youth ages 19-24, who have emancipated from the foster care system. The program provides the greatest amount of freedom possible in order to prepare the participants for self-sufficiency.

TPR – Termination of Parental Rights.

Tri-Counties Regional Center - contract agency with the State of California that provides supports and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities living in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

U

UCB Performance Indicators – are done by UC Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research.

UCSB Evaluations – U. C. Santa Barbara provides research support and analysis for DSS and Probation, and Mental health.

V

VAFB – Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Visitation Specialist - contracted service which provides transportation and/or supervision of visitations between children in placement and their families.

VOP/§777 - Violation of Probation pursuant to §777 W&IC filed with the court outlining how a ward of the court has failed to follow the terms and conditions of probation as the court has set them down for the minor.

W

W& IC - Welfare and Institutions Code.

Ward/§602 - A minor who is on formal Probation pursuant to §602 W&IC.

WEB - Welcome Every Baby is a county wide home visitation program serving all newborn children through age 9 months.

WIA – Workforce Investment Act.

WIB – Workforce Investment Board.

The checklist is required to be submitted to the OCAP with the draft and final version of the CSA to expedite the review process.

County Name: Santa Barbara
Start date of the System Improvement Plan: 9/1/11
End date of the System Improvement Plan: 8/31/13

No.	Page in Guide	Element	Element Present (provide page no.)	Element Not Present	Element N/A
		Contact Information			
1	14	Name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone and fax number of lead agency (County CWS Agency)	4-5		
2	14	Name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone and fax number of CAPIT liaison	4		
3	14	Name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone and fax number of CBCAP liaison	4		
4	14	Name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone and fax number of PSSF liaison	4		
		Evidence the CSA was developed in collaboration with identified representation as directed by the CSA guide. The following list is pertinent to CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF and does not include all core representatives.			
5	13	Submits a list of the CSA planning participants. Include a list of names with affiliations and identify which participant is representing the required core representatives.	9-12		
6	12	List includes: CAPC representative	9-12		
7	12	List includes: CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Liaisons	12		
8	12	List includes: Parent/consumers	10-11		
9	12	List includes: CCTF Commission or CAPC representative if acting as the CCTF Commission	10-11		
10	12	List includes: County Board of Supervisor's designated agency to administer CAPIT/CBCPA/PSSF	9-12		
11	12	List includes: PSSF Collaborative, if applicable	9-12		
		Demographics of General Population (Needs Assessment)			
12	15	County population	16		
13	15	Active Tribes in the county (Identify all federally recognized tribes)	16		
14	15	Number of children attending school	16		
15	15	Number of children attending special education classes	16		
16	15	Number of children born to teen parents	16		
17	15	Number of children who are leaving school prior to graduation	16		
18	15	Number of children on child care waiting lists	16		
19	15	Number of children participating in subsidized school lunch programs	16		
20	15	Number of children receiving age-appropriate immunizations	16		
21	15	Number of babies born with low-birth weight	16		
22	15	Number of families receiving public assistance (CalWorks)	16		
23	15	Number of families living below poverty level	16		
24	16	Number of families with no health insurance (suggested)	16		
25	16	County unemployment rate (suggested)	16		
26	16	County rate of drug and alcohol abuse (suggested)		x	

		CWS Participation Rates			
27	16	Number of children age 0-18 in population	22		
28	16	Number and rate of children with referrals	22		
29	16	Number and rate of first entries	22		
30	16	Number and rate of children with substantiated referrals (suggested)	22		
31	16	Number and rate of children in care (suggested)	22		
		Public Agency Characteristics - County Government Structure - Financial/ Material resources			
32	18	Description of opportunities, interagency collaborations and/or resources including CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds, CCTF and other funding sources, and their impact on the ability to achieve positive outcomes for children and families.	31-33		
		Identify the page # for each outcome/measure analysis, if the analysis indicates either unmet need(s) or continued need(s) for services which qualify for CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds. Indicate "N/A" if the outcome/measure analysis does not indicate a need to utilize CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds.			
33	19	No recurrence of maltreatment	38		
34	19	No maltreatment in foster care			n/a
35	19	Timely Response			n/a
36	19	Timely Social Worker Visits with Child			n/a
37	19	Reunification within 12 months - exit cohort	47		
38	19	Median Time to Reunification			n/a
39	19	Reunification within 12 months - entry cohort			n/a
40	19	Reentry Following Reunification			n/a
41	19	Adoption w/in 24 months and Median Time to Adoption			n/a
42	19	Adoption w/in 12 months			n/a
43	19	Legally free w/in 6 months			n/a
44	19	Adoption w/in 12 months (legally free)			n/a
45	19	Exits to Permanency (24 months in care)			n/a
46	19	Exits to Permanency (legally free at exit)			n/a
47	19	Placement Stability	78		
48	19	No more than 2 placements w/in 12 months			n/a
49	19	No more than 2 placements w/in 24 months			n/a
50	19	Children transitioning to self-sufficient adulthood			n/a
51	19	Siblings placed together in foster care			n/a
52	19	Foster care placement in least restrictive setting			n/a
53	19	Rate if ICWA placement preferences			n/a
54	19	IEP			n/a
55	19	Timely health and dental exams			n/a
		Systemic Factors - Requirements of the Report			
		Relevant Management Information Systems (MIS)			
40	24	Description of the county's MIS or the process for gathering, storing and disseminating program information as required by CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF.	72		
		Quality Assurance System			

41	26	Briefly describe how the designated county agency ensures effective fiscal and program accountability for the CAPIT, CBCAP, and PSSF vendor/contractor activities. This description must be specific to CAPIT, CBCAP, PSSF programs and not limited to a general description of current county policies. Briefly describe how prevention programs are evaluated, include:	81		
42	26	Description of the methodology used to assess client satisfaction.	81		
43	26	Describe how the county assesses the vendor's service delivery system to identify the strengths and needs.	81		
44	26	Describe the mechanisms used to report to the agency on the quality of services evaluated and needs for improvement.	81		
45	26	Description of the methodology or the process for reporting information regarding the outcome of the evaluation and issues of non-compliance.	81		
46	26	Description of the methodology or process used to evaluate the vendor/contractor to determine if the corrective action was developed and implemented.	81		
		Service Array			
47	27	Analysis of the efficacy and availability of the community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities provided by public and private, nonprofit organizations, including faith-based programs and how they fit in to an overall continuum of family-centered, holistic care.	83-92		
48	28	Description of services available to meet the needs of ethnic/ minority populations including an assessment of the availability of culturally appropriate services.	83-92		
49	28	Description of services and the delivery of services for children with disabilities and their families.	83-92		
50	28	Description of services and the delivery of services targeted to children at high risk for abuse or neglect.	83,85,86-87, 90,99-100		
51	28	Description of services designed to enable children at risk of foster care placement to remain with their families when their safety and well-being can be reasonably assured.	86,87, 102-103		
52	28	Description of services designed to help children achieve permanency by returning to families from which they have been removed or be placed for adoption or with a legal guardian or in some other planned, permanent living arrangement, and through post-legal adoption services.	83, 86, 87,105		
53	28	Description of services accessible to families and children in all geographical locations including isolated areas of the county.	83-92		
54	28	Description of services that can be individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.	83-92		
55	28	Description of services to Native American children	83-92, 102		
56	28	Description of the availability of child abuse prevention education.	84-85		
57	28	Description of the availability of child and family health and well-being resources.	88-92		
58	28	Description of the existence of established networks of community services and resources, such as family resource centers or other comprehensive community service centers.	84,89		

59	28	Description of outreach activities that maximize participation of parents as well as racial and ethnic populations, children, and adults with disabilities, and members of other underserved or underrepresented groups.	84		
60	28	Does the description of the service array (3a-3m) indicate which services are funded by CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF.	83		
61	29	Description of the county's current efforts on the development and implementation of Evidence-based and Evidence-informed prevention program and practices	84,86,99-100		
		Training			
62	29	Description of county's infrastructure and capacity to allocate CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds for county liaisons and parent consumers to attend required meetings, conferences, and training events.	81		
63	29	Description of additional training and technical assistance specifically for CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF county liaisons, vendor/contractors, and parent liaisons/consumers.	81		
		Agency collaboration			
64	30	Description of the county/community partnership's extent of shared responsibility, risks, development of resources, supports, blending/braiding of multiple funding streams.	94		

Save the Date

The Departments of
Child Welfare Services & Probation
County Self Re-Assessment

Community Input Session

Come celebrate a climate of collaboration
and contribute to shaping the futures
of Santa Barbara County's children.

October 5, 2011 ♦ 1-4pm

Santa Ynez Valley Marriott
555 McMurray Road, Buellton

Please RSVP by email to
irobles@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
or call 805.346.7105.

In the spirit of collaboration, with your RSVP, please provide a sentence or two about a positive change you've observed in the community that has improved the safety and well-being of children.

Hosted by
KIDS network
Santa Barbara County

Slide 1

Slide 2

Outcomes & Accountability System

- "…that every child in CA would live in a safe, stable, permanent home nurtured by healthy families and strong communities"
- Continuum of prevention, intervention and services
- 4 Part System of Continuous Quality Improvement
  - County Self Assessment
  - Peer Quality Case Review
  - System Improvement Plan
  - State and Federal Outcome Measures

Slide 3

County Self Assessment (CSA)

- ***Macro Analysis***
  - County-wide Prevention Efforts
  - Program Operations
  - Services
  - Systemic Factors
- ***Data Analysis***
  - Demographic Profile
  - Outcome Measures
- ***System Analysis***
  - Strengths/Challenges
  - Areas of Improvement

Slide 4

System Improvement Plan (SIP)

- *Strategies, Outcomes, and Allocations*
- *Self Assessment as Roadmap*
- *Approved by the Board of Supervisors*
- *Current SIP Updated March 2011*

Slide 5

SIP Accomplishments

- *Putting the Pieces Together*
- *"Climate of Collaboration"*
- *Share in the accomplishments*

Slide 6

"Climate of Collaboration" Program Expansions

- *Differential Response (Front Porch Program) Expansion*
  - Expanded Partnerships
  - Lowered Referral Criteria
  - 483 Families Served
    - 3% Recidivism

Slide 7

"Climate of Collaboration"
Program Expansions

- Family Drug Treatment Court Expansion
  - Doubled population
  - Expanded Partnerships
  - Achieve Permanence Earlier
- Intensified Services Planning with Families

Slide 8

"Climate of Collaboration"
New Programs

- *AfterCare*
- *SafeCare© Home Visitation Model*
- *Intensive In-Home Supportive Services*
- *Gender-specific Group Counseling*

Slide 9

Prevention Community Collaboration

- *Expanded Collaboration*
- *Uniform Service Delivery County-wide*
- *Aligned with System Improvement Plan (SIP) Goals*

Slide 10

"Climate of Collaboration" Community Accomplishments

- ***Collaboration***
  - Improved communication & understanding
  - Partnering
  - "Come together as a mutually respectful, congruent group"

- ***Good Stuff Happening***:
  - Alternative Detention
  - Empowerment Conference
  - Extra Foster Parent Supports
  - Increased Child Health Care Access
  - North County SART
  - Oaxacan Cultural Competency Training
  - Affordable Activities for Children
  - Assistance League
  - Kinship Caregiver Education
  - Increased Access to Resources

Slide 11

"Climate of Collaboration" is contagious…

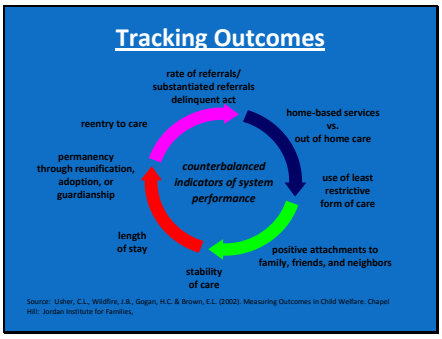
- ***Great Success***
- ***Whole Unequal to Sum of Parts***
- ***A Puzzle***

Slide 12

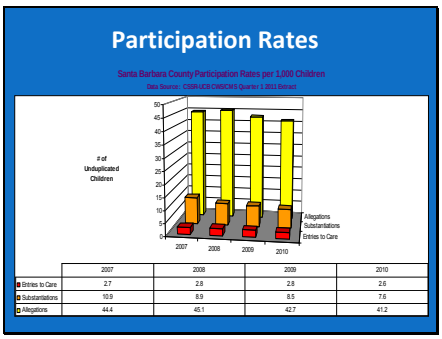
Quarterly Outcome Data

- ***Safety, Permanence, and Well-Being***
- ***6 Federal Measures***
  - 2 Safety
  - 4 Permanency Composites = 15 measures
- ***State Measures (AB636 – 2004)***
  - Timely Investigations/Visits
  - Least Restrictive Placement Setting
  - Sibling Placement
  - Timely Health/Dental Exams

Slide 13

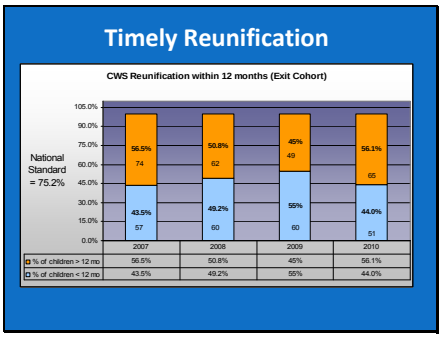


Slide 14



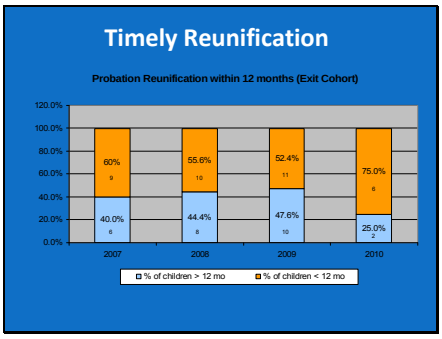
	2007	2008	2009	2010
Entries to Care	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6
Substantiations	10.9	8.9	8.5	7.6
Allegations	44.4	45.1	42.7	41.2

Slide 15



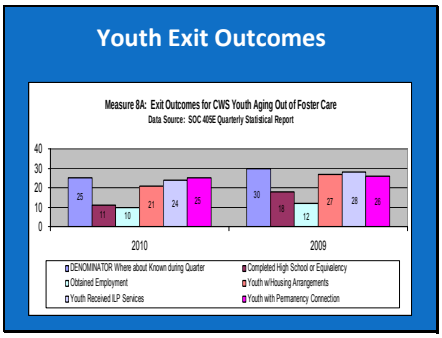
	2007	2008	2009	2010
% of children > 12 mo	56.5%	50.8%	45%	56.1%
% of children < 12 mo	43.5%	49.2%	55%	44.0%

Slide 16



Slide 17

Slide 18



Slide 19

Making it Meaningful…

Focus Areas for Group Work:

- **Safety**
- **Timely Reunification**
- **Placement Stability**
- **Preparing Youth for Successful Independence**

Slide 20

Group Work

- ***Matrix***
  - Questions for Consideration
  - Individual Brainstorm (5 minutes)
  - Complete One for Group (50 minutes)
    - Top 2 or 3 responses for each column
  - Survey Results
- ***Roles***:
  - Facilitator
  - Recorder
  - Time Keeper
  - Reporter

Slide 21

Report Out

- ***Focus Area***
- ***Strengths***
- ***Challenges***
- ***Existing Resources***
- ***Additional Resources***

Slide 22

Next Steps

- ***County Self Assessment***
  - Additional Stakeholders
  - Trend Analysis
- ***Peer Quality Case Review***
  - Interested in Participating
- ***Write Report***
- ***Complete System Improvement Plan***

Slide 23

Questions/Comments

Slide 24

Departmental Contacts

- ***Social Services***

  Amy Krueger
  a.krueger@sbcsocialserv.org
  (805) 346-7248
- ***Probation***

  Brian Swanson
  bswanso@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
  (805) 739-8606
- ***Prevention***

  Katharina Zulliger
  k.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org
  (805) 739-8606

SAFETY Goal: Keeping Children Safe in Their Own Homes			
Additional Resources (25 minutes)			
What additional resource (programs/services/processes) would meet the identified needs? (Think BIG, Be Creative!)	**How do we collectively attain the new resource?** (Consider funding & human capital limitations)	**Is the idea realistic and achievable?**	**Who and/or what community groups need to be involved?**
"One Stop Shop"	One agency to coordinate w/families to get them referred to all agencies	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Social Services Department, Community agencies
Parenting Classes	Work with schools, home educators, community groups	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Community groups, schools, Social Services
"Everyone Matters" Campaign to increase community involvement w/families in need	Contact community leadership Offer resource presentations-speakers bureau Contact volunteer & media organizations to increase awareness.	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Community groups, schools, Social Services, Rotary, Kiwanis, Farm Bureau, Adult Literacy, Business, Media.

Placement Stability Goal: Two or Fewer Placements		
Existing Resources (15 minutes)		
What resource (programs/services/processes) do we have collectively that will meet the identified needs/overcome the barriers? (List one per row)	**Is the resource achieving the intended outcome?**	**How can we enhance or improve this resource to achieve the desired outcome?**
FP/Pride Training	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Collaboration between FP & SW, understanding of roles, scheduling, cross-training.
Shelter/Respite Homes	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Allow for a night for respite homes/foster homes.
SW caseloads	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Lessen SW caseloads.
CWS/TDM's	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	More communication.
Wrap Program	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Expand.
Transitional Youth Services	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	

Timely Reunification Goal: Reunification within 12 months			
Additional Resources (25 minutes)			
What additional resource (programs/services/processes) would meet the identified needs? (Think BIG, Be Creative!)	**How do we collectively attain the new resource?** (Consider funding & human capital limitations)	**Is the idea realistic and achievable?**	**Who and/or what community groups need to be involved?**
Exit surveys for feedback from successful & unsuccessful to glean info from parents & youth as to how to better meet needs/strengths	Consider use of interns/graduate students	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Family/Child Community Partners CALM/ADMHS CWS University (UCSB)
Family Reunification groups w/group visitation after group	Develop C.P. to include FR group using existing providers	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Network Providers Interns Family/Child
Parent Partner/Mentor	Identify community partners who are using this model, i.e. sponsors from AA/NA, Project Preemie	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	Family Community Partners
Lower CWS caseloads for more intensive, targeted case management	Fill vacancies; change misconceptions of CWS	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	
Brown Bag	Invite Court partners ot CSA for engagement Use to educate on services available in FM Use this as forum to educate re: outcome measures and how we can work together	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	CWS Court Community Partners
Increase collaboration between Foster Parent and Bio Parent	Educate Foster Parents via FFA	(Circle One) **Yes** **Not Quite** **No**	FFA work with Foster Parents

Goal: Preparing Youth for Successful Transition			
Our Strengths		**Our Challenges**	
RSVP Responses:	**Additional Strengths:** (5 minutes)	**Survey Responses - Barriers/Needs:**	**Additional Barriers** (5 minutes)
Empowerment Conference Assistance League Support Independent Living Program (ILP) Community College Support THPP THP Plus Artisan Court		Support system/Community Connections 63% Housing 56% Employment opportunities 41% Educational opportunities 30% Physical/Mental Health care 22%	
	County office of Education SB Scholarship Foundation CASA mentoring for older youth		Educational opportunity bridge from high school to college-need to promote more. Hancock-Outreach program & bridge to foster youth population. Community programs to become more accessible. Food stamps-widen eligibility for foster youth. Mentor for transitional youth-help through college. Vocational opportunities in high school.
			Resource Book Lack of support-no family. Parenting teens need more support. Consistent SW and Probation Officers-too much turnover.

Zoomerang Survey Questions for CSA

Prevention/Safety:

1. As a Community, we utilize **case management services, parent education, referrals to counseling/substance abuse treatment, and home visitation services** to help families in an effort to **keep children safe within their own homes**. Are there additional services, as a Community, we can utilize to help keep children safe within their own homes? (Check your top 2 choices)
   - Access to basic services (food, shelter, medical care)
   - High-quality childcare
   - Resource and referral services for families
   - Parent support groups
   - Community access to parent education & prevention resources
   - Other_____
2. We know that within Santa Barbara County, it can be difficult to find employment and affordable housing. What other challenges do you believe parents face in our community? (Check your top 2 choices)
   - Lack of affordable, quality early care & education opportunities
   - Exposure to crime and/or violence in the home
   - Drugs and/or Alcohol problems
   - Lack of appropriate educational opportunities for parents (perinatal, parenting techniques, stress management, child development)
   - Lack of quality educational environments for children
   - Isolation (through missing community and family support systems)
   - Other_____

Timely Reunification:

3. What are the barriers for timely reunification for foster children? (Check your top 2 choices)
   - Lack of parental involvement
   - Unstable housing
   - Family violence
   - Alcohol and/or Drug issues
   - Timely access to services
   - Legal timelines/constraints
   - Other_____

4. If children have been placed into foster care, what do you think parents need to help them be reunited with their children quickly? (Check your top 2 choices)
   - Earlier family engagement
   - Increased foster care provider engagement
   - Increased parental involvement in solving family problems
   - Other_____

Transitioning Youth for Successful Independence:

5. What are the basic needs required to assist youth in a successful transition out of foster care? (Check your top 2 choices)
   - Educational opportunities
   - Physical/Mental Health Care
   - Support system/Community connections
   - Housing
   - Employment opportunities
   - Other_____
6. What strategies might improve successful independence for foster youth and how can the Community help in this process? Check your top 2 choices
   - Increased guidance/awareness of available services for foster youth
   - Increased community awareness of needed support/services for foster youth
   - Employment skill building, e.g. internships/apprenticeships
   - Access to resources: housing, computers, etc.
   - Increased community aftercare services
   - Other_____

Santa Barbara CSA COMMENTS ~ "POSITIVE CHANGES"

Arcelia Sencion, People Helping People
We were thrilled to have CWS Administrators visit the local FRC's to meet direct-service staff to learn about the community programs and services. By improving communication and mutually understanding and supporting both programs, we have improved the delivery of services.

Beverly Collier, Family Care Network, Inc.
I believe that partnering between public agencies and service providers greatly improves services to clients and outcomes. I also have seen when families and youth are included in their own case plans and service needs they are more invested in positive change. And finally, when we partner with the youth and families from a genuine strength-based perspective there is a sense of team and support that creates a space for positive change.

Gabriel Zacarias, Families United Searching for Hope
(We are a community organization that works with youth and families to start breaking down the cycle of youth violence in Santa Maria.)
It is hard for me think of specific positive changes. I know that our current systems are constantly improving. The Alternative Detention Program has been an excellent ally to our organization but also to youth in general. Further, Future Leaders of America just had an empowerment conference for SB and Ventura county youth discussing personal and community barriers. And, people are really starting to understand the need, importance and quality of the work done by CASA.

Julie DeFranco, DSS/CWS
I am excited that the FDTC program has helped expedite either reunification or permanence for abused/neglected children in our community.

Sherrie Baker, Pathway Family Services, Inc.
The positive changes I have seen in the community to help ensure the safety of the children are … more caring and compassionate people working in the area of social services for the mission of "saving" our youth from enduring further traumas in their lives. Secondly, I have seen the extra services provided to help support the foster parents and the children placed in their home, on how to have a better understanding of achieving a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle.

Ann McCarty, No. County Rape Crises and Child Protection Center
I believe that through the collaboration afforded by the CAPC, services for families and children are more openly understood as opposed to our old, archaic way of providing services in Santa Barbara County where the left hand didn't know what the right was doing. I appreciate the fact that we can come together as a mutually respectful congruent group working to end violence against children, strengthen families, and build healthy communities. I also appreciate the extended training that we receive as well as give. Our Mandated Reporter training is comprehensive and the professional consistent manner in which it is presented is appreciated by those receiving the training.

Pat Wheatley, First 5 SBC
I am very pleased with the implementation of Differential Response in our county.

Tara Dooley, Children's Health Initiative of SB
I have witnessed some very positive changes – we have decreased the percentage of uninsured children by 94% in SBC in four years resulting in more children having health insurance and health care access in SBC; and dental disease in young children is declining especially in North County where fluoride is in the water and since fluoride varnish applications are occurring county-wide.

Megan Riker-Rheinschild, Victim-Witness Assistance Program, DA's Office
There is now a North County-Santa Maria Site at Marian West Hospital to serve children exposed to sexual assault. The Sart program has available forensic interviewers to interview children, in a special child-friendly space afforded by Marian.

Terri Zuniga, Victim-Witness Assistance Program, DA's Office
Webinar Training on 9/22/11 re: cultural competency to bridge the gap between the immigrant population, with an emphasis on the indigenous Oaxacan community.

Valerie Amador, CASA
There are more activities for the children to participate in, and are more affordable for low income families. For instance the YMCA offers scholarships and sliding fee scales.

Natalia Corral, SBCEO – Transitional Youth Education Advocate
In working with the Assistance League I have seen that they really care about the issues surrounding foster and homeless youth, and the programs they have that tailor to the needs of these populations helps out tremendously.

Marisela Espinoza @ CAC -
Positive changes I have observed in the community to improve children safety and well-being is awareness of safety hazards in the home, encouraging families to get prepared for emergency disasters, educational seminars for struggling homeowners (financial counseling and support), and more access to resources for low-income families. I would like to see more support for families in the MH field, especially for those without insurance. However, I have seen a great improvement in the community of promoting support groups for Postpartum depression.

Colleen Sinclair, Community Partners in Caring

One positive change, however small, is Alan Hancock College's assistance to provide Kinship Caregiver Education.

Barbara Perkins

You've asked for examples of positive changes regarding the children in our community. American Charities Foundation strives to restore possibilities and create futures through our activities and programs for reunified, adopted, foster, and at-risk children in Santa Barbara County.

Activities & Programs– EAA Young Eagles Program, Aviation Ground School, Model Rockets, Ranch Life Program, Riding Lessons, Horse Enlightened Learning and Psychotherapy (HELP), Allure Salon Makeovers, Expressive Art, ACF Wilderness Adventure Program, Sewing, Photography Safari at Return to Freedom, etc.

Santa Barbara County Self-Assessment Work Group ~ August 2011
Child Welfare Supervisors Feedback

Strengths:

- Focused on front end to keep families together
- Laid groundwork for engagement ~ transition to practice
- Staff ~ committed/recognize needed improvements ~ willing to work ~ care about kids & families ~ appreciation for "not one more thing"
- Staff supportive of each other ~ teamwork
- Management recognition of caseloads & support for new positions
- Service providers meld practice to our needs & kids/family needs
- Community collaboration
- Countywide consistency ~ w/in agency & across agency, CBO's/County partners
- Home Connection Finders ~ more relative placements
- FFA's
- Staff development addressing hands-on FBT ~ easier for staff to stay on top of things
- More tools for staff ~ FBT, SVCS
- More engaged in process ~ feel part of > team
- Climate of Collaboration

Areas in Need of Improvement:

- Time to Reunify ~ improving quality/frequency of visitation
- Generational family CWS involvement
- Preparing youth for successful independence (in/out of county)
- Placement Stability ~quality foster parents ~ transitioning kids to/from placement ~no real therapeutic foster care-leaves kids in higher level placement
- Foster parents as mentors
- Sharing resources/tools/tricks-re: placement/transitions
- Concurrent planning
- Engaging parents as part of team ~ empowering parents
- Fear in foster parent community-re: sexual acting out ~ services to parents for offender treatment
- Support for foster parents/NREFM ~ no respite for county homes
- Limited service opportunity for free services to some VFM families
- Best practices → Initial investment saves time
- Engaging kids

County of Santa Barbara
Child Welfare Services
Peer Quality Case Review
Social Worker Interview Tool

INFORMATION	
County Name: Santa Barbara	Case Name:
Date of Interview:	
Names of Reviewers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Introductions:

- Review Team briefly introduces themselves and their work experience. Explain each interviewer's role (lead interviewer, recorder and time keeper).
- Briefly explain purpose of the interview.
  - Anonymity
  - No right or wrong responses
  - Qualitative information about practice
  - Concentrate responses on the focus topic: (**Timely Reunification – Length of time to reunify children with parents or caretakers**)
  - Okay to generalize from other cases (only if necessary)
- Ask Social Worker for a brief summary of their background:
  - ☐ Length of time as a Santa Barbara County CWS SW_____
  - ☐ Current classification_____
  - ☐ Education background_____

Case Background

The Team has been briefed on the history of the case. Please tell us about the family's demographics:

☐ **Housing situation/City (at the time of removal & reunification):**_____
_____

☐ **Income (yearly and source):**_____

☐ **Transportation:**_____

☐ **Employment:**_____

☐ **Primary Language:** _____

☐ **Social Support:** _____

☐ **Names and ages of family members**

☐ **# of prior referrals**

☐ **Current placement type**

☐ **# of placements**

☐ **Family Reunified within 12 months?**

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Please tell us the story of the family, including why the child(ren) were removed from the home.

Assessment of Needs & Services

1. Describe the strengths identified in this family and how they were used to develop a plan to prevent removal of the child(ren). Ultimately, what issues did the family face that made it unsafe for the child(ren) to remain in the home?

2. What efforts were used to engage the family in addressing circumstances that led to the removal of child(ren) from the home?
3. How were the service objectives developed, initially and on an on-going basis, for the case plan, and who was involved? (e.g., TDM, CWS history, collateral information, etc.)
4. Were there barriers for the parent(s) in accessing needed services, if so, what were they? (e.g.. availability of services, etc.) Were the barriers resolved, if so, how?
5. Describe your contact with the child(ren) and parent(s). (e.g.. frequency, location of contact, etc.)
6. What child/parent factors affected the family's ability to reunify? Were there: • Behavioral • Medical needs? • Educational needs? • Mental Health needs? • Cultural factors?
7. What was the quality of your relationship with the family during reunification? How was progress discussed, measured, and communicated with the family?
8. How did you assess the family's readiness for reunification? What steps were taken and who was involved in the decision to reunify? (e.g. SDM, staffing, TDM, collateral information, etc.)
Placement Considerations
9. Describe the factors that were considered in determining the most appropriate placement for the child(ren) while in out-of-home care. (e.g. age, behavior/mental health issues, siblings proximity, etc.)
10. What was the concurrent plan? How did it affect where the child(ren) was placed? What impact did it have on reunification?
11. Describe where the child(ren) was placed and how the placement supported or hindered reunification and important family & community connections, including sibling relationships.
12. If the family was successfully reunified, what supports and outside community-based services were actively involved to meet the ongoing needs of the family? How long were they planned to remain in place?
Visitation
13. What was the family's initial visitation plan and how was it developed?
14 How did you assess the quality and progress of the family's visitation? What information did you use in your assessment? (e.g. case aide input, in-person observation, provider information, etc.)
15. How did the visits progress and what factors were considered in modifying the visitation plan? (e.g. supervised to unsupervised, frequency, overnights, trial visits, etc.)
16. Where did the visits occur? Was the quality of the visits affected by the location and how the visits were monitored?

17. What factors contributed to successful family visitation? Were there any barriers? If so, what were they and how were they resolved?
18. What opportunities did the parent(s) have to demonstrate their parenting skills and how was this information helpful in assessing the parent's progress toward reunification?
19. In your assessment, how did the visitation plan affect reunification and what might have been improved, if anything?
Systemic Influences and Agency Practices of Reunification
20. Please identify how systemic factors, ***in this case***, either facilitated or hindered reunification efforts. (e.g. courts, department policy, legal mandates, community resources, etc.)
21. Please identify ***current*** systemic factors that either facilitate or hinder reunification efforts. (e.g. courts, department policy, legal mandates, community resources, etc.)
22. In general, what agency improvements/changes do you feel would be effective in supporting timely reunification? (e.g. training, policy, procedures, resources, support, practices, etc.)
23. What ***current*** Social Work practices do you think contribute to or hinder timely reunification?
24. What are the kinds of things you do as a Social Worker that you are especially proud of, or that others can learn from? In other words, what is the secret to your success in reunification cases?
Additional Comments or Observations

PQCR INTERVIEW TEAM OBSERVATIONS

Identify promising practices:
Identify barriers & challenges:
Identify training needs:
Identify systemic/policy changes:
Identify resources issues:
Identify area needing technical assistance:
Identify documentation issues:

County of Santa Barbara
Probation Services
Peer Quality Case Review
Probation Officer Interview Tool

INFORMATION	
County Name: Santa Barbara	Case Name:
	Date of Interview:

Names of Reviewers:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Introductions:

- Review Team: Briefly indentify interviewers and their work experience. Explain each interviewer's role (lead interviewer, recorder and time keeper).
- Briefly explain purpose of the interview.
  - Anonymity
  - No right or wrong responses
  - Qualitative information about practice
  - Concentrate responses on the focus topic: (**Timely Reunification – Length of time to reunify children with parents or caretakers**)
  - Okay to generalize from other cases (only if necessary)
- Ask Probation Officer for a brief summary of their background:
  - ☐ Length of time with Santa Barbara County_____
  - ☐ Length of time as a case carrying Probation Officer_____
  - ☐ Current classification_____
  - ☐ Education background_____

Case Background

The Team has been briefed on the history of the case. Please tell us about the family's demographics:

☐ **Housing (where was the family living):**_____
☐ **Income (yearly and source):**_____
☐ **Transportation:**_____
☐ **Employment:**_____
☐ **Primary Language:**_____

Please tell us about how and when this case came to you and the story of the family. (Dependency issues)

Describe the attributes of this family:
Strengths:
Needs:

A. Assessment of Needs and Services		
1.	How did you involve the parents in developing the Case Plan? How did you involve the child in developing the Case Plan (if applicable)? How did you connect the parents and children to services?	
2.	What were the barriers for the parents in accessing needed services (e.g. location, language, hours of operation, transportation, financial, childcare)?	
3.	What challenges did you face trying to visit with the child monthly?	

4.	What challenges did you face trying to visit with the parents monthly?	
5.	Describe the Independent Living Services the child participated in, if applicable.	
6.	Tell us about your challenges to accessing adequate services to meet the child's: • Physical needs? • Medical needs? • Dental needs? • Educational needs? • Mental Health needs?	
7.	How did you assess the family's progress in meeting case plan objectives?	

C. Placement Stability	
8.	How did placement changes, if any, help the child reunify?
D. Family Relationships and Connections	
9.	If the child was not placed in the same region/county as either of their parents' residence, how has it affected reunification?
10.	Describe how the placement location maintains important family connections?
11.	Please describe how the placement location maintained community connections.
12.	Please describe how the placement/group services/staff helped support or inhibit reunification.
E. Visitation	
13.	What is the most typical pattern of visitation between the child and his/her family?
14.	Please describe the type of visitation between child and parent/guardian: ☐ supervised ☐ unsupervised ☐ overnights ☐ trial home visits, and vacations
15.	What criteria/assessment was used to determine any progression of visits?
16.	What kinds of enhancements or barriers affected visitation? Did the parents face challenges accessing services that were barriers to visitation?
17.	How did the visitation plan affect reunification?
PROBATION OFFICER REFLECTIONS	
18.	What succeeded when you worked to reunify this family? What failed when you worked with this family?
19.	What current work practice(s) influenced the reunification of this family?
20.	If the case was not reunified within 12 months, please identify barriers that affected the accomplishment of timely reunification?
21.	If the case was reunified within 12 months, please describe the factors that facilitated timely reunification?
22.	In general, what are the challenges you face as you work to successfully reunify families?
23.	In general, what improvements/changes would be useful to help you reunify families more effectively (e.g. training, policy, procedures, resources, practices).
24.	What are the kinds of things you do that you are especially proud of, or that others can learn from? In other words, what is the secret to your success in reunification cases?
Additional Comments or Observations	

PQCR INTERVIEW TEAM OBSERVATIONS

Identify documentation trends: **Identify documentation needs:** **Identify resource issues:**
Identify promising practices: **Identify systemic/policy changes:**
Identify barriers & challenges: **Identify area needing technical assistance:**