

LASSEN COUNTY SELF ASSESSMENT 2011

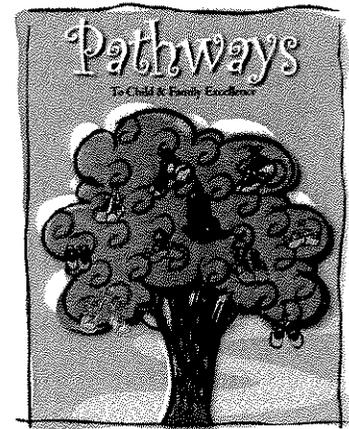
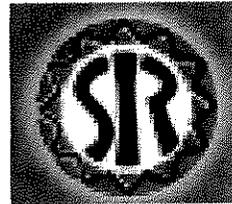
ACCOMPLISHMENT THROUGH COLLABORATION



Health and Social Services



THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LASSEN



Lassen Community College



**California's Child and Family Services Review
County Self-Assessment Cover Sheet**

County:	Lassen
Responsible County Child Welfare Agency:	Lassen County Family and Children Protective Services
Period of Assessment:	May 2008- March 2011
Period of Outcome Data:	June 30, 2008- July 1, 2010
Date Submitted:	17-May-11

County Contact Person for County Assessment

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CAPIT Liaison

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CBCAP Liaison

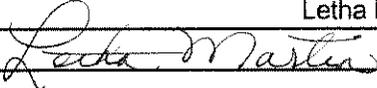
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County PSSF Liaison

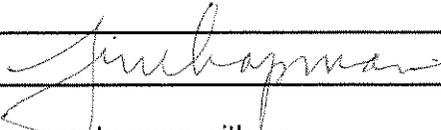
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County Self-Assessment Cover Sheet (continued)

RECEIVED JUN 13 2011

Submitted by each agency for the children under its care	
Submitted by:	County Child Welfare Agency Director (Lead Agency)
Name:	Melanie Westbrook
Signature:	
Submitted by:	County Chief Probation Officer
Name:	Letha Martin
Signature:	

County & Community Partners	In Collaboration with: Name(s)	Signature
Board of Supervisors Designated Public Agency to Administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Funds		
County Child Abuse Prevention Council		
Parent Representative		
As Applicable*	Name(s)	
California Youth Connection		
County Adoption Agency (or CDSS Adoptions District Office)		
Local Tribes		
Local Education Agency		

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Approval	
BOS Approval Date:	May 17, 2011
Name:	Jim Chapman
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.

* 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), ICWA (4E), etc. No signature is required.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: May 17, 2011

Meeting: Regular (X)
Special ()

Present:

Supervisor, District 1 – Robert Pyle

Supervisor, District 2 – Jim Chapman - Chairman

Supervisor, District 3 - Larry Wosick

Supervisor, District 4 - Brian Dahle - Absent

Supervisor, District 5 - Jack Hanson

County Counsel Rick Crabtree

Deputy Clerk of the Board Susan Osgood

County Administrative Officer Tom Stone

PROCEEDINGS:

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

FAMILY AND CHILDREN PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SUBJECT: Lassen County Self Assessment of Child Welfare.

ACTION: Approve the County Self Assessment; and authorize the Chairman to execute the Assessment documentation.

MOVED BY: Hanson

SECONDED BY: Wosick

UNANIMOUS: No

AYES: Chapman, Pyle, Wosick, Hanson

ABSTENTIONS: No

NOES: No

ABSENTEES: Dahle

MENTAL HEALTH

SUBJECT: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

ACTION: Approve Workforce Education and Training plan to be submitted to the State Department of Mental Health for approval.

MOVED BY: Wosick

SECONDED BY: Pyle

UNANIMOUS: No

AYES: Chapman, Pyle, Wosick, Hanson

ABSTENTIONS: No

NOES: No

ABSENTEES: Dahle

County of Lassen County)
State of California) ss.

I, SUSAN OSGOOD, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the minute order of said Board of Supervisors on above date.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the Official Seal of the said Board of Supervisors this 20th of May, 2011.

By 
Deputy Clerk of the Board, County of Lassen,
Board of Supervisors

Lassen County Self Assessment

May, 2011

Authored by,

**Melanie Westbrook,
Lassen County Family and Children Protective Services
Supervisor**

In collaboration with,

**Letha Martin,
Chief Probation Officer**

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Demographic Profile

The demographic information provided in this section was gathered from several sources which include; Census Bureau, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Federal Bureau of Prisons, California Department of Corrections, Employment Development Department, and the Healthy Families Program.

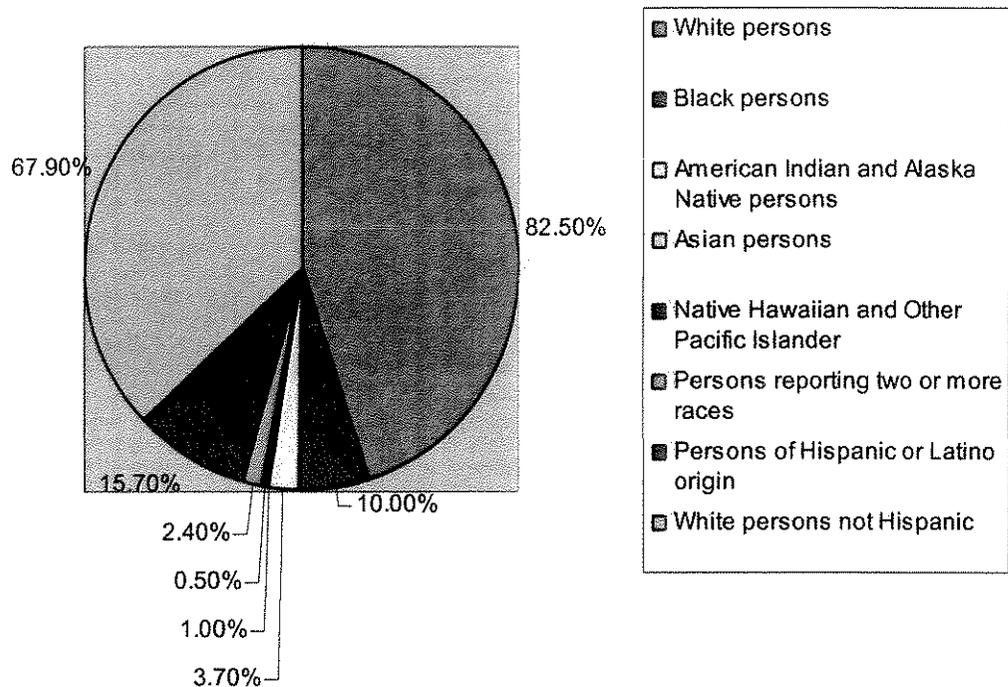
Lassen County is a rural Northern California county located on the eastern side of the Sierras bordered by Modoc County to the north, the state of Nevada to the east, Plumas County to the south and Shasta County to the west. Lassen County was incorporated in 1864 as a general law county. In 2009, there was a population estimate of 25,965. The most recent Census data is not available as of the writing of this report for an accurate estimate of the population of Lassen County currently.

In additions Lassen County is home to two (2) state prisons and one (1) federal prison. According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation which reports 10,661 inmates combined in the two state prisons and approximately 1495 inmates currently in the federal prison.

Lassen County is the 47th largest county in the state by population size. Lassen County covers 4,557.27 square miles. Susanville is the only incorporated city in Lassen County and there are three unincorporated areas of population in the county in the communities of Westwood, Herlong, and Beiber. Approximately half of the county's population resides in the county seat, which is Susanville.

It is recorded that 36.1% of the population in Lassen County is Female and 63.9% Male. Persons under the age of five constitutes 4.5% and persons under the age of 18 is 18.5%. Persons over the age of 65 is 9.0% of the population leaving the remaining population between 19 and 64 or approximately 68%. The following chart shows a break down of the population by reported ethnicity.

Lassen County Ethnicity by Population



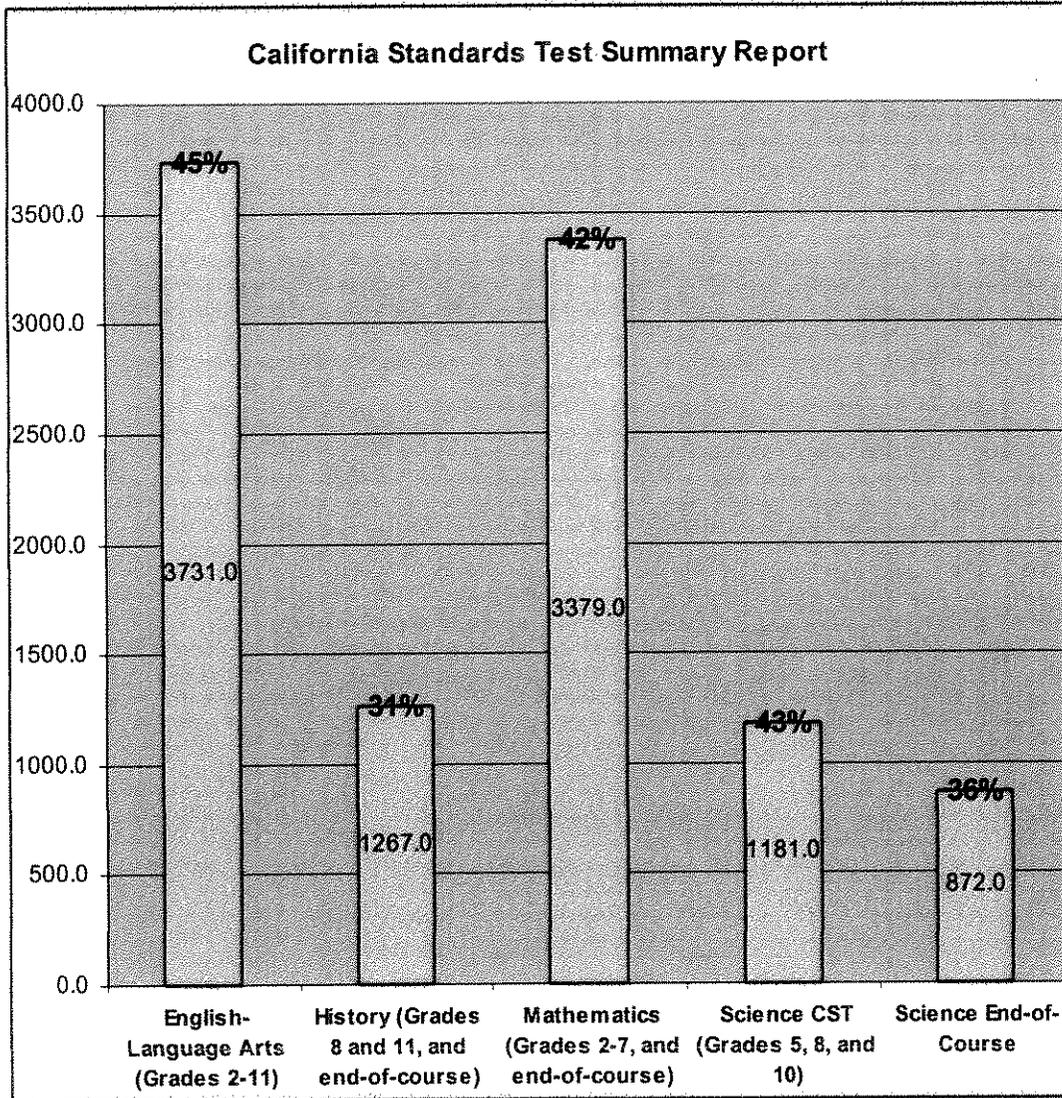
There are currently 140 children on waiting lists for childcare according to Lassen Child and Family Resource.

Lassen County Family and Child Protective Services (FCPS) from January 2009, through December 2009, received 586 referrals. In that same year 39 children entered foster care for the first time, 5 were placed with relatives and 34 were placed with a Foster Family Agency (FFA).

There are approximately 7,928 children ages 18 and under in Lassen County. There are 10 school districts that encompass 11 elementary schools, 4 public high schools and 4 charter schools that provide public education. According to the Department of Finance Lassen County had 4,828 children enrolled in the 2009-2010 School Year, this included grades K-12. In the 2008-2009 School year there were 421 high school graduates. It shows a slight decrease in enrollment and is projected to have a decreasing enrollment over the next several years. As of the writing of this report Lassen Union High School reported out of the current 221 enrolled seniors 28 had exited, of these 28 half left to enroll in a different district charter school. Of the population that is 25 years and older, which is approximately 24,485 or 79.9%, reported having a high school diploma or higher and 11.5% reported to have a bachelors degree or higher. 527 of the children enrolled in K-8th grades are utilizing the subsidized lunch program and 221 of the children of high school age.

The Childrennow.org survey that was conducted in 2010 reported that 74% of elementary and middle school students felt safe in their school. Only 27% of high school students reported feeling safe in their school. Additionally 41% of all school age children felt connected to their school. Childrennow.org tracked fourth graders who met or exceeded state standards in English Language Arts which was 57%. 78% of the tenth graders in Lassen County have passed the English portion of the California High School Exit Exam.

The following chart shows children tested and how many were proficient or advanced in the subject tested.



The Lassen County Office of Education's (LCOE) Special Education Program serves children with special needs in Lassen County. The LCOE provides services to over 760 students, from infants up through high school.

The LCOE Alternative Education Programs provide education for students who are seriously at risk of school and/or societal failure. The programs include Juvenile Court School, Community School and Probation Alternatives in a Community Environment (PACE), and Opportunity Programs. These programs provide academic instruction for students who are detained or referred, who self-select, or who benefit from a program based on alternative instructional strategies. The programs are more fully described below:

- **Juvenile Court School** provides educational services to children and youth who are wards of the court, including incarcerated youth and minors. Juvenile Court School has a classroom located within the Juvenile Hall to serve girls and boys, ages 12-19, which have been arrested and booked on criminal charges, and who are awaiting disposition by the court.

- **Community School** provides an alternative learning environment for 12-18 year old students who are experiencing difficulties in a traditional school setting or who are exhibiting negative behavior patterns in school or in the community. The program serves students who have been expelled from school, identified as habitually truant, placed on probation by the court, or otherwise referred by a school district, probation, or social service agency. The Community School is located in Susanville. The emphasis of the program is to reestablish the educational direction of students and to transition them to a regular school setting or other learning environment that meets their needs.

- The **Probation Alternatives in a Community Environment (PACE)** classroom in an integrated program staffed by Lassen County Probation Officers, a credentialed teachers and instructional assistants provided by the LCOE. The program is designed to provide immediate services by Mental Health Practitioners and Alcohol and Other Drug counselors to students in lieu of out-of-county residential placements.

- The LCOE operates **Opportunity** classes on nine campuses for the Big Valley, Fort Sage, Janesville, Johnstonville, Lassen High, Richmond, Shaffer, Susanville, and Westwood School Districts. Opportunity classes provide additional support for students who are habitually truant from instruction, have irregular attendance, exhibit insubordination or disorderly conduct, or are failing academically.

Lassen County has a veteran population that is approximately 3,504 persons of which 42.2% are male the rest being female.

Lassen County has approximately 11,743 people from 16 years old and up that are in the work force. The median family income is 48,653. 8.5%, of the families in Lassen County are living in poverty According to the Employment Development Department Lassen County has 9,670 persons employed in a Nonfarm Industry, 9,490 of those are in a service providing industry, 6,380 are in a government position and 4,970 are in a State or Local government. Lassen County has an unemployment rate of 14.7%.

There are approximately 12,809 housing units in Lassen County with only 10,288 being occupied. Of those occupied 67.9% are occupied by the owner, with 19.7% being vacant. The median value of owner occupied housing units is \$225,200.

Lassen County has two departments that provide Medi-Cal, food stamps and workforce alliance; these functions are provided through Lassen Works and Lassen Career Network. The following grid shows approximately how many Lassen County residences are being served by these departments:

Cal Works	824 children + 417 adults = 1241 individuals (in 484 cases)
Foster Care	79 children
KinGAP	5 children
General Relief	85 adults
Food Stamps	2941 individuals (There is no distinction between children or adults)
Medi-Cal	930 cases, this includes the 1241 CalWORKs individuals above, to make an estimate of 2356
CMSP (medical program for indigent adults without dependent children)	432

According to Childrennow.org website and survey that was completed in 2010 76% of children surveyed reported that they were in “very good” to “excellent” health. 91% of children were reported to have some form of health insurance. 91% of children were reported to visit the dentist regularly.

Lassen County Public Health department reports that as of 2008 the rate of teen pregnancy for children ages 10-14 was 0. Teen births for ages 15-19 was 24.3, (the rate is # of live births per 1000).

Lassen County Public Health reports as of 2008, 6.8% of live births had a birth weight of less than 2500 grams and that Lassen County falls in the 50th-75th percentile in the state for low birth weights.

Lassen County Public Health also reported that as of 2008 82.9% of children entering kindergarten had received the appropriate immunizations. Lassen County children are only checked to ensure immunizations when a child enters either child care or kindergarten.

Lassen County is home to one Native American tribe, The Susanville Indian Rancheria whose members include Paiute, Maidu, Pitt River and Washoe Indians. The Tribe has a voting membership of 454, but including members under the age of eighteen; there is a total membership of 698. The Tribal Health Program serves over 1,500 Native Americans in Lassen County.

Public Agency Characteristics

The community wide child welfare system consists of Public Health, Behavioral Health, Family and Children Protective Services, Lassen Works, Probation, and Drug and Alcohol, which are all county departments. The system also includes 10 school districts of the public education system and the California Department of Social Services State Adoptions Agency, Chico branch, for adoption services. It also includes the community based organizations of Lassen Family Services, Diversified Management, which currently funds the Family Resource Centers, local law enforcement, and the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

The following are agencies that help provide child welfare services which include;

- Lassen County Family and Children Protective Services. The agency at the time of this report has two full time supervisors, a temporary supervisor help position, and currently the Director position is vacant, the deputy CAO, Kevin Mannel is over seeing the agency. There are 8 full time social workers and a Title-IV E intern. The office is managed by two full time office assistants. **See attached organizational chart Appendix A.**

- Lassen County Probation Department is staffed by a Chief Probation Officer, Assistant Chief Probation Officer (vacant), 1 Fiscal Officer, 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Legal Clerk, 6 Probation Officers assigned to the Adult Division (1 Supervisor) and 1 Probation Assistant, 6 Officers assigned to the Juvenile Division (2 Senior DPO) and 1 Probation Assistant. 2 Juvenile Officers work as Placement Officers (1 also works part-time truancy, 1 is the assigned Court Officer) and both carry caseloads, 1 Juvenile Officer works the Narcotics Task Force and Truancy, 1 PACE Officer (juvenile), 1 Truancy/Supervision Officer, 1 Adult Division Officer is assigned to Prop 36/Drug Court. All Probation Officers have supervision caseloads.

The Lassen County Probation Department also has a 20 bed Juvenile Detention Facility which is staffed by 1 Superintendent, 4 Supervisors, 10 Juvenile Hall Counselors, 1 Legal Clerk, and approximately 7 On-call/transport Officers. The Probation Assistant assigned to the Juvenile Division is also the Foster Youth Services Coordinator for the Probation Department and FCPS. **See attached organizational Chart. Appendix A.**

- Lassen Family Services is contracted with Lassen County to provide an educational service to parents and families, in home visiting program, parenting support groups and Parent Partners for Family Solutions.
- ComPac provides in home parenting and support programs for children under the age of 5 years.

- Mountain Circle Foster Family Agency and Environmental Alternatives Foster Family Agency provide foster homes, group homes and THP facilities to children in Lassen County.
- Wright Education provides individual and group service for children and adults of Lassen County
- Susanville Indian Rancheria provides mental health and medical services to the native population of Lassen County children and adults. The rancheria also provides on a case by case basis transportation for other non Indian persons of Lassen County.
- Lassen Community College provides ILP services and classes to all eligible Lassen County youth.
- Lassen County Family Resource centers or One Stops in Westwood, Herlong and Bieber provide county services including mental health, AOD, public health and welfare resources to children and families.

County-Operated Shelter(s)

Lassen County does not have a county-operated children's shelter. Lassen County has a homeless shelter which is provided by Crossroads Ministries. Crossroads has a men's house and is currently waiting to reopen its women's house. Length of stay at the shelter is a case by case basis. Lassen Family Services provides a women's shelter for women who have experienced domestic violence. Women are allowed to bring their children to this facility and length of stay is again on a case by case basis.

County Licensing

Lassen County does not license their own foster homes. Although there has in the past been some discussion, it has not come to fruition. Currently Lassen County uses two local Foster Family Agencies, Environmental Alternatives and Mountain Circle for placement of children.

Lassen County has struggled with the placement of children whose needs are greater than the resources available within the county. Although FCPS is able to place children in an FFA home if the child develops behavioral issues that are too great for the foster parent the child, in the past, has been placed in group homes outside of the county. FCPS always attempts to find the least restrictive placement and/or relatives that are willing and able to foster the youth first.

Probation is also facing placement concerns as does FCPS. The Probation Department has experienced difficulties with contracting with local foster agencies to place their youth due to the type of offenses or they are higher risk children that Lassen County does not have the capacity to serve. The following

are some of the factors that contribute to not being able to place youth in Lassen County;

- Their crime is very severe and it would be dangerous to place them in a home with other children, i.e.: rape, sexual assault, sexual molest, arson, drug dealing, etc. Note: Many of these kids are not committed to Department of Juvenile Justice (CYA) but are placed on probation to ensure compliance of their terms and conditions ordered by the court.
- Their probation terms require the minor to participate in services that are not always available in the community but are offered at a group homes or boot camps out of county/state.
- The community does not have a pool of trained foster care providers for youths with criminal backgrounds. Lassen County has 3 level 10 group homes. In some cases minors need a level 12 or 14. Lack of training also creates a situation where foster families are unwilling to take a probation/crime committing minor because the parents are unfamiliar with potential behaviors and methods of controlling those behaviors.
- The minor has been in the CPS system and has utilized any local foster care available of which the youth has been unsuccessful in and now requires a higher level of care.
- The department discovers that the minor has stable and functioning family living in an area where there is a group home available and the family wants to be a positive influence in the minor's life. The family can have frequent contact with the minor if he/she is located nearby.

County Adoptions

Lassen County does not have adoptions social workers; as a result, Lassen County utilizes California Department of Social Services State Adoptions Agency, Chico branch, to handle all Lassen County adoptions.

County Governance Structure

Lassen County FCPS works closely with the following agencies and how those agencies interact and or provide child welfare services for youth and families. (see attached organizational chart)

Board of Supervisors

Is a policy board responsible for the overall county operations, appointment of key staff, budgetary approvals and legal mandates, statutory requirements and grants discretionary authorities. Board of Supervisors oversees Health and

Social Services which includes; mental health, family and children protective services, alcohol and other drug, public health, Lassen Works and Lassen Career Network. In addition they oversee the District Attorney, County Counsel, Probation and Sheriff's Office as the officials elected or appointed to manage the affairs of Lassen County.

County Counsel

Works with the Courts, Health and Social Services (FCPS), District Attorney, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Works, Police Departments, the Sheriff's Office, CASA, Alcohol and Drug and Probation as the lead agency in providing legal counsel for all Child Welfare cases in Lassen County.

Courts

Works with Health and Social Services (FCPS), District Attorney, Mental Health, Public Health, Police departments, the Sheriff's Office, Probation, CASA, Alcohol and Drug and County Counsel as the lead agency in making legal determinations on Child Welfare Cases, as well as, adult court cases.

District Attorney

Works with Health and Social Services (FCPS), Mental Health, Public Health, Police Departments, the Sheriff's Office, Probation, CASA, County Counsel and the Courts, amongst other community agencies to provide legal prosecution when necessary in child welfare cases and other local court cases.

Health and Social Services

Works with the Sheriff's Office, Police Departments, Courts, County Counsel, Mental Health, Probation, Public Health, Alcohol and Drug, District Attorney, County Office of Education, the Community College, Cal Works, Court-appointed Special Advocates (CASA) hospitals and non-profit organizations as the lead agency in providing child protective services.

Mental Health Department

Works with Human Services, District Attorney, Public Health, Cal Works, Alcohol and Drug, Probation, Police Departments, the Sheriff's Office, County Counsel, non-profit organizations, CASA, hospitals, and County Office of Education as the lead agency in providing mental health and Family Solutions (Wraparound) services to children and families of Lassen County.

Probation Department

Works with the all Law Enforcement Agencies, which includes the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, Cal fire, Forest Service, FBI, Highway Patrol, BLM, Fish and Game, Courts, County Counsel, Mental Health, Human Services, Public Health, District Attorney, FCPS, Community College, Alcohol and Drug, CASA, hospitals, and non-profit organizations to oversee youth and adults on probation.

Public Health Department

Works with Health and Social Services, FCPS, District Attorney, Mental Health, Probation, Police Departments, the Sheriff's Office, Alcohol and Drug, County

Counsel, non-profit organizations, hospitals, and County Office of Education to provide health services, public health preparedness, emergency medical services. In addition, Lassen County Public Health inputs CHDP information for children into CWS, converses with service providers such as dentist and doctors for CHDP assistance and provide transportation assistance for CHDP referrals, provides immunization clinics for children and families, free pregnancy testing and education and case management for all California Children's Services eligible children.

Alcohol and Drug Department

Works with Health and Social Services, FCPS, District Attorney, Mental Health, Probation, Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, the Courts and the Community College. AOD provides individual and group services for youth and adults with substance abuse concerns.

Sheriff's Department and Police Department

Works with Probation, Human Services, County Counsel, Courts, Mental Health, District Attorney, hospitals, County Office of Education, CASA, non-profit organizations, and Public Health to provide law enforcement services.

Staffing characteristics/issues

According to the Workforce Study* that was conducted in 2008 which surveyed the 2006/2007 fiscal year, found that the combined internal and external turnover rate was 17% for case carrying social workers. In 2008 the northern region of California which includes Lassen County, showed a 13% turn over rate for social workers. As captured in the report vacancies in child welfare are remaining open and or unfilled as the agency does not know if the state budget will be unfavorable to the child welfare system.

FCPS is currently experiencing a drop in filled social worker positions. Due to this caseloads have risen over the past several months. Ongoing caseloads were down to 13-17 per social worker a year ago and are currently up to 20 cases per social worker. As the implementation of SDM has become more readily used cases that did not need to become court ordered has dropped. In turn cases have become more challenging which has created a more demanding work load. Social worker retention and recruitment has been an ongoing issue for Lassen County FCPS and was addressed as a topic for the Stakeholders meeting. FCPS does not employ case worker aides, nor do they have specialized units to handle certain aspects of case management. Social worker's are required to attend to every aspect of the case which creates great levels of stress as social workers detain children, write their own court reports, do their own visitation scheduling and transportation, complete placement paperwork, set up services, and so on.

* http://caiswec.berkeley.edu/calSWEC/PCW_WFStudyRpt_2008.pdf

Lassen County Juvenile Probation Department current caseload sizes are averaging about 15 cases per officer. Over the last several years caseload sizes have decreased which may be due to the following possible reasons;

- ✓ Less patrol officers (police and sheriff) on duty due to budget cuts. The crime rate has decreased in regards to juvenile offenders.
- ✓ Probation Officers are in the field and on campuses daily. Probation Officers work in a prevention/intervention manner unlike several years prior.
- ✓ Additional alternative sentencing is being offered to minors who are first time offenders and diversion programs, such as Teen Court, have been created. If the minor successfully attends and completes the Court, their case is dismissed. Teen Court has restructured their guidelines and is now much more accepting of various misdemeanor crimes. Previous years Teen Court only allowed a few offenses and more restrictive.
- ✓ More cases are being handled at the intake level where the minor is given sanctions and upon completion of those sanctions, the case is successfully terminated with no probation.
- ✓ Due to the high volume of Adult court cases, Probation Officers have less time for field work. Many officers have multiple assignments including writing reports and court duties. However the Juvenile Division is the opposite. Due to budget cuts, less nighttime sweeps are being conducted. In the past they were carried out on a fairly regular basis.
- ✓ Although the crime rate is down, the type of offenses have become more severe. In some cases minors have learned different ways of hiding substance abuse. Because there is more Probation Officer exposure on campuses and exposure in the community on weekdays, minors' behaviors tend to be better during the day and generally commit crimes at night or on weekends.

Bargaining unit issues

Lassen County FCPS is unable to provide competitive pay to social workers. Social workers will leave the unit for other county departments and/or leave the area for departments that have higher pay scales. The 2010-2011 fiscal year was a United Public Employees of California (UPEC) Bargaining year for wages. As of July 2011 FCPS social workers, as well as line staff in other departments, will experience a 3% decrease in pay. Lassen County is experiencing budget cutbacks as is the rest of California. For UPEC employees this has meant a cut

in pay, increased health insurance premiums and reduced staff positions as there is no funding to hire people that have left and the county is waiting to see what the next fiscal year budget will look like before hiring for positions that have been vacated. This has created higher case loads for the social workers that are currently still employees of FCPS. Lassen County has also experienced turnover in the personnel department which has led to frustration with the bargaining units regarding timeliness and consistency. Lassen County Counsel is currently overseeing personnel and/or bargaining issues.

Lassen County Probation Department also struggles with providing competitive salaries for Deputy Probation Officers, Juvenile Hall Counselors, and all support staff. Staffs that leave the department generally move out of the area for better paying jobs, or transfer to other positions because they are better compensated and/or work a less stressful position. Lassen County Probation is the third lowest paid Probation Department in the State and do not provide Safety Retirement to Officer, as most counties do. The 2010-2011 fiscal year was a bargaining year for all units. As of July 2011 all county employees will experience a 3% decrease in pay. Lassen County is experiencing budget cutbacks as is the rest of California. The Probation Department will be facing greater numbers of probationers and will also be taking over the parole population in this coming year. At this point there is no guarantee the State will provide additional funding for Probation to assist and increase staffing levels. The Probation Department currently has three vacancies and will not be allowed to fill these positions until the State Budget improves.

Financial/material resources

Lassen County is currently utilizing several funding streams. FCPS uses PSSF funds to provide family preservation services, family support, time limited family reunification service and adoption promotion.

Lassen County FCPS is contracted with Lassen Family Services using CAPIT/CBCAP funds to provide for Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program which includes but not limited to, home visiting, assessment, parental education and support groups. CAPIT/CBCAP funds are currently the only funding stream that FCPS uses to purchase the above services from this provider. Lassen Family Services is also contracted with Wraparound to provide Parent Partners. In addition Lassen Family Services is supported by CalEma with other small funding amounts coming from Public Health and the Judicial Council.

FCPS is using CWSOIP funds to provide transportation to clients.

FCPS is contracted with Pathways to Child and Family Excellence to provide court ordered visitation supervision.

FCPS contracts with Environmental Alternatives and Mountain Circle Foster Family agencies to provide TILP services to Youth. The funding for these services is through THPP and/or THP-PLUS.

Lassen County FCPS is gathering funds through the Children's Trust Fund for birth certificates for children born in Lassen County. Also these funds help promote and put on the yearly Children's Fair and Child Abuse Awareness Month activities.

FCPS has a contract with the following people and uses Child Welfare Funds for these services;

- ❖ Chris Cox LCSW, a licensed therapist that conducts individual and group services for adults and children with anger management and/or domestic violence concerns.

- ❖ Chris LaMarr and Nanette Gledhill, to provide ICWA case evaluations.

- ❖ Ed Jenesky, Ph.D, Laura Morrison, Ph.D and A.M. Amezaga, Jr., Ph.D, to provide psychological evaluations

The Child Welfare Services Allocation is used to fund salaries, overhead, and all other services provided that cannot be billed to another funding stream and are non-federal direct charges.

The above services are in place to help assist families and children in our county. Lassen County attempts to keep services local for families as traveling to services that are not readily available in Lassen County is difficult due to the geographical location of the county. FCPS contracts with as many providers as possible to help assist families and children to receive the services that are needed to keep children safe and families healthy.

The Probation Department has numerous State and Federal funding sources;

Eight of the ten School Districts contract with the Probation Department to supplement the Truancy Reduction Program.

The Juvenile Justice Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding contributes to the Truancy Reduction Program, PACE, and the Mobile Treatment Services (MTS) programs now contributed by Vehicle Licensing Fees (VLF) funds.

A large amount of funding is due to Title IV-E and SB 933 Group/Foster Home placements as well as case management and eligibility of minors at imminent risk of placement.

Drug Court funds are provided as well as Narcotics Task Force funds.

The Lassen County Officer of Education provides additional funding for the Foster Youth Services Coordinator.

The Probation Department receives funding from Modoc and Plumas County for contracted beds in the Juvenile Detention Facility.

Additional funds from a Federal Cal Ema, SB678 grant. There is also funding from the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG). Both of these are incentive sources of income to reduce and/or eliminate prison convictions and DJJ convictions.

The Department receives funding from court fines and fees, all of which are not guaranteed or known estimated funds.

Prop 36 funding was eliminated.

Minimal funds are received for services provided by staff working with minors in JDF.

The State contributes funding for Officer mandated, certified training for Officers through the Correction Standards Authority.

Political Jurisdictions

- Lassen County has ten school districts and one SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) under the County Office of Education.
- There are two law enforcement agencies in Lassen County, the Susanville Police Department and the Lassen County Sheriff's Office.
- There is one Native American Rancheria in Lassen County, the Susanville Rancheria.
- Susanville is the only incorporated city in Lassen County.
- There are three unincorporated communities in Lassen County, Westwood, Herlong, and Beiber

PQCR Summary

FCPS Summary

FCPS contracted with UC Davis to write the draft report for the PQCR findings. FCPS chose recurrence of maltreatment as their focus area. To review that topic area the following areas of the child welfare system were analyzed.

1. SDM/ Assessments
2. Substance Abuse
3. Domestic Violence History
4. Family Engagement
5. Child Assessment and Services
6. Placement Stability
7. Disruptions
8. Social Worker History.

During the PQCR the following strengths were commonly found, substantial documentation of family histories, social workers knowledgeable of SDM tools, use of team decision making and multi-team response to referrals, strength based approach to families, and increasing families to participate in voluntary services with the use of Integrated Child Protective Services (ICPS) to provide, mental health and AOD services more rapidly. These above strengths showed that families were able to have there needs met before continued abuse or neglect could occur and children were able to remain in their homes. Additionally, children who were removed were found to have three or less placement changes and the use of wraparound services were provided to families and/or foster homes.

The areas where FCPS struggled and needed to improve were in communication and support to foster parents, Lassen County families not having familial support and being isolated, little assessment of relative placement for the children, and not using SDM tools before the substantiation of an allegation. Even though, as noted as strength that children did not have more than three placements, children had to change schools often and leave there neighborhoods. This appeared to be due to the lack of foster home resources in the county and children had to be placed outside of Lassen County

Placement stability was brought to attention during the PQCR and FCPS decided to look into this further. FCPS had discussed this topic at the Stakeholders meeting. The community partners were very interested in helping children remain in Lassen County to be able to be supported by there family and community.

Probation Department Summary

The Lassen County Probation Department identified the issues of Least Restrictive Placements and Promoting Positive Placements as their focus area for this PQCR. Lassen County Probation selected this as a focus area as they

hope to make improvement in the areas of due diligence, involving family's in placement decision making and improving DPO family contacts, visits and communication. It is important to note there is not an official outcome measure that collects data regarding these issues.

Some of the Lassen County Probation Department's strengths and promising practice in regards to case management are; Probation Officers have regular, monthly, contacts with the minors and encourage them to be successful. The current caseloads appear to be lower than average, permitting Probation Officers time to review their cases prior to meeting the minors and families, and dedicate their experience to serving each minor appropriately. The Probation Officers and Administration attempt to maintain the highest level of knowledge related to current programs available for youth. Probation Officers regularly utilized PACT Risk and Needs Assessment Tool to assist in the identification of mental and behavioral health concerns, current substance abuse or abuse within the family history, placement needs, and the likelihood of recidivism. The Probation Department provides the Foster Youth services to all minors in placement, which includes educational needs, supplies, tuition, tutoring. Probation Officers are tactful in reintegrating youth back to their homes after placement beginning with home passes to allow parents and youth to become reacquainted.

Probation Officers strongly encourage families to participate with their children in counseling and visitation between minors and their immediate and extended family arranged regularly, weekly if possible, depending on the location of the minors placement. Through FYS, families are often provided with fuel cards in order to afford to go to visits with their children.

Barriers and challenges Probation Officers face are that assignment of probationers occasionally change, decreasing the possibility of the foster parent being able to develop a relationship and an alliance with the Probation Officer. These changes occur based on the type or level of placement, geographic location, level of probation, and type of offense. Lassen County has limited programs to meet a variety of needs for the youth served by probation, causing many youth to necessitate out-of-county placements; specifically, there were no local placements for juvenile sexual offenders or in-patient substance abuse programs for youth. Because there are approximately twenty youth placed out of Lassen County, probation officers spend numerous days traveling to make contact with all of the youth on their caseloads. Other barriers Probation Officers have are the minimal services provided by Mental Health and particularly Drug and Alcohol. If a probationer needs in-patient services there are none local.

Parents of probationers did not believe youth received valuable information from ILP classes. Parents thought ILP was perhaps supportive and a place for youth to socialize. Although THPP and THP Plus programs are available, the space is limited and therefore not as many youth are able to participate. In regards to family visits for minor placed out of county transportation for parents and families are inconsistent, creating barriers in developing a regular visitation schedule for the youth and their family members and reunification.

Probation Officers expressed challenges in meeting the needs of the minors who have the “I’ll do what I want to do” attitude. Officers stated training surrounding the challenges of these communication skills and encouraging positive attitudes would be helpful.

OUTCOMES

FCPS

Safety 1

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

S1.1 No recurrence of maltreatment* July 1, 2009-December 31, 2009

PERCENT	Age Group							All
	Under	'1-	'3-	'6-	'11-	16-	18-	
	1	2	5	10	15	17	20	
No recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months	100	100	80	87.5	80	100		88.6
Recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months	0	0	20	12.5	20	0		11.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100		100

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2010 Quarter 2 Extract.

Program version: 1.20 Database version: 5F887A9B

S2.1 No maltreatment in foster care* July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

PERCENT	Age Group							All
	Under	'1-	'3-	'6-	'11-	16-	18-	
	1	2	5	10	15	17	20	
Not Maltreated	100	100	100	100	95.24	100	100	98.97
Maltreated	0	0	0	0	4.76	0	0	1.03
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2010 Quarter 2 Extract.

Program version: 1.20 Database version: 5F883EE3

FCPS regularly meets with FFA social workers to ensure that children are placed in the home that most effectively meets that child's needs. Social workers

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/15/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

regularly meet with their clients to ensure that there is not continued abuse in foster homes. Additionally whenever an incident of child abuse occurs the social worker immediately reports using the proper channels.

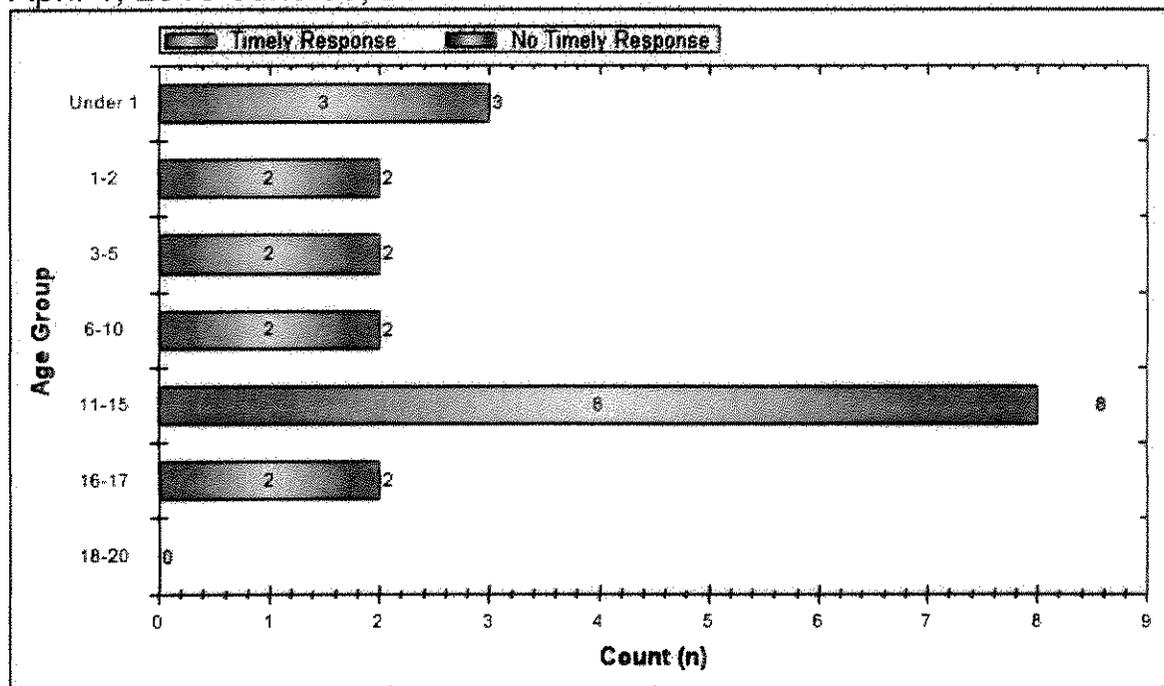
Safety 2

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

Measure 2B*

Percent of child abuse/neglect referrals with a timely response

April 1, 2010-June 30, 2010



FCPS has implemented the use of two distinct divisions ER and Ongoing. This distinction has made the job duties of each social worker more defined to ensure that each child in Lassen County is responded to in a timely manner. Previously each social worker was required to attend to all aspects of a case from investigation and detention, to ongoing and permanency.

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/15/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Measure 2C*

Timely social worker visits with child.

June 2010

COUNT	Visit Type	Total
	1-Month	
	n	n
Children Visited	55	55
Children Not Visited	0	0
Total	55	55

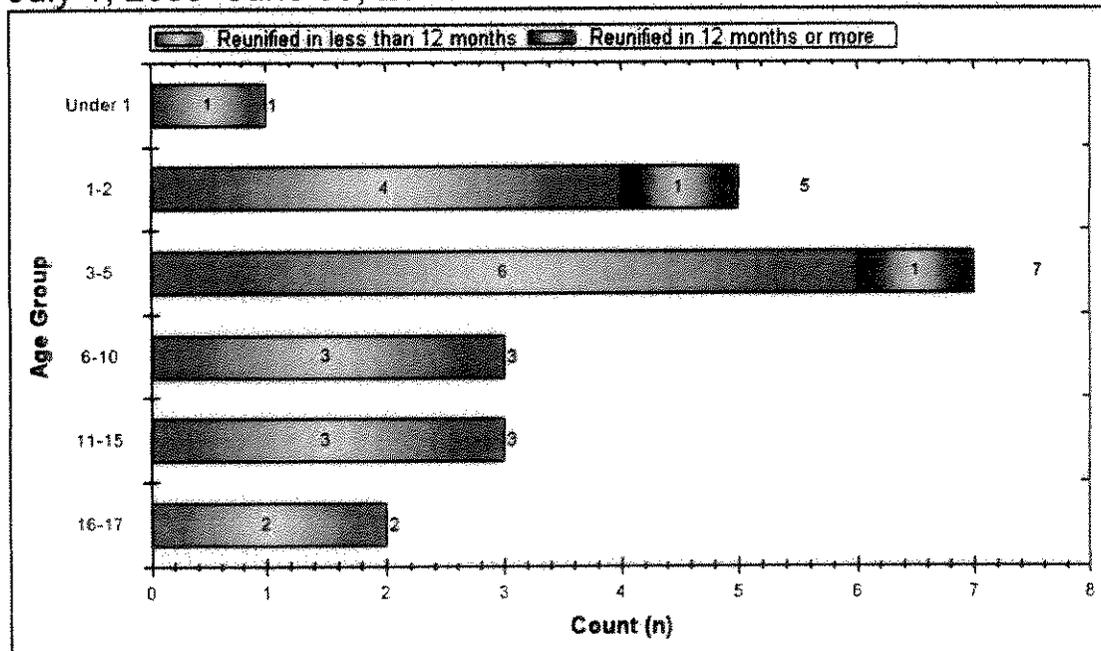
FCPS has in the past struggled with maintaining contact with their children. But in the past several years as staffing patterns have become more stable and the creation of two divisions within FCPS, social workers are able to comply to the regulations set forth for them and have been able to once again make this there top priority, visiting and ensuring the welfare of children in and out of placement.

Permanency 1

Measure C1.1*

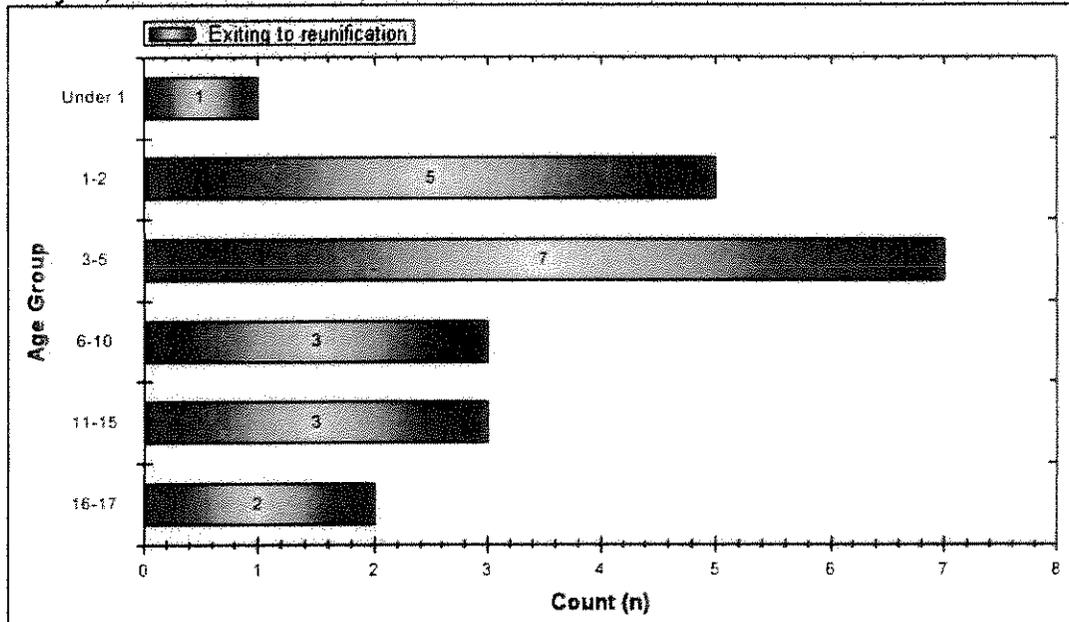
Reunification within 12 months

July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

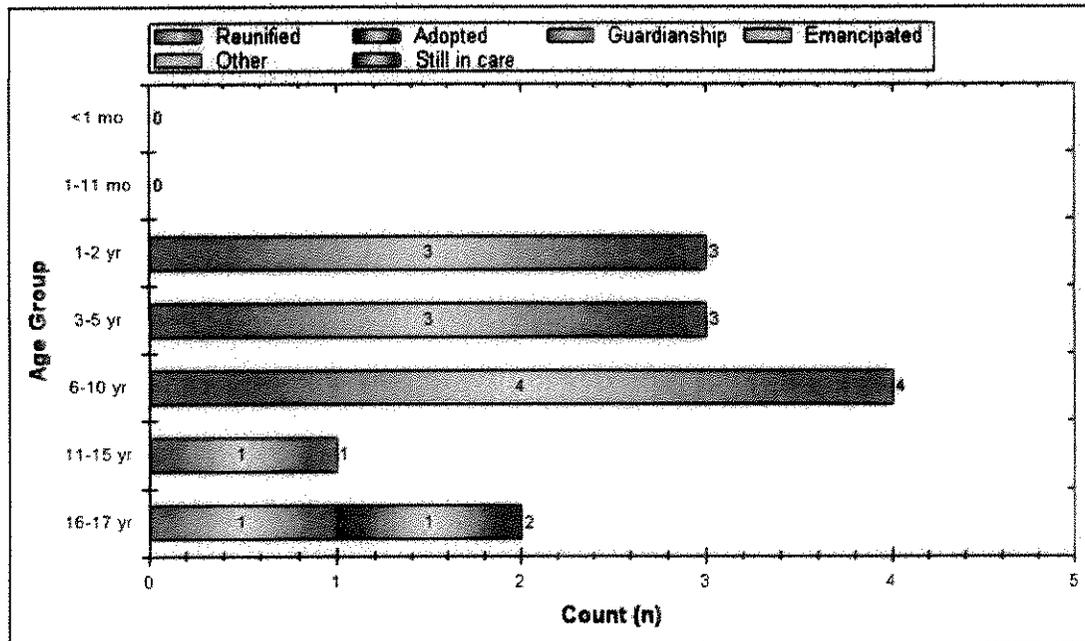


* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/15/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/uch_childwelfare>

Measure C1.2*
 Median time to reunification
 July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

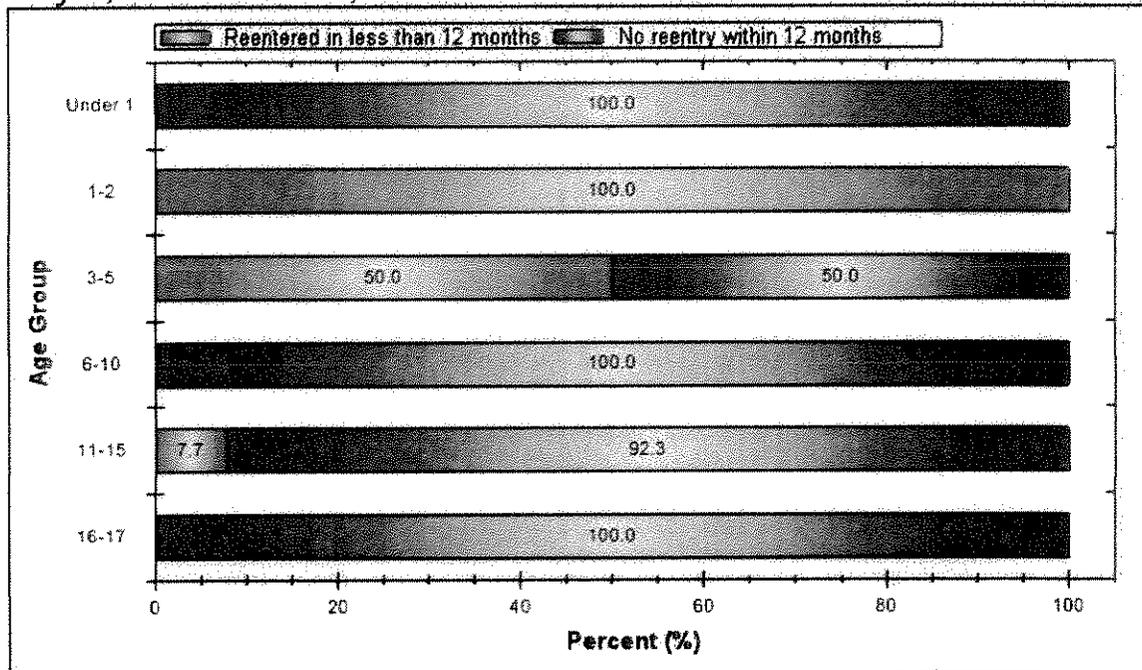


Measure C1.3*
 Reunification within 12 months
 July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010



* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Measure C1.4*
 Reentry following reunification
 July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009



More recently FCPS has been able to utilize emergency foster placements so that the children are not removed from Lassen County and that reunification services can start immediately and are more accessible. Using emergency placements helps the social worker do a thorough assessment of available placements with the FFA workers so that each child can stay in county to reunify with their families. Social workers encourage parents to be involved in the case plan creation process so that all needs are addressed to return children to their homes.

FCPS is contracted with Lassen Family Services using CAPIT/CBCAP funds to provide Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program which includes but not limited to, home visiting, assessment, parental education and support groups and Parent Partners, to assist in the reunification process.

Additionally these services are available by Lassen Family Services to all families identified at referral and that the social worker refers to that provider to help the family decrease the risk of continued abuse or neglect. In the past it has been hard for FCPS clients to obtain services that were needed as they were not available in this county. Contracts with community providers have decreased the need for out of county services.

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Additionally with the development of an Integrated Child Protective Services (ICPS) worker, clients are able to receive mental health and alcohol and drug services at a much early stage in the process. ICPS provides front end services so that families do not have to become legally involved with child welfare, which has decreased the amount of families returning to FCPS once out of the system as they can utilize this type of service.

Measure C2.1*

Adoption within 24 months
July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

PERCENT	Age Group						All
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Adopted within 24 months	.	.	66.7	0	.	.	40
Not adopted within 24 months	.	.	33.3	100	.	.	60
Total	.	.	100	100	.	.	100

Measure C2.2*

Median time to adoption
July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

Age Group	Months in care
	Median
Under 1	.
'1-2	.
'3-5	23.5
'6-10	38
'11-15	.
16-17	.
Total	26.3

Measure C2.3*

Adoption within 12 months
July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

Not adopted by last day of the year	.	50	33.3	33.3	100	100	70.6
Total	.	100	100	100	100	100	100
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Adopted by last day of the year	.	50	66.7	66.7	.	.	29.4

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Aiamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Measure C2.4*
 Legally free within six months
 July 1, 2009-December 31, 2009

	Age Group						All
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Legally free within 6 months
Not legally free within 6 months	100	100	100
Total	100	100	100

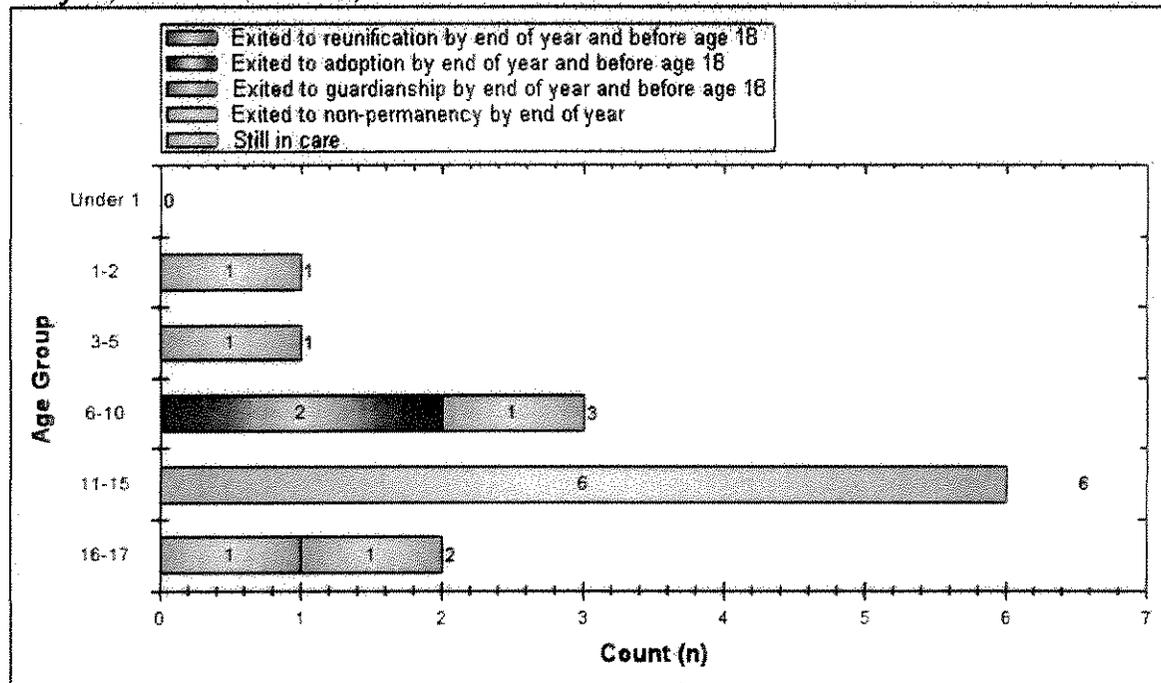
Measure C2.5*
 Adoption within 12 months (legally free)
 July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

COUNT	Age Group						Total
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Adopted in less than 12 months	.	0	0	.	.	.	0
Not adopted within 12 months	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
Total	.	1	1	.	.	.	2

FCPS does not have its own adoptions social worker but utilizes the State of Adoptions Chico Branch office for placement of children that have not been reunified with their family of origin. Historically Lassen County children have not regularly been adopted by foster parents. It has been that children are adopted outside of Lassen County. Proportionately FCPS has had children that are 10 years or older thus becoming not likely for adoption and that within the past few years the use of ICPS and more strength based case plans children are not being looked at for adoption and able to reunify with their parents more often. In addition FCPS overall has very few children that are not reunified so the above numbers are representing a small portion of the cases.

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Aiamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Measure C3.1*
 Exits to permanency (24 months in care)
 July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010



Measure C3.2*
 Exits to permanency (legally free at exit)
 July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

COUNT	Age Group							Total
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	18-20	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	
Exited to permanency before age 18	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	4
Did not exit to permanency before age 18	.	.	0	0	.	.	.	0
Total	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	4

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Measure C3.3*

In care 3 years or longer (emancipation/age 18)

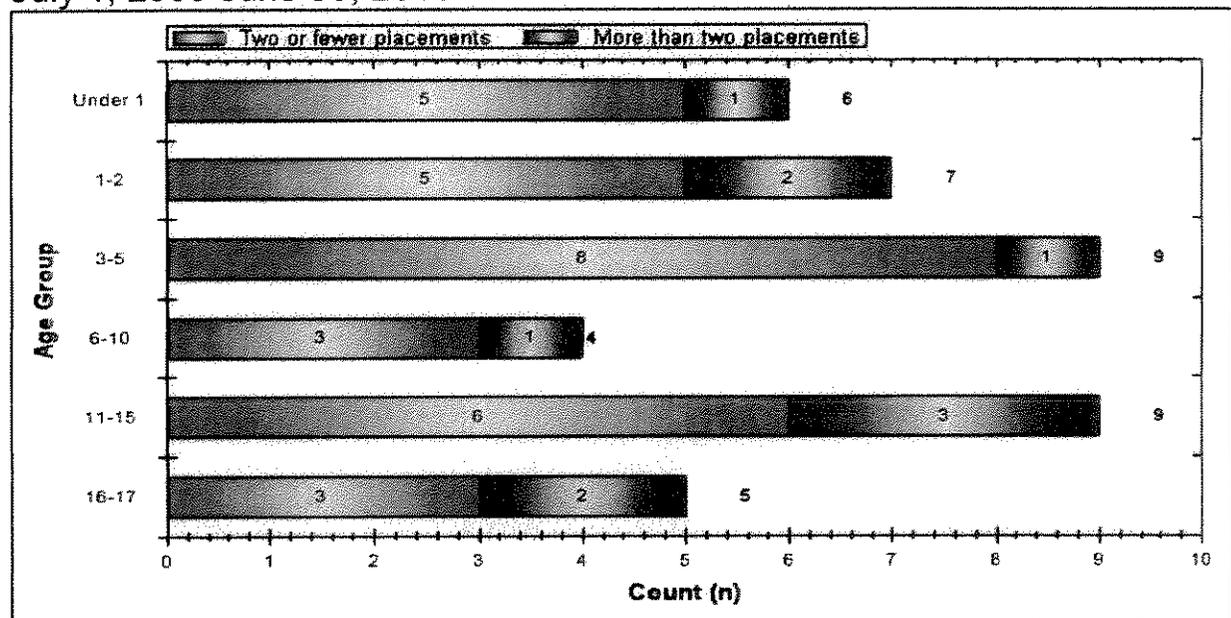
July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

COUNT	Age Group							Total
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	18	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	
In care less than 3 years	1	1
In care 3 years or longer	1	1
Total	2	2

Measure C4.1*

Placement stability (8 days to 12 months in care)

July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010



FCPS utilizes emergency placements to be able to assess adequate placements for children. FCPS is also looking at using a Wraparound strategy for case management to better serve children and foster families to stabilize placements and provide the best service for reunification to families. The Wraparound

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

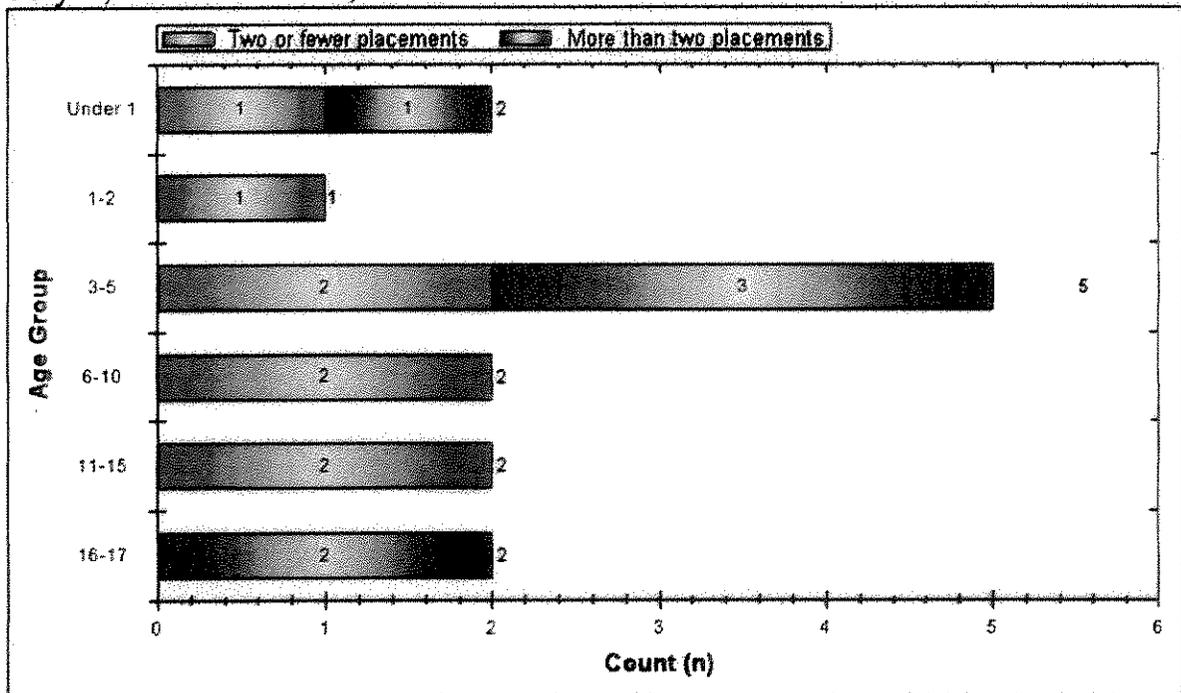
strategy will be an option for the child while in the placement and with the family while reunifying and once the child is able to return home.

FCPS works with the FFA's to find the best placement and has regular contact with the FFA social workers on how successful the placement is for the foster family and the child, and what needs to be done to maintain the placement. At this point in time the FCPS social worker periodically has treatment team meetings to ensure that all services are being provided and all avenues looked at to keep the child in as few placements as possible.

Measure C4.2*

Placement stability (12 months to 24 months in care)

July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

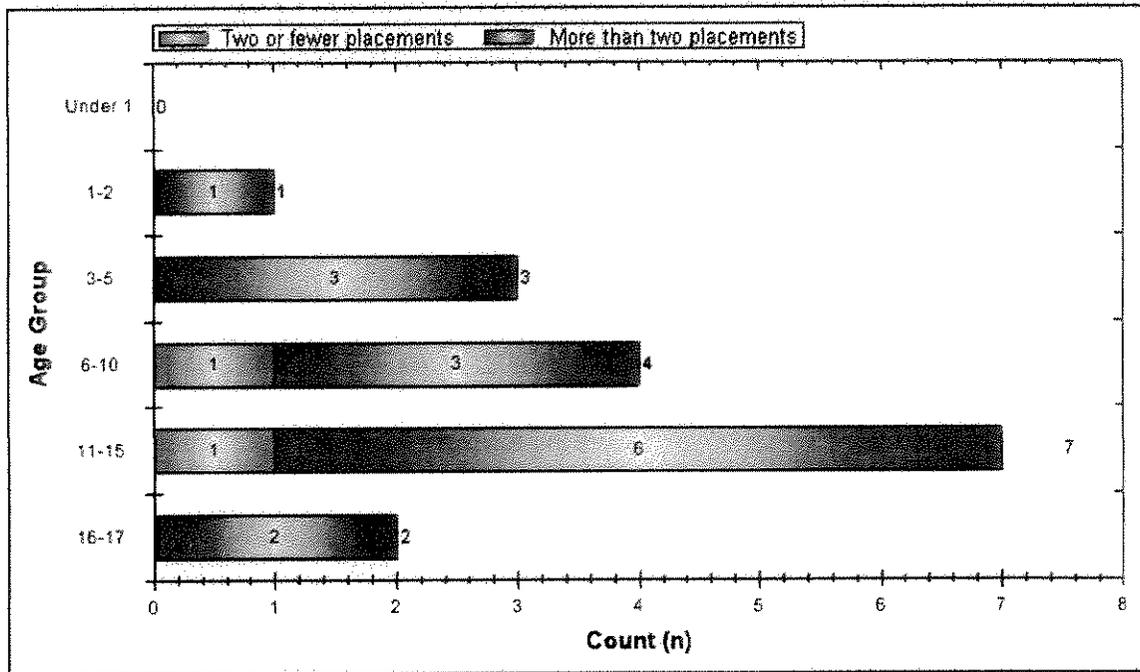


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Measure C4.3*

Placement stability (at least 24 months in care)

July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010



Children that are in care longer than two years and are reaching an age of majority become a difficult population for FCPS workers to maintain in placement. It appears that they become frustrated with the “system” and want to do things on their own for once. These children become tired of not being able to make decisions about their lives without the involvement of a social worker, thus they start to act out in placements and end up being moved several times as their behavior escalates. Recently a FCPS child’s behavior becomes so unmanageable by group home staff that the child was detained by probation and is currently in the juvenile hall. Teen age girls have been a recent topic of placement discussion for FCPS as this population has been hard to place and maintain those placements. Social workers are working diligently with FFA workers to find “out of the box” ideas to keep stable placements.

FCPS currently has 18 children in out of county placement. The majority of these children are over the age of ten and are mainly in group homes.

Due to this concern, FCPS is looking at Wraparound as a strategy for stabilizing placements and providing more services to families’ of origin and/or foster.

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Permanency 2

4A*

Siblings placed together in foster care

July 1, 2010

Facility Type	Number of Siblings in Family	Number of Instances	Placements with All Siblings		Placements All or Some	
			n	%	n	%
Total	2+ Children Total*	33				
	1	23	25	75.8	25	75.8
	2	24	0	0	0	0
	3	9	16	66.7	16	66.7
	4	0	9	100	9	100
	5	0	0	0	0	0
	6+	0	0	0	0	0
	All Children	2	0	0	0	0
Pre-Adopt	2+ Children Total*	0				
	1	2	0	0	0	0
	2	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0
	6+	0	0	0	0	0
	All Children	9	0	0	0	0
Kin	2+ Children Total*	7				
	1	2	6	85.7	6	85.7
	2	7	0	0	0	0
	3	0	6	85.7	6	85.7
	4	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0
	6+	0	0	0	0	0
	All Children	25	0	0	0	0
FFA	2+ Children Total*	16				
	1	9	12	75	12	75
	2	8	0	0	0	0
	3	8	6	75	6	75

	4	0	6	75	6	75
	5	0	0	0	0	0
	6+	0	0	0	0	0
	All Children	9	0	0	0	0
Group	2+ Children Total*	4				
	1	5	2	50	2	50
	2	4	0	0	0	0
	3	0	2	50	2	50
	4	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0
	6+	0	0	0	0	0
	All Children	1	0	0	0	0
Transitional Housing	2+ Children Total*	0				
	1	1	0	0	0	0
	2	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0
	6+	0	0	0	0	0
	All Children	1	0	0	0	0
Runaway	2+ Children Total*	0				
	1	1	0	0	0	0
	2	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0
	6+	0	0	0	0	0
			0	0	0	0

FCPS has several cases that have a sibling group of four or more children. Lassen County currently does not have the foster family base to accommodate sibling groups of this size. In the past the children were initially separated to accommodate the sibling group. With the emergency home placement availability the FCPS social worker again is able to place the entire sibling group in one home until a more suitable placement in the hopes that the children will be able to be placed together. There have been certain circumstances where the social worker has had cause to not place a sibling group together so that each child may flourish in their respective homes. This is looked at closely and thoroughly and is always the exception and not the rule of placing large sibling groups

4B*

Foster care placement in least restrictive settings least restrictive entries (First placement)

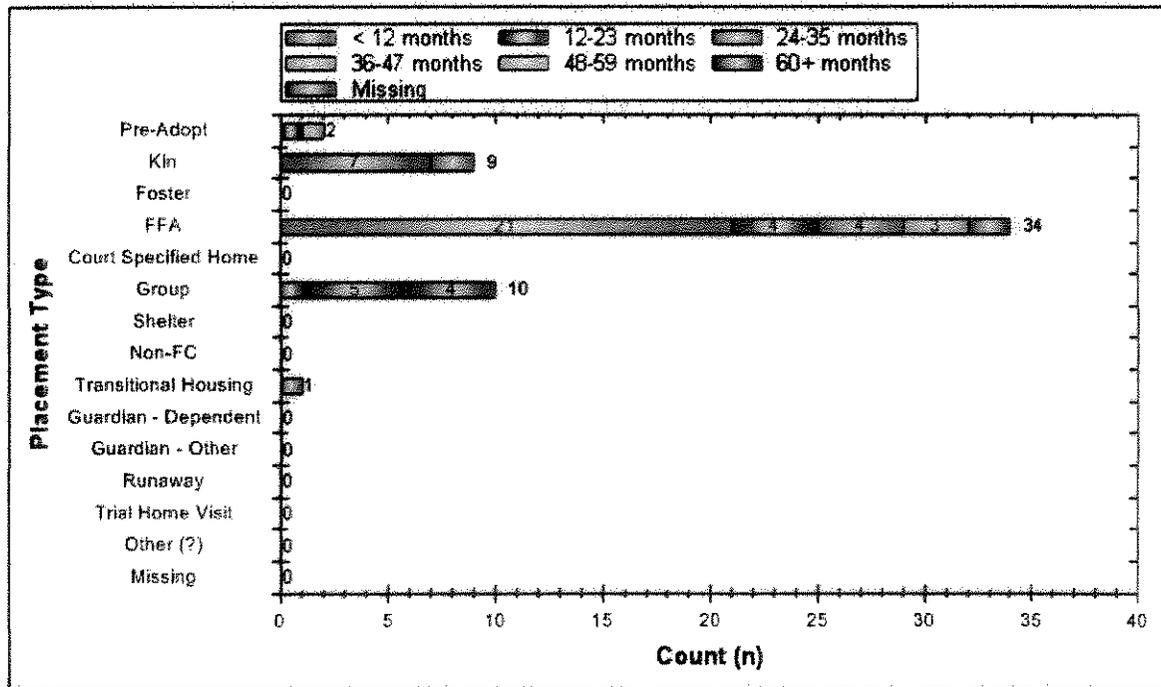
July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

Age Group	Placement Type										Total
	Pre-Adopt	Kin	Foster	FFA	Court Specified Home	Group	Shelter	Guardian	Other	Missing	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	
<1 mo	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
1-11 mo	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
'1-2 yr	.	1	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.
'3-5 yr	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.
'6-10 yr	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
'11-15 yr	.	.	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	.
16-17 yr	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	.	1	.	30	.	.	.	.	.	.	3

4B*

Foster care placement in least restrictive settings least restrictive entries (Point in time) October 1,

2010

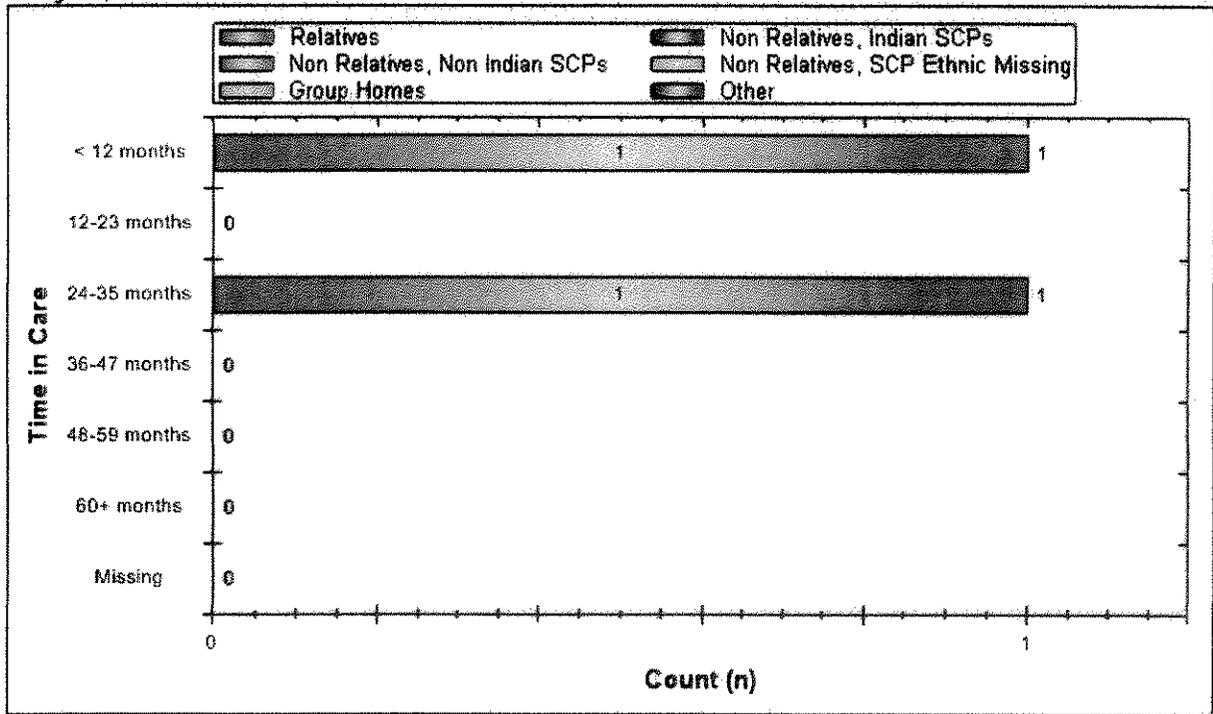


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FCPS has a current policy which is to ensure that when a social worker is looking at a group home placement that all other avenues of services have been tried and that there is no other option for the child and that the services the child requires are not available in Lassen County. FCPS in the recent past has taken a stance that group home placement should always be thoroughly reviewed. Each child that is at risk of group home placement is staffed at SAT (services allocation team) and ART (administrative review team). SAT and ART is made up of county department heads and community partners, this process provides input from all agencies on services available. The social worker staffs the client to ensure that there are not services that the social worker has not provided to the child. Once that avenue has been exhausted the social worker then may place a child in a group home.

Again FCPS is looking at using the Wraparound model for all children and families so that a child does not have to risk the possibility of group home placement.

4E*
 Rate of ICWA placement preferences
 July 1, 2010



* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

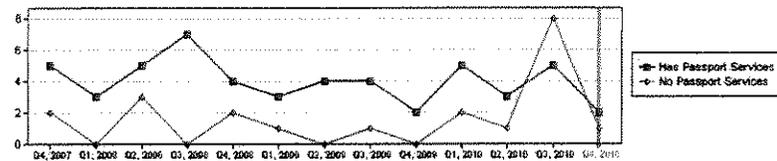
To date FCPS has very few ICWA eligible children. Lassen County does not currently and has not in the past, been able to place children directly into ICWA homes. Lassen County lacks available ICWA homes for this population. FCPS has a growing relationship with the local tribe to ensure that if a child is eligible for ICWA that a placement is found as quickly as possible.

Well-being 2

5A**

Percent of children in care more than 30 days with a health and education passport

October 1, 2010-December 31, 2010



Passport Services		
	Count	Percentage
Has Passport Services	2	66.7%
No Passport Services	1	33.3%
Total	3	100.0%



Over the past several years the Health and education Passports (HEP) has had a breakdown in the service for all of child welfare. This document has been split between two agencies FCPS and Probation, that up until recently were unable to work in a more collaborative fashion. There had been a policy written five years prior that is out dated and no longer effective. A quality counsel committee was assigned to determine where the break down in the completion of the HEP process is. This included a FCPS social worker, Probation Foster Youth Services coordinator and the child welfare public nurse.

The Quality Council determined that one of the main reasons that the HEP's were not being distributed in a more timely fashion was the Foster Youth Services (FYS) coordinator was not sending the passports until all aspects of the passport were completed. This resulted in HEP's not being delivered in a timely fashion. Additionally the FYS coordinator did not have access to CWS/CMS to input information to create a HEP.

This group reviewed the old policy and created a new flow chart. This year a new policy will be created so that all child welfare children are receiving their HEP's.

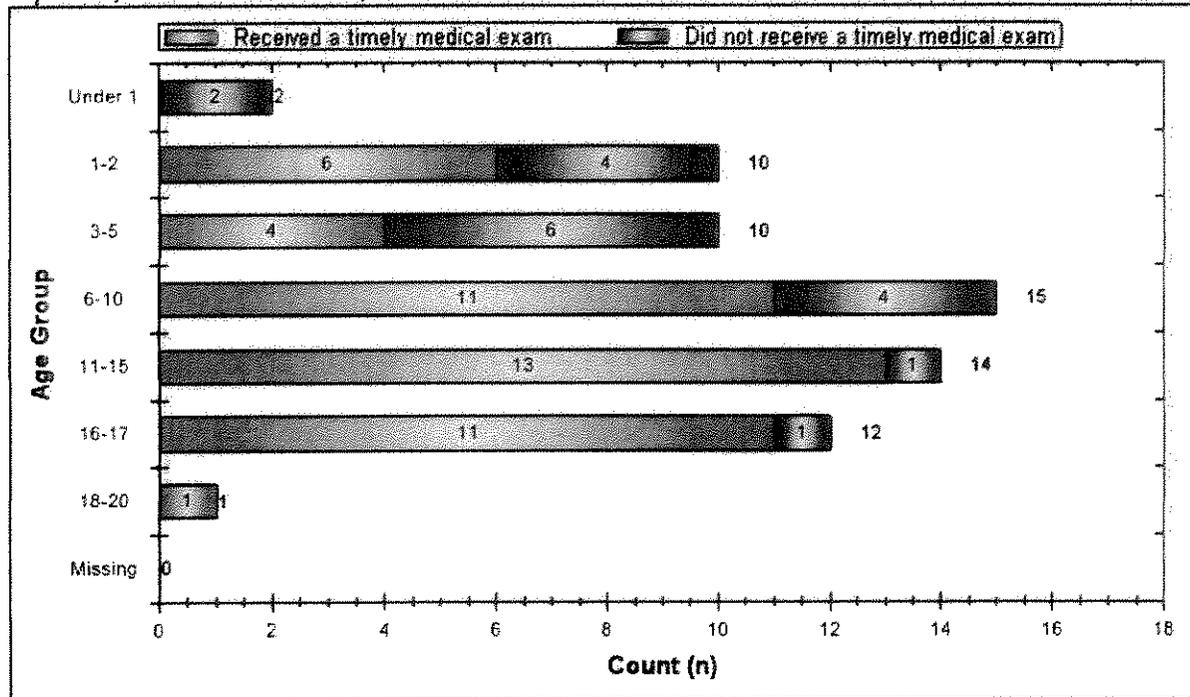
** Lassen county, AB 636 Measure 5A: Health and Education Passport, Qtr 4 2010. Extract date 3/3/2011, SafeMeasures, <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/safemeasures.aspx>

Well-being 3

5B* receipt of health screenings, percent of children in care with CHDP, dental exams, psychotropic medications and immunizations that comply with periodicity table

Medical exams

April 1, 2010-June 30, 2010

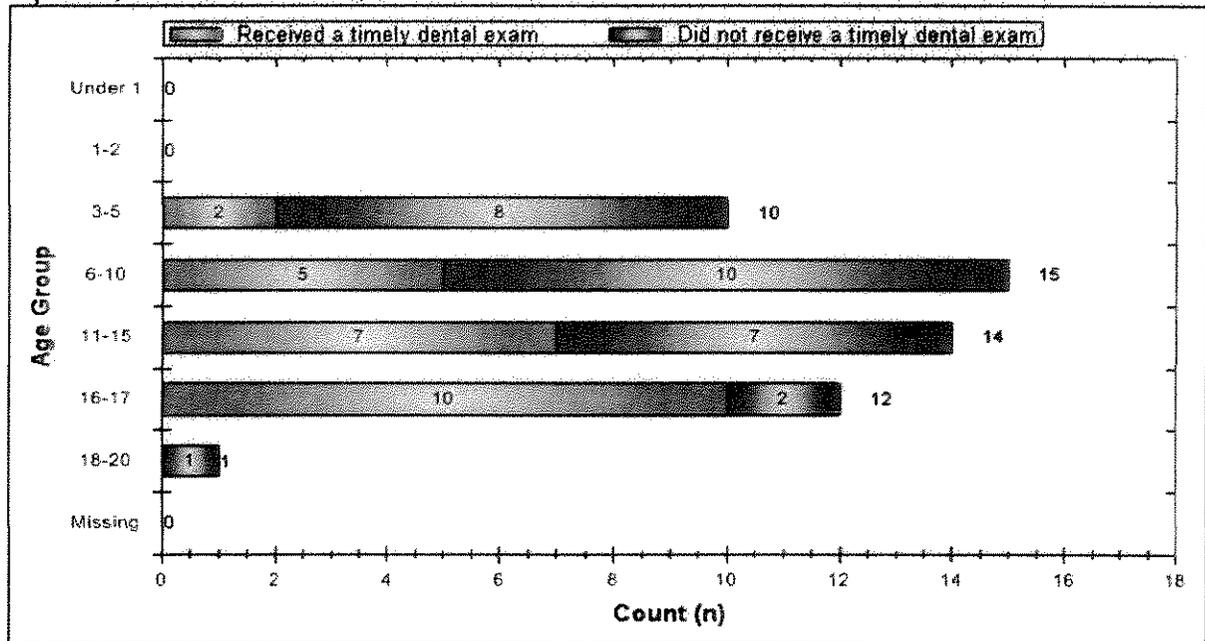


FCPS has struggled with the gathering of correct medical information for children in care. There has been a large turnover of child welfare nurses. In the recent past a public health nurse has come on board to help assist social worker gather this medical information and ensure that CHDP's are being administered within a timely manner and that all referrals for follow up are taken care of. The public health nurse is also assisting in the HEP process for all child welfare children.

Occasionally it is difficult for children in placement to receive their CHDP's within the timelines as there are limited Medi-Cal providers in Lassen County.

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Amijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

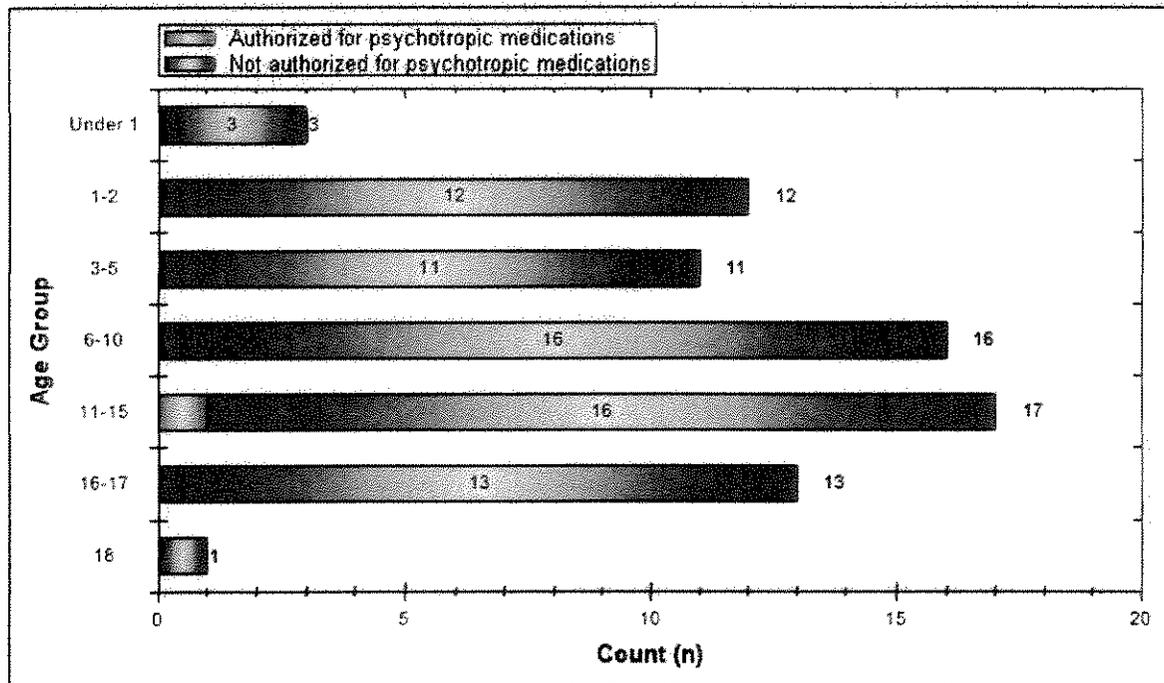
Dental exams*
 April 1, 2010-June 30, 2010



Dental exams have been a recent point of concern for FCPS. Children that are placed in foster homes in Lassen County may have to wait up to six weeks for a dental exam as there currently is only one full time Medi-Cal dentist. There is a traveling dentist that takes Medi-Cal and is available a day or two a week but also works for the local rancheria and is providing services to the native population. In the event that a child is not able to get an appointment with a Lassen County provider or if the child requires follow up that child will have to travel up to 200 miles, to Redding, Quincy and Chico, Ca.

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/22/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

5F* Psychotropic medications
April 1, 2010-June 30, 2010



Up until recently there has been a significant time lapse between the social worker getting the information that a child requires a psychotropic medication and the social worker being able to get the JV-220 to the court. The child then has been going without medication for sometimes several weeks which at times has been a strain on the child's placement.

FCPS is working on an MOU with the mental health psychiatrist so that when the judge requires more information it will be more readily available to have the prescribing doctor provide that information. At this time the majority of children placed in care are seen at the county mental health clinic for therapy and medication management.

When a child is placed out of county the social worker again struggles to get the information in a timely manner so that it does not affect a child's placement.

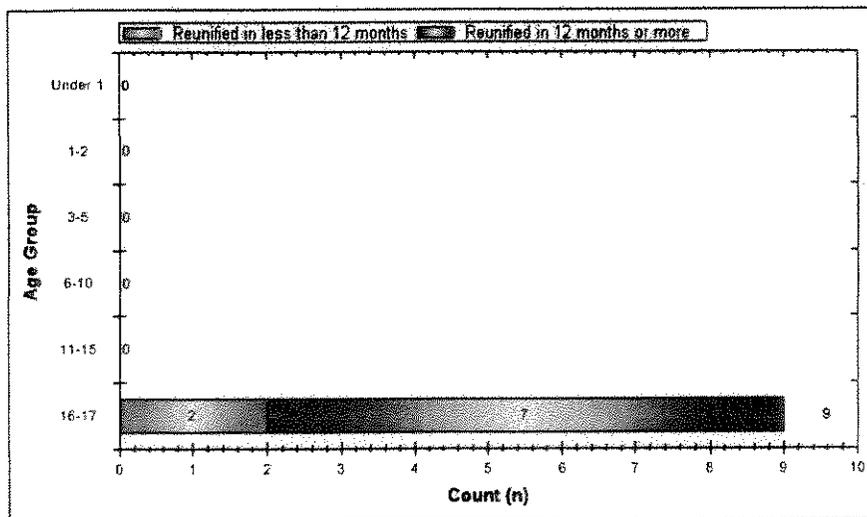
Probation

The Lassen County Probation Department has not utilized the CWS/CMS Outcome Measures due to the inability to access CWS Data System. However, the Probation Department is in the process of implementing the system. Officers and support staff have been trained to use the program effectively. This implementation should be completed and fully functioning prior to May 2011. The Probation Department and Family and Child Protective Services will be collaboratively working together on a regular basis to ensure all issues and cases are addressed.

S2.1* No Maltreatment in Foster Care Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010

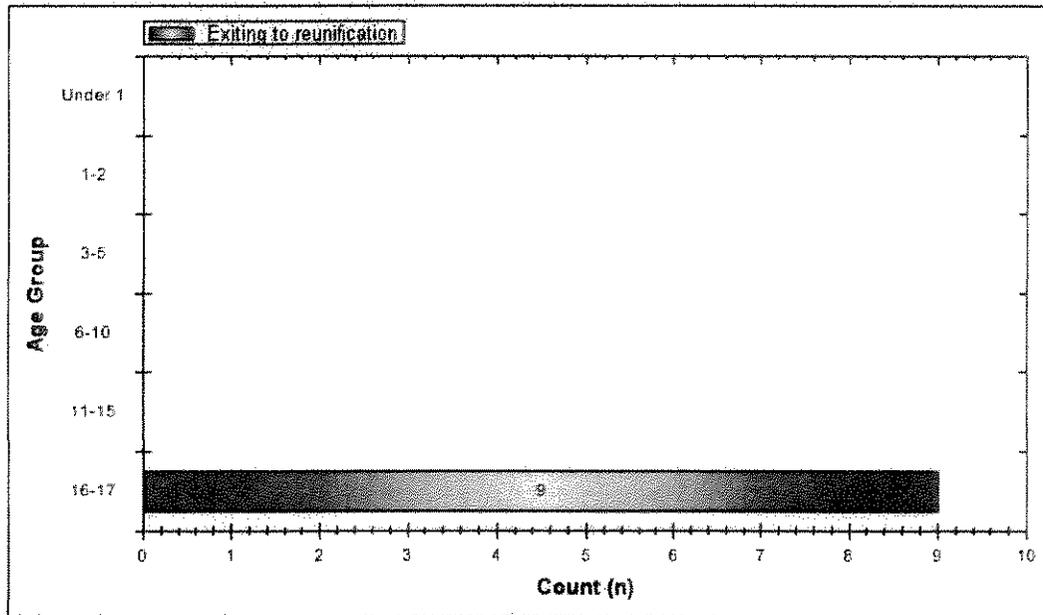
COUNT	Age Group							Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-17	18-20	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	
Not Maltreated	12	15	2	29
Maltreated	0	0	0	0
Total	12	15	2	29

C1.1* Reunification Within 12 Months (Exit Cohort) Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010



Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

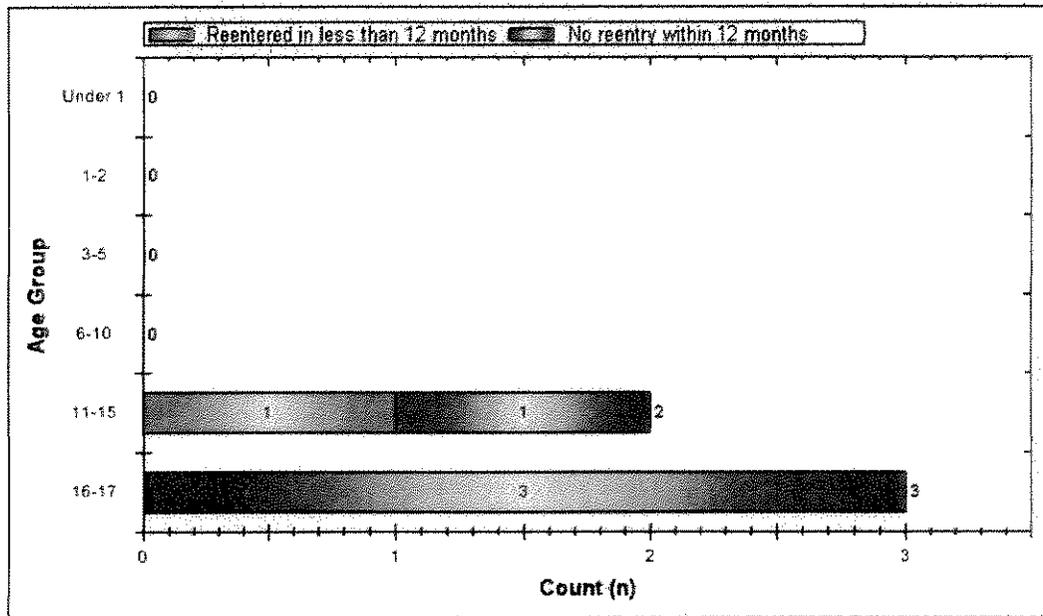
C1.2* Median Time To Reunification (Exit Cohort)
Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010



C1.3* 6-Month Entry Cohort Entries during 6-month period: Exit
status at 12 months
Jan 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2009
No data available for measure

Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

C1.4* Reentry Following Reunification (Exit Cohort) Exits to reunification during the year: Reentered in less than 12 months
 Jul 1, 2008 to Jun 30, 2009



C2.1* Adoption Within 24 Months (Exit Cohort)
 Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010
 No data available for measure

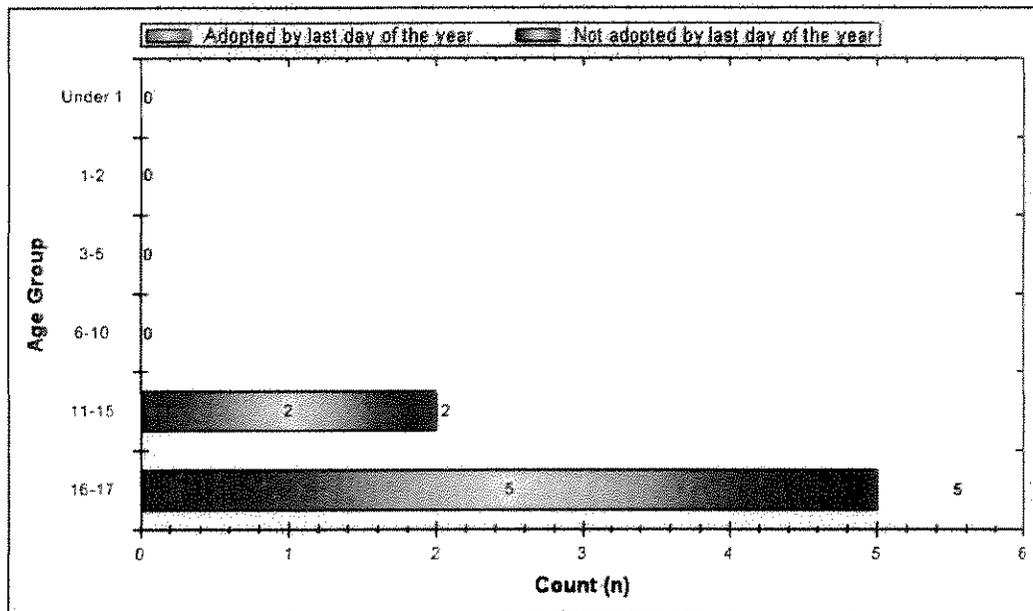
C2.2* Median Time To Adoption (Exit Cohort)
 Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010
 No data available for measure

Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

C2.3* Adoption Within 12 Months (17 Months In Care)

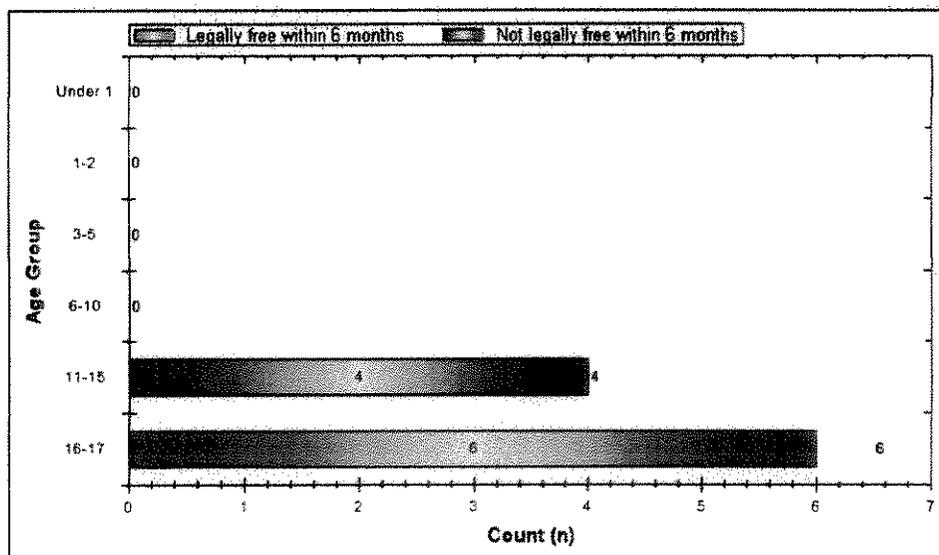
In care on the first day of the year (17 months or longer): Adopted by the end of the year

Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010



C2.4* Legally Free Within 6 Months (17 Months In Care)

Jul 1, 2009 to Dec 31, 2009



* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

C2.5* Adoption Within 12 Months (Legally Free)

Jul 1, 2008 to Jun 30, 2009

No data available for measure

C 3.1* Exits To Permanency

Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010

	Age Group						Total
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Exited to reunification by end of year and before age 18	2	.	2
Exited to adoption by end of year and before age 18
Exited to guardianship by end of year and before age 18
Exited to non-permanency by end of year	2	2
Still in care	1	2	3
Total	3	4	7

C3.2* Exits To Permanency (Legally Free At Exit)

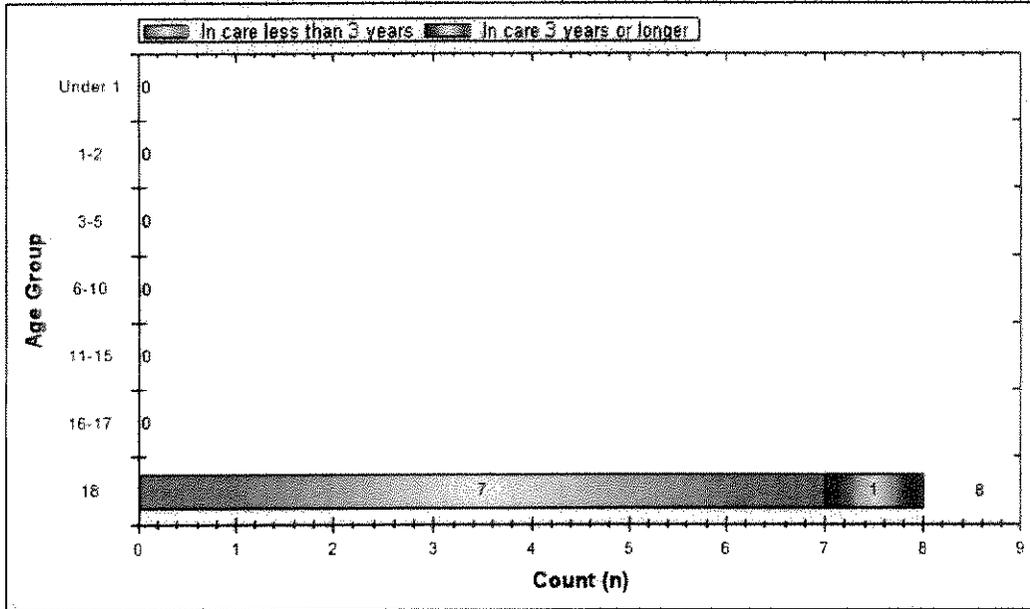
Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010

No data available for measure

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

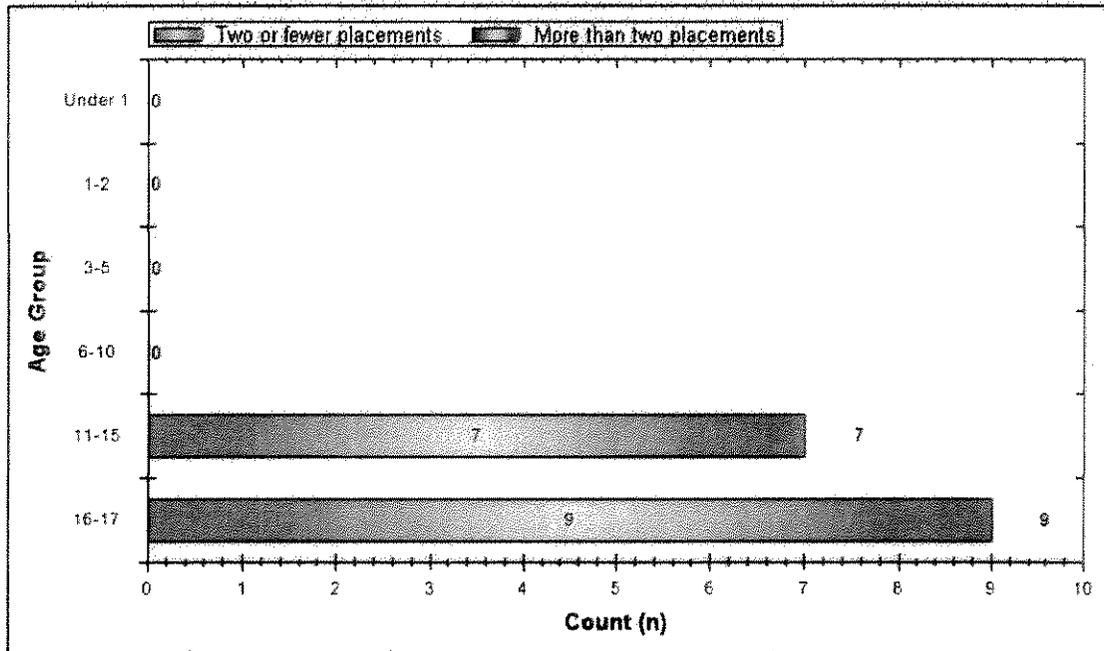
C3.3* In Care 3 Years Or Longer (Emancipated Or Age 18 In Care)
Emancipated or age 18 in care during the year: In care 3 years or longer

Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010

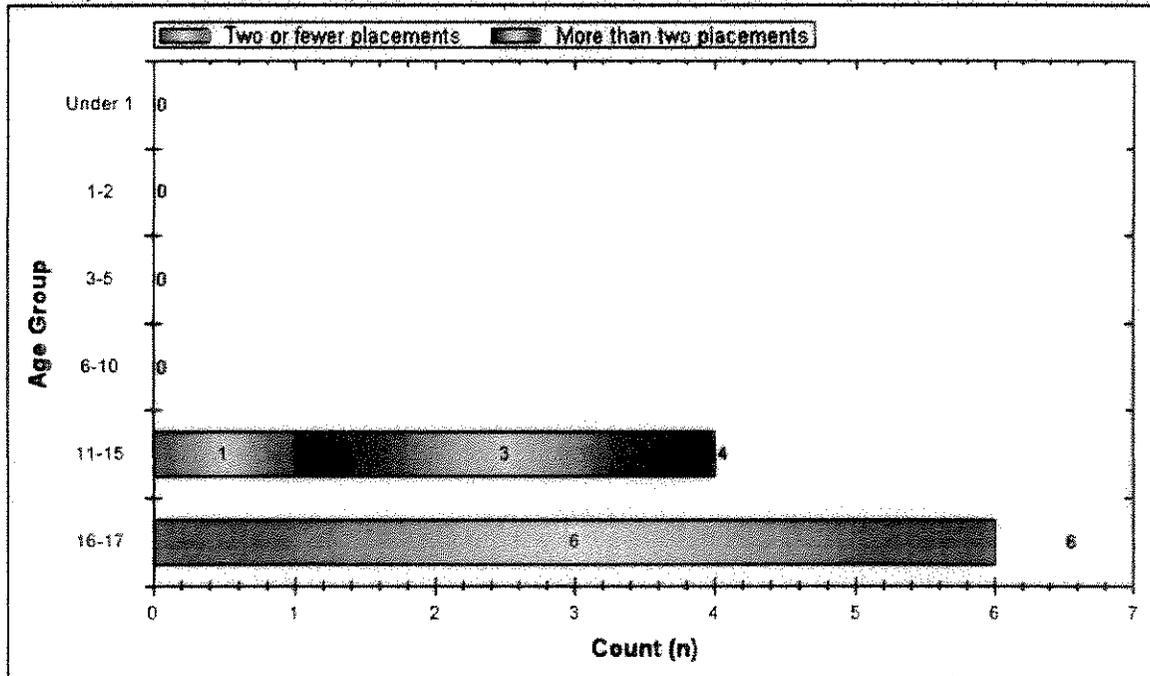


* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

C4.1* Placement Stability (8 Days To 12 Months In Care)
 Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010

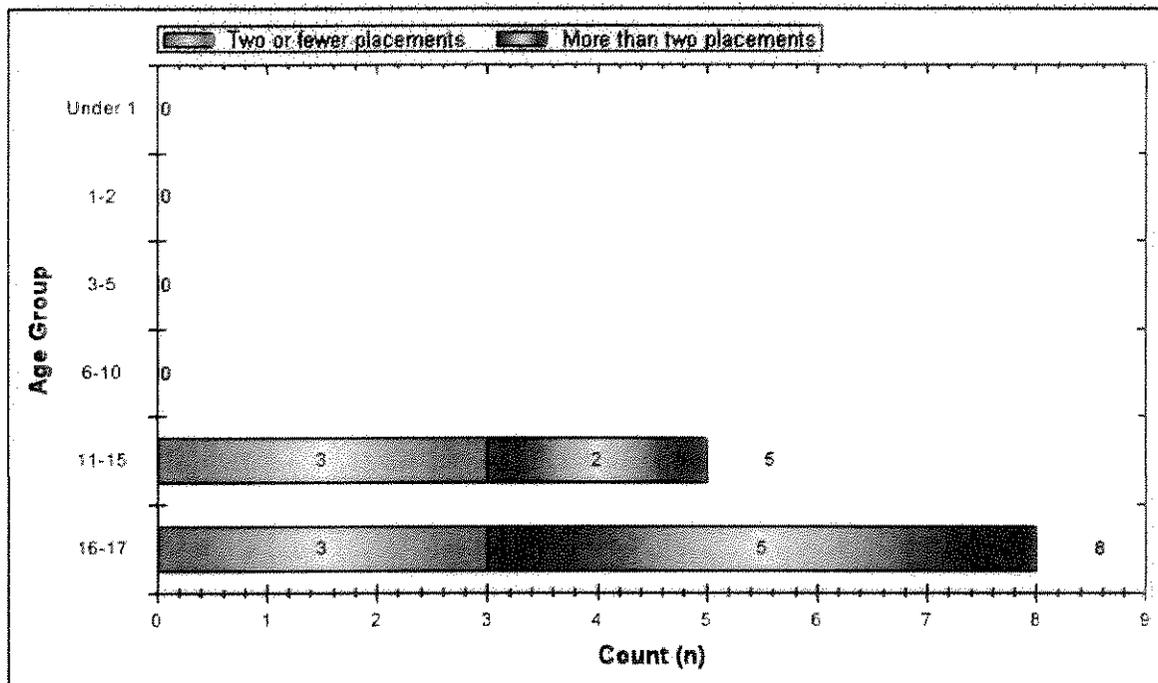


C4.2* Placement Stability (12 To 24 Months In Care)
 Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010



* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

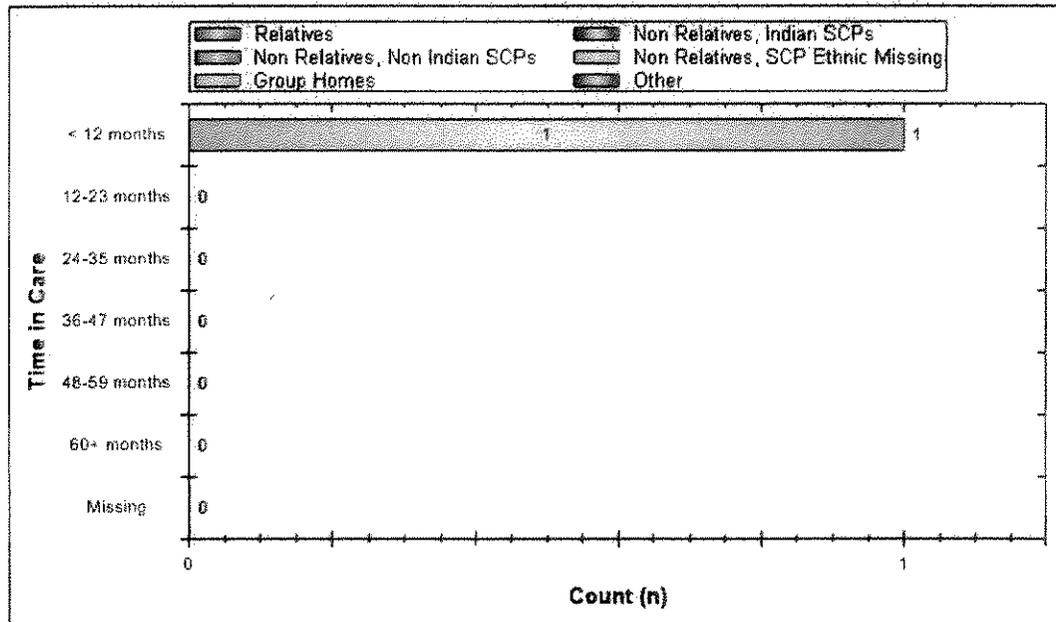
C4.3* Placement Stability (At Least 24 Months In Care)
 Jul 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010



4E(1)* - Placement status for children with ICWA eligibility
 July 1, 2010
 No data available for measure

* Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011). Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved 3/21/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

4E(2)* - Placement status for children with primary or mixed (multi) ethnicity of American Indian



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Systemic Factors

Technology Level

Lassen County FCPS utilizes the Child Welfare Services Case Management System to enter and track all case related/ case management activities. The county follows a dedicated county model for all aspects of the hardware platform and network tools, whereas, the State of California provides the hardware and other tools. FCPS technical troubleshooting and problem solving is handled by a Lassen County Health and Social Services IT staff person.

All social workers are sharing four network printers and a local printer that is used by all staff including supervisors and office staff.

In 2005, Family and Children Protective Services purchased Structured Decision Making (SDM), a standardized tool efficient for assessing risk and safety patterns. As of August, 2006 every social worker has SDM installed on their computer and social workers are using the risk and safety tools to make case decisions, which has created uniformity in decision making.

Lassen County utilizes Safe Measures as a case compliance tool which provides FCPS with the ability to obtain pertinent case management information and generate reports.

Case Review System

Social workers are using SDM to create more meaningful case plans. Each family is given a case plan at the time of disposition. Each case plan is reviewed and approved by the social workers supervisor before given to the client. Each social worker facilitates and ensures all visitations that have been ordered by the court.

Each social worker documents into CWS/CMS all contacts that have been made with adoptions and regularly updates the courts as to the progress of permanent planning and/or adoption.

All social workers meet regularly with there supervisor to ensure case compliance. FCPS has a policy that requires social workers to meet with there supervisor to ensure that a proper case plan is created and that all aspects of the case are being monitored and that each social worker is following all policies and regulations.

A social worker III provides notices of court hearings to all parties involved.

The structure of the county juvenile court for dependency and probation cases.

Because of Lassen County's size, all matters are heard before a single, regular juvenile court judge. Any cases which present a conflict are handled by a visiting juvenile court judge.

The effectiveness of the Juvenile Court/CWS agency work related to the following:

Use of continuances

Unfortunately, there is currently a culture of excessive use of continuances in Lassen County. There are a number of factors contributing to this, including a past pattern of late reports, unpreparedness of parents' counsel, and the liberalness with which visiting judges granted continuances.

Currently, the new judge, the clerk of the juvenile court, the department, and counsel are all making a concerted effort to reduce the number of continuances and their duration. Greater attention is being paid to whether or not a continuance is truly necessary and what impact it will have on the case.

Termination of parental rights

At this time there are no specific reform efforts pertaining to termination of parental rights. The department is endeavoring to ensure that the reports speak more directly to the relevant statutory factors at permanency hearings, although that can be said for nearly all hearings. Permanency hearings, however, do involve the most complicated statutory framework and hence warrant greater attention.

Facilities available for parents and children.

FCPS provides a "soft room" where parents and children can meet and have there visitation. The soft room is designed in a living room style complete with toys, couch and other amenities to make the visit comfortable.

Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution

Lassen County does not employ any formal ADR in dependency cases. Obviously arbitration is out of the question, because of WIC § 827, and mediation could only proceed if the mediator was a person authorized to know the contents of the dependency case file. As a practical matter, this effectively prohibits any of the traditional forms of ADR.

Parties have endeavored to meet to discuss cases and reach consensus whenever possible. The social workers and supervisors understand that successfully providing services requires the parents to be mentally invested in the case plan, which requires the minimization of any adversarial feelings and a sense of commitment to the case plan.

The current contracted county counsel for FCPS has only been advising the department for the past 6 months, social workers have increased their frequency

with which they meet to discuss cases and settle disagreements. Additionally, when it seems as though it would be productive, the attorneys for all parties are able to meet with the judge in chambers to reach consensus or narrow the scope of any disagreement.

At the time of the writing of this report agency does not have findings from the Administrative Office of the Court Administrative Review. The AOC is scheduled to conduct a review in April of this year.

Probation

Juvenile Court staff:

- 1) Judges: one dedicated juvenile court judge. Also utilize traveling judges on occasion.
- 2) Probation has two Juvenile Court Officers who attend court hearings. The Juvenile Probation Assistant attends the juvenile hall court to specifically to prepare Officer Consent Release Forms.
- 3) Juvenile court is held at juvenile hall for in custody minors. Juvenile court is also held at the main court house for minors who are out of custody. Both courts are held once per week unless rescheduled by the court.
Note: In custody minors sometimes attend court at the main court house due to the 72 hour arraignment laws. Minors must be brought before a judge within 72 hours of their arrest, so if juvenile hall court is not scheduled for another week they must be transported to the main court house for their detention hearing.

Process for timely notification of hearings. FCPS currently has a policy and procedure that addresses timely notification of court hearings. There is a Senior Social Worker III that is the court liaison to ensure that all hearings are recorded into CWS and notices are generated timely and correctly to all parties involved in each case.

The Probation Department is also responsible for timely Notifications of Court hearings. Currently, the Administrative Secretary and Legal Clerk are responsible for preparing and sending these notices.

Case planning review

FCPS has policies that ensure that all children and caregivers are provided information about the child's specific rights while in foster care. FCPS also has a policy ensuring proper notice to tribes of all ICWA children.

Currently FCPS does not have any policies in place for input from the tribe when creating case plans for ICWA children.

FCPS currently does not have any specific policy that covers case planning. FCPS in the future would like to look at implementing a case planning process.

Each social worker works with their family and youth to create case plans. FCPS is currently looking at using the Wraparound model as a case management tool for all cases.

Foster/Adoptive Recruitment and Retention

FCPS at this time does not recruit and/or license their own foster homes. There are two local foster agencies that recruit and train local foster families. At this time it becomes difficult to place some children and thus placement out of county is necessary as the county lacks the resources. There are three group homes that are licensed through the local foster family agency. One girls and two boys homes. These facilities are level 10 the county has to use outside group home placements for children that require a higher level of care. Lassen County has implemented Family Solutions to attempt to reduce the need of out of county group home placement and to help assist in the return of children that are placed out of county to their homes here in Lassen County.

All foster care/Adoptive placements are handled through both local foster family agency and California State Adoptions Chico Branch. Each agency is responsible to ensure that homes are meeting all state and or federal guidelines for foster/adoptive placement. Each foster agency has there own recruitment and training process for all certified foster homes.

Mountain Circle Foster Agency (MC) has a 30-40 hour therapeutic curriculum that is provided to all foster families that seek to become therapeutic homes. Mountain Circle is currently trying to increase this type of population in Lassen County. The curriculum includes topics that include but is not limited to positive discipline, mandated reporting, confidentiality, child development, mental health diagnosis, separation loss and attachment and de-escalation techniques and managing difficult behavior. For all other foster homes they conduct 18 hours of initial training and then yearly follow up training to maintain certification.

Environmental Alternatives Foster Agency (EA) currently does not have any prospective therapeutic homes in Lassen County but does have a therapeutic home available in Quincy, Ca, which is an hour drive from Susanville. EA provides there prospective families with 12 hours of introductory training and 8 hours of yearly follow up training. The training will include but is not limited to review Community Care Licensing (CCL) regulations, first aid, CPR/Infant CPR, basic water safety and mandated reporting laws.

Currently Lassen County does not have any specialized services for sex offenders. If a minor admits to a sex offense, the child usually will have to travel a minimum of 110 miles to the nearest out-patient treatment facility in Redding, California or be placed in a residential program. Other programs are utilized in the Fresno and Sacramento area. Probation struggles to place there young

offenders and frequently places children in group homes that are anywhere from 100-500 miles and occasionally will place a child in Arizona.

Probation currently has 6 in county placements and 14 out of county placements. Probation has struggled with the placement of youth that have the following concerns; sex offenders who are nearing the age of 18, sex offenders who have failed previous placements, sex offenders who have completed a residential treatment program, cannot for reasons return home, and therefore need a lower level of care and youth who recently expressed having suicidal/serious thoughts.

Lassen Family Services is contracted with FCPS to provide several services paid through PSSF funding streams. Lassen Family Services provides FCPS with weekly updates on client participation and progress. This service provider will participate in all areas of a case that is set by their funding. Lassen Family Services also adheres to contract regulations to provide quarterly updates on how the funds are being spent.

Lassen Community College has a Kinship program that provides classes, workshops conference and networking opportunities for all caregivers. Lassen Works provides assessment for the need of Kin Gap funds for caregivers.

Quality Assurance

CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF

FCPS contracts with the above funding streams and are monitored in the following manner;

- Provide program consultation and technical assistance to contracted service provider.
- Monitor and evaluate service provider performance, expenditures and service levels for compliance with the terms of this Agreement.
- Provide service provider with reporting forms and/or formats and time frames for submission of reports.
- Evaluate service provider's annual report for compliance with the terms of this agreement and provide written response within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the report as determined to be unacceptable. The reports are reviewed by the CAPIT/CBCAP liaison who is also a social worker supervisor. If there are items of concern the liaison contacts the executive director of the agency to determine a plan for correction. The executive director then reports back directly to the liaison on how the execution of the correction went and if further action is needed.

- Review all invoices submitted by service provider for allowable costs and approve for payment as appropriate conditioned in the availability of state funds.
- Analyze data and review reports submitted by service provider.
- Provide final review of information provided by service provider for CDSS reports.
- Monitor outcomes of services to participating families and at risk youth. The service provider provides quarterly reports that cover how many participants are enrolled and their attendance. In the annual report that is provided the service providers add their exit interviews that they conduct with each participant to determine satisfaction of the programs and areas that need growth.

FCPS utilizes SDM tools to determine if a child is at risk of abuse and neglect. For those children FCPS determines that qualify for ICPS services, will then refer them to the ICPS therapist and/or case manager. From there the therapist will recommend treatment of the client. ICPS and FCPS staff meets weekly to keep updated on client's progress and participation. If the ICPS therapist is unable to oversee the client the client is referred to Lassen County Mental Health. FCPS will contact the client's therapist for information on progress and participation and will provide all information to the court as needed.

At this time the only resource that Lassen County has for people with special needs is to refer them to Far Northern Regional Center. There is also an Adult Day program for people with special needs. FCPS may also utilize UC Davis medical center for medical services that are not available in this area.

Lassen County Health and Social Services has a Quality Assurance department that includes oversight of FCPS. At this time the temporary help Supervisor is dedicating 8 hours a week to QA for FCPS as the previous QA social worker has been redirected to another department. FCPS quality assurance includes case reviews, which ensure that all pertinent components of the case have been collected and or created in the timeframes allotted by local and or state mandates and review and analysis of Safe Measures outcomes.

FCPS's current QA system is set up to review that court reports are being completed timely, that ICWA has been complied with, and ILP case plan's have been created as needed, placement paperwork has been completed, SDM tools were used to create a case plan, and there is a birth certificate and social security and drivers license as necessary. QA does not conduct a review to determine if services are being provided adequately and/or timely.

FCPS has a policy that if a child might be of Indian ancestry a JV-135 is filed with the petition. All ICWA information is gathered from each parent and or guardian.

If a child is removed from the home FCPS counsel enquires at the detention hearing for ICWA eligibility.

Service Array

FCPS in creating a case plan for a family reviews the families' strengths and needs to determine which areas a family can utilize local services and which areas they can use the resources that they have in their lives already. Families that are referred to Family Solutions uses a process to determine the family's strengths and needs and helps the family develop those needs and strengths.

Pathways, First5 home visiting, Lassen Family Services, FCSP and Probation all offer services that can be provided in the home and directly to the client and/or family.

All children and adults in Lassen County with any disabilities are referred to Far Northern Regional Center.

FCPS has an ICPS worker that provides mental health and alcohol and drug services when a family is first brought to the agencies attention. This case manager is used to help the family stabilize and prevent future abuse or neglect in the family so that the family can utilize services without becoming a court ordered case.

FCPS utilizes the ICPS worker to help facilitate and manage mental health needs of children who come to the attention of FCPS. ICPS was started as a strategy to provide services at referral so that families can receive services in the hopes of not becoming a court case.

Lassen County uses the Family Solutions program to help keep children from out of county group home placements. FCPS offers voluntary services to families that require minimal amount of supervision but have areas in the family's safety that need to be addressed.

Family Solutions is used to assist children that have been placed in group homes out of the county, reunify with the family that they were removed from. FCPS works with local foster agencies and state adoptions in finding appropriate homes once permanency is decided so that the child has the least amount of placements and is placed in the least restrictive care.

Lassen County implemented a local One-Stop center in the outlining areas where services are not readily available. Bieber, Herlong and Westwood all have One-Stops where mental health, alcohol and drug, public health, and cash aid services are provided.

Each family assists in creating the case plan so that every aspect of the family is reviewed to ensure that services are geared towards the family. If and when a

child is eligible for Family Solutions the family and child can pick which areas they believe the family needs to improve in, to help the child either remain home or return home.

Lassen County does provide a wide array of services; please refer to Financial/material resources starting on page 12. FCPS is able to refer a family to any number of service providers that Lassen County offers. FCPS works closely with its service providers to ensure that the family is able to obtain the service that they are needing.

Susanville Indian Rancheria currently provides mental health, alcohol and drug, day care and dental and physical health services to Native American children that can show eligibility and or proof of their Native American Heritage.

Lassen County has created One Stops in all outlining areas so that consumers do not have to travel to obtain services. The services provided at each one stop which includes but are not limited to; mental health, public health, alcohol and drug and Cal Works services. All services are available to any persons that qualify for the above mentioned programs. Additionally MESA funding is being used to help serve populations without Medi-Cal that would otherwise not be served. The One Stop that is located in Beiber also has a Spanish speaking therapist to help bridge the gap with the large migrant population that resides in the north part of the county.

Lassen County has three resource centers, which are in the outlining areas so people who do not live in Susanville may obtain mental health, alcohol and drug, public health, support groups for adults and teens and cash aid services. In the city of Susanville, Lassen Family Services provides a multitude of services under one roof which include, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault Rape Crisis Counseling/Intervention, CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, Legal Aid/Court Advocacy, Parent Education Program, Prevention Education Program (Teens), Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing, Law Enforcement & Hospital Accompaniment, Crisis Counseling & Community Referrals, Parent Camp, Kids Kamp and CHAT - Child Abuse Treatment Program.

The CAPC committee is constructed of persons from Lassen Works, FCPS, and Public Health. The committee puts together ideas for child abuse prevention that each agency can participate in. Recently the Public Health department has completed a campaign where road signs have been placed around Lassen County with the slogan "Mommy and Me are alcohol free".

FCPS is co located with Public Health and Environmental health. Public Health has a Foster Care Nurse (FCN) that completes and helps maintain the medical portion of the HEP and is available to assess children for abuse and neglect at the time of a referral and can provide education to parents as needed. The FCN also helps ensure that all follow up care and referrals for further medical

treatment is being completed and entered into CWS/CMS. FCPS is also within a short walk to Lassen AOD and Diversified Management.

FCPS does not currently have policies and procedures in place that address concurrent planning, termination of parental rights and the development of a Transitional Independent Living Plan for children over the age of 16. This is an area that FCPS has not looked at in the recent past to develop internally as policies. FCPS contracts with Lassen College to provide ILP services to children who qualify. FCPS is trying to engage these qualified teens, with groups that are directed by the teens. There have not been any policies written that discuss these issues further.

FCPS currently utilizes the funding as described in the below chart. FCPS does not directly provide any services except for the use of the ICPS case manager for front end services to clients before they reach court involvement. All ongoing FCPS cases and services are handled through contract and other county providers.

All CAPIT funds are used to contract with Lassen Family Services.

CBCAP funds are shared between Lassen Family Services and Pathways to Child and Family Excellence.

At this time all PSSF funded services are provided by Lassen Family Services.

Funding Stream	Services provided
CBCAP	Lassen Family Services, parenting education, in home parenting services, parental support groups.
CAPIT	Lassen Family Services, parenting education, in home parenting services, parental support groups.
PSSF	Family preservation services which include; pre placement preventative services, after care, respite care, parenting education and support and the infant safe haven program, Family Support which include; home visits, literacy services, early development screening, and health education. Time limited services which include; counseling, substance abuse treatment, mental health, and transportation. Adoption promotion services which includes; pre/post adoptive services activities to expedite and/or support the adoption process.

Staff/Provider Training

FCPS at this time has a contract with UC Davis to provide training to staff. Each staff is working on completing CORE I and/or II, each are on their own track and are in various stages of completion. The ongoing supervisor has been handling the training schedule for the past two years. In addition to CORE, free trainings that might be a benefit to the staff are provided and staff are encouraged to attend. At this time there is no identified training module for new employees. A policy and procedure has been discussed to ensure that each staff member and/or new employees will be adequately trained in child welfare.

All sworn Probation Officers are required to complete the P.O.S.T. 832, complete 180 hours of CORE training within the first year of employment, and complete 40 hours of certified training annually. Placement Officers are mandated to complete 2 weeks of placement training.

Service providers are encouraged to attend two non-profit management trainings sponsored by Lassen County Health and Social Services during the contract term. Trainings will be provided by Alliance for Workforce Development at a reduced cost pre-approved by Lassen County. CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funded service providers are encouraged and invited to all trainings that FCPS puts on. Lassen Family Services who holds the bulk of the CAPIT funds has attended one training in conjunction with FCPS in the past year. FCPS provides technical assistance on an as needed basis, the issues are brought to the liaison's attention who then properly coordinates with Lassen Family Services on how best to eradicate the situation whether it can be dealt with in house or through county IT assistance.

FCPS in the recent past has not held stakeholders meetings to hear concerns of stakeholders and the community. The last stakeholder meeting was in 2006. Recently FCPS has tried to reengage the community and was able to hold a stakeholders meeting on 3/17/2011 (see attached minutes Appendix B).

Three years ago Lassen County created the ICPS department so that when a family came to the attention of FCPS services could be delivered at a more rapid rate to reduce abuse and neglect. The ICPS department consists of a case manager that is knowledgeable in AOD and mental health services and a therapist.

Summary Assessment

Lassen County is a small but strong community. Over the past several years Lassen County has developed and strengthened its service providers and cooperation between agencies to serve the local population. Communication has been cultivated between FCPS and Probation, FCPS with mental health and alcohol and drug, FCPS and service providers and is continuously working on keeping those lines open.

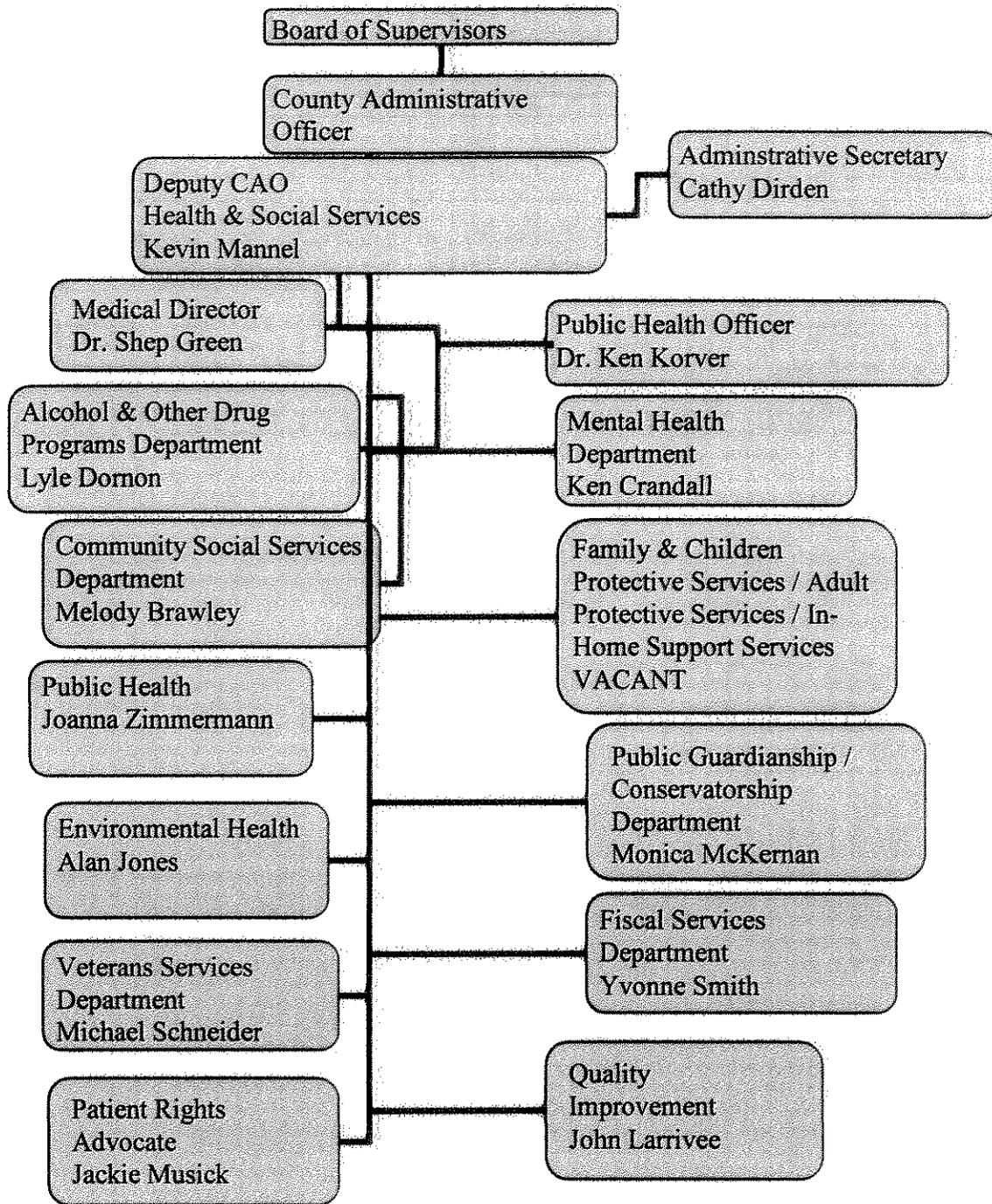
Child welfare in Lassen County is something that all agencies involved are passionate about and want to see children and families safe in our community. Stability of social workers is something that FCPS has struggled with for several years. This is a concern for the department and is looking at utilizing the next SIP to help recruit and retain social workers. In the past year there has been a 50% loss of staff due to several reasons i.e. illness and leaving for positions elsewhere. FCPS will strive for consistency in social workers to better serve the families of Lassen County. Both child welfare agencies are seeing an increase in case management skills, and an increase in family driven case planning. Both agencies are using Family Solutions as an avenue to keep children in Lassen County and with their families.

At this time FCPS and Probation are struggling to place certain populations and is looking at increasing therapeutic foster placements in collaboration with both FFA's. Teen age children and those with significant behavioral issues are the hardest to place in county as the foster families do not have the resources that are needed to care for these populations. This will be looked at for continued growth in the SIP. Probation needs to help change the perception of children in the juvenile justice system. FCPS needs the availability of more homes for teen age girls as this is the biggest population that is the most difficult to serve for FCPS.

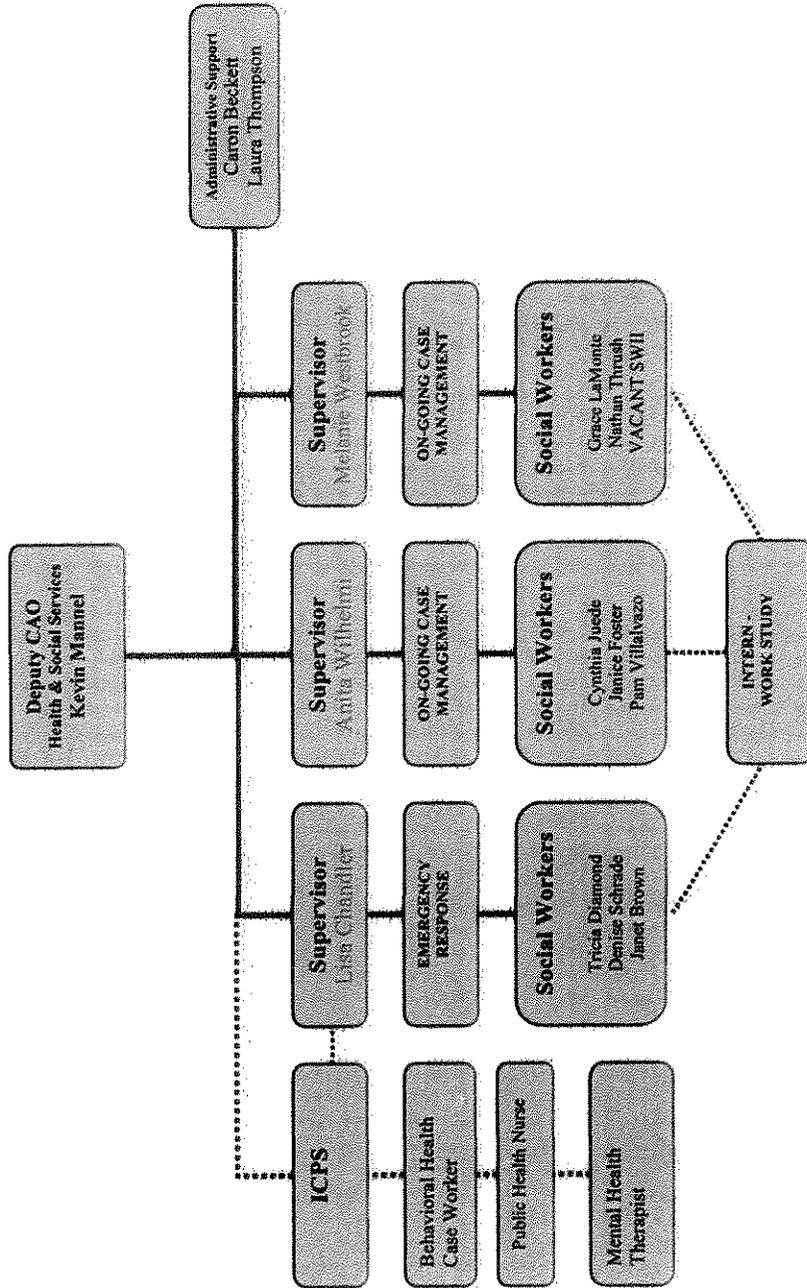
Lassen County has contracted with Lassen Community College to provide ILP services to those eligible. In the past this has been an area that was lacking. A new strategy is being taken to help provide more services to the ILP age children. A committee of ILP children has been started and the children appear to like the topics and it is a setting that is less "school" like for them. At this time Lassen County has a limited number of THPP beds so children reaching the age of majority are not able to access this resource as often as needed.

Lassen County needs to build its foster family population so that there are more homes with different abilities to care for the children of FCPS and Probation. Lassen County has started using Family Solutions and wraparound strategies to keep children either in their homes of origin or with their foster placement. This will be addressed in the SIP as an area of growth.

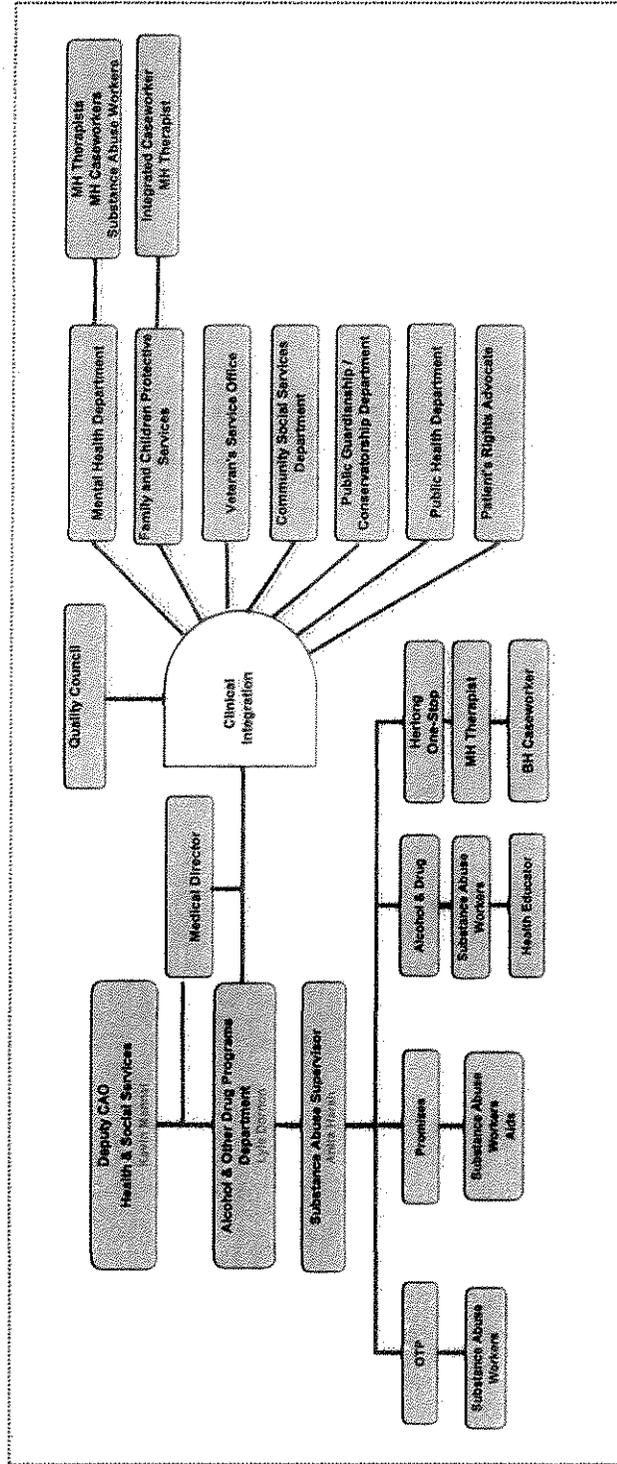
Appendix A.
Organizational charts



**Health and Social Services
Family and Children Protective Services Department**

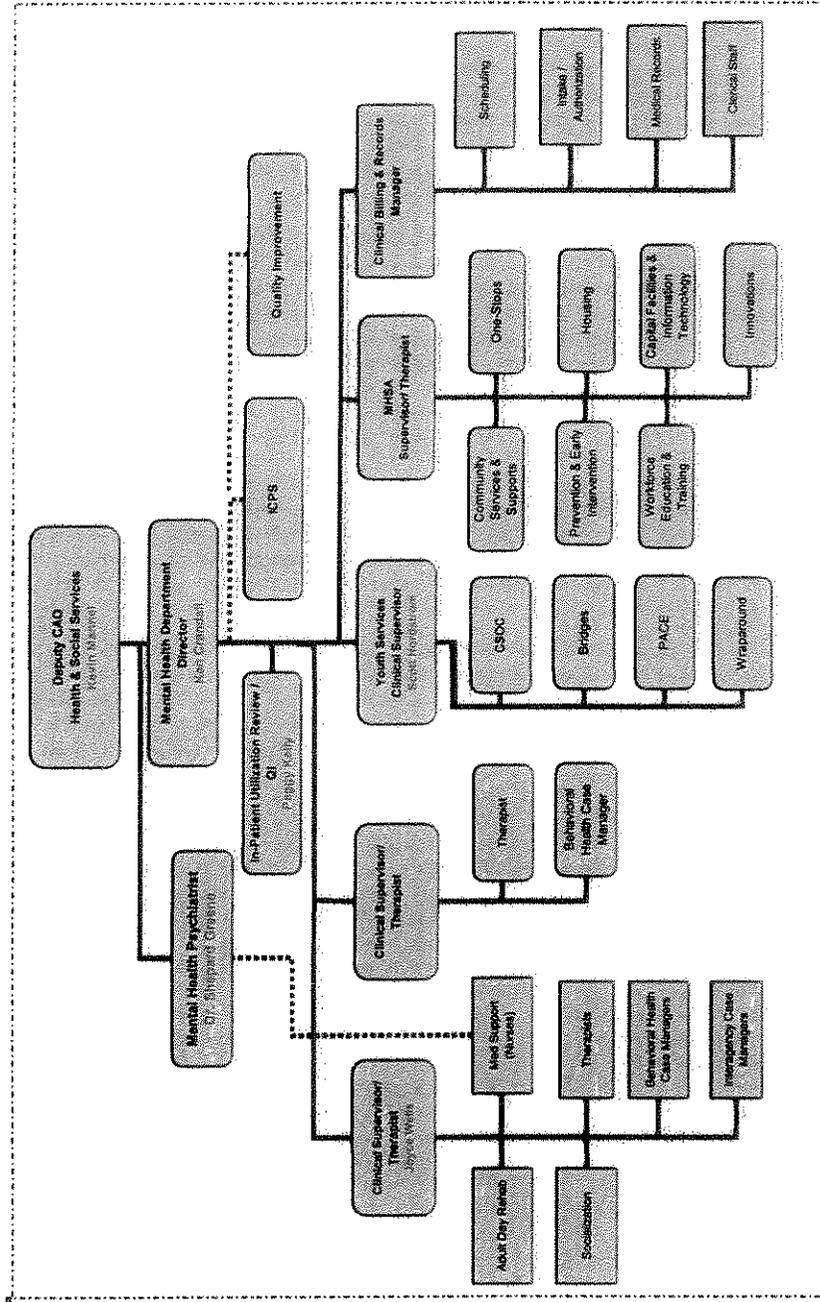


Health and Social Services
Alcohol and Other Drug Programs Department



* See corresponding Proportionate Influence Graph.

Health and Social Services
Mental Health
Staffing Changes



4/13/2011

MH

Appendix B.
Stakeholders Meeting Minutes
3/17/2011

**Family and Children Protective Services
Stakeholder Meeting
March 17, 2011
9:00 a.m. Group**

Purpose: Outcomes of PQCR for strengths needs and implementations – child welfare lacking – overview of AB 636

Presenter: Melanie Westbrook

Present: Tamara Bowles – Sunshine Pre-School, Anita Wilhelmi, Anita Harsh, Janet Brown, Lisa Chandler, MaryJo Streible, Nathan Thrush, Vint Woodyard, Bill Jost, Mitzi Whitley, Kevin Mannel, Denise Stevenson – Lassen Community College (ILP Program), Ruth Lyon – Lassen Family Services (Parent Partner Program) – Late arrivals, Grace Lamonte and Edward Kranz

Welcome and Introductions:

Current AB636 review and update of previous measures: AB 636 - Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act

Review of outcomes measures to where we are currently. Last reviewed at Stakeholder Meeting was in 2006 – at time of Lassen County (LC) Self-Assessment.

Immediate Response - time from referrals coming in to CPS responding – requirement is to respond within 2 hours – CPS is 100% compliant at 4th Quarter 2010. In 2006, FCPS was only 67% compliant. Currently the ER unit has only 2 full time and 2 part time investigators handling referrals. Info comes from Safe Measures reporting system used by FCPS

10 Day response – Info as of 2/3/2011 – Numbers may be skewed due to lag time of info being input and data changes. – Hitting at 90%

Q – What is the timeframe to respond – A - requirement is 10 days?

Social Worker Contact – clients must be seen twice within 30 days (more than 15 days apart) some placements as far away as Sebastopol, Bakersfield, etc. (Example of “data-fog”...info not input yet – shows below or as non-compliance) Currently FCPS has a 60% compliance rate. Overall doing very well and staying within State goal

Q - Why does state goal vary within the month?

Q - Number of Face-to-Face contacts seen? No it's a percentage.

Point in time Placement by Type – as of 4th Q 2010 – Melanie explained how info is pulled – Group Home skewed in LC as some homes are also FFAs – 56 children as of 4th Quarter

Q – Numbers exclude Probation. A - Yes

Q - All LC placements – Y

Q – Is the trend line as to increase or decrease? A – Increase; in October 2004 134 kids combined; last year mid 70s placements

Q - Indicator as to reunification? Is this Existing or changing trend line? Mel will check. Mitzi (Fiscal) – The 800 report has the info. Kinship numbers may have changed.

Q - THP & THP+ show up as FFA – not an active placement anymore

Active Placements – 4th Quarter – 10 in Group homes – 12 – NREFM homes; 30 in Foster Group Homes. Q - Number of kids in Probation in placement? A – 26 with only 6 in County.

Re-Entry Rate after Reunification – Clients back to place of removal – what percent reentered – 30 exited to Reunification in 2009 – 23 did not come back within 1 month and 7 that did. Goal is 40% to not re-reenter – we are 76.7%

ICWA Placements – American Indians – 5 children w/ICWA eligibility – 4 are in non-relative/Indian placement – as of 4th Q 2010.

Health and Education Passports – Children entering foster care (FC) must have passport completed to follow them – health, immunizations, medical info, as they move along. FCPS has a work group working on this. It is a large amount of info to input at one time. Percent entered FC as of 3rd Q who had initiated PP – 3 entered, 2 cases in compliance, 1 not.

Q - Length of time to complete? A - Very long – they should get a red binder with all info. PP handled by 3 different depts., education, health/medical, it takes a lot of coordination. Probation has the same requirements.

Physical Exams – all kids in placement and placements open for more than 30 days – Out of 40 cases – 39 in compliance – PE done within the 30 days

Dental Exams – same criteria – Exams completed 43 only 19 in compliance – Concerns -hard to get dentist locally with medical. 2 Dentists in town and schedule is always full. SIR treats non-native clients but booked.

Q – Are they required to have both PE and dental exam within 1st 30 days? A - Yes

Q – How long is it good for? A – 30 days within each placement – also if there is a change in placement; it helps to monitor abuse.

TILP Services – Number of cases had ILP within - 14 and older for transitional independent living services – LCC provides the services. They have a Steering committee. Anita Wilhelmi stated the numbers have not been entered properly; they have recently been trained, and data will improve. Currently 22 – 17 with; 1 without; 1 – 3 or more ILP, 2 – 2, and 2 had 1 service.

Q – 120 eligible – serving half (60) numbers low – info was being entered but in the wrong place – we have been doing better, trying to reenter the info to correct.

Q – When are clients seen? A – Once a week.

Work Group Exercises - two groups of 5 – discussion – Social worker retention for LC – look at strengths, needs, and implementation.

Group 1 – Placement stabilization – Probation 20 – 6 in LC (don't have higher level, therapeutic, etc) How to get foster homes in LC that can handle in LC

Group -2 – ILP under served and how to engage.

Group Presentations:

Group #1 – Nathaniel – **STRENGTHS** - teamwork has improved – issues with feeling like not getting help needed. Experienced supervision lots of strong skills – clerical very helpful; Vint and Coral interns taking on a lot; ICPS strongest thing about FCPS – MaryJo and Ron onsite work for best interest of clients. Attn relations improved a lot – Christian very helpful
Caseload management and staffing patterns – all pitching in and supervisors doing well making assignments –

Relationships w/Community partners – relationships strong point. Service providers – help clients to succeed

NEEDS – more support staff – SW get bogged down with many bureaucratic necessities that eat up a lot of time; honesty up front - about pay, etc. Other counties pay better; hard to keep good staff here. Incentives related to better pay; structuring raises on performance instead time in. Trainings – don't get notice far enough ahead of time – crisis nature of work, court appearances make it difficult to happen; stress reduction strategies – very stressful job; outings in past – Eagle Lake team building exercise – great, but hard to get away. Having a Lake day on Saturday to help work well together. Streamline process – processes not efficient – streamlining would help to focus on clients. Activities out of work – BBQs, outings to lake; Increase communication about workload – determine who is slammed and needs help; distribution of work. Maintain II/III lists on Merit – Solidify leadership – many changes lately – maybe strength as well. Good leaders, have everyone pitch in. College for additional interns and work studies. More people for less money. Get work study to see if they want to grow into SW; Training regimen - on-going problem. Hard to get dedicated regimen for new hires – develop a written training program for new hires. Training coordinator – need new one (Katherine left) Explore options of SWA/Case Aid – Merit systems – part timers would really help – a lot of work and not enough time to do it...Grant Writer – possible cuts in St budget – would help get extra funding to make up for shortfall. SW/Supervision 1 x monthly – find out who needs help; keep all from feeling overwhelmed. Activities – plan at staff meetings build morale, etc.

Group #2 – Vint presented

NEEDS: Do away with Merit System – laborious – throughout state of California – degrees may not apply if not in social services field; hire locally; out of area people don't necessarily want to stay. Increase pay/ better benefits.

Streamline CWS/CMS Admin assistant;

Combine Safe Measures SDM/CWS/CMS

Consistent Leadership – don't question where we're going – don't need to worry that things are changing.

Hire Admin Assistant - need help with daily workload to allow SWs increased time spent with clients and service providers – eliminate stress.

Placement Stabilization – Implementation – Training quarterly, various subjects and times – mandatory quarterly would be helpful. Advertise locally for mentoring program. Only 2 mentors for all of ILP people.

Grant Writer - to help implement programs. Combine resources – redundancy in what's provided – streamline process.

STRENGTHS: Kinship care training; FFAs Mountain Circle, Environmental Alternatives;

Needs Improve by increasing training; mandated trainings; more mentors – training for foster families, behavioral AOD, accepting responsibility.

Discussion re training requirements before re-licensing; gang related training through Probation – other agencies training all mentors/foster families. What does child need in order to be successful in placements? Education needs to be consistently provided; part of reason they blow through placements. Clients go through Social Workers as well. Consistency is key – have someone that loves and supports them. How are placements done? Do you keep with one SW? Do a better job of matching SW with clients. There are not enough SWs to do ongoing.

Identify what kids are passionate about and find mentor that matches to kid's passions. Increase community involvement to find mentors to take on these responsibilities.

Work programs – parcel wages – i.e. veterinarian – Work Study program is out of money. Alliance for Workforce Development – particular definitions for who qualifies – 17/18 year old bracket. Good ideas but no money – how do you generate to bring into action? Q - Can you pull from parents/relatives? A – Senior Project programs – Volunteers are out there – need to get out into the community. Mentors have time commitments; Foster needs 1 year commitment. **Job Fair – coming up to have a booth for Mentor interest.** Start out as volunteer – many would love to have someone come in and volunteer. – gives clients a reference, and gives people they can connect to.

Merit System – Fed law requires HR to have certain number of functions. Smaller counties formed Merit System that performs the required duties. Federal mandates. Cross this item off the list – it's mandatory to have Merit System.

ILP Topics – expand steering committee, etc (get from sheets) – Life books – Baby pictures – photo albums – time consuming but kids appreciate them.

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Donna Humphrey, *Lassen County Probation*