CALIFORNIA CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW

MARIPOSA COUNTY SELF-ASSESSMENT

Conducted by the

Mariposa County Human Services Department
Child Welfare Services

And

Mariposa County Probation Department
Juvenile Services

Submitted to the California Department of Social Services

Child Welfare Services Division

September 5, 2013

1. CSA Cover Sheet

California's Child and Family Services Review County Self-Assessment Cover Sheet	
County:	**Mariposa County**
Responsible County Child Welfare Agency:	**Mariposa County Department of Human Services**
Period of Assessment:	**July 31, 2013 – April 27, 2018**
Period of Outcome Data:	**October, 2009 – January 2013**
Date Submitted:	**September 5, 2013**
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Submitted by each agency for the children under its care	
Submitted by:	Mariposa County Department of Human Services
Name:	James Rydingsword, Director
Signature:	
Submitted by:	Mariposa County Probation Agency
Name:	Pete Judy, Chief Probation Officer
Signature:	Pete Judy

In Collaboration with:		
County & Community Partners	Name(s)	Signature
Board of Supervisors Designated Public Agency to Administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Funds	James Rydingsword, Director, Department of Human Services	
County Child Abuse Prevention Council	Doug Binnewies, CAPC Chair, Mariposa Safe Families, Inc.	
Parent Representative	Vikki Fosmo, WrapAround Parent Partner	Vikki of. Fosmo
As Applicable[1]	Name(s)	
California Youth Connection		
Madera County Department of Social Services	Kelly Woodward, Director	
Local Tribes		
Mariposa County United School District Superintendent	Aaron N. Rosander, Superintendent	

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Approval	
BOS Approval Date:	
Name:	Lee Stetson, Chairman Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
Signature:	9-3-13

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

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

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A. Introduction: Effective January, 2004, in accordance with the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10601.2, the Child Welfare Services Outcome and Accountability System began operation in California. This system review, referred to as the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR), was developed to encompass child protective services, foster care, adoption, family preservation, family support, and independent living. (Welfare and Institutions Code sections 10605, 10605.1, and 10605.2; Government Code section 30026.5) The vision of the C-CFSR is that every child in California would live in a safe, stable, permanent home nurtured by healthy families and strong communities. The purpose of the C-CFSR system is to significantly strengthen the accountability system used in California to monitor and assess the quality of services provided on behalf of maltreated children. (CDSS ACIN: I-50-06 2006). The C-CFSR brings California into alignment with the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR).

The C-CFSR process operates on a philosophy of continuous quality improvement, interagency partnership, community involvement, priority service provision and public reporting of program outcomes. In addition to its focus on priority needs and improved outcomes, the C-CFSR maximizes compliance with federal regulations for receipt of Title IV-E and Title IV-B funds which include Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program.

The Outcomes and Accountability System is a five year process consisting of three parts of continuous quality improvement incorporating a combined Peer Review (PR) and County Self-Assessment (CSA), a System Improvement Plan (SIP) and annual SIP Progress Report, and a State-Administered CWS/CMS System Case Review. CDSS, in conjunction with the University of California at Berkeley (UCB), developed Outcome Measures emphasizing safety, permanency, and well-being that indicate how each county Child Welfare system in California is performing. All counties, at least once every five years, conduct a comprehensive review of their system, including evaluation of county demographics with a County Self-Assessment.

2. C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

The CSA Planning Process: Mariposa County Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation conducted their County Self-Assessment from December 2012 through July 2013. On December 20, 2012, a planning meeting of the C-CFSR Planning Team met to make preliminary plans for the C-CFSR process. The Planning Team is comprised of the Human Services Director, the Social Services Deputy Director, the Child Welfare Services Supervisors, the two Juvenile Probation Officer IIIs, the Information Technology lead worker, the County Consultant assigned to the C-CFSR process, and the Senior Office Assistant who supports the project. Other local members of the Planning Team not present at the meeting but who provided input during the assessment process were the Human Services Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, the Department Fiscal Officer II, the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Social Work Supervisor II of the Children's System of Care including Wraparound and Differential Response and the Executive Director of

Mariposa Safe Families, the local organization receiving some limited Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) funds.

The December 20th planning meeting was facilitated by Henry Franklin, the County's CDSS Outcome and Accountability (COAB) Consultant and by telephone with Patricia Harper of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention. At the meeting, it was determined that the County would identify the Abuse Prevention Collaborative as its Stakeholder Group and preliminary plans were made to conduct a focused discussion with this group in January at their regularly scheduled meeting. The Abuse Prevention Collaborative is a merged meeting of three coalitions, the Child Abuse Coordinating Council, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, and the Mariposa Blue Ribbon Commission on Children and Families in Foster Care. It is co-chaired by the Executive Directors of Mountain Crisis, a provider of domestic violence services and Cinnamon Fleener of Mariposa Safe Families, a provider of community services including child abuse prevention services. All key community social service providing agencies are members of this collaborative. For additional input, the membership of this group would be solicited for feedback through a survey process. Further feedback would be solicited from targeted groups through focus groups or surveys. At this meeting, the County introduced the idea of conducting the County Self-Assessment electronically and began the process of developing an action plan and obtaining CDSS approval.

Subsequent to the initial planning meeting, the Planning Team and CDSS Consultants held weekly conference calls, facilitated by Henry Franklin of COAB. These weekly calls continued through the month of February and the conclusion of the Peer Review.

The County Self-Assessment process chosen by the County has been adequate to inform the CSA process. Participation by stakeholders was limited; however, similar to participation during the 2010 process. Notice of the Stakeholder meeting was publicized in the local newspaper on two occasions and follow-up reminders were sent to survey recipients asking that they complete the survey. The number of survey responses was low but slightly higher than during the previous CSA process. Additional stakeholder input was obtained through individual and group conference calls and through targeted emails. This direct approach was successful 100% of the time and through this process valuable information to supplement the CSA was obtained.

Even though the participation at the stakeholders meeting and the response rate to the survey was low, it is not unusual in a small county where key service providing agencies often have small staff and personnel including key staff are time-challenged and perform multiple roles. Most organizations cannot afford to have staff assigned solely to administrative functions. With future C-CFSR processes, it may be worthwhile for the Departments to consider ways to provide regular updates on Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation activities and results and consider other ways to obtain stakeholder input.

C-CFSR Planning Team:

Human Services Department Management and Administrative Staff
James Rydingsword, Director, Human Services Department
Nancy Bell, Deputy Director of Social Services, Human Services Department
John Lawless, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Human Services Department
Cindy Larca, Fiscal Officer II, Human Services Department
Susan Arlington, Social Worker Supervisor II, Child Welfare Services, Human Services Department
Sheila Baker, Social Worker Supervisor II, Child Welfare Services, Human Services Department
Ann Conrad, Social Worker Supervisor II, Children's System of Care, Human Services Department
Kathryn Berry, Senior Office Assistant, Social Services Division, Human Services Department
Anthony Rios, Network Administrator II, Information Technology, Human Services Department

Probation Department Management Staff
Pete Judy, Probation Chief, Mariposa County Probation Department
Connie Pearce, Deputy Probation Officer III, Mariposa County Probation Department
Bryce Johnson, Deputy Probation Officer III, Mariposa County Probation Department

CDSS representatives
Henry Franklin, M.S.W., Social Services Consultant III, Outcomes and Accountability
Barbara Ricciuti-Colombo, M.S.W., Social Services Consultant III, Outcomes and Accountability
Patricia Harper, M.A., Social Services Consultant III, Office of Child Abuse Prevention

Additional Staff
Penelope Huang, PhD., Executive Director, Clarity Social Research Group
Edna Terrell, M.A., MFT, Social Services Consultant to Human Services Department

List of Core Representatives: (see Appendix 1)

The CSA Planning Process: Mariposa County Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation conducted their County Self-Assessment from January 2013 through July 2013. Local feedback to inform the Self-Assessment was conducted through a six-part process which included a Stakeholder's Meeting, electronically-distributed feedback surveys to six groups, mail-distributed surveys

to families who were referred for Differential Response services, a focus group with foster children, peer review, and outcome data research/analysis.

Through this process, all core representatives were given an opportunity to participate in the assessment process.

Stakeholder's Meeting: (see Appendix 2 for Stakeholders Meeting Notes) - List of Attendees) Input from public and private stakeholders was gathered through a CDSS-facilitated discussion with the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MAPC) on January 23, 2013. Human Services and Probation believes that the participants' knowledge of and experience with Child Welfare Services and Probation are critical in identifying the strengths, needs, and gaps in the service delivery system. After a presentation by CDSS representatives on what the C-CFSR is and local demographics regarding child abuse as reported in CWS/CMS Dynamic Reports from the University of California Berkeley(UCB) Child Welfare Services dynamic statistical reports, the group was asked to provide input on the following three focus questions: 1) How does the community define child abuse and neglect? 2) What change, interventions, or services are needed to support children and their families? 3) What role does the community take in addressing child abuse and neglect?

Surveys (see Appendix 3 for Mariposa County Self Assesment Survey Analysis): To gather more input, surveys were mailed to 178 stakeholders in six separate mailings: Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative (47 sent/20 responses); Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. /CAPC (9 sent/3 responses); Probation/Sheriff's Office (45 sent/7 responses); CASA (13 sent/4 responses); Mountain Crisis (14 sent/6 responses); Foster Families (13 sent/ 2 responses). Hard-copies of the survey were distributed by mail to families served through Differential Response. (37sent/0 response). The County received 42 responses to the County Self-Assessment Survey. Of the 42 responses, 46% were received from probation and social worker staff and supervisors/managers, 16% from education, 13% from foster parents and other substitute care givers, 10% from Wraparound case managers/clinicians, and 10% from CASA. Responses were not tracked by ethnicity, client status, or other categories. Although a mailed survey was sent to families referred for Differential Response Services, there were no responses. In 2010 as part of the CSA process, a similar process was used to inform the CSA process with similar results (38 versus 42 responses). The response seems appropriate to the scale of the county and all key stakeholders were included in the process either through their own participation or through advocates who provide services to them. Additional stakeholder input was gathered directly by email or telephone contact with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services staff involved in Children's System of Care, Wraparound and Differential Response services and with Mariposa Safe Families who works with other community and faith-based groups to provide child abuse prevention and early intervention services as well as other social services to at risk groups such as the those in poverty and at risk teens. The survey results and these contacts were used to inform the CSA process.

A review of survey results is contained in the appendix.

Some key areas of consensus that emerged include:

- In-home support, (including parent education, modeling, home management) is perceived as highly effective in both prevention of child welfare and probation entry, as well as in reunification and out-of-home placement stability.
- Related to that, parent education also figures prominently as an effective tool in prevention and reunification, and lack of parent knowledge of child rearing and life skills presents a significant challenge as it hinders, delays, or disrupts family reunification.
- Foster parent training and support was identified in the foster youth focus groups as well as in this survey as a service that would support placement stability.
- Behavioral and mental health services were highly endorsed as effective in placement stability and as an area in which social workers and/or probation officers could use more training to better support their families.
- The general consensus seems to be that neither CWS nor Juvenile Justice Services solicits nor takes into consideration community input very much.
- There is a perception that while the County is responsive to community needs, the community capacity to meet community needs is stretched, but room for improvement in collaboration was also identified, which would expand capacity and increase efficiency in service provision.
- Respondents frequently acknowledged a lack of resources and limited professional personnel issues that diminish the county's ability to respond effectively to community needs.
- Some issues with after-hours responsiveness, privacy protections in reporting, and judgmental behaviors of agency staff were raised in respondents' descriptions of their experiences with the agencies.
- Collaboration within and across agencies and with other community providers was mentioned several times as an area for improvement.
- The dearth of local foster homes was echoed several times across survey items
- A need for parent education was identified across several survey items, particularly with respect to:
  - Life skills
  - Child development
  - Parenting practices
  - Job training
- Additional supports that are perceived to be needed in the community include:
  - Counseling and other mental and behavioural health services
  - Aftercare and follow-ups

Focus Group with Foster Children (see Appendix 4 for Foster Youth Focus Group Notes): A focus group meeting was held for ILP/CYC foster children on March 21, 2013 and facilitated by Penelope Huang, Executive Director of Clarity Social Research Group. Two youth participated in the focus group and provided

thoughtful feedback concerning their involvement in the child welfare and foster care system.

Peer Review (see Appendix 5 for Peer Review Participant List): As part of the County Self-Assessment, Mariposa County conducted a peer review process on February 13, 2013 in partnership with representatives from five nearby small counties (CWS – Inyo, Colusa, Calaveras; Probation – Trinity, Tuolumne) as well as representatives from the California Department of Social Services.

Acknowledgement: Mariposa County Child Welfare Services and Probation extends their deep appreciation to the many people and agencies that devoted considerable time and effort to inform this CSA process.

Data Gathering: University of California, Berkeley (UCB) Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) Dynamic Reports for Quarter 2 (October 2012) and SafeMeasures Report Extracts from January 2013 formed the basis for data outcome analysis. Input from the management and supervisory staff of Child Welfare Services, Probation, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and contact with Mariposa Safe Families, Inc., provided sufficient local organizational and service delivery data to inform the County Self-Assessment process.

2007-2011 U.S. American Community Survey (ACS) census reports, supplemented by data from local sources, provided the required demographic information.

3. **Demographic Profile:** Mariposa County is a small rural, mountainous region located in the foothills and Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California. Elevation ranges from 300 to 11,000 feet above sea level. Nearly half of the 1,449 square miles of the County is owned by Yosemite National Park, two national forests, and the U.S. Department of Land Management. Much of the county is mountainous with winding, narrow roads. There is great scenic beauty. Open range land dominates the lower elevations, giving way to forested areas and mountain peaks as one travels into the high Sierra.

The 2007-2010 Mariposa DELTA Report, a project sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Delta Project and awarded by the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, describes the community of Mariposa County in the following way: *Besides the township of Mariposa with the largest population, there are four small, distinct population centers (Coulterville-Greeley Hill, Catheys Valley, La Grange/Lake Don Pedro, and El Portal/Yosemite National Park) in the 1,449 square miles of the county. There is no formal communication uniting them. There is no radio, no TV station, a lack of cell phone connectivity, and only one weekly newspaper. The local markets and post offices are the "hubs of communication" for each community. There is limited public transportation. Since private transportation is difficult, some say that "they need to get money together to come to appointments" outside their local area.*

Health and human services are limited in areas outside the town of Mariposa. For years there has been an effort to coordinate the delivery of services such as

health, counseling, employment, etc. However, there has been limited success with this effort, resulting in a continuing need for better coordination. One barrier has been the mountainous geography that has made it difficult for service providers, most often from the town of Mariposa, to travel to the outlying areas. The influx of newcomers arriving to serve the new UC Merced and retirees from the Bay Area/Southland has impacted the county through the infusion of new ideas.

Mariposa has a history as "The Home of Yosemite", as such, the community has an investment in projecting a positive image to tourists. As a result, there is an underreporting of incidences of crime, abuse, drug/alcohol problems, gangs, etc. Mariposa depends on the tourist industry. Seasonal, low paying employment with irregular work schedules, as well as periodic closures of the road into Yosemite National Park have added to stress and poverty.

Assets and Resources: *Several of the conditions above are also the community's assets and resources. There is often a lack of anonymity in small communities which can also allow opportunities for a tremendous outpouring of support for families when needed. Generosity comes from churches, service organizations, merchants, and private individuals for a variety of causes. Many talented people are attracted to Mariposa County for its rural beauty.*

The school district has a reputation for responsiveness to student and family needs. County agencies have often used the schools as venues for reaching and serving the population. Schools in town have easy access to agencies which can quickly give help. The SARB (School Attendance Review Board) is an excellent example of Sheriff's Office, Probation, District Attorney, Child Welfare, Mental Health, schools, and Indian Council all working together to get students to school and to improve student behavior. This cross-agency responsiveness and knowledge has the potential to create powerful, working partnerships across the county. [2] *(Delta Report)*

A. **Demographics of General Population:** U.S. Census ACS 2007-2011 report estimates the 2012 population of Mariposa County to be 17,905, down1.9% (346 persons) compared with 2010 census population estimates. By population, the County ranks 53rd in size to the other fifty-seven counties. The population is evenly divided between males (50.8 %) and females (49.2%). 14.4% of county residents live below the poverty level. This is comparable to the California poverty rate (14.4%).There are approximately 12.6 persons per square mile, as compared to the state average of 217 per square mile. The town of Mariposa, the county seat, has the largest population density with about 1,700 people. Four other areas of the county have more wide spread populations, and each has its own distinct cultural norms. Those communities are El Portal-Yosemite (pop. 1,556), Lake Don Pedro (pop. 2,043), Catheys Valley (pop. 1,370) and

[2] California Delta Prevention Plan Final, 2007-2013, Susan Robinson
www.mariposarespect.org/CALIFORNIA520DELTA%PREVENTION,2007-2013

Coulterville-Greeley Hill (pop. 2,355). There are 7,607 households in the county. Of the households, 23.2% include children ages 0-18 years.

Age: Mariposa County, as a whole, has an aging population. The median age of 47.3 years has increased by 1.9 years since 2010. 17.6% of the residents are under age 18, and 21.6% are over the age of 65. 4.2% are children under the age of 5. By comparison, California's statistics for the same age categories are 24.6%, 11.7%, and 6.7%. Females make up 49.2% of the population. 21.9% (3,516) of the population over age five is disabled. 100% of residents live in unincorporated areas and are spread out. 70.9% of residents own their home.[3] (U.S. Census)

Comparing Mariposa County to all 58 California Counties and ranking by age categories, Mariposa County ranks 51st for children under 5; 47th for children ages 5-9; 49th for children ages 10-14; 56th for ages 15-19 and 51st for ages 20-24. In contrast, the County ranks 5th for individuals 65 and over; 6th for ages 75-84; and 7th for ages 85 and over. In the future, with a declining population overall and a growing population age 65 and over, service-providing agencies may be required to allocate more dollars for senior services while children and families compete for limited financial and human resources.

All key services are located within the town of Mariposa, the unincorporated county seat. Many of the outlying residents needing services live in areas experiencing heavy winter snow. These facts present logistical difficulties for providing social service-related services. Isolation for families and children may also result. Outreach health, mental health, and alcohol and drug services are extended to the North County residents in Coulterville and Yosemite Park, much of which is located within the County.

Ethnicity: The U.S. Census ACS 2007-2011 reports the following ethnic breakdown for Mariposa County: 90.7% White, 9.9% Hispanic, and 3.2% American Indian. The remaining percentages are shared by persons reporting two races (3.6%), Asians (1.3%) and Black persons (.9%). English is the primary language with only 9.2% reporting a language other than English spoken at home.

Mariposa County has a growing population of Hispanics (1,773 persons or 9.9% of the counties population) residing mainly in Mariposa township, Midpines, and Yosemite Valley. When compared to 2000 census population numbers when there were 1,676 Hispanic persons in the County, the Hispanic population has increased 5.4%. Hispanic persons are drawn to the area for accommodation and food services jobs provided by the tourism industry in Yosemite National Park and in surrounding areas. This population influx brings new challenges to service-providing agencies such as Child Welfare Services and Probation because of language and cultural differences that may require different knowledge, skills, and abilities for service-providing staff. Native Americans from

[3] http://quickfacts.census.gov

four tribes comprise the next largest population group (3.2%). One hundred and eighteen Native American persons reside in Mariposa County with the largest concentrations in Yosemite Valley (31), Mariposa township (30), Lake Don Pedro (12), Catheys Valley (12), and Bootjack (11). Services to tribe members are provided through the local tribal organization; however, small numbers of Native American children are present in the Child Welfare and Probation caseloads. When providing services to these children, best practice calls for coordination with the appropriate tribal agency often located outside of the county, and culture and customs should be considered when making service decisions.

The Abuse Prevention Collaborative and the CAPC participate in regular monthly meetings to address issues from the entire Mariposa community; however, the Native American Community is included in these meetings and has brought forth needs for their specific community that are address by the Collaborative when requested. Tuolumne County has a regular representative on the Abuse Prevention Collaborative as does the tribe from Yosemite. These groups also meet in connection with the Blue Ribbon Commission, which has now merged into the Abuse Prevention Collaborative, so law enforcement, Child Welfare Services, Human Services, the tribal alliance, and the CAPC are all at the table monthly.

Educational Attainment: 88.7% of Mariposa County residents over the age of 25 are high school graduates, compared to 80.4% in the U.S. 20.5% of residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.2% in California and 24.4% in the U.S. 11.3% of residents did not earn a high school diploma or GED and 3.3% (460 persons) have less than a 9th grade education. Persons with less education often work in jobs that are low-paying and often do not provide benefits, both of which can contribute to household stress and hardship.[4] (U.S. Census)

Mariposa County provides quality education to elementary and high school children, but after graduation, students must commute or move to other areas for higher education. There are no universities or colleges located in the county. Merced Community College offers adult education classes at the comprehensive high school located in the town of Mariposa.

Lower numbers of residents with college degrees may indicate that youth move away from the community to seek higher education and do not return to Mariposa County. Also residents without some college education, a bachelor's or advanced degree, may not qualify for some of the higher-paying community jobs and which may result in recruitment and retention problems for some professional fields, including social worker, probation officer, health care worker, educator, and behavioral health and recovery jobs.

[4] http://quickfacts.census.gov

Income, Unemployment and Poverty: In 2007-2011 Mariposa's median household income was $49,174, 21% below the California median of $61,632. 14.4% of individuals in Mariposa County live below the federal poverty level, a percent equal to that of California and up from 12.5% in 2010. 616 individuals live on less than $10,000 annual income and 507 individuals' income is between $10,000 and $14,999 annually.[5] (U.S. Census) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health Ranking Report for 2013, which focuses on children and their families health issues, includes the following statistics: 24% of the children in Mariposa County are living in poverty, up from 17% in 2010 and compared with the state's rate of 23%; 56.9% of children are living above the 200% FPL or higher; the median family income in 2007-2011 is $58,237; 2.5% of residents receive cash welfare assistance; 7.5% receive Food Stamps (CalFresh) benefits, and 8.5% receive Supplemental Security Income. Of the 5,221 families in the county, 5.7% have an annual income of less than $10,000.[6] (Health Ranking Report)

Service jobs, including tourism, retail, and construction provide 45.5% of the jobs in Mariposa County. Much of the employment is seasonal in nature. Unemployment rates vary seasonally with a 2012 high of 14.1% during the winter and spring/summer months ranging from 9.6% - 11.6%. The current unemployment rate is 11.7%.[7] (2007-2011 US Census ACS Report & FRED Economic data)

Economic conditions in Mariposa County are described in reports by the Economic Development Council and the Headwater Economics Report in the following way: *Yosemite is a critical part of the county's economy, with nearly 4 million people visiting the park each year. Mariposa itself is a strategic gateway. Most jobs in the County are service-related with low pay and part time or seasonal. Winter months, when tourism in the area is at its lowest, brings higher unemployment rates. The mean travel time to work for workers age 16 and over is 33.8 minutes. Forest fires, rockslides, and flooding are known to cause the closing of roads and the flow of visitors to Mariposa is diminished in some years. When this happens, economic hardship is experienced by local businesses. A goal of the Economic Development Corporation is to expand tourism to a year-round destination and to expand employment opportunities in sectors not tourism-related.*

Seven factors are driving the economy in Mariposa County: 1) More part-time, seasonal jobs entering the work force. 2) Rise in low wage industries such as tourism. 3) Decline in high-wage industries such as manufacturing. 4) More low paid workers entering the labor force. 5) Influx of workers with low-education levels who are paid less. 6) In-migration of semi-retired who work part-time or

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5 http://quickfacts.census.gov

6 http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/a;;/california/2013.rankings

7 http://quickfacts.census.gov & FRED Economic Data, research.stlouisfed.org/fred2

seasonally. 7) People who move to the area for quality of life rather than profit-maximization.[8] (Mariposa EDC & Headwaters Economics Report)

Social/Health Issues: Many people live far from paved roads, on winding dirt roads. Residents rely on a limited or absent public transportation system to access services. Families are often isolated and unconnected. Social service-providing agencies find communication difficult to maintain and home-based services are often required. Domestic violence is common. Substance use/abuse is prevalent.

In the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2013 health rankings study, Mariposa County health status in seven indicators ranks 26th among 57 counties reviewed. By category, Mariposa's rankings are as follows: Mortality (42); Morbidity (10); Health Factors (25); Health Behaviors (24); Clinical Care (28); Social and Economic Factors (18); Physical Environment (48). 2013 rankings show improvement in all areas over 2010 except Mortality (39); Social and Economic Factors (17); and Physical Environment (48). Primary care physicians' ratios are 3,653:1 compared to 1,341:1 in California and dentist availability is 1,899:1, compared to 1,417:1 in California.

Surprisingly, Mariposa's ranked 48th of 57 counties in the physical environment category, showing a negative comparison with California for: daily fine particulate matter (13.9/11.7); drinking water safety (45%/2%); and limited access to healthy foods (6%/3%). The motor vehicle crash death rate (25) also surpassed that of California at 10. Physical inactivity comparative rankings were 21% (Mariposa) and 18% (California).[9](Health Rankings)

Insurance status: 17% of residents are uninsured. 91% of children are reported to have health insurance for the entire year, giving the county a middle ranking when compared to other counties.[10] (California County Scorecard) Kidsdata.org reports that in 2010 the uninsured rate was 13.2%. For the 86.8% of persons insured, 40% had employer-based insurance coverage; 39.6% were covered through Medi-Cal/Healthy Families; 7.2% had privately purchased coverage. Forty-five percent of hospital discharges were Medi-Cal paid.[11] (Kidsdata.org: Tuolumne, Amador, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Alpine Counties)

Homeless: Although homelessness is not necessarily an indicator of family dysfunction or a cause for Child Welfare Services intervention, it is a stressor for families. Below are some general facts about poverty and homelessness:

- 1.5 million children are homeless in the United States or one out of every fifty children. 75% of these children reside in just eleven states and California is one of these eleven states.

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8 http://mariposaedc.com/demographics/demographic.htm & www.headwaterseconomic.org/wphw/wp-content/eps-profiles/06043-Mariposa CountyCAMeasures

9 http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/a;;/california/2013.rankings

10 http://scorecard.childrennow.org/2012/indicator

11 http://kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx

- Homeless persons are more likely to experience hunger.
- Homeless youth are more than twice as likely as middle class youth to have severe/chronic illness.
- More than 50% of homeless mothers experience a major depressive episode.
- California is among the top 5 states with the greatest disparity between minimum wage and housing affordability.
- The shortage of affordable rental housing is rising.
- Persons living in poverty are at risk of becoming homeless.
- 76% of the homeless population in the US is made up of single individuals who are mostly male; however, 65% of homeless families with children are headed by females.
- It is estimated that 15% of homeless persons have been victims of domestic violence.
- Veterans are slightly overrepresented among the homeless compared to their numbers in the general population.
- 40% of the nation's homeless are former foster children according to the Mary Graham Shelter Foundation.
- The Wilder Research Center surveyed homeless youth aged 10-17 and found that 46% of them had been in a juvenile correctional facility.
- California has an estimated half-million homeless youth and young adults ages 12-24 who make up the most vulnerable of the homeless population.[12] (CCASSC Fact Sheet)

The number of homeless in Mariposa County is not large; however, the homeless are a concern for local service-providers. A December 2009 draft report of the Mariposa County Planning Department reported that even though the 2000 census failed to identify any "visible" persons living on the streets, 64 people were filling domestic violence shelter beds, having no other safe place to stay, and other individuals are known to reside by the Merced River. At the Tuesday, February 5, 2013 Mariposa County Board of Supervisors meeting, the supervisors listened to a presentation by Pastor Ginger Foster, Mariposa United Methodist Church, on the Mariposa Open Arms Program. She is the Coordinator of the Leadership team of Mariposa Open Arms. The following is an article published in the Sierra Sun Times about Pastor Foster's presentation to the Board of Supervisors:

Pastor Foster mentions that when she moved to Mariposa County five plus years ago and asked about how many homeless there were in Mariposa, she was told one. The current estimate of homeless in Mariposa is around two hundred if you include the various categories of homelessness such as temporarily dwelling with family and friends, sharing houses, couch surfing, tent and car living and housing insecurity.

Reasons for being homeless include, needing to move out of substandard

[12] www.fresnostate.edu/ccassc-POVERTY-AND-HOMLESSNESS-FactSheet

housing, inconsistent income, lack of Section 8 housing, job loss, substance abuse, and domestic violence.

The Mariposa Open Arms Program (also known as the Warming Center) history involved a coming together of people and organizations that realized there was a homeless population. New Beginnings Church jumped in first offering their facility for seven nights a week.

The Open Arms Mission Statement states: To provide a ministry of compassionate hospitality to their unsheltered brothers and sisters in the community. They offer a place to stay overnight with a dinner seven nights a week and sometimes a shower.

Pastor Ginger said when the people realize they have a place to stay with meals that they have more energy and can look for a job, file for unemployment and look for housing.

Open Arms operates from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 A.M. Tuesday/Wednesday at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church and the other nights are at the Mariposa United Methodist Church. Nine to fourteen people are currently using the services. They have had four families in the program. Of seventeen volunteers, one to two a night stays at the facility. Around eleven churches donate food for up to twenty-five people.

Pastor Ginger mentioned that there is a lot of community support including Circle of Hope, New Life Christian Fellowship, Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Church of Christ, the First Baptist Church, New Beginnings Church, the Seventh Day Adventists, Assembly of God, the Baha'i Community, Lighthouse Fellowship and Saint Andrews Anglican Church.

An August 2012 study had forty five individuals with about half of them staying only one night. Some of the individuals are now into permanent housing. The most popular night to stay is the night before drug court because they have to be there in the morning and most have transportation problems. Pastor Ginger said the organizations like Mountain Crisis and Manna House have been great to work with.

Addressing some in the community who feel that "build it and they will come" Pastor Ginger said it has not been her experience among the people they are serving. The reality is no one wants to sleep on the floor of a church and live like that for the long term. The vast majority has fallen on hard times and has roots in Mariposa County. What they need most are jobs and housing.

Pastor Ginger worries that they are not reaching all the homeless especially the transitional age group 18 to 25, many of whom do not have a safe place to stay.[13](Sierra Sun Times, 2/10/13)

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[13] (Sierra Sun Times, 2/10/13)

The Mariposa Open Arms group has been in existence for approximately two years. The members are still building relationships with the homeless within the county, who are comprised of two groups, adults who have lost homes and a youth population who is couch surfing. Some of the County's recent homeless are AB109 early release prisoners, some of whom have mental health issues. Probation, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and Mountain Crisis provide services to AB109 participants.

Mariposa Safe Families was involved with Mariposa Open Arms at its beginning stages of work and served on forming committees. Currently Mariposa Safe Families works with Open Arms clients to become more stable within the community. The Bridges Project, a part of the Prosperity Initiative described below, is beginning to start their Community Partner Program where it is hoped to pair up the clients from Mariposa Open Arms with mentors and community partners to assist in walking their clients through services available in Mariposa and to help them to become self-sufficient and upwardly mobile and stable within the community.

The CAPC is working in conjunction with Mariposa Open Arms and the Bridges Project to create a Community Partner Program to address the issues of homeless and poverty-stricken families. The Bridges Project became a program under Mariposa Safe Families and the CAPC in 2012. The Community Partner Program is a mentor-based program being developed to address the specific needs of each individual family who is either homeless or living in poverty within Mariposa County. The Bridges Project was developed in response to an invitation to community providers by the Human Services Department to establish a Prosperity Initiative using Community Services Block Grant funds from the Calaveras-Mariposa Community Action Commission and from Human Services. **(see Appendix 12 for a description of the Mariposa County Human Services Prosperity Initiative)**

Currently there are no OCAP funds earmarked for services to the poor or homeless; however, in the future the use of OCAP funds may be considered. At this time there are no plans to build a homeless shelter in the County.

Education-based Services: Educational attainment is an important social indicator that is associated with earning and financial well-being. Mariposa's educational system is a one-district county with 11 school sites. As of October, 2012, the Mariposa County Unified School District served 1,916 students at seven elementary, one middle school, one comprehensive high school, one continuation high school, and two alternative high schools. There are 339 fewer students than during the 2010 CSA period. Between August 16, 2011 and August 15, 2012, sixteen students left school prior to graduation. This is an improvement since thirty three (33) left during the 2007-2008 school year. Four to six students who have been expelled receive alternative schooling at Mariposa or Greeley Hill school sites and approximately 20 students receive alternative education due to behavioral issues. Sixty-two children are receiving home schooling. 319 children

are attending special education classes. 1,034 students (54%) are enrolled in the subsidized school lunch program. There are 47 English-learners enrolled in public school.[14] (Unified School District)

Both Child Welfare Services and Probation participate in the SARB process as appropriate for individual children known to each of the agencies. Truancy issues are addressed by either Probation, if there has been a violation of law, or Child Welfare Services, if no laws have been broken. Mariposa County is not a dual jurisdiction county. The Behavioral Health Services Supervisor responsible for the Children's System of Care, Wraparound, and Differential Response is a member of the SARB.

The 2012-2013 Children Now report documents how Mariposa County child well-being ranks with other California counties on some key indicators. Children Now is a national research and advocacy organization based in Oakland, California and funded by the California Endowment. The report provides county-level data, tracking 28 key indicators of child well-being across counties, over time and by race and ethnicity. Data is obtained from the U.S. Census American Community Survey, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Interview Survey, and WestEd's California Healthy Kids Survey.

The 2012-13 Children Now Scorecard categorizes Mariposa County as a middle income, rural county. Counties are ranked by indicators as bottom, middle, and top. Mariposa County ranks as follows on some key indicators pertaining to education:

- 35% of eligible students who eat free or reduced-priced breakfasts during the school year (Indicator 17 – middle ranking with upward trend)
- 1% of eligible students who eat free or reduced-priced meals during the summer (Indicator 19 – bottom ranking with downward trend)
- 97% of high school science classes that are taught by a "highly qualified teacher" (Indicator 12 - top ranking with upward trend)
- 65% of students who are "ready" or "conditionally ready" for college-level math courses (Indicator 9 – top ranking with downward trend)
- 89% of 12th graders who graduate on time (Indicator 10 – top ranking with slightly downward trend)
- 91% of children who have health insurance for the entire year (Indicator 21 – middle ranking with slightly upward trend)
- 80% of children, ages 0-3, who do not experience recurring neglect or abuse (Indicator 4 – bottom ranking; slightly downward trend)
- 43% of 3 and 4 year olds attend preschool (Indicator 5 – middle ranking; 51% of white children, 13% of Hispanic children meet this indicator's definition)
- 44% of 3rd-graders who read at grade level (Indicator 6 – middle ranking; upward trend; 28% Hispanic children, 51% white children)
- 55% of suspensions are limited to serious offenses, not "willful defiance" (Indicator 14 – middle ranking with sharp downward trend)

[14] http://w.w.w.mariposa.K12.ca.us

- 93% of expulsions are limited to serious offenses, not " willful defiance" (Indicator 15 - middle ranking; downward trend)[15] (Children Now Scorecard)

Homeless Youth Education Services: The following youth education services are provided by the Unified School District; The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Student Services department provides support and resources to the school districts in the Mariposa County Unified School District to implement McKinney-Vento. The Student Services department facilitates enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth.

The term "homeless children and youth", means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. They are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds, are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.

When students are identified, the Unified School District is able to offer the following services to meet their needs:

- **Immediate enrollment:** Homeless students are guaranteed immediate enrollment, even if they lack the proper paperwork such as immunizations, proof of residency, or birth certificates. When these documents are incomplete or missing, the Homeless Liaison helps parents acquire them.
- **School Choice Options:** Homeless children who move have the right to remain in their school of origin. Once identified, homeless students are monitored to make sure that they are not displaced if the family moves out of the school boundaries. The Homeless Liaison assists families in completing the necessary paperwork so they can remain at their school of origin, thereby affording children a stable educational environment. Because we know that homeless children may suffer from poor attendance, which affects their educational progress, the Homeless Liaison tracks attendance for students to make sure they are attending school consistently. Additionally, if transportation becomes a barrier to the student attending school the Homeless Liaison ensures students receive busing to and from school at no cost to the parent or guardian.
- **Educational Support:** All students in MCUSD are entitled to support that enhances their educational experience. The free nutrition program is offered to all homeless students upon enrollment. Additionally, support programs such as California High School Exit Examination Test Prep Classes (CAHSEE), Math Remediation Classes, English Remediation, After School Tutorial Program, Credit recovery, English Language Development (ELD) Support classes, College and Financial Aid Counseling are available to all students. As homelessness can affect the emotional stability of students, the Unified School District offers referrals to counseling services through outside

[15] http://kidsdata.org/data/regin/dashboard.aspx

agencies. Through the Homeless Liaison, homeless families are made aware of their eligibility regarding such programs and are given the opportunity to make informed decisions regarding their student's placement.

- **Awareness Building:** Currently, MCUSD administration, enrollment personnel, and health clerks are aware of the needs of homeless students and abide by the McKinney-Vento legislation regarding immediate school enrollment, even without the necessary documentation such as proof of residence, immunizations, or birth certificates
- **Student Personal Needs:** Many homeless students in the district struggle to have their basic needs, food clothing and shelter met. Lack of nutrition, hygiene, and security can negatively impact a student's academic success. To the extent possible given limitations on social services in the area, the Homeless Liaison makes referrals for these needs.[16] (Mariposa County Unified School District)

Mariposa Safe Families and the CAPC do not partner with the schools on the homeless youth issue or directly address the homeless population within the school at this time. Mariposa Safe Families does work with the school district to hold an annual Free Fun Fair where the community is brought together with the services that are available in the community. Mariposa Safe Families also partners with the schools to use their facilities for activities to promote family time.

The Probation Department is an active participate in the SARB for youth that are truant or have behavioral issues and are Probation clients. The Children's System of Care Social Work Supervisor is a member of the SARB. Five cases were reviewed by the SARB last year. None of the youth were identified as Native American. One youth was couch surfing.

Active Tribes: Although there are no federally-recognized tribes, the four active tribes in the area include the Yosemite, Sierra Miwok, Mono, and Yokut tribes. The predominant tribe is the Miwok Tribe. Tribal participation in the CSA process was obtained through their membership on the Abuse Prevention Collaborative, the body designated as the stakeholder group.

Child Care: Lack of child care is a risk factor for child maltreatment. Parents unable to secure necessary child care may experience higher levels of stress and may make poor child care choices, such as using poor quality child care settings or leaving their child(ren) alone. Increased risk of child abuse and neglect may result. The 2011 Child Care Portfolio produced by the California Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies reports on child care in all California counties. **(see Appendix 6 for 2011 Mariposa County Child Care Data)**

Within Mariposa County, Infant Child Enrichment Services (ICES) offers child care options. The Local Child Care Planning Council (LCCPC) advocates for quality child care services and coordinates child care activities in the County.

[16] Http://w.w.w.w.mariposa.K12.ca.us/homeless

Data from Mariposa County Infant and Child Services (ICES) reports that there are currently 15 children (8 families) on the waiting list for subsidized child care in the County. The age breakout is: 0 - up to 24 months (4); 2-5 years (7); school age 6+ years (4). While the number of children on the wait list may go up and down during the year, in prior years the number of children on the wait list stayed at a steady average of about 40 children from one year to the next. In 2006 there were 34 children on the waiting list. In 2008 there were 49 waiting for service. In 2013 there are 15. This downward trend may be in part the result of in-migration by families who do not need child care services. ICES currently has 16 active licensed preschool centers that run part-time, part-year programs with a total licensed capacity for 123 children. Even with the economic recession of recent years, the number of child care operator licenses did not go up as inquiries were not followed-up on or the provider dropped out because of low referral rates. Language has not been a factor in the township of Mariposa. Two Spanish-speaking families accessed services through an interpreter. A few of the providers also speak Spanish. ICES provides child abuse mandated reporter training for providers. Child abuse reports have been few and usually involve blatant signs of abuse. Reports of child neglect are rarely received; however, maybe because "everyone has their own idea of what neglect is."

There are 2 full-time centers that are on federal land in El Portal and Yosemite. The El Portal center serves a few Spanish-speaking children. They care for infants through school age children. Currently, there are approximately 25 children at each center. Mariposa County also has After School Education & Safety (ASES) and 21st Century programs at the elementary school sites that offer free afterschool care. ICES reports request for child care for school age children is less than half what it used to be. It is believed that parents are now taking advantage of these no-cost programs.[17]
(ICES) [16]

The Human Services Department contracts with ICES to administer Stage 1-2 childcare programs. The County's licensed foster parents provide respite for each other and payment for the respite care is made directly from the placement home to the respite home. Other respite care is funded from the basic Child Welfare Services allocations and from PSSF funds. The County has never used Stage 3 child care for child welfare respite care.

Relational Violence: Domestic violence is highly related to the abuse and neglect of children. Research indicates that child maltreatment occurs in as many as 60% of households where spousal abuse takes place.[18] (Ministry of Health)

The 2007-2013 Mariposa Delta Report pertains to the issue of relational violence in Mariposa County. The report defines relational violence to include child abuse, domestic violence, dating violence and elder abuse. Although bullying is not included in this definition, research indicates that bullying can be both a symptom

17 Ministry of Health, New Zealand.gov.nz, Violence Intervention Programme, Family Violence, Edelson, 1999
16 Infant Child Enrichment Services, Angela Steele

of violence occurring at home and a precursor of violent behavior in relationships later in life. In Mariposa County, gun and knife ownership are the norm, as hunting is both a recreational choice and survival tactic. The increased availability of weapons, such as firearms and knives, common in rural households, also increases both the risk and lethality of domestic attacks. Drug and alcohol use is prevalent. There are community and local norms favorable to their use, and parental attitudes are permissive.[19]

In Mariposa's small communities it is often difficult to keep things private. Crimes often go unreported. The unfortunate result is that, in their own minds, children assume that everyone knows of abuse they are suffering, but no one cares to do anything about it. To illustrate: A child has cigarette burns on his arm when he visits his neighbor, who notices the burns and asks about them. The neighbor, fearing the temper of the child's parent, does not report the suspicion of abuse.[20](Delta Report)

In the County, domestic violence (DV) situations are handled by the Sheriff's Department in collaboration with Mountain Crisis Services, who provides shelter and counseling services. Child Welfare Services will accompany Law Enforcement, when requested, if it is believed that children are involved.

Domestic Violence Services: Mountain Crisis Services provides family violence services to the residents of Mariposa County. In addition, shelter is provided at a secure site to domestic violence victims who are homeless because of flight from abusive situations. For the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, Mountain Crisis reports the following statistics:

- 143 unduplicated, new victims received peer counseling from a fully-trained DV counselor.
- 781 total peer counseling sessions were held.
- 33 unduplicated victims are attending group counseling with 40 total sessions held.
- 198 unduplicated victims were served at the MCS business office.
- 105 unduplicated, new DV victims and their children were sheltered for a total of 2110 bed nights.
- 93 unduplicated victims received court advocacy.
- 135 unduplicated victims received legal advocacy[21]

(Mountain Crisis Services, Inc.)

School Violence: The 2012 Kidsdata Report provides the following look by indicator of school safety in Mariposa County as described in surveys of students during 2008-2010:

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19 www.mariposarespect.org/CALIFORNIA520/DELTA%PREVENTION, 2007-2013

20 www.mariposarespect.org/CALIFORNIA520DELTA%PREVENTION

21 Mountain Crisis Services, Brenda Lewis

- Carrying a Gun to School: 89.7% of 9th graders; 94.9% of 9th graders; and 98.3% of 11th graders have never carried a gun at school.
- Carrying a Knife or Other Weapon: 80.7% of 7th graders; 81.5% of 9th graders; and 81.2% of 11th graders have never carried a knife or other weapon at school.
- Fear of Being Beaten Up at School: 66.4% of 7th graders; 85% of 9th graders; and 92.3% of students have not had fear of being beaten up at school.
- Perceptions of School Safety: 12.6% of 7th graders; 4.1% of 9th graders; and 0.0% of 11th graders consider school to be unsafe or very unsafe.
- Any Reason for Bullying: 49.6% of 7th graders; 57.1% of 9th graders; and 70.3% of 11th graders have not been bullied at school.
- Reports of Gang Membership: 8.6% of 7th graders; 13.8% of 9th graders; and 6% of 11th graders report to have gang membership.[22]

Probation Statistics: Kidsdata.org reports the following: 2010 Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate (Rate per 1,000) – 20 per 1,000; 2010 Juvenile Felony Arrests – 33 (9 for drug and alcohol offenses; 12 for property offenses; 9 for violent crime; 0 for sexual offenses).

Analysis: The County's poverty rate has increased more than 2% since the last CSA. Although improving, the unemployment rate is still high (14.1% in winter and 9.6% - 11.6 % in spring and summer) and many County jobs are seasonal, part-time or have rotating schedules particularly for ones that are lower-paying. Participation in public assistance programs is relatively low. Jobs suitable for teens and persons with lower educational attainment are now filled by unemployed adults and semi-retired persons. Higher education opportunities are limited in the County, and many young adults leave the community to attend college or enter the workforce. Alcohol and drug use is an issue. The population is declining overall; however, the number of residents 60+ is growing. As funding for social services programs is stretched, decisions have to be made locally about whether to allocate funds to programs for seniors or children. In-migration brings additional human and financial resources to the community; however, there are challenges as well. More affluent retired and semi-retired persons moving in from other areas bring with them different expectations regarding community standards, such as what constitutes child abuse and neglect or juvenile delinquent activity or what is a reasonable response to these issues.

Interviews with representatives from Children's System of Care, Wraparound, Differential Response and Probation describe the County has having poverty within all areas of the County; however, there are definable pockets of poverty where the poor may group together. There are few jobs, the level of education in the community is relatively low; and there is little to do, particularly for kids and no additional money in the family to spend on engaging the kids in activities outside of the home. Child abuse and domestic violence tend to go unnoticed until the children are school age and they either come to the attention of Mental Health, Alcohol/Drug, or Child Welfare or to Probation for truancy issues. The

[22] https://kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx

abuse of drugs and/or alcohol is present in almost every case seen by the agencies. Bullying is a significant issue with high school age youth but is appearing in the younger age groups.

B. Child Maltreatment Indicators

Births and Low-Birth Weight: There were 135 births in Mariposa County in 2012. 7 children or 4.8% of births had low-birth weight. Of the births, 114 were white, 8 Hispanics, 4 Native American, 2 of two races and 7 children's ethnicity was not known.

Teen Parents: Between 2004-2010 Mariposa County had 22 teen births. The most recent data available for 2010 shows a teen birth rate of 9 children. In 2010, there were 468 female teens between the ages of 14-17 and 279 between the ages of 11-13 residing in the County. More recent data is not available due to the fact that statistical data reports do not calculate numbers for such small populations. Regarding the teen birth statistics, there is a small number of teen births, there is a small number of female teens of child-bearing age in the County, and there is an absence of birthing services in the County so births typically occur in adjacent counties. Child Welfare Services currently works with one teen mother who resides with relatives in another county. She and her child are doing well and the mother is on track towards higher education. Child Welfare Services plans to continue to provide some level of support to her while she is in college. The Children's System of Care estimates that they have worked with four or five pregnant teens or teen mothers within the last year. These teens are often on their own, live with their boyfriend, or are couch surfing. They are in need of parenting and life skills. [23]
(Health Rankings Report)

Adolescents who become mothers tend to exhibit poorer psychological functioning, lower levels of educational attainment and high school completion, more single parenthood, and less stable employment than those with similar background who postpone childbirth. High stress levels experienced by teen parents, coupled with a lack of social supports and financial instability increase the risk of child abuse and neglect. Teenage mothers are less likely to graduate high school, more likely to be single parents, more likely to have a substance problem, and more likely to live in poverty compared with non-pregnant adolescents.[24](Public Health Institute)

Child Health Factors: The 2012-2013 Children Now Kids data reports the following Mariposa statistics and ranking is compared to other counties in the State by bottom, middle, and top rankings:

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[23] http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/a;;/califronia/2013.rankings

[24] No Time for Complacency: Teen Birth in California, Public Health Institute, Constantine, N., and Nevarez C., No Time for Complacency: Teen Birth in California, refer to May 2008 Update and Original 2003 Report and Supporting Materials, pg.2

- 44% of children who are diagnosed with asthma have been given an asthma management plan (middle)
- 91% of children have a usual source of health care (bottom)
- 90% of children have visited a dentist in the last year (top)
- 79% of children who are in a healthy weight zone (top)[25]
  (Children Now Scorecard)

Immunizations: According to HealthyCal.org, the number of vaccinated children is on a steady decline. HealthyCal.org is an independent, nonprofit journalism organization initially supported with funding from the California Endowment and reporting on public health and community health issues. A growing number of Californians are exempting their children from required immunizations. In California, a personal-belief exemption can be obtainable by the parent signing a statement that "immunizations are against their beliefs". In 2010 (the most recent data available), 90.7% of children were fully vaccinated. In some California counties, the decline in kindergarten immunizations rates has been especially marked, according to state statistics. Calaveras, Mariposa, Nevada, and Tuolumne counties – all located in the northeast corner of the state – had 2010 rates between 73 and 75.3%, the lowest in the state. In 2004, all had immunizations rates above 80%. At some private schools, particularly those that cater to affluent families, immunization rates are in the single digits. It is this population – college educated, middle to upper income – that is most likely to not immunize. Public Health Departments statewide are launching campaigns to try to persuade parents to vaccinate and legislators are trying to make it harder to get exemptions. [26](HealthyCal.org)

According to the Kidsdata report; a child health and wellness report for California Counties produced by the Lucile Packard Foundation; in 2011, 88% of children in Mariposa County had required immunizations. In compliance with AB345 (2010) California Health and Safety Code 120335, the California Department of Public Health reports immunization status for Mariposa County's seventh grade entrants in 9 public schools and 4 private schools. Of the children included in the report, 41 of 48 (85.42%) children had received TDAP immunizations for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussus, 0 entrants had received a personal medical exemption (PME), and 7 (14.58%) had received a personnel belief exemption (PBE). [27]

The California Report, a broadcast/publication by KQED public radio, is underwritten by the California Endowment and reports on health issues for the underserved. In their publication, State of Health, it is reported that California is one of 20 states in the country which allows opting out of immunization requirements because of personal belief exemptions. Statewide, just over 90% of children entering kindergarten has been immunized with the lowest numbers in

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25 http://kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard/aspx

26 www.healthycal.org/archives/Number of vaccinated kids drops steadily in California, March 28, 2013

27 www.cdph.ca.gove/...immunize/.../2012-2013%207th%20Grade%20/m...

Nevada, Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Humboldt Counties whose immunization rates are at 73 to 76%.[28]

The Mariposa Board of Supervisors has approved a contract between Mariposa Public Health and the Immunization Branch of the California Department of Public Health to enter into a 2012-2013 fiscal year contract to implement an immunization campaign with the goal of raising immunization rates for school age children and to raise the vaccination rate of children who are 2 years old from 90% to 95% by the end of 2013..[29]

Family Structure: Family composition is relevant to the development and implementation of social services, health, correctional, and educational services in the County. Of the 7,607 households in Mariposa County, 23.2% are households with children. Single-parent status is an important social indicator associated with the potential for diminished economic self-sufficiency and with challenges in family functioning and well-being. Without sufficient income and a network of support, single head of households may find it a struggle to provide for the family, and themselves individually, economically and socially. There is a limited amount of time to work, maintain a home, feed the family, and support the children in their academic and extra-academic activities and other domains of well-being. Children living with a single parent may be at higher risk of abuse and neglect compared to children living with two biological parents.[30]

Of the 7,607 households in Mariposa County, 1,617 are households which include parents with their own children. Of those, 184 have a male head of household and 434 are headed by a female. The median income for full-time, year-round work in the county is $30,057, or $48,119 for males and $37,780. 29.5% of households with children under age 18 and 12.1% of households with children under 5 have an annual income below the poverty level. 296 families have annual incomes of less than $10,000 and 188 families have annual incomes of between $10,000 and $14,999. The poverty rates for male, single head of households with children under 18 is 8.5% and for households with children under 5 is 0%. In comparison, single, female head of households have a poverty rate of 38.9%. For those households with children under 18 the poverty rate 60% and for households with children under 5 the rate is 40.2%. This compares to California rates of 34.1% and 38.4%. In a report by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) entitled the Living Wage Calculation, the Mariposa County hourly living wage for categories of 1 adult through 2 adults with 3 children shows the hourly living wage for households with one adult and one child through 3 children to be $19.84, $23.45, and $29.59 while the poverty wage is $7, $8.80, and $10.60 for the same group. An annual living wage income before taxes for 1 adult and 1 through 3 children would be $41,272, $48,775, and $61,552. Only a small number of jobs in Mariposa County

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28 blogs.kqed.org/state of health/.../bill-would-make-opt-out-a-little-tougher/

29 County of Mariposa Board of Supervisors resolution 11-10581, ca-mariposacounty.civicplus.com/Document/View.aspx?DID=8395

30 livingwage.mit.edu/counties/06043

offer this level of compensation and those jobs are usually available for persons with higher educational attainment.

Housing costs and availability: 70.9% of Mariposa residents live in a house; 6.5% live in multi-unit housing, 21.8% (2,212) live in mobile homes, and .4% (44) live in RVs, vans, trailers, or fifth wheel vehicles some of which are substandard and depending on the size of household/family may be overcrowded. 44.8% of residences are 25-35 years old and may require the maintenance and cost expenditure required of aging homes. The median-value of owner-occupied housing units is $248,900, compared to $421,600 in California. 6.5% of housing units are in multi-unit structures, compared to 30.8% in California.[31] (U.S. Census). Rents range from $605 for one bedroom to $1,341 for 4 bedrooms. (Kidsdata.org) The Mariposa General Housing plan cites three areas of need that concern families: a need for more affordable housing, including mobile and manufactured homes; a need for rehabilitation of substandard housing since many of the area's homes are very old; and a need for housing for persons with special needs. There are no emergency shelters in the County. Individuals and families are assisted on a case-by-case basis.[32] (Mariposa County General Plan). Habitat for Humanity has started operating in the County and has raised two homes through its "Brush with Kindness" program.[33] (Habitat for Humanity)

In 9/11, the Section 8 Housing Program in the County was transferred to Stanislaus County.[34] (BOS) Since that time, Human Services and Probation staff has found it much more difficult to assist clients with housing assistance. In the past, when the Section 8 Housing Choice program was available in Mariposa County, it was possible to help parents trying to get their children returned by Child Welfare Services and Probation to have priority status on waiting lists for housing vouchers. That priority is no longer available.

2-1-1 calls: Mariposa County does not have a 2-1-1 system. The Human Services Department does have a help line "Just in Case" that receives calls regarding questions about services and the hotline receives referrals for child welfare services, adult protective services, and behavioral health and recovery services. An analysis of these calls is not available.

Substance Abuse and Drug Court: Substance abuse is a predominate issue affecting the well-being of Mariposa residents and its families and children. To address these issues County organizations such as the Court, the Sheriff's Office, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Probation are pursuing a Drug Court Enhancement Grant of over $1Million dollars to augment services in the community. The following are excerpts from that grant application which describe the need and possible solutions and approaches to the problem:

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31 http://quickfacts.census.gov

32 Mariposascounty.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/20053. 2013 General Plan Report, 4/12/13

33 www.mariposahabitat.org/brush-with-kindness

34 Mariposacounty.org/documentcenter/home/view/boardofsupervisorsagenda,9-20-11

The Mariposa County Drug Court Enhancement Project is a multi-agency, collaborative approach to expand and enhance Mariposa County's Adult Drug Court. Situated in a small rural county in California, efforts will include increasing access to treatment services and improving participant outcomes through Drug Court enhancements, including increased case coordination and the implementation of comprehensive evidence-based practices and strategies. The Project will target adult offenders who are high risk/high need, diagnosed with a substance use disorder, and assessed to have a need for immediate treatment, as well as a likelihood they will benefit from treatment. Drug Court participants in Mariposa County currently face multiple barriers to participation including poverty, (difficulty meeting basic needs such as housing, food, healthcare, etc.), limited transportation options, lack of familial/social support, and the impact of trauma. Due to the County's small overall population, all those eligible for Drug Court will be served through the Project. Fifty individuals per year will participate in the Project, totaling 250 during the 5-year project period. In order to increase access to treatment, the Project will: a) provide transportation or transportation assistance to treatment activities; b) provide services in the remote, hard to reach areas of the County; c) provide increased case management to dismantle life stressors and barriers; and d) provide financial incentives (gas cards, drug testing fee waivers, etc.) and funding for enhanced treatment (residential treatment and opiate replacement therapy) for those who need extra support and treatment. Services will be expanded to include two populations formerly not included in Drug Court – those who live in remote areas and therefore cannot meet the treatment compliance requirements of Drug Court and repeat offenders with Driving under the Influence (DUI) charges. Enhancements to the Program will include: a) increased access to and implementation of evidence-based practices (individual and group treatment, relapse prevention, recovery support services, family engagement/education, residential treatment, and opiate replacement therapy); b) increased case monitoring and coordination amongst Drug Court Team members; and c) increased training and implementation of trauma-informed care strategies into the Project. It is anticipated that the following outcomes will be achieved as a result of expansion and enhancement efforts: a) Participation in Drug Court will increase by 25% - from 40 individuals currently to 50 per year; b) Participant success/graduation from Drug Court will increase from 57% currently to 75% with the addition of Program enhancements; c) Participant relapse rates while in the Program will decrease from current levels; d) Participant recidivism for alcohol/drug related offenses will decrease from current levels; and e) Participant psycho-social functioning will improve as a result of participation in Program. Acting as the lead agency for the Drug Court Team, Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services is currently requesting $1,180,010 over the 5 year Project period to implement these expansion and enhancement efforts. It is anticipated that these efforts will improve the lives of those served, while increasing the overall safety and health of Mariposa County.

Mariposa County is a rural mountainous community, located in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada of Central California and home to Yosemite National Park. Despite its majestic beauty and wealth of natural resources,

community members experience many of the same challenges facing rural America - a proportionally high incidence of alcohol and drug abuse, high poverty and unemployment, lack of educational and job opportunities, and isolation from critical services and programs to both prevent and treat substance abuse and mental illness. The current Project seeks to target individuals who have come in contact with law enforcement as a result of crimes associated with substance use and are referred to the County's Adult Drug Court Program. Over the past 3 years, there have been 121 participants in the Drug Court Program.

Population of Focus: *There are several disparities between population of focus and the overall demographic profile of the community. Whereas, men and women roughly equal each other in number in the general population, men comprise 63% of the Drug Court participants. With regards to age, as compared to the overall population, Drug Court participants tend to fall into equal proportions in their 20's (26%), 30's (25%), 40's (25%) and 50's (22%). The majority of the population of Mariposa County tends to either be under 18 (18%) or over 50 (49%), showing that young to middle-aged adults (20 to 50 year olds) are disproportionately represented in the Drug Court population. Both of these findings are not unlike disparities found in other offender populations.*

Extent of the Need: *Statistics indicate that Mariposa County has substantial risk factors surrounding AOD use/abuse:*

Indicator	***Mariposa Rate (per 100,000 total population)***	***California Rate (Per 100,000 total population)***	***Statewide Ranking (of 58 counties. Higher number = higher relative problems)***
Retail Liquor Licenses (accessibility)	*390.4*	*191.6*	*46th*
Adult Arrests for Alcohol Violations	*9.6*	*5.9*	*35th*
Adult DUI Arrests	*11.4*	*8.4*	*33rd*
Adult AOD Treatment Admissions	*12.3*	*8.5*	*47th*
Deaths due to AOD	*41.5*	*26.5*	*52nd*

Ethnicity and Race: *Mariposa County has a predominantly White (82%) population, followed by Hispanic/Latino (10%), and then Native American (3%) (US Census 2012). Enrolled in the Drug Court Program over the past 2 years are a disproportionate number of Native American participants (13% - more than 4 times their representation in general population). This is most likely due to historical patterns of drinking as a coping mechanism in the Native American community. The Hispanic population is disproportionately underrepresented in this number (6% in Drug Court as compared to 10% in the general population). Although data has not been kept as to those individuals who have been excluded*

from Drug Court, it is speculated that due to language barriers in the Courts and amongst treatment providers, mono-lingual Spanish speaking individuals have historically not participated in Drug Court.

Economic Factors: *It is clear that one of the most significant demographic characteristics disproportionately faced by Drug Court participants is poverty and unemployment. According to the US Census 2012, 14.4% of individuals live below the federal poverty level. Amongst Drug Court participants 63% between 2010 and 2012 reported incomes falling below the federal poverty level. Additionally, only 11% of Drug Court participants report having full-time employment, as opposed to 49% in the County. Poverty is one of the primary disparities that Drug Court participants face, impacting their ability to access treatment. Specific access barriers associated with poverty in Mariposa County include:*

- *Limited Transportation – it is estimated that 85% of Drug Court participants over the past three years have had barriers associated with transportation. Due to the large geographic area in the County, coupled with winding roads that can be treacherous in the winter months, rising gas costs over the past few years, and little or no public transportation options, most participants have struggled to get to treatment services and to court.*
- *Limited Resources to Meet Financial Demands of Treatment – the costs associated with attending Drug Court (treatment co-pays, drug testing fees, transportation costs, etc.) have made it difficult for many participants to complete the program.*
- *Lack of Access to Higher Level Treatments – there currently are no residential treatment facilities in Mariposa County and access to Opiate Replacement Therapy locally will be available starting June of 2013, when a new health care clinic will move into the community. For many participants, insurance will not cover either of these treatments. For many participants, this higher level of treatment is required to pave the way towards ongoing success in their recovery.*

Confounding Problems: *In addition to disparities in their ability to access treatment, Drug Court participants face other confounding problems. Almost 100% of Drug Court participants have experienced some trauma during their lifetime, be it violence, exposure to violence or the impact of other adverse childhood experiences. Additionally, a large percentage of the participants (approximately 90%) have a co-occurring mental disorder, often which is undiagnosed and untreated at the time they enter the Drug Court Program. Finally, approximately 50% of Drug Court participants experience at least one major physical health concern. Taken together, these issues create multiple barriers for participants accessing and staying involved with treatment.*

Gaps in Services/Access Barriers: *Small rural counties share these commonalities: access to alcohol and drugs by individuals of all ages, coupled with the social norms around the acceptance of use, make increased level of use and abuse a norm. Additionally, small rural communities often experience a dearth of services due to small population sizes, limited funding options and increased access barriers.*

- *Limited Treatment Options –as previously mentioned the County currently has no residential treatment programs, no Opiate Replacement Therapy, and no sober living facility. Additionally, due to limitations in funding, the County alcohol and drug treatment provider (Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services) is limited to providing only group SUD treatment except in limited circumstances.*
- *Limited Recovery Support Services – although Mariposa Heritage House currently operates a Recovery Support Center, their limited funding has made it difficult to provide the level of services and supports often needed by the high risk/high need Drug Court participants.*
- *Limited Case Management – lack of staff time to provide case management and advocacy has made it difficult to provide the comprehensive case management services needed by the Drug Court participants who face multiple challenges in their lives.*
- *Lack of Family Support – there are currently no services to engage family members of Drug Court participants so they may provide a strong network of recovery support. This limitation has made it difficult for Drug Court participants to maintain their sobriety once their Program is complete. Often family members are also experiencing active chemical use which puts extra stress onto the Drug Court participant. By supporting the family as a whole, there is a greater chance of breaking the generational addiction cycle.*
- *Lack of Public Transportation – with extremely little public transportation and a vast geographic region to serve, individuals without a vehicle or gas money find it very challenging to get to and from services or court appearances.*

Proposed Evidence-Based Service/Practice:

Goals and Objectives: *The purpose of the proposed Project is enhance and expand the coordination and provision of treatment services to Drug Court participants in order to support them in obtaining and sustaining their recovery from alcohol and drugs. It is believed that over the life of this program, Mariposa County may see some of the funds needed to pay for Program services decrease. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, although still uncertain, it is anticipated that there may be future efforts to fund an increased level of alcohol and drug treatment services or at least make these services more affordable to those without public assistance or Medi-Cal. Additionally, there are efforts within the County to develop a locally based Sober Living Facility. Although still several years off, it is hoped that having a local program of this nature will allow the County to provide an enhanced level of detoxification support, thereby reducing reliance out-of-of county residential treatment programs. Additionally, the County's Drug Court Program has never had the benefit of conducting performance evaluation. It is anticipated that by demonstrating positive outcomes for this Program, both local support and other grant support for these efforts can be enhanced. Finally, Mariposa County has been working to increase poverty reduction efforts and is in the process of starting a Continuum of Care. This activity will make Mariposa County eligible for increased federal funding through the Department of Housing and Urban*

Development and other State funding sources. By developing increased programming for homelessness and poverty reduction, it is hoped to decrease barriers that prevent individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) from maintaining their sobriety over time.

Other Program Revenue: *Over the past several years, Mariposa County and other counties in California have lost substance abuse funding which previously offset the costs of Drug Court Treatment. Under the new re-alignment, Mariposa County receives very little funding to support all Alcohol and Drug treatment. Additionally, Mariposa County receives a mere $10,500 allocation under Drug Medi-Cal – the amount which can be billed services for Medi-Cal eligible recipients- not only in Drug Court but for all substance abuse treatment. To further exacerbate this, drug testing and analysis was previously paid for out of state block grant funds, which no longer support this testing. If individuals are eligible for Medi-Cal, Mariposa County Behavioral Health Services can bill for the initial assessments, group sessions, and exit interviews. Mariposa County will continue to bill for these services. Individual treatment, case management and case coordination are not currently covered by Medi-Cal or any other grant revenue source and therefore, Mariposa County Behavioral Health Services is currently requesting Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Act (SAMHSA) to support these program enhancements. Sixty-two percent of Drug Court participants live below the federal poverty level, therefore making it unrealistic that any significant share of cost can be shouldered by participants. In fact, one barrier to success in Drug Court has been participants' inability to pay for their share of services or for transportation related costs to come to and from services multiple times per week. Many Drug Court participants do not qualify for receiving Medi-Cal or 3rd party insurance to cover the costs associated with Residential Treatment or Opiate Replacement Therapy. For this reason SAMHSA's support is requested to provide this service for individuals who are determined to require this for their ongoing recovery, but lack the resources to pay for this. Finally, Mariposa Heritage House is a non-profit provider that currently receives the majority of its funding through very small foundation grants and community donations. For the past year, Mariposa Heritage House has operated with an overall operating budget of less than $15,000 and has been subsidized through domestic violence funding or probation funding to focus recovery support efforts on specific clientele. Although this has been enough to keep the doors open, it has not been enough to fully implement a good level of recovery supports, case management assistance, peer counselor training, or family engagement strategies. Mariposa Heritage House services are free to the community and Mariposa Heritage House is not able to bill Medi-Cal or private insurance for services, however, this will be explored as a future sustainability option.*

Health Insurance Enrollment*: Mariposa County Behavioral Health Services is part of the Mariposa County Human Services Agency. This agency is responsible for facilitating the enrollment into Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid system) and other health related insurance programs serving low to moderate income individuals. Additionally, under a new project to expand coverage under Health*

Care Reform, community based organizations in Mariposa County will be trained to help individuals and families determine their eligibility for the various health care coverage options in California and start the enrollment process in a statewide online database (known as C-4). Drug Court participants will all be screened for health care coverage needs and a Drug Court Team member will assist them in the enrollment process, under the guidance of Mariposa County Human Services Eligibility Department. [35]

Alcohol and drug-related crimes are a significant problem in Mariposa County. Between January 2011 to January 2013, the Sheriff's Department reported the following charges: 379 charges involved being or driving "under the influence" of drugs and alcohol or public intoxication; 80 charges for possession of an uncontrolled substance (this would have been higher before implementation of the Compassionate Care Act for Marijuana); 51 charges involving cultivation of drugs; and 21 charges involving drug sales. The Mariposa branch of the California Highway Patrol for 2012 reported 46 charges of "driving under the influence (DUI) and 13 vehicle collisions involving alcohol and other substances.

Between 2010 and 2012, the Probation Department and Law Enforcement, through an Anti-Drug Abuse Enforcement Program, reported the following: 349 investigations were initiated involving illicit drugs. Of these investigations, 310 arrests were made, of which 254 resulted in a conviction. During this time period, 193,137 Marijuana plants were seized (valued at $5,370,000). Of the 236 cases referred to Mariposa County Child Welfare Services in 2011-12, approximately 70% involved substance abuse on the part of one or both parents. When substance abuse was a factor in the removal of children, the continued abuse of substances was the predominant reason for not reunifying the family within the regulatory time period.

The California chapter of the Annie C. Casey Foundation's Children Now produces an annual report which compares California counties by key indicators of child health and well-being. Data is collected through review of published reports and surveys of school children and compiled for the annual Kids Data Book. The 2012 Kidsdata survey for students in Grades 7-12 finds for the students that completed the survey the following: 12.8% of 7th graders, 8.8% of 9th graders and 9.2% of 11th graders have used alcohol and other drugs from 1 to 20 or more days on school property in the last 30 days. Of those, 33.3% of 7th graders, 35.2% of 9th graders and 55.1% of 11th graders have used substances in the last 30 days. 8.0% of 7th graders; 13.1% of 9th graders; and 14.9% of 11th graders drink until they feel it a lot or get drunk. 14% of 7th graders; 18.5% of 9th graders; and 32.4% of 11th graders report that they have consumed five or more drinks of alcohol within a couple of hours for one to more than 20 days with 14.2% of students in grades 7, 9, and 11 reporting this usage for 20 or more days in a month. 25.8% of 9th graders and 24.8% of 11th graders report that they have ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, or driven a car after drinking alcohol. 15.6% of 7th graders; 7% of 9th graders; and 13.8% of 11th

[35] (Mariposa County Drug Court Enhancement Grant mariposacountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?=Type=4&id)

graders admit to having used inhalants between one and seven or more times in their lifetime. 20% of 9th graders and 33.9% of 11th graders report their usual level of marijuana or other drug use as moderate or very high. For marijuana use, 15.8% of 7th graders; 29.6% of 9th graders; and 78.7% of 11th graders report the number of times that they have used marijuana with the highest % reported for 7 or more times. 24.8% of 9th graders and 22.8% of 11th graders reported using prescription drugs recreationally one to 7 or more times.[36] (Kidsdata)

Mariposa Safe Families Inc. and the Mariposa County Alcohol and Drug division of BHRS have developed a Strategic Prevention Plan for the county's youth. Their 2013 Strategic Prevention Plan states the following:

Mariposa Safe Families and the Mariposa Alcohol and Drug Strategic Prevention Plan Goals and Objectives for 2013-2020 cites the following findings: Native American, African American, Asian and Pacific Islanders as well as other groups exists within the County but do not meet the threshold for providing targeted services. The Hispanic population has increased and their needs are just now being addressed. Alcohol is Mariposa's primary problem at this time and has shown escalation that starts in the 5th grade. By the age of 12, 25% of county children have used alcohol and an additional 19% of children between the ages of 13 and 14 have used alcohol. Marijuana is Mariposa's secondary problem with 30% of Mariposa 9th grade population reporting the use of marijuana before the age of 14. From their perspective, alcohol and drug use impacts the community by fostering an environment of hopelessness within families. The following objectives have been set for the plan period:

Identified Problem 1: Under-aged and hazardous alcohol consumption is a problem in Mariposa County. Objective 1.1: By 2018, reduce early initiation of alcohol use by 5% for students having a full drink by both age 12 and age 14. Strategy: Mariposa Safe Families will use the Club Live Program to continue getting the dangers of drinking out to the students at their individual school sites by holding Rallies, bringing in speakers and programs that show the dangers of drinking and the effects it has on their bodies. Objective 1.2: By 2018, decrease the perceived risk of alcohol consumption of 11th grade students reporting slight or no harm by 10% for drinking occasionally, and by 5% for 5 or more drinks, once or twice a week. Strategy: MSF will hold Town Hall meetings educating both students and parents of the dangers of drug and alcohol use. Objective 1.3: By 2018, increase 11th grade students' personal disapproval of someone their age having 1 to 2 drinks per day. Strategy: MSF will work in conjunction with the Friday Night Live Program to bring-in programs such as DUI court to help reinforce proper attitudes towards drinking within the local high school, showing the kids the consequences for improper attitudes towards drinking.

Identified Problem 2: Youth marijuana use is an increasing problem in Mariposa County. Objective 2.1: By 2018, reduce early initiation of marijuana by 5% for youth age 12 and under and for youth ages 13 and 14. Strategy: MSF will

[36] http://kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx

continue to educate students through the assistance of the local school districts by providing education in the form of speakers, materials, activities such as Red Ribbon week and rallies. Objective 2.2: By 2018, reduce the risk of marijuana use by 5% for 11th grade students reporting slight or no harm from smoking occasionally, and for those who smoke once or twice a week. Strategy: MSF will continue to work with Friday Night Live, the local youth drop in center (Ethos) and with the schools to educate youth as to the dangers of drug usage, especially gateway substances that lead to marijuana use. Prevention efforts will include hosting activities, and putting forth information out into the community and schools regarding the dangers. Effort will be made to find programs to utilize that show the dangers and outcomes of drug use both on bodies as well as overall life. The goal is to give youth healthy alternative choices in activities that allow them to see a better outcome. Objective 2.3: By 2018 increase youths' personal disapproval of someone their age smoking once a month by 5%. Strategy: MSF, the local schools, Friday Night Live Partnership and students, and the local health department; will hold social norm campaigns that show the results of marijuana use and why it should not be acceptable behaviour. Through spreading the message of not smoking and the dangers of tobacco use, it will help to keep kids from marijuana use. Objective 2.4: By 2017, reduce 11th graders perceived availability of marijuana by 5%. Strategy: MSF in conjunction with other partners at Friday Night Live and the local Sheriff's Department will work with the students in the community to show them the consequences of marijuana use, and educate them on dangers that exist for growing and distribution. Law enforcement will educate the youth on the laws concerning substance use and why those laws exist. Objective 2.5: By 2017 reduce by 5% those 11th graders who perceive their friends are using marijuana, using the previously mentioned strategies.

Goal 3: By 2020, create and utilize a sustainability plan that leverages current Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) funding by building capacity in the 8 identified areas. Objective 3.1: By 2014, have a functioning community coalition that has produced a sustainability plan for the County's prevention efforts. Strategy: Cultivate and recruit community champions and leaders to serve the Coalition's Board. Begin working with Coalition members to better understand the challenges facing the prevention plan in Mariposa County. Determine if changes are necessary to the current Strategic Plan. Objective 2.4: By 2014, require training on sustainability planning for all County funded organizations and, by 2015 require all of these organizations to produce and implement sustainability plans for agencies with Substance Abuse funding. Objective 3.3: By 2018, address the priority issues identified for capacity building. Identify champions and leaders, building broader community support, developing a process for demonstrating success (including using evaluations) and increasing resources to leverage current Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment funding. Strategy: MSF in conjunction and partnership with Mariposa County public agencies will work together to put the word out into the community as to the different success and needs that the community has in regards to substance abuse and treatment. Work will be done to bridge the gaps in service and overcome barriers that may have previously existed. Meetings will be held on a

regular basis to look at and review various needs. Support will be given to coalitions and Boards that are diversified and contain key players from agencies and community organizations.

Mariposa Safe Families and the Alcohol and Drug division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services operates a Friday Night Live and Club Live Program for at risk teens in high school and middle school age. (Mariposa Middle School was closed a year ago due to declining school population) OCAP dollars are not used directly for these programs. The programs are used to complete prevention work in the area of drugs and alcohol. Freely-shared information from these youth about what is going on in their lives, in the schools, and in the community, provides feedback about service effectiveness and gaps.

Mental Health: Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services reports the following statistics for 2012 for clients serviced: 465 children ages 0-5; 772 youth ages 6-17; 1,339 individuals ages 18-64; and 437 individuals age 60+. According to these statistics, County Mental Health services were provided to 61.8% of the County's children under the age of 5; 39% of children under the age of 18; 12% of the population between the ages of 18 and 64; and less than 1% for persons over age 64. BHRS Services has redefined the population served to comply with state and federal funding restrictions and county oversight requirements. Persons in crisis are always served. BHRS, a division of the Human Services Department, provides most of the mental health services to the County.

Behavioral Health Data regarding Youth: Suicide/Self-Inflicted Injury (2010): 1 male (age 20-24); Self-Inflicted injury hospitalizations - none. Students surveyed indicate the following; Depression-Related Feelings: 44.0% of 7th graders; 27.0% of 9th graders; and 34.8% of 11th graders; 2011 Behavioral Health Hospitalizations for Mental Health Issues: 19 children ages 5-14 and 68 children ages 15-19 compared to 15 and 70 in 2010. (Kidsdata)

Children with Disabilities: Kidsdata reports that in 2012, 1.3% of children ages 1-21 in Mariposa County were actively enrolled in California Children's Services programs. 370 children were enrolled in special education in 2012. This number is down from 446 in 2010. The following breakout is by disability type: autism (22); deaf (1); emotional disturbance (20); hard of hearing (2); intellectual disability (18); learning disability (179); multiple disability (2); orthopedic disability (3); other health impairment (34); speech or language impairment (86); visual impairment (3). (Kidsdata)

Rates of law enforcement calls for domestic violence: In 2012, the Mariposa Sheriff's office responded to 148 reports of domestic violence, an average of 12.3 per month. The trend since 2004 has been going down. 166 reports of assault and battery were received, an average of 13.8 incidents per month, slightly

higher than the two prior years. Crimes by children were 38 or an average of 3.2 per month and higher than seven prior years.[37] (Mariposa Sheriff's Office)

Rates of emergency room visits for child victims of avoidable injuries: Kidsdata reports that there were 18 hospitalizations for unintentional causes for children ages 0-20. No data was reported for intentional injuries.[38] (Kidsdata)

Analysis: The rate of poverty has increased more than 2% since the last CSA. Although improving, unemployment at 14.9% in winter and 9.6% to 11.6% during spring and summer months is still high. Many jobs are seasonal, part-time or have rotating shifts, particularly with lower-paying. Jobs suitable for teens and persons with lower educational attainment are now filled by unemployed adults and semi-retired persons. The median income in the County is 20% lower than the median family income for California. 5.7% of the population has less than $10,000 annual income and 43% of residents have annual income less than 200% of the federal poverty level. The income of the remaining population is relatively high, with Mariposa County placing 26th of California counties for per-capita income. The child poverty rate at 24% has increased 7% since 2010; 1% higher than the child poverty rate for California, placing the County at 29th in the State for this well-being indicator. Families with single head of households, particularly female head of households, have increased. The number of households in which grandparents and other caregivers are parenting minors has also increased.

The number of students attending elementary and high school is decreasing, resulting in the closure of the Middle School last year. Higher education opportunities are limited in the County, and many young adults leave the community to attend college or enter the workforce, often at lower-paying jobs. Participation in the public assistance programs is low when compared to the presence of poverty in the community. CalWORKs participation at 3.2% is slightly less than that of the State. CalFresh participation ranks 42nd among counties in participation by those low-income residents estimated to be eligible for benefits. If participation was maximized, the estimated value to the County in food purchasing power would be $2.86 million, if food was purchased in Mariposa County and not in adjacent areas. Alcohol and drug use is a prevalent problem among county residents and treatment funding and resources are inadequate. The population is declining overall; however, the number of residents 60+ is growing. As funding for social services programs is stretched, decisions have to be made locally about whether to allocate funds to programs for seniors or children. In-migration brings additional human and financial resources to the community; however, there are challenges as well. More affluent retired and semi-retired persons moving in from other areas bring with them different expectations regarding community standards, such as what constitutes child abuse and neglect or juvenile delinquent activity or what is a reasonable response to these issues.

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[37] www/mariposacounty.org/Departments/Sherriff's Office

[38] http://kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx

Interviews with representatives from Children's System of Care, Wraparound, Differential Response and Probation describe the County has having poverty within all areas of the County; however, there are definable pockets of poverty where the poor may group together. There are few jobs, the level of education in the community is relatively low, there is little to do, particularly for kids and no additional money in the family to spend on engaging the kids in activities outside of the home. Child Abuse and domestic violence tend to go unnoticed until the children are school age and they either come to the attention of Mental Health, Alcohol/Drug, or Child Welfare or to Probation for truancy issues. The abuse of drugs and/or alcohol is present in almost every case seen by the agencies. Bullying is a significant issue with high school age youth but is appearing in the younger age groups.

The social service provider community is responding to the issues cited above with initiatives, strategic plans, and program development. Some of these include the Prosperity Initiative, the Bridges Program, the Drug Court grant application and the Substance Use Prevention Plan for Youth. All call for the need for collective impact achieved through collaboration and resource maximization.

C. Child Welfare and Probation Population:

Number of children with one or more allegations: Mariposa County's population of children under age 18 was 3,238 children from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. CWS allegations concerning 291 children were received during the same time period. This is a 76% increase over the 165 referrals received during the last CSA review month. Stratification by age group shows the following: under 1 (19); ages 1-2 (35); ages 3-5 (54); ages 6-10 (89); ages 11-15 (72); and ages 16-17 (22).

Allegations broken-down by race and child population/children with allegations are: Black 12/6; White 2,334/212; Latino 518/41; Asian 27/1; Native American 90/15; Multi-Race 155/0. (Data on 16 children was missing.) Allegation by gender is almost equally divided (146 female, 141 male). Zip code/regions which show number of allegations in descending order from highest to lowest: (75-100 percentile); zip codes 95325 (Hornitos), 95338 (Mariposa), (50-74 percentile) 95311 (Coulterville), 96306 (Catheys Valley); (25-49 percentile) 95318 (El Portal), 95389 (Yosemite Valley); (0-24 percentile) 93623 (Fishcamp). No data is recorded for zip codes 95345 and 95389. A quick look at Hornitos and Mariposa zip codes with an allegation rate in the 75-100% percentile shows, as with ethnicity, how small numbers can skew statistical analysis and can endanger confidentiality. Hornitos has a small population of 75 people with 7 of its 34 households with children under age 18. Four are single parent households. There are 14 children under age 18 and 2 youth between ages 18 and 24. Nine persons are of ethnic backgrounds other than White. Mariposa Township (95338) with the zip code area with the largest population has 2,173 people. 87.2% are White. This township has the largest population of Hispanics (215) and Native American (105) persons. 237 households have children under age 18. 140

households are headed by a female single parent and 40 are headed by a male head of household. There are 434 children under the age of 18 and 130 youth who are between 18 and 24.

Number of allegations by type: The majority of allegations received were because of general neglect (238), followed by: physical abuse (22), sexual abuse (10) severe neglect (7), at risk, sibling abused (7), caretaker absence/incapacity (5), and emotional abuse (2).

Number of entries stratified by age, ethnicity, and zip code: 33 children entered foster care as the result of a child welfare investigation during 2011. Those 33 children were from the following age ranges: under 1 (1); ages 1-2 (5); ages 3-5 (6); ages 6-10 (8); ages 11-15 (13); ages 16-17 (0). Three children were Black; 24 White; 3 Latino; and 3 Native American. Entries into foster care by zip code were seen for Mariposa 95338 at the 50-74 percentile and Coulterville 95311 at the 25-40 percentile rate.

Number of children entering probation with an order: At this time, there are no Probation youth in out-of-county placement; however, there is one youth on "runaway status", with a Court order for placement. There are currently four probation youth and their families participating in Wraparound services.

Number of ICWA eligible children – There are 3 ICWA eligible children being served by CWS.

Number of substantiated referrals stratified by age, ethnicity, and zip code: Of the 291 allegations of child abuse, 120 were substantiated. These substantiations included: 8 for children under 1; 17 for ages 1-2; 25 for ages 3-5; 32 for ages 6-10; 31 for ages 11-15; 7 for ages 16-17. By ethnic breakdown, 4 children were Black; 91 White; 16 Latino; 0 Asian; 8 Native American; and 0 Multi-Race. Mariposa County has a substantiation rate experience in the 75-100 percentile.

Child Welfare and Probation Population Analysis: This section reviews the County's performance on the outcome and process measures that comprise the California Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability System (COAS). The 2012 Quarter 2 Extract for January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 was used to analyze County performance on all included performance measurements and was the quarterly report that provides the base line data for the 2013-2017 C-CFSR review period. (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports) In addition, data recorded and graphed in SafeMeasures was used in some areas to illustrate the County's performance trend over time beginning in 2009 through December 2012. (National Council on Crime and Delinquency Children's Research Center SafeMeasures) (http://safemeasures.org/ca) Both sources of information are drawn from CWS/CMS data but from different points in time. Quarterly data from UC Berkeley is a retrospective look at CWS/CMS data while SafeMeasures data is updated biweekly and suggested patterns and the conclusions drawn from them may change. Another source for performance comparisons was data

contained in the previous County Self-Assessment Plan which discussed the County's performance in the 2009 through 2011 time period.

Demographic information and client activity counts have been included to demonstrate how small sample numbers can affect statistics and performance outcome measures and to refute any assumptions of disproportionate or disparate treatment of clients by factors such as age, ethnicity, or gender. In addition to the data skewing that may have weaken the analysis contained in this report, slight differences in numbers/percentages may appear throughout the document when similar or the same type of information has been drawn from different sources reporting information based on different points in time. This report provides a snapshot of the County during a particular period of time. Recent reports may show different data numbers, but the trends reflected in this report remain valid.

In the January 1 to December 31, 2011 period, 3,238 children resided in Mariposa County. Allegations by zip code were received in the following order (highest to lowest): 95338, 95345, and 95326 (highest); 95311 and 95306; 95318 and 95389; and 93023 (lowest). Two hundred ninety one (291) allegations of suspected child abuse were received and 120 of those were substantiated. Thirty three (33) substantiations resulted in entry into the foster care system. These statistics resulted in an 89.9% allegation incidence per 1,000 children, a 37.2% substantiation rate, and a 27.5% rate of foster care entry per substantiation. This compares to a 51.9%, 9.6%, and 34.5% rate for California. These statistics show a high rate of allegations and substantiations in Mariposa County when compared to California statistics and a 7% lower rate of foster care entries. Other counties with similar results were Del Norte, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Mendocino, Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Glenn, Trinity, Tuolumne, Calaveras, and Kern. Except for Kern and Mendocino, all of these counties are small and may give credence to the theory of statistical skewing.

Age group	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Children with Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allega-tions	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Substan-tiations
Under 1	148	19	128.4	8	54.1	42.1	1	6.8	12.5
1-2	306	35	114.3	17	55.5	48.6	5	16.3	29.4
3-5	484	54	111.5	25	51.6	46.3	6	12.4	24.0
6-10	827	89	107.6	32	38.7	36.0	8	9.7	25.0
11-15	1,019	72	70.6	31	30.4	43.1	13	12.8	41.9
16-17	453	22	48.6	7	15.5	31.8	0	0.0	0.0
Total	3,238	291	89.9	120	37.1	41.2	33	10.2	27.5

Of the 291 allegations received, the majority (245) concerned allegations of general (238) and severe (7) neglect. Of those, 110 were substantiated. For the most part, lack of parental support for daily health, nutrition and supervision needs, poor parenting and oversight, substandard living conditions, the disability

or mental illness of one or both parents, or substance use/abuse were contributors to the general neglect of children. The other types of allegations received were for physical abuse (22), sexual abuse (10), emotional abuse (2), caretaker absence/incapacity (5), and at risk, sibling abused (7). Fifty-four were assessed only or evaluated out, ninety-two resulted in a determination of unfounded and twenty-five were inconclusive.[39] Since over 59% of all allegations resulted in a determination of being assessed out, unfounded, or inconclusive, it suggests several areas for County review: community awareness and mandated reporter training; active and effective use of Differential Response services, and hotline and social worker training on safety and risk assessment. The regular completion and use of SDM tools may also support social worker efforts.

Child Welfare Services Supervisors and Managers have a policy of encouraging least invasive intervention, preferring to encourage working with the family through approaches such as differential response, voluntary family maintenance and inconclusive findings rather than the more invasive approach of court involvement and child removal. This approach is consistent with the goal of keeping families together and since the County has a shortage of foster and group homes, the approach is also in line with local resources. The success of the approach is reliant upon adequate social worker resources and supportive department and community programs such as differential response and wraparound services to better ensure child safety and family well-being. Small counties such as Mariposa are challenged in both areas and the result of these shortages may be reflected in recurrence rates. In contrast, Mariposa County has achieved a 100% performance rate in no recurrence of maltreatment while in foster care and the Probation Department has seen success with placing juveniles in least restrictive placements and often at home by providing wraparound services through the Behavioral Heath Division of Human Services. Child Welfare Services has had relatively few children enrolled in Mariposa Wraparound.

The work of Child Welfare Services social workers is said to be a job of decision-making. Workers are entrusted with responsibility to quickly assess risk and safety issues of children brought to the attention of the agency. They are asked to decide when it is safe to reunite families who have experienced the removal of their child(ren). They are encouraged by Federal, State, and Department policy to err on the side of keeping families together, supported by local supportive services. They are challenged by the limitation of local resources. The weight of making these decisions can hang heavy on the workers, some of whom have only recently graduated from college and have no prior experience with some of the issues that they face. The wrong decision can have the multiple effects of children being harmed, families being disrupted, and county, department, and personal liability. Strong support and review from supervisors and managers and clear agency policies are important to help ameliorate these concerns.

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[39] Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M, Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Yee, H., Hightower, L., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Henry, C. (2013). Child Welfare Services Reports of California. Retrieved 1/21/2013, from University of California at Berkeley Center of Social Services Research website. URL: < http.//cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

4. Public Agency Characteristics

Child Welfare Services is a part of the Human Services Department. Juvenile Probation is a part of the Probation Department. Both Departments are part of the County structure which is headed by an elected Board of Supervisors and administered by the County Administrator. The Human Services Department also administers Behavioral Health and Recovery Service and Public Assistance Programs. Both provide services to clients of CWS and Juvenile Probation. The Probation Department is also responsible for Adult Probation Programs. Adult Probation clients are, in some instances, clients or family members of children served by CWS and/or Juvenile Probation. Both CWS and Juvenile Probation also interface with the County District Attorney and Sheriff's offices and the Superior Court. The CAPC is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and the Board designates the agency that will administer OCAP funds. Currently, the Human Services Department is the administrator. Interagency collocation is not the norm; however, one Probation Officer III is co-located with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and supervises Probation youth who are participating in the Wraparound Program.

A. **Political Jurisdictions: Board of Supervisors:** Mariposa County is a general law county and the government structure is determined by the State Constitution and State General Law. The Board of Supervisor is the legislative and governing body of the County. It is composed of five members elected from the five districts of the County on a non-partisan basis, to serve four-year staggered terms. Within the limits prescribed by law, the Board's responsibilities include: Enacting ordinances and resolutions, Determining County policy; Adopting an annual budget; and Fixing salaries.

The Board of Supervisors appoints the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), members of boards and commissions and non□elected department heads. The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is the County governance body responsible for the budget of the Human Services Department and assigns responsibility for the administration of CAPIT, CBCAP, Children's Trust Fund, and PSSF funds.

Federally-recognized Tribes or other tribes served by the County: There are no federally-recognized tribes in the County although the Indian Council of Mariposa County petitioned the federal government in April 1982 for that status. The Sierra Miwuk Nation is one of 26 non-federally recognized tribes who received federal funds during 2007-2010. The local Mi Wuk Tribe in Mariposa County is not federally recognized and there is no contact with the Tribe or the Tribal Council regarding ICWS. For Child Welfare Services court cases in which ICWS applies, there is extensive contact with the tribal representatives for the Chukchansi Tribe in Madera County and the North Fork Rancheria Tribe, also in Madera County. Additionally, representatives from the Tuolumne County Mi Wuk Tribe routinely attend monthly meetings of the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative and as members provide input to the discussions concerning Child

Welfare Services and Probation, Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention/CAPC services, and Domestic Violence issues.

School districts/Local education agencies: Mariposa County Unified School District and Mariposa County Office of Education provide educational oversight in the County. Mariposa is a one-district county with 9 school sites and a total student population of approximately 1,800 students. The responsibilities of the County Office of Education and Unified School District are to be the provider of education services and IEP assessments; liaison and mandated reporter to Child Welfare/Foster Care services and a doorway to Mariposa Wraparound Program. First 5, Mariposa is a provider of funding for early childhood development programs and a facilitator of advocacy efforts for children, ages 0 to 5. The SARB reviews student attendance issues. Probation and Child Welfare Services attend when a youth or child known to the agency has truancy issues.

Law enforcement agencies: The Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol provide law enforcement services to the County. The Sheriff's Office provides intervention and investigation of child abuse and juvenile probation issues and intervenes and investigates domestic violence situations.

Probation Department

The Probation Department is responsible for supervising adult and juvenile offenders granted Probation. The Probation Officers monitor the offenders' compliance with Court orders and submits recommendations to the Court that hold offenders accountable; assists offenders in obtaining needed services; oversees the rehabilitation of offenders through office, home and work visits; and provides services, support and protection to victims of crime.

B. County Child Welfare and Probation Infrastructure:

Analysis of workforce regarding challenges, barriers, and strengths: (see Appendix 7 for Human Services Organizational Chart and see Appendix 8 for Probation Organizational Chart)

Child Welfare Services

Currently the Child Welfare Services division is experiencing many challenges due to resignations, illnesses, and other vacancies. None of the regular after-hours response team is on the job so the staff in other assignments including Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Child Welfare Services are assisting with coverage. The Social Worker Supervisor IIs are responding to referrals. The supervisory and management staff of Child Welfare Services is requiring that social workers justify their decisions to detain children. There has been a reduction in the use of voluntary placements. The Differential Response Program, with services provided through Behavioral Health Services, is refining protocols and strategies to engage the families who have been deemed low or moderately at risk of needing Child Welfare Services intervention.

The program is based upon a Memorandum of Understanding between Child Welfare Services and Behavioral Health Services with services provided by a Mental Health Assistant assigned to the Children's System of Care division. Referrals for Path 1 and 2 are received an acted upon on a voluntary case by case basis. Services are not targeted to any particular ethnic group as no population meets the threshold level; however, services have been provided to one Hispanic family. Services are available in the daytime and evening to all areas of the County. A mental health assistant funded through Wraparound and EPSDT funds is available for in-home couching in parenting and life skills. Differential Response services have been needed by those with low-income and out of work. Substance abuse, including alcohol and prescription drug abuse, is often present. Services given have included providing clothing, free meals, transportation, defining family roles and boundaries, learning to confront, and providing in-home support with behavior modification. Child Welfare Services plans to implement Nurturing Parent Programs, a research-based, best practice approach. Staff has found it a challenge to engage families referred from Child Welfare Services. Their experience has been that sometimes cold calls are the most effective way to engage families since they often fail to respond to letters or phone calls/messages.

Historically, the following reasons have been given by staff for leaving employment with Child Welfare Services. The reason is usually related to life changes which require relocation. Newly hired MSW candidates at times leave to relocate to a larger community with more job opportunities and higher pay. Child Welfare Services staff turn-over has negative impact on the lives of families and children served, as articulated by foster youth in meeting/focus group settings. Not only is knowledge and expertise about the field of social work and County practices lost but families and children must "tell their story" one more time and develop a trusting relationship with the new worker. Some County Self-Assessment survey responses spoke to the negative impact that numerous worker changes has on community partners, parents, foster parents and caregivers. A strategic plan for recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining social workers may be useful.

Probation Department

The Probation Department does not experience the staff turnover suffered by the Human Services Department. The newest full-time Deputy Probation Officer hired has been with the department for at least five years. However, recruitment has always been an issue for the department. The disparity in salaries and benefits offered by Mariposa County compared to surrounding or like counties, make it difficult to attract educated and experienced applicants to this area.

Description of the county infrastructure in place for providing child welfare service for both Child Welfare and Probation including:

Method of assigning cases:

Child Welfare Services

According to the SWS II responsible for the continuing unit, there is no empirical methodology for assigning cases, but she does have a system by which she weights the complexity of any given case and the number of children involved prior to assignment to a worker. Also considered are the germane issues of a case, such as serious mental health issues, and the case is assigned to a worker who has expertise in that domain. Effort is made to balance caseloads in terms of numbers, but numbers do not reflect the complexities of cases. Another relevant factor considered when assigning cases is geographical proximity. Since many children are placed out of county, some in nonadjacent counties, travel time is a consideration. One social worker is responsible for ILP and THP-Plus Coordination requiring almost all of her time so her caseload size is capped. This worker carries a few standard cases and also three EFC (Extended Foster Care) cases entailing NMDs (Non Minor Dependents), per AB112.

In the continuing unit, most of the cases that come to the unit are Family Reunification cases, and therefore may ultimately become Family Maintenance (FM) cases when reunification is successful. A trial home visit is always commenced before recommending the child's return to a parent and also a Team Decision Making meeting is held on this matter. It is rare to go from Family Reunification to dismissal and closing a case. Sometimes cases move from court-ordered Family Maintenance to Voluntary Family Maintenance (VFM) before closing a case. When Family Reunification (FR) services and reunification is not successful, the case is moved to a WIC 366.26 hearing for Selection and Implementation of a Permanent Plan. The continuum is considered a "vertical structure" of sorts.

Probation

The Mariposa County Probation Department consists of two divisions, Juvenile Division and Adult Division. The Juvenile Division typically provides prevention, intervention and supervision services to youth 17 years old and younger. The Adult Division provides supervision to adult probationers 18 years of age and older.

Structure or organization of service components:

Child Welfare Services

Mariposa County hires master's level social worker staff in Child Welfare Service. The position is entitled Social Worker IV. Some staff works in the Emergency Response Unit which handles the hotline for Child Welfare, Adult Protective Services and Mental Health emergencies and referrals and subsequent responses (except mental health). The other CWS unit is a continuing services unit. The continuing unit handles all continuing programs including ILP, THP+, and THP+-Foster Care.

The continuing unit carries a mixture of cases including FM, FR, and PP cases. One social worker carries one VFM case and three Probate Guardianship cases. Since there are no discrete units for the various service components, everyone in the unit carries a variety of cases. The intake unit is strictly Emergency Response

(ER), although due to current staffing shortages, one social worker is carrying some ongoing cases. In the intake unit, there is typically no vertical structure, unless for some reason a case housed in the unit moves from FR to FM or PP.

Probation

One full-time Deputy Probation Officer III is assigned to the Wraparound Program and supervises youth who have been adjudged a Ward of the Court and are receiving Wraparound services.

One full-time Deputy Probation Officer II supervises all other youth on Juvenile Probation, which includes those on: Informal Probation, Formal Probation without Wardship, Formal Probation with Wardship, Deferred Entry of Judgment, as well as those youth who have been referred to complete diversion programs, in lieu of Informal or Formal Probation supervision. This Officer also is assigned to the Truancy Program, and works closely with the Mariposa County schools to address truancy issues within the county.

One full-time Deputy Probation Officer III is assigned to supervision responsibilities over the Juvenile and Adult Divisions and their officers; manages the Department's Grant Programs; is the Superintendent of Juvenile Hall; is the CSA/SIP/PR Probation Liaison; and is the CWS/CMS Probation Liaison.

How staffing caseload size by service component, staff turnover, staffing structure impacts county operations:

Child Welfare Services

The frequent turn-over of staff challenges CWS operations. New hires require training and oversight. When positions are vacant, other staff is required to cover in areas in which they are not familiar. Due to the relatively small number of staff, workers performing continuing duties must handle multiple programs. Caseload sizes would be reasonable if it weren't for frequent vacancies.

Because of the nature of a small staff, CWS is able to change practice and implement changes more readily. Overall service delivery and outcomes are better in the community. Some of the challenges include adoption services which have changed from service providers from the State to a contract with Madera County. Madera County has had to adapt to Mariposa processes and Mariposa to those of Madera. Because of the staff Madera has assigned to work with Mariposa, the County is receiving a higher level of service and response. Should they have turnover, it would dearly affect the County. Staff turnover within CWS is an on-going challenge. CWS often hires new graduates which means little experience and many days out of the office (out of county) for the first year on required training. So with a contingent of three continuing workers and one of them is new – that is one-third of the staffing. Because of the small staff, if someone is out on an illness, there is not much staff to backfill and cover the required contacts and mandates much less the provision of good service. So, if everyone comes to work, it is a good day.

Probation
Mariposa Probation has not experienced a lot of staff turnover. Over the past year, the department lost one Deputy Probation Officer to another County Probation Department. With that loss, the Juvenile Caseload was reassigned to the Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the Truancy Program. This officer is now supervising the juveniles, not referred to the Wraparound Program, and continues to manage the Truancy Program.

How staffing characteristics have impacted data entry into CWS/CMS:

Child Welfare Services
When reviewing SafeMeasures reports regarding the completion of risk assessments, it is obvious that during the period of time when vacancies are high or staff is on vacation or out of work for other reasons, computer input suffers.

Probation
Probation supervises a small number of youth participating in the Wraparound Program whose data needs to be entered into CWS/CMS. Due to the infrequent need to enter data, Probation staff has difficulty remembering how to effectively enter data and the need for refresher training is ongoing. Currently, there is little Probation data available in the UCB Outcomes and Accountability Dynamic Data Base; however, Probation staff is still responsible for entering all required information into CWS/CMS.

Bargaining unit issues:

Child Welfare Services
Service Employees Union (SEIU 521) represents Human Service Department line staff. An agency shop requirement has been negotiated. Mariposa County Management and Confidential Organization (MCMCO), AFSCMI Local 2703 of the AFL/CIO represents management and some supervisory staff. The Service Employees Union (SEIU) Representative is a member of the Human Services Department and participates in Union/County negotiations. There are no outstanding issues with the Unions.

Probation
The Deputy Probation Officers are members of the Mariposa County Deputy Sheriff's Association. There are no issues with this bargaining unit.

There are no bargaining issues to report for either agency.

How staff is recruited and selected:

Child Welfare Services
Staff is recruited through Merit System Services (www.mss.ca.gov). Staff is selected once hiring interviews take place after a list of names is received from MSS.

Probation
Mariposa County Human Resources recruits for vacant positions in the local newspaper and other county newspapers selected by the Probation Department; County website; CPOC website; and vacancies are posted on a bulletin that is distributed to all Mariposa County Departments.

Applications are screened by Human Resources and those applicants who meet the minimum qualifications are invited to take a written test. Applicants tested are ranked by their test score and placed on a hiring list. The top ten applicants on the list are interviewed by the Probation Department. If no one is selected for hire from the top-ten list, subsequent applicants on the list are interviewed until a selection is made or a new recruitment is requested. Applicants selected to proceed through the hiring process following an interview are then required to participate in a Background Investigation. When an applicant successfully passes a Background Investigation and is selected by the Chief Probation Officer to receive a Conditional Offer of Employment, that applicant must also pass a psychological evaluation and medical examination prior to employment.

The types of degrees and certifications required for child welfare workers, probation placement officers, and other professionals responsible for the management of cases and child welfare staff:

Child Welfare Services
All CWS social worker staff is required to attend the Central California Training Academy Child Welfare training program and numerous trainings offered locally. They must hold, at a minimum, a BA in a related field or have equivalent experience.

Probation
Deputy Probation Officers are required to have a high school or GED equivalency. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in sociology, criminology, corrections, social services, psychology or closely related field is preferred; however, relevant work experience may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for the education.''''''''

Demographic information on current staff and recent hires, including the number of and types of Educational Degrees held by child welfare workers and probation placement officers:

Child Welfare Services
All CWS social worker staff has obtained graduate degrees in Social Worker or an affiliated degree. Three of the staff are also licensed MFTs. The degrees that are held are as follows: one MA Educational Psychology/Counseling; one MA in Psychology; 2 MSWs; one MS in Clinical Psychology; MA in Psychology; MA in Counseling Psychology.

Probation

Of the ten DPOs currently employed by the department, six have a Bachelor's Degree plus five to 20 years of experience as a Probation Officer and/or law enforcement officer; two have an Associate Degree with 12 to 35 years of experience as a Probation Officer and/or law enforcement officer; and two have a high school education plus 17 to 35 years as a Probation Officer and/or law enforcement officer.

Average years of child welfare/probation placement experience or other related experience working with children and families:

Child Welfare Services
The length of experience varies widely. One SWS II has 23 years of experience. The second has less than one year of experience in CWS. The years of experience for Social Worker IVs is two years, four years, three years, ten years, eight years (recent hire with no previous experience in California), and 12 years. The two Social Service Aides have seven years of experience in the program.

Probation
The two individuals in the DPO III positions have an average of approximately 10 years of experience working with Probation youth including those youth who have been in out-of-home placement or at risk of placement. The DPO II assigned to the Juvenile Division has recently completed placement training.

Race/Ethnicity:

Child Welfare Services
The Child Welfare Services staff is Caucasian, English-speaking.

Probation
The 10 probation staff is Caucasian, English-speaking.

Salaries:

Child Welfare Services Salaries are as follows: SWSII for Continuing Unit - $68,310 + $9,600 stipend; SWSII Intake Unit - $56,284 + $9,600 stipend; SWIV - $54,772 + $9,600 stipend; Social Worker IV - $52,166 + $8,400; Social Worker IV - $47,313 + $8,400 stipend; Social Worker IV - $45,059 + $8,400 stipend; Social Worker IV - $54,772 + $9,600 stipend; Legal Secretary II - $30, 717; Social Service Aide - $33,159; Social Service Aide - $33,159.

Probation

Deputy Probation Officer I:	$34,916 – 42,440
Deputy Probation Officer II:	$40,458 – 49,177
Deputy Probation Officer III:	$45,606 – 55,436

Position Types:

Child Welfare Services

All Child Welfare Services Social Workers are in positions entitled Social Worker IV in Child Welfare Services. Some staff works in the Emergency Response Unit which handles the hotline for Child Welfare, Adult Protective Services and Mental Health emergencies and referrals and subsequent responses (except mental health). The other unit is a continuing services unit. The continuing unit handles all continuing programs including ILP, THP+, THP+-Foster Care. The two supervisors are in positions called Social Worker Supervisor II. There are two Social Service Aides and one Legal Secretary II. All staff report to the Deputy Director of Social Services who has other responsibilities including Income Maintenance, Adult Services, and Program Integrity.

Probation

The Probation Department currently employs eight Deputy Probation Officer II positions and two Deputy Probation Officer III positions. The Juvenile Division consists of two DPO III positions and one DPO II position.

Average caseload size based on the type of child welfare program: Child Welfare Services:

Child Welfare Services

The ER Unit takes about 24 CWS calls per month. Average caseload size is hard to determine since this is a blended unit. The Continuing Unit has an average of 42 cases between three workers. Two of the workers have the majority of cases which include family maintenance, permanency placement, and family reunification. One worker in the unit carries all the Supportive Transition, THP+, THP+-Foster Care and provides ILP services and carries a few other cases. To drill down, each worker has approximately 19 cases except the ILP worker who has 4 AB12 eligible youth who have aged out of foster care, and 3 others which may be any of the other components.

Probation

The Wraparound DPO III currently supervises four juvenile probationers. The Juvenile DPO II currently supervises 16 juvenile probationers.

Information related to tracking staff turnover and vacancy rates:

Child Welfare Services

There has been turnover of five (5) of nine (9) "professional level" staff in the unit in the past 12 months. There have been no retirements or dismissals during the review period. There was one promotion in August 2012, of an SW IV in APS to ER Supervisor; two voluntary resignations in Social Worker IV positions, one in March 2012 and a second in August 2012; one (1) SW III under filling a SW IV position in January 2013 and one (1) Social Worker Supervisor II resignation in May 2012.

Probation

Retirements – The Assistant Chief Probation Officer retired two years ago. There have not been any other retirements in the past three years. Dismissals – There

have not been any dismissals in the past three years. Lateral or promotion moves – One DPO III was promoted to Assistant Chief Probation Officer in the past three years. There have been no other lateral or promotions during this time period. Voluntary resignation – There have been no voluntary resignations over the past three years.

Supervisor – to – Worker ratios:

Child Welfare Services
Each Supervisor has 3 or 4 SW IVs and an aide in the unit. One SWS II supervises the Legal Secretary who works for both units.

Probation
There are two supervisors, supervising eight DPOs, department wide.

C. Financial/Material Resources:

Child Welfare Services
CWS is funded through realigned Child Welfare funds. Mariposa has a Wraparound Program whose reserve is used to fund services to children. Mariposa County is considering being an IV-E Waiver county.

Mariposa Child Welfare Services is one of three counties participating in the California Screening Assessment and Treatment Initiative (CASAT) Pilot with the Chadwick Center for Children and Families and the Child and Adolescent Research Center at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego in collaboration with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (Child Welfare Services and Behavioral Health Services) and Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency to establish the California Screening, Assessment, and Treatment (CASAT) Initiative.

Probation
The Juvenile Division receives two State grants: Youthful Offender Block Grant and the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. These grants support the salary and benefits for the officer assigned to the Juvenile Division and juvenile programs provided by the department. Wraparound funds support the salary and benefits for the DPO III assigned to the Wraparound Program.

D. Child Welfare/Probation Operated Services: Juvenile Hall: Mariposa County has a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall. The juvenile hall is staffed with two full-time Probation Corrections Officers and seven extra-help, on-call Probation Corrections Officers. The two full-time officers have completed Juvenile Corrections CORE training; three on-call officers have also completed CORE training. When there is a minor in custody, each shift of the juvenile hall is staffed with at least one CORE trained staff person. Each shift has one male and one female staff person on duty.

Mariposa County can hold youth in the facility for up to 96 hours. The facility can hold up to four youth. When a minor is brought to the facility by law enforcement,

an assessment is completed to determine the need to detain, based on the minor's risk to self or the community. If the minor does not require further detention, the youth is released to a parent or guardian. If a minor needs to be detained longer than 96 hours, or appropriate staffing cannot be attained to cover the shifts, the youth is transferred to a facility out of county.

Due to the "Special Purpose" designation, Mariposa County does not have to provide medical, mental health, or education services on site. Mariposa County Juvenile Hall utilizes Mariposa County Behavioral Health and John C. Fremont Hospital and Clinic to address the needs of youth in custody when needed. Parents are encouraged to get educational materials from the minor's school for the minor to work on while detained. All mandated services are available and provided to youth who are held in other county facilities.

County Operated Shelter:

Child Welfare Services

There is no county-operated shelter. During the previous CSA period, CWS had one receiving foster home, but these services are no longer available. A foster home is sought for any child needing emergency placement.

Probation

Probation enlists the help of Mariposa County Child Protective Services when emergency placement services are needed for youth who cannot be detained in Juvenile Hall.

County licensing:

Child Welfare Services

The County has an agreement with the state to license foster family homes. That function is performed by staff in the Employment Services Unit. This staff also coordinates monthly trainings for foster parents.

Probation

Mariposa Probation has not been involved with licensing foster family homes. Probation has approved NREFM homes for probation youth in the past, but this has not been a common occurrence.

County Adoptions:

Child Welfare Services

Mariposa contracts with Madera County for adoptions services and some related AAP functions. This is a change from the prior CSA when adoptions services were provided by the State Department of Social Services – Fresno Unit.

Probation

Probation provides investigative services to the Court for step-parent adoptions only.

E. Other County Programs:

CalWORKs

CalWORKs and the other public assistance programs enable families to be more economically secure. Since most of the CWS referrals pertain to neglect, this type of resource helps address these matters. Child welfare is co-located with CalWORKs eligibility and Welfare-to-Work staff and all work in the same division of the department. CWS and CalWORKs have an excellent relationship between the supervisors, and staff train together. Joint division meetings are held with the supervisors of CalWORKs and other eligibility programs, Employment Services, and CWS. All the staff in the Social Services Division knows one another. If there is a "Linkages" case, periodic meetings between the Employment Services and CWS staff are held. All of the staff in CalWORKs, CWS, Adult Services, and Program Integrity report to the Deputy Director of Social Services. The County averages 29 CalWORKs applications per month (a range of 22 to 34 per month). CalWORKs cases average 232 per month (range 226 to 241). This number is down from last year, perhaps due to the change in time limits to a maximum of 48 months on aid. The caseload breakdown is as follows: 47 Zero Parent, 45 Two Parent, 92 All Other one-parent Families; 10 TANF timed-Out, 35 Safety Net/All Other, and 3 Safety Net (Two Parent).

Public Health

Public Health provides health care services to Child Welfare Services children and youth and to Probation youth. It is a resource for immunizations, well-baby clinics, maternal services and children's health services for those with special health needs. The staff is a resource to social workers and probation officers who are working with health-related situations. Child Welfare and Probation have an MOU with the Health department for a nurse on-site (4 hours per week) to assist with ensuring that health needs of foster children are met. The CWS workers find this very helpful to have someone "on site" or available for phone calls when trying to get services for CWS children.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment

These services are co-located with CWS and are housed in the same department. The supervisor of Alcohol and Other Drug Services within the department attends (at least) monthly meetings with the supervisors of CWS (and others). There are discussions of program changes and services available. Supervisors and staff know one another. These relationships improve communication and facilitate services to clients. There are no Alcohol and Drug Treatment inpatient services in the county. Due to funding and staff limitations, most treatment is through group meetings.

Mental Health

These services are housed in the Human Services Department. There is continual collaboration between Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) and CWS and Juvenile Probation. The Mariposa Wraparound Program and the Differential Response Program are administered by BHRS and services

are provided by their staff, to the children, youth, and families in the Program. BHRS is housed in the Human Services Department in the same building as Child Welfare Services. BHRS staff provides mental health and substance abuse treatment. Child Welfare Services and Probation provide referrals for clients in need of those services.

Education

The Unified School district provides student assessment and IEP plans, services to homeless students, educational services, and is a key collaborator with CWS, Probation, and community service providers.

Other- Sheriff's Department and Mountain Crisis

Mariposa CWS has discussed ER procedures when there is Domestic Violence involved and as a result, CWS has modified their approach. No official, written policies have been developed to date, however.

5. State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives:

Mariposa County continues to adjust to the realignment of Child Welfare Services funds by developing county policies and oversight processes. Child Welfare Services and BHRS are participating in the California Screening and Assessment and Treatment Initiative (CASAT) Pilot with the Chadwick Center for Children and Families to develop and implement a trauma-informed approach to practice. This initiative concerns the inclusion of trauma-informed practice in the work that is being done in Child Welfare and BHRS. Implementation of the Katie A. law suit response and the implementation of California's Core Practice Model is being accomplished. As a county in the CASAT Project, Mariposa County Child Welfare and BHRS will work with the Chadwick Center for Children and Families to 1) conduct a community assessment of where the County is in introducing and implementing trauma-informed practice, 2) work to create a universal screening tool for the screening and assessment of Katie A. clients and children and families impacted by the trauma of intervention and removal, 3) learn more about trauma-informed practice for a small county, and 4) adapt practices to reflect what was learned from involvement in CASAT project. The County is also considering applying to be a Title IV-E Waiver County to flexibly use Title IV-E funds to develop and implement alternative services as a means to improve outcomes for children and their families.

Safety Organized Practice Plan (SOP): Although not mandated, Child Welfare Services intends to implement SOP but has not yet. The County's training academy has delayed the County's implementation date until FY 2013-214 when the County is scheduled for training and support from the Central Valley Training Academy. Most of the staff has been to the overview and are trying to change their approach without the formal training and implementation. The County currently does very little voluntary family maintenance (only one case currently). Once full training in SOP is achieved, it is expected that voluntary family maintenance will become the placement of choice more frequently – if funding is available. All social worker staff attends Core Training.

Lawsuits and settlement agreements: Katie A. v Bonta lawsuit: Mariposa County CWS and BHS began working on the Katie A. lawsuit approximately five years ago. A service delivery plan was developed then and revised in March 2013, which implemented the Core Practice Model Readiness Assessment. Focus areas and current ratings in each follow: Agency Leadership (19), Systems and Interagency Collaboration (20), System Capacity (27), Service Array (25), Involvement with Children (17), Youth, and Family, Cultural Responsiveness (24), Outcomes and Evaluation (15), and Fiscal Resources (20). In general, even though the County believes that cases are coordinated on an individual level basis, there has been little time carved out for middle management within each of the Departments (BHRS and CWS) to meet individually to discuss access and quality issues. This will be a focus of the Katie A. Plan. Additionally, although in practice there is much interagency collaboration, there is a need to strengthen protocols and policies surrounding collaboration to inform the practice of new staff and ensure institutional continuity. There is also a need to strengthen systems surrounding the assessment of programs, input of collaborative entities and families, and subsequent modification of strategies to ensure continuous quality improvement. Currently psychological services are contracted out at a high cost to the County. (Mariposa County Katie A. Plan)

Information regarding how County is contributing to the successful achievement of any Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and/or when applicable, any county specific waivers and corrective action plans: Mariposa County has implemented a wraparound program (2009), a differential response program (2012), and uses team-decision making meetings (2009) to make reunification and placement decisions. All of these programs are included in California's PIP as encouraged practices. SDM and SafeMeasures tools are also routinely used. Use of these tools enables the County to provide data-informed feedback to the State regarding CWS services in Mariposa County. The California Outcomes and Accountability Branch and the OCAP Branch have been fully engaged in the CSA process in the County. The County has made progress locally in the performance measures of entries into foster care, reunification in less than 12 months, and in kinship placements. Mariposa County has implemented a Transitional Housing Plus (THP-Plus) program with 5 slots.

6. Board of Supervisors (BOS) Designated Commission, Board Bodies: N/A (see Appendix 9 for Mariposa County Organizational Chart)

The Board of Supervisors Designated Public Agency:

A. **Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC):** By order of the County Board of Supervisors, the Board of Mariposa Safe Families, Inc., a 501(c) 3 organization, also serves as the CAPC. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. administers the Mariposa Family Enrichment Center, the County's Family Resource Center, and provides child abuse prevention activities and mandated reporter training for the

community. The Board of Supervisors also has ordered that the Human Services Department be the administrator of the child abuse prevention funds.

(see Appendix 10 for the Child Abuse Prevention Council and Board of Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. Board Contact Information)

(see Appendix 11 for the Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. Organizational Chart)

B. **County Children's Trust Fund Council:** The CAPC acts as the County Children's Trust Fund Council. The County typically receives a small amount from eligible funding sources (birth and vehicle license plate fees) for the Children's Trust Fund. To bring the fund up to $20,000, in the past, the Human Services Department has supplemented the Trust Fund with CBCAP dollars. Unfortunately, CBCAP carry requirements to provide direct services to clients for 90% of the total funds. The Human Services Department and Mariposa Safe Families, Inc and the CAPC must work with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention to develop a reasonable funding and service plan for the County OCAP program.

   Each year in October, Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. along with Child Welfare Services prepares an annual OCAP report for the CDSS OCAP concerning the accounting and use of these funds.

C. **PSSF Collaborative:** The Human Services Department retains PSSF funds. The Human Services Executive Team fulfills the duties of the PSSF Collaborative.

7. Systemic Factors: Management Information Systems:

A. Management Information Systems:
Child Welfare Services

Technology support in the Human Services Department consists of a unit of four persons who provides technical support to the entire department for all management information systems. Mariposa County has a very small County Information Technology department with which the Human Services Department must interface for IT service. Due to the limited budget and staffing of the County Information Technology department, service for systems problems and enhancements can be delayed; at times delaying the progress of work for Child Welfare Services staff that is heavily dependent upon computer use to do their job.

Existing Hardware: Existing hardware includes State issued CWS/CMS computers with SafeMeasures and Structured Decision Making (SDM) Assessment Tool software. All of these programs are instrumental in documenting, tracking, and monitoring the work of Child Welfare Services. Child Welfare Services has several Server Based Computing (SBC) tokens to access the CWS/CMS database system without a dedicated computer. One token is provided to the after-hours, on-call coordinator. Laptops are used by social workers during field work or at locations outside of the Child Welfare Services office. Existing hardware includes 13 desktop CWS/CMS computers with

processors that range from 1.8 GHz to 3.2 GHz, six county computers, one server, four laptops, zero QuickPads, and zero PDAs. Network printers are employed (one color printer is available near the Director's office), and a copier/scanner.

Existing Software: Available software includes CWS/CMS, Structured Decision Making (SDM), SafeMeasures, Outlook email, Google email, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Business Objects, Publisher, and Visio are available to some staff. Child Welfare Services does not use Business Objects in its work. It should be noted that none of the users have access to CIV, Access, Business Objects, Publisher, and Visio.

Capacity to Use Technology: The CWS/CMS database supports the delivery of all child welfare services in Mariposa County and all case-carrying social workers, clerical staff, the Deputy Director, and supervisors are trained in its use. Each Child Welfare Services social worker is assigned a desk-top computer through which they access the database. County laptops are used by after-hours emergency workers. Using a token, access is achieved by remotely logging into the CWS/CMS hosted server. One laptop and token is assigned to the Supervisor of the Hotline/Intake Unit. Other laptops are assigned to response staff. The tokens provide secure access through the internet to the CWS/CMS Application from any county-issued computer using a two-factor secure token code along with the standard user ID and strong password.

SafeMeasures: SafeMeasures reports are used for Quality Assurance purposes. Case assignment is at the discretion of the supervisor. All new staff attends Core Training within the first year and CWS/CMS New User Training as needed. Twenty hours of ongoing training is held for all Child Welfare Services staff each year.

The use of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) Assessment Tool was implemented in Mariposa County in February, 2009. The Structured Decision Making web-based application is utilized by emergency response workers to assist in assessing the safety and risk factors present when investigating referrals. This research-based software application also provides ongoing case workers with tools for assessing child abuse protection risk and safety factors for children residing with their families. The integration of the SDM assessments and terminology into social work practice is an ongoing effort. It is the expectation of managers and supervisors that case information will be entered into SDM and that the tools will be used to support decision-making. Data is entered and the tools generally used; however, when there are staff shortages or new workers, usage suffers. The supervisors and managers use these reports for quality assurance and worker performance purposes.

The SafeMeasures web-based application is currently accessed by line supervisors and the Deputy Director to monitor timely compliance in a variety of case management activities. All data displayed in the SafeMeasures application is extracted from CWS/CMS and updated at least twice per week by Children's

Research Center. SafeMeasures data is easy to retrieve and has replaced Business Objects as a quality assurance tool.

Other Tools: In addition, MS Access and MS Excel allow information to be compiled, analyzed, and presented in an organized manner. Visio helps define business processes and organizational structures. MS PowerPoint facilitates the communication of information and ideas, particularly for presentations.

CWS/CMS: As the central statewide repository of all case-level information related to the delivery of child welfare services (including health, education, eligibility, and adoptions), social workers use CWS/CMS to: (a) access all documents for an individual case; (b) record contact notes for their cases; (c) prepare court reports and case plans using the same format that is used throughout the State; (d) generate the Health and Education Passports; (e) acquire information on children and families who have moved to the County from other counties; (f) locate a child's whereabouts in an emergency or other situation; (g) share information and documents with social workers in other counties.

Data Quality Issues: The integrity of data is highly contingent on data entry accuracy by the social workers. Child Welfare Services holds periodic trainings, including on site trainings from the Central Valley Training Consortium, to address these issues. Data entry errors have been discovered in SafeMeasures. An emphasis on timely and accurate data entry into CWS/CMS is a focus area for supervisors. Outcome data for the Adoption Performance Measures are affected by entries in CWS/CMS by both Child Welfare Services staff and by Madera County Adoptions staff.

Child Welfare Services has a collaborative relationship with their Central California Training Academy which provides new user training, guides for new CMS releases and occasional onsite CWS/CMS training for the staff.

The CWS/CMS system is complex and difficult for new workers to learn. Social workers complain that it takes too much time from their social work duties. The use of the system, however, has allowed uniform data collection and avenues for data management and case actions must be documented to show that mandates have been met and to provide information for case planning. Data used to measure performance is extracted from CWS/CMS making it important that the social workers enter data promptly and accurately. Mariposa County supervisors think their negative performance in some measures such as timely response to referrals may be impacted by worker data entry errors or untimely entry.

Management Information Systems:

Probation

The Probation Department uses several case management databases. To document client contacts, court related events and to generate court reports, letters, referral forms, agreements, etc., the Probation Officers use the CaseLoad

Pro Database program. To track the financial obligations of the clients, the department uses the AS400-JALANS system. Probation is now using CWS/CMS to document activity on delinquents in out-of-home placement. CWS/CMS implementation occurred in the summer of 2011. Continued efforts are required by Probation staff and oversight by Probation managers to ensure that documentation of monthly required visits and any other required information for Wraparound participants is entered into CWS/CMS. Currently there is very little Probation information recorded in the CDSS Dynamic Data Reports. With increased use, however, more data will be available for performance/outcome measurement.

Existing Hardware and Software Used: All probation staff has a desktop computer with Microsoft Office software programs. Laptops or IPADS are also available for probation officers during field work assignments.

Probation Data Quality Issues: All staff is trained to use the current case management systems. Performance, outcomes, and data accuracy is assessed through case records review.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, including Mariposa Wraparound Electronic Health Records: Anasazi, the Electronic Health Record used by Mariposa County, has been in business since 1989 and currently provides services to 14 counties in California. It serves both mental health and alcohol and drug services and is HIPAA and CFR 42 compliant. As the County moves into Health Care Reform, Anasazi will provide secure data collection services for mental health, alcohol and drugs, and other health services. Anasazi Software is created to seamlessly operate on both Microsoft® and Novell® Networks, while using several different databases. It is not a combination of many different systems but is an original. Anasazi allows Mariposa County to create assessments, treatment plans, group and individual notes in a secure environment. With it, BHRS can print revenue reports, caseload performance reports, unduplicated client assignment reports, utilization management reports and many others.

B. **Case Review System: Structure of the Juvenile Court:** The Social Worker Supervisor II acts as Court Officer for activities within their respective units. Department representation consists of both County Counsel and a contract attorney. A Child Welfare Services Legal Secretary II coordinates all court activities within the office. The goal is to have a CASA worker assigned to all dependents. Although this goal was achieved in the past, currently there is a shortage of CASA workers. A new CASA executive director was appointed in May 2013. She will be recruiting and training new volunteers. There is interest in providing CASA workers for probation wards.

In Child Welfare Services, notification of hearings is handled solely by the Legal Secretary II, with specific noticing requirements for each court hearing. Parents, caregivers, and tribal representatives, if applicable, are notified of all Juvenile Court hearings. The Legal Secretary also generates court orders after hearings,

which are sent to the parties who received notice of the hearing. Each party also is sent notices of further hearings.

The legal secretary handles ICWA inquiries and notices tribes of court hearings. Tribal placements occur and take precedence over traditional foster placements when ICWA applies. Ongoing cases entail court hearings and/or administrative reviews (the latter for stable PP cases) every six months. Some cases, especially for very small children and for whom the prognosis of reunification is dubious, entail Interim Review hearings (at 3 months). All hearings/reviews take place within required timeframes. CWS sets court dates a week or two early just to be safe. Termination of parental rights for children in care 15 of the last 22 months is partially a function of Adoptions. CWS makes referrals to Madera County Adoptions, with whom Mariposa County is contracted, as soon as possible. Subsequent to that, CWS collaborates with Madera County Adoptions on a regular basis. Finalization of adoption can take more than 24 months due to multiple court continuances and contested hearings. Mariposa County CWS has enjoyed good collaboration with Probation, including meeting and conferring on WIC section 241.1 protocols and the concomitant recommendations for either 300 or 600 status. Mariposa County does not have dual jurisdiction. Case planning occurs on a daily basis and the Supervisor meets with her staff weekly for casework supervision. Case plans are updated every six months.

In the field of social work, practitioners and scholars realize the benefit of conducting more aggressive, timely concurrent planning activities along with family reunification efforts from the beginning of the case. Mariposa County collaborates with the Adoptions staff of Madera County on the provision of contracted adoption services. Any redesign of concurrent planning processes must include them as partners in its planning and execution. The June, 2010 edition of the Child Welfare Information Gateway's Bulletin for Professionals addresses the importance of collaborative efforts such as team decision-making meetings, family group decision-making meetings, and family finding efforts. All of these processes are promising practices.[40] In Mariposa County, team decision-making meetings are facilitated prior to any change in placement and before termination of a child welfare case. Some team decision-making meetings are conducted after detention. To date, a family group decision-making program has not been implemented, although it may be in the future. Family group decision-making program is a process in which family members and their identified support persons participate in group decision-making meetings to develop and oversee the family's plan to address problems in family functioning. A family search and engagement program has not been formally implemented either, but may be in the future.

Probation Interface with the Court and Timely Noticing practices: There is one Deputy Probation Officer who has the responsibility of Delinquency Court Probation Officer. The officer interfaces with the Court, Prosecuting Attorneys,

[40] www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_fam_/f_fam_engagement.pdf

and Defense Attorneys on each case. All Juvenile Probation Officers are responsible for completing all court related documents, noticing all parties, and completing ICWA and ICWA orders and other After Hearing documents. The Supervising Probation Officer reviews all Court Reports prior to filing. Typically, CASA is not involved in Juvenile Delinquency cases, although there is interest in having CASA involvement in the future. When a CASA worker has been assigned to a delinquent, the Probation Officer interfaces with CASA as needed. The Probation Officers have good working relationships with all court parties.

When the District Attorney's Office files a criminal petition on a juvenile offender, a Probation Officer appears in court on these matters and makes a recommendation for disposition to the Court. Once the Court has made an order, the probation officers supervise the case to ensure the minor's compliance with the Court orders. When a juvenile is adjudged a ward of the court and is ordered to be placed in a group home program or foster home, six month review hearings are scheduled to review the minor and parent's progress and compliance with the program and court orders. The Officer makes appropriate recommendations regarding the need for continued placement of the minor.

Superior Court's Blue Ribbon Commission on Families and Children in Foster Care was formed in spring 2009 and official meetings began in July 2009. That body has now become a part of the merged collaborative called the Abuse Prevention Collaborative made up of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Child Abuse and Prevention Coordinating Council, and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Families and Children in Foster Care. Mariposa County is not a dual jurisdiction county for handling Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation cases.

Process for Parent-Child- Youth Participation in Case Planning/General Case Planning and Review:

Child Welfare Services

Child Welfare Services does not have a formal Family-to-Family Program; however, it practices the initiative's best practice of involving families in service plan development by conducting family meetings. Currently, all pertinent family members are brought together for service planning. The Human Services Department utilizes team decision-making meetings and family group decision-making meetings may be implemented in the future.

Youth are heavily involved in the development of their Transitional Independent Living Plans and, in most cases, write the plan themselves. Transitional Independent Living Plans (TILP) are completed for all youth fifteen and a half and older and are submitted to the Independent Living Program Coordinator and attached to court reports. The TILP is youth-driven and is often completed by the youth in his or her own handwriting. TILPS are updated at regular intervals to coincide with court hearings.

Child Welfare Services first placement choice for children is with their parents in their own homes. The next priority is placement with relative caregivers, providing children the opportunity for family connections and family identity. Although Child Welfare Services currently conducts some family search and engagement activities, there is no formal program or process. The future development of these activities, coupled with foster family recruitment activities will enrich the services provided through Child Welfare Services.

Child Welfare Services staff maintains regular contact with the children and families, often times exceeding the required standards. The county contracts with Madera County for adoption services. The Legal Secretary is responsible for noticing pertinent parties of hearing requirements. Supervisors and managers review CWS/CMS reports to ensure timely compliance of reviews, including termination of parental rights.

Probation

The Probation Department recently implemented the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), developed by a Florida-based firm, Assessments.com to identify the criminogenic risk factors and needs of juvenile offenders. The Juvenile Probation Officers use motivational interviewing with the youth and their parents to complete the assessment tool. The tool assists the officers in identifying the appropriate level of supervision and services needed to address the minor's delinquent behavior, while protecting the community. Demographic, health, education, and family information are gathered, as well as information regarding prior criminal activity. The PACT assessment is used to develop the minor's case plan, which is provided to the Court at the time of disposition. The juveniles and their parents are engaged in the process of developing the case plan. The case plan is updated every six months or when circumstances or needs change.

The Probation Officer is required to have monthly face to face contact with the minor; at the treatment facility and with the parent.

Mariposa County Juvenile Probation Services maintains the position that out-of-home placement is the last resort, unless it involves a juvenile sex offender. All local resources are typically utilized in an attempt to modify the minor's behavior, through court-ordered terms and conditions of probation, before out-of-home placement is recommended. Some of these local resources are services provided through the Mariposa Wraparound Program and the School Based Truancy Program, funded with Juvenile Justice Prevention Act funds along with local resources such as the Unified School District SARB.[41] Group home placement is recommended when the minor fails to comply with the terms of probation. In most cases when out-of-home placement is recommended by the Probation Officer, the parent has also failed to provide appropriate parenting for the minor. Rarely does Juvenile Probation Services place delinquents in foster

[41] www.bscc.ca.gov/download.php?f=/2011-12-program...for_Web...

homes. Foster homes are used when there is not an appropriate parent available to care for the minor. Decisions regarding placement are made after the Probation Officer has conferred with supervisors. Placement decisions are based, in part, upon the information gathered through an interactive family assessment interview which is conducted with the youth and family.

The Probation Officer assigned to the placement caseload assesses the needs of the minor and researches programs that will best address those needs. The Department typically uses group home programs that have been used in the past and with which the Department has established good working relationships with the group home staff.

The Juvenile Probation Officers use least restrictive placements to address the needs of the youth in care. In fact, Probation established Least Restrictive Placement as the focus area for their Peer Review. Currently, the plan for most juveniles served is reunification with parents or family. The youth are referred for independent living skills services while in placement and when they are returned home. When available and appropriate, youth are referred for transitional housing services.

C. **Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention:** Social worker licensing staff are responsible for processing licensing applications and monitoring licensed foster homes.

A review of July, 2012 through January, 2013 licensing statistics shows that there was one new application and six ongoing applications to complete. The number of licensed foster homes varied between a high of 19 in July, 2012 to a low of 16 in January, 2013. There is one Foster Family Agency home within the County. Child Welfare staff is familiar with the County's licensed foster homes, allowing them to match homes with children appropriately. There is a shortage of foster parents trained and willing to handle challenging children, and this may negatively impact timeliness and stability of placements. To facilitate the joint placement of sibling groups, licensing revisions and placement exceptions can be initiated and handled by the placement worker.

How the county ensures compliance with requirements for a criminal record clearance: The application process includes conducting a criminal background review that includes fingerprint checks through the Department of Justice and FBI data bases and clearance through the Child Abuse Registry. A thorough home study is also conducted as part of the application process.

How the county collaborates with local tribes for the placement of children in tribally approved homes: Procedures and practices relative to Native American children who are detained may entail tribally approved placements. Specifically, when Native American children are detained, Child Welfare Services usually places the children in emergency care and then initiates discussion with the children/parent/tribal representatives to find appropriate relative placement.

How county implements procedures for the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placement for waiting children: Mariposa County is not a cross-jurisdictional county. Child Welfare Services has a policy not to place child welfare youth with probation youth without a written justification. Since both group homes are filled primarily with out of county probation youth, CWS rarely places youth in either local group home.

The process by which the county recruits, trains, and supports resource families: With the retirement of the former Licensing and Adult Services Social Worker Supervisor, the position was not filled and the unit combined with another. The licensing function now is housed within the Employment Services unit. Licensing duties have been assigned to a worker with prior licensing experience. Strong foster parent recruitment has not been launched. The County receives periodic applications, typically 5 or less per year. New foster parents receive initial training. Monthly training is available for licensed foster parents and other caretakers. CASA has been very helpful and supportive recruiting foster parents. A Social Worker Aide is assigned as foster care liaison between Child Welfare Services and the Licensing Unit to facilitate communication. There are 16 to 19 licensed homes in the county with only 2 or 3 actively accepting placements.

Support services and resources available to caregivers in the county: There is currently no formal Foster Parent Association but there is a strong network of support among foster parents. There is a Foster Parent meeting each month in conjunction with the monthly training meeting. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. holds a monthly coffee group for grand and kinship families. The purpose of the group is to support, learn, and exchange ideas and resources from their own life experiences with childcare, guardianship, and/or adoption. It is an independent, confidential group that provides the opportunity to meet new friends and explore legal, health, educational, financial, mental health and behavioral life experiences. Mariposa Safe Families Inc. provides a parent partner to Mariposa Wraparound.

The Licensing and Child Welfare Services staff assists and supports the foster parents in properly identifying their role in the lives of foster children and the children's biological families. The foster parents work as partners with Child Welfare Services to successfully transition children back into the homes of their parents, relatives, or guardians with the least amount of trauma. Though the process is challenging at times, the knowledge and assistance of foster parents is essential to the Department and to the families served.

County's methods used to evaluate the effectiveness of the process: It is the responsibility of supervisors and managers to assess the effectiveness of the foster parent recruitment and retention process. One indicator of success has been that there has been no maltreatment of children while in foster care over a number of years. Several responses to the Stakeholder's Survey indicated the

need for more foster parent resources, particularly for children with special needs. Also indicated was a need for more training for foster parents.

Placement resources: Efforts the County has made to address the needs of special populations for whom resources are limited: As with all children, the placements for special needs children are made on a case by case basis. CWS works with the tribal council when a placement plan is needed for Native American children.

Probation Placement Resources: All programs approved for the placement of 602 Welfare and Institutions Code wards of the court must be licensed by the California Department of Social Services. These facilities are monitored by CDSS Community Care Licensing for their continuing compliance with State and Federal regulations.

Probation uses placements in California. Out of state placement has not been utilized in several years, but continues to be an option for consideration. All efforts are made to place minors in the least restrictive, most family-like environment that is best suited to meet their individual needs. The Probation Officer attempts to place minors as close to their home as possible. Placing a minor closer to home helps facilitate family therapy and visits. If this is not possible, group homes in neighboring counties are used.

Some placement facilities are designed to provide specialized treatment programs such as: sex offender treatment, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, mental health treatment, pregnant/parenting teens, and peer confrontation, etc.

In 2009, Probation had approximately nine youth in out-of-county group home placements during that year. After the implementation of the Wraparound Program, three Probation youth transitioned home with Wraparound services and all three graduated from the Wraparound Program and their probation was successfully terminated. Over the last two years, nine youth and their families were referred and received services through the Wraparound Program, reducing Probation's out-of-home placements. Many of these youth graduated from the Wraparound Program and successfully completed probation. Juvenile Probation has not placed any youth in group homes since the inception of the Wraparound Program. However, two youth receiving Wraparound services were removed from their homes and placed in group home programs due to continued delinquent activity despite the intensive services provided locally. One of those youth was placed in a group home and then in a Non-Relative Extended Family Member home due to issues that the parent was experiencing. The other youth completed a juvenile hall commitment after running away from two group home programs. Overall, the Wraparound Program has considerably reduced the need for out-of-home placements by the Probation Department. At this time, there are no Probation youth in out-of-home placement. There are currently four probation youth and their families participating in Wraparound services.

Probation selected Least Restrictive Placement as its focus area for this year's Peer Review. This focus area was selected to support the continuing efforts of the department to provide intensive services locally to reduce the need for out-of-home placement for probation youth. Family Finding has been identified as a positive alternative to foster home and group home placements. Focusing on this area will assist in making it a priority for Probation Officers to look to family members and close friends for placement options, when a youth becomes at risk for out-of-home placement and Wraparound services are not effective or appropriate. By focusing on alternatives to foster care placement, Probation will be able to provide stability for probation youth, when residing in the home of the parent or guardian becomes detrimental to the youth. Statistics indicate that youth who are placed with a family member, versus in the home of strangers, are more successful.

Efforts to ensure diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the county: The majority of children in foster care are Caucasian, English-speaking and do not have language needs. In situations where ethnicity or language is an issue, relative placement is sought. As the Hispanic population in the County grows, there may be a future need for culturally-appropriate foster homes with Spanish speakers.

Impact on C-CFSR outcomes: Timely response to complaints regarding foster homes ensures safety for children in foster home placement. Safety may concern quality of care or the physical state of the residence. Mariposa County has maintained an excellent record of no occurrence of child maltreatment while in foster care.

By having a licensing exception policy, Child Welfare Services placement workers are able to amend the licensing status of a foster home so that sibling groups can be placed together, when appropriate. Mariposa County is generally successful in meeting performance standards for placing sibling groups together, although additional foster home placement resources for sibling groups is a recruitment objective.

Previous reviews have identified, for both Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation Services, a shortage of available foster home resources, particularly for the more challenging to place children and for sibling groups. Although there are approximately 16 licensed foster homes in the County, not all of the licensed homes are willing to receive children on a regular basis or the home is identified for a limited kind of placement. These limitations negatively impact the agencies' ability to place children timely in stable placements and within the County.

Structural and process improvement to assign foster home recruitment and foster parent support and training to a specialized worker in Child Welfare Services has been partially implemented. The Social Services Aide in the Child Welfare unit provides foster parent support and acts as a liaison with the Child Welfare Staff.

Though Fost/Adopt foster homes are available in the County, and licensed by the State, the list is primarily comprised of homes who only take very young children who are available for adoption and for whom reunification is doubtful. The County has experienced some difficulty placing children in these homes when there is a sibling group needing a common placement.

Placement Stability and Permanency for Youth: Mariposa County utilizes Licensed Foster Homes. There are two group homes each offering six bed placements, one for males and one for females. The group homes have a majority of probation youth placed. Child Welfare Services has a policy not to place child welfare youth with probation youth without a justification. There are currently 16 licensed foster homes. There is one certified FFA home in the County. CWS no longer has a contract for a receiving home. The County has become reliant on placement services through Foster Family Agencies in nearby Merced and Madera County.

Adoption referrals are made at the earliest possible time as soon as reunification appears unlikely. To improve permanency outcomes for children, concurrent planning needs to begin early and continue throughout the life of the case. The cooperation of foster parents and their partnership in this difficult process is essential.

Mariposa County Child Welfare Services' policy regarding concurrent planning states that concurrent planning efforts begin as soon as possible and are achieved through informal family search and engagement efforts to seek out possible kinship placement and/or search to find adoption or other permanency placements for children. This is done by the case-carrying social worker. Concurrent efforts currently are focused on relatives. Family meetings are held to address placement options.

County Adoptions: Prior to Fiscal Year 2012-2013, adoptions services in Mariposa County were provided by the California Department of Social Services. With the implementation of the California 2011 Realignment legislation, counties were given the option to start their own adoptions program, contract with another County or stay with the State program. Mariposa Human Services decided that it would better suit their clients to have adoptions done at a more local level and as a result has contracted with Madera County for these services. Mariposa County had historically had one to three adoptions per year. In FY 2012-2013, the County's total adoption funding from Federal Title IV and Realigned dollars is $28,557. All County Adoption Services including post-adoption services are provided by Madera County.

Post adoption services are provided to both County adoptions handled by Madera County and available to independent adoptions through the CDSS Adoptions Bureau - Fresno District Office which provides post adoption services such as adoption assistance and through a CDSS-funded collaboration with Aspiranet who operates the R.E.A.C.H (Resources, Education, Advocacy, Crisis Intervention, and Hope) Program. R.E.A.C.H services are available at no cost to

families in Mariposa County or to families who have adopted, or are in the process of adopting through those counties. R.E.A.C.H services are also provided to others touched by adoption including information and training for adults considering adoption as well as adult adoptees. Services include support groups, monthly newsletter, lending library, educational workshops/trainings, and short term case management including referrals to mental health services.

Independent adoption services are provided to residents of Mariposa County but there is no interaction between these organizations and the County adoption program. These organizations include EMQ Families First, Aspiranet located in Daly City, Chryalis House located in Fresno, Families First Modesto, Family Connections Christian Adoptions in Modesto, and Family Connections Christian Adoptions in Oceanside.

Termination of parental rights is handled by the Court. The County currently writes the WIC 366.26 report and Madera County Department of Social Services Adoptions workers prepare the adoption assessment that is attached as supplement to the report. The Court retains jurisdiction until the adoption is finalized. Fost/Adopt homes are identified from a list of available homes or possible relatives for kinship prospective adoptive homes. The Department does not have a formal Family Search and Engagement Program. Currently it is part of the social worker's responsibility to talk to the children and parents to seek out potential family members as possible placements and/or connections for the children.

The experience of the County has been, if the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies to a potential adoption situation, the tribes oppose adoption and a plan of guardianship becomes the viable option. There is Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) routine protocols for interstate adoptions. Child Welfare Services handles, through the Dependency Court, legal guardianship proceedings on Child Welfare cases and conducts Probate Court non-relative Probate legal guardianship investigations by order of the Court. Oftentimes, the County will open a case subsequent to the probate guardianship investigation and provide services on a volunteer basis so that the legal guardian can receive foster care payments.

D. Staff, Caregiver, and Service Provider Training:

Child Welfare Services

Most of the staff has received an overview of the Safety Organized Practice (SOP) training curriculum; however, the actual training has been postponed until the Fall. Child Welfare Services and BHRS will receive trainings on the trauma-informed practice approach as a participant in the CASAT Initiative. CWS and BHRS will be trained on the Nurturing Parenting Programs during the Summer. UC Davis provides sexual assault training for nurses and sexual assault team responses. Good Cause for Denial of Access to Children training was provided by the District Attorney's office at a meeting of the Abuse Prevention Collaborative. The County has a contract with Liebert and Cassidy Law Offices to

provide training on legal and administrative issues. The Administrative Office of the Court Risk Management division has provided training on Protected Information, HIPPA, confidentiality and common release matters. The Central California Training Academy provides social worker training and conducts a year-long introductory training for new Child Welfare Services social workers. Both CWS and Probation provide training on an as-needed basis for their entire staff or individually if a work performance assessment identifies the need. Training may also be arranged for specific topics when identified as needed by the clients served.

Probation

Newly-hired Probation Officers receive required Probation Officer CORE training within the first year of employment. Officers assigned to supervise youth in placement complete the required Placement CORE training. All Probation Officers are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education training each year. Other training is provided as needed or offered through collaborative efforts with the service-providing community.

How the county identifies ongoing and/or new training needs to ensure the competency of social workers, placement workers, supervisors, managers, and administrators: Both Child Welfare Services and Probation provide training on an as needed basis for their entire staff or individuals as a training need is identified. Specialized training is often required to implement a new program or approach and arranged as needed. Training for the implementation of new technological applications and refresher trainings are given as needed.

How the skill development of new and experienced staff is measured: New staff attends Core training classes provided by the Central California Training Academy. Their skill in applying the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform their job effectively is monitored and measured by their supervisors and managers. SafeMeasures reports are helpful in this continuous process of evaluation. Client, caregiver and community feedback provides another way to assess the skill development of staff.

How staff and other providers are trained to identify and support the treatment of emotional trauma: The CWS staff will receive SOP training in the fall. Currently, BHRS staff meets with CWS monthly for training and consultation. Mariposa County, as a participant in the CASAT Initiative, will receive trauma-informed training through that initiative.

How the county addresses the training and supervision of county staff, foster parents, and other providers with respect to hard to serve populations: Since the last CSA/SIP, the Department has implemented a training component for relatives with whom children are to be placed. Probation Officers are certified for the Batterers Program. Credentials are audited to ensure that they are up to date. The District Attorney's Office put on a Women's Protection Day in October, 2011 which included a clinic on gun safety. The County participates in Beyond the Bench for training of dependency staff and

judges. Poverty training with Donna Beagle on "How best to communicate with poverty" was conducted for local service providers. Five persons from the county received the training for trainers' classes and will be prepared to train others. A Collaborative Grant Writing Workshop was held for service providers. Persons from the County participated in the Mariposa Teen Unity Leadership Summit where teens and adults that support them were trained on Reciprocal Relationships. Supervisors and managers oversee the quality and effectiveness of work with these populations.

Description and analysis of the county's capacity to provide training to service providers and other subcontractors, including those supported by CAPIT, CBCAP, or PSSF funds: Mariposa County, intends to implement the Nurturing Parenting Program that incorporates both in-home and in-classroom training. Financial support will be provided with CAPIT funds. There have been few parenting classes available to Child Welfare families over the past year. Behavioral Health Services staff have not only seen a need in the community for the families they serve, but additionally, BHRS has been contacted by lay persons in the community seeking guidance and training on how to work with and parent youth. When asked "What changes, intervention, or services are needed to support children and their families", the Stakeholder Meeting group identified the need for parenting classes in the community. Parenting training for foster parents was cited as a need during the foster youth focus group. In a recent survey distributed to stakeholders as a part of the CSA process, 50% of respondents identified in-home support including home visits, parent education and modeling as the number 1 way to prevent entry into the Child Welfare/Probation systems and 35% identified parent education and support within the community as third ranking way. Similar response rates were received as ways to facilitate reunification and 56% of respondents thought lack of parenting knowledge hindered or delayed reunification. According to 44% of respondents (the highest response rate category), placement stability could be enhanced by foster parent training and support and 32% thought in-home support for caregiver families was needed. The most frequent cause for both Child Welfare Services referrals and placements is neglect. Differential Response staff also cites inadequate parenting and life skills as a predominant issue in the families they see. Currently the DR staff uses behavior modification techniques to coach parents on how to interact with their children. The Differential Response staff does not use any defined program of parenting, but intends to use the Nurturing Parenting Programs approach in the future. It is expected that the Nurturing Parenting Programs will blend effectively with the trauma-informed practice approach of CASAT.

Training has been scheduled for Mariposa Safe Families, Inc., Differential Response workers, BHRS, and Child Welfare staff for the Nurturing Parenting Programs, a CWS evidence-based program that the county expects will meet the complete spectrum of ages and types of training venues needed such as one-on-one and classroom instruction.

Description of the trainings available to service providers: The Human Services Department does not have staff assigned to community development and training functions or to administrative analyst assignments so these responsibilities fall to line managers, supervisors, and staff. These functions are just some of the many roles that compete for their time and specialized training, and protocols and procedures development must be contracted out at a cost to the Department. The Department often invites community service providers including Mariposa Safe Families Inc. to participate in contracted training when appropriate and space allows.

The Human Services Department has requested technical assistance regarding the appropriate use of OCAP funding streams, the collection of required statistics, and the OCAP monitoring and auditing requirements for the Human Services Department OCAP liaison and Fiscal Officer II and for the CAPC and Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. the only contractor for the Children's Trust Fund and limited OCAP funding. This training is needed so that the Department can fulfill this function in the future.

When appropriate, the Child Welfare Services, BHRS, Probation Department, MSFI, and other community service providers are inclusive in their invitations to participate in training that is being given. The Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative meeting provides a venue at a regularly scheduled time for training and provider updates and feedback.

The agency representative responsible for providing technical assistance to service providers: The Deputy Director of Social Services, the Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and the Fiscal Officer II are responsible for providing or procuring technical assistance for service providers. Often the Social Worker Supervisor IIs in Child Welfare Services and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provide this assistance and training. Social Workers assigned to specific functions such as Licensing may also provide technical assistance.

E. National Resource Center Training and Technical Assistance:

Description of the technical assistance that the county anticipates requesting from the National Resource Centers, Western Pacific Implementation Center, and Quality Improvement Centers:

Description of the T/TA the county is receiving from any NRC: Mariposa County is one of a small group of counties who is currently involved in the Traumatic Stress Network working with Rady Hospital-San Diego. The County has been involved in the process and will continue to be and will request technical assistance when and if a need is identified.

F. Agency Collaboration:

Collaboration between the child welfare and probation agencies to deliver foster care services to children and families served: Child Welfare Services and the BHRS divisions of the Human Services Department collaborate routinely regarding service planning for clients in common. Probation youth are provided wraparound services through Mariposa Wraparound and BHRS. A Probation Officer III is co-located and assigned to work with these youth and their families. Juvenile Probation looks to Human Services (CWS) for assistance in finding an appropriate foster/kinship home placement when needed. The Departments participate in training together, are partners in the C-CFSR process, and share agency and community resources. Probation Title IV-E and Emergency Assistance eligibility determinations are handled by Human Services eligibility staff and the corresponding fiscal claims and reporting responsibilities are processed by Human Services fiscal staff. The Human Services Department fiscal unit provides fiscal claiming and oversight for Probation's use of wraparound services.

The Human Services Department and the Probation Department, as governmental entities, have access to funding streams such as federal and state funds, county realignment funds, and grant opportunities that are not available to community service providers. Human Services, Probation, and Public Health are responsible for a breadth of responsibilities, must provide services to all who meet the basic definitions and requirements of the programs administered, and operate within a strict regulatory environment which can restrict flexibility in service delivery. Governmental agencies such as Human Services and Probation are poised to be community leaders to initiate and fund community projects and to collaborate with community and faith-based entities to provide targeted direct services, flexibly and at lower cost. The Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative, as the primary stakeholders group for social service related issues, is often the venue in which these initiatives are vetted and programs and strategies are developed.

For example, the Prosperity Initiative was proposed by the Human Services Department and funded with Community Block Grant Dollars from the Community Action Commission of Calaveras-Mariposa and with Human Services funds. The Abuse Prevention Collaborative and the faith-based community have determined poverty reduction an area for focus by the human service and faith-based community. Consequently, an Advisory Group was established and a project called Bridges was formed. The coordination for the program was assigned to Mariposa Safe Families Inc. who procured Bridges from Poverty training from a well-known consultant in the field. The goal is to adopt 30 families to work with over the next ten years to bring them out from poverty level.

Mariposa Safe Families Inc., First Five Mariposa, and the Public Health Department collaborate on the Smart Start and Early Start Programs. These are visiting nurse programs that provide parents and baby support services including access to immunizations, baby check-ups, and parenting training.

Mountain Crisis Domestic Violence Services is collaborating with the Sheriff's Office and Child Welfare Services to develop and implement protocols for domestic violence interventions. Mountain Crisis, Mariposa Safe Families Inc., Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and the Probation Department are collaborating on services for persons living in the County who are AB 109 prison early releases.

Collaboration in small communities, such as Mariposa County, takes place in small groups of very active community members who dedicate time and energy to selected areas of interest. For human services, the members of the Abuse Prevention Collaborative share common interests. Not only do Collaborative members attend those meetings, but they work in agencies serving persons in need, and they sit on boards of other service-providing agencies. Information-sharing and collaboration can happen through relationships and proximity.

Besides the government and education agencies, Mountain Crisis and Mariposa Safe Families are the two community-based organizations with missions and adequate resources to provide broad-based human services coordination and delivery.

Tribes/tribal representative and/or tribal service provider: A representative of the Mariposa Native American Tribal Council, as a former member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Families and Children in Foster Care has now become a member of the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative which merges the Domestic Violence, Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Blue Ribbon Commissions. The representative provides expert testimony to the Court in Child Welfare and Probation cases concerning Native American children. A representative of the Mi Wu Mati Healing Center and two representatives from Tuolumne Mi Wok Domestic Violence Services participate on the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative. The BHRS division of the Human Services Department collaborates with tribal representatives on the delivery of services at the Mi Wu Mati Healing Center and the Public Health Department participates in services at the Native American Health and Dental Health Clinics. The advice and counsel of the Tribal Council is sought when placement and service plans are required for Native American children who become clients of Child Welfare Services or Probation. Although relatively few (less than 10) Native American children are served by either agency, when they are, culturally appropriate solutions and services are required. Forging stronger connections with the Tribal community, which could include joint training, development of appropriate placement resources, and seeking regular input/feedback regarding service delivery planning would strengthen the services provided by both public agencies.

Community- based organizations including FRC and DV, SA, MH, regional centers, foster youth, kin gap centers, CAPC, First Five Commissions, and former parent consumers and faith based organizations:

Mental Health and Substance Abuse: These services are provided to the community by Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, a division within the Human Services Department. Differential Response and Wraparound are also provided by this division with referrals provided by Child Welfare Services and Probation. A Probation Officer with a caseload of youth receiving Wraparound Services is co-located in the Human Services Building with the Children's System of Care staff. With the move to the new Human Services building a couple of years ago, all programs operated by Human Services were co-located in one building. This co-location has facilitated communication and collaboration between Child Welfare Services and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. It also provides a large facility capable of serving the community with public assistance and human services in one location. The facility provides a meeting and training site for community and human services providers at no additional cost. Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provides outreach services to the community. The division employs many of the individuals in the community licensed and/or educated in this type of work. The supervisors of mental health programs meet (at least) monthly with the supervisors of CWS (and others). There are discussions of program changes and services available. Supervisors and staff know one another. These relationships improve communication and facilitate services to clients.

Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. provides prevention and early intervention services for Mariposa County through some OCAP funding. The OCAP liaison collaborates with the Executive Director of MSFI to develop the OCAP Annual Report. MSFI houses the local Family Resource Center and holds grand/kin groups for families interested in using that resource. There are a growing number (500 per US census) of grandparents and kin in Mariposa County who are raising their grandchildren and nieces/nephews. Some of these families are also working with CWS and Probation. The Board of MSFI also serves as the County's CAPC. The Human Services Department handles the fiscal claiming and oversight of OCAP funds, some of which are allocated to MSFI. MSFI is collaborating with CWS on the implementation of the Nurturing Parenting Programs.

Foster and CYC youth are invited to monthly resource and support meetings conducted by CWS staff. Their input is solicited in the C-CFSR process and individually in the design and implementation of their service plan.

The Human Services Department collaborates with the **faith community** on services for individuals in need and also for the development of programs to address community needs. A recent example of a program established by the faith community is Open Arms, which provides services to those who are homeless or are at risk. Clients of Child Welfare Services and Probation as well as the "at risk" community, receive services such as shelter, food, and transportation from Open Arms.

Members of the faith community participate in the Abuse Prevention Collaborative and with the Bridges project facilitated by Mariposa Safe Families

Inc. Both Probation and Human Services participate in these groups. Regular feedback is obtained through these venues.

Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. was at the beginning stages of the work with Mariposa Open Arms and served on forming committees. At this point, the work of the group is to assist their clients in becoming more stable within the community. The Bridges Project is beginning to start its Community Partner Program where it is hoped to pair up the clients of Mariposa Open Arms with mentors and community partners to assist in walking their clients through the services available in Mariposa and help them to become self-sufficient and upwardly mobile and stable within the community.

First Five is a major participant in the community for education and services related to the needs of children 0-5, including children and families who have risen to the attention of CWS, BHRS and Probation. They are a contributor to the FRC services and are a member of the Abuse Prevention Collaborative. First Five, Public Health, and MSFI collaborate to provide Smart Start services in the community.

Former parent consumers, in the past through MSFI Shared Leadership and currently through the MSFI gran and kin group, are engaged in activities at the FRC, attend local community meetings such as the Abuse Prevention Collaborative on occasion, and may be selected as a parent partner for Mariposa Wraparound. Their input was solicited for the CSA through survey mailings to targeted groups.

Domestic Violence services are provided by Mountain Crisis. Mountain Crisis, the Sheriff's Department, and CWS have been collaborating on the development of a more effective CWS intervention approach for referrals in which domestic violence issues may be involved.

Caregivers/Group home providers/Foster family agencies – Caregivers in all categories form the backbone of the foster care system. They are the persons/organizations who are charged with the day-to-day care and safety of CWS and Probation children/youth in out-of-home placement. They are expected to take care of these children/youth and to participate in a positive way with their service plan. Collaboration with the agencies and with individual workers is on-going. Foster parent/Caregiver meetings are held monthly and training opportunities are shared on occasion.

Description and analysis of the following:

The process used to ensure that the concerns of these stakeholders is taken into account when developing services: The widely-distributed CSA stakeholder's survey and the stakeholder's focus groups were used to inform the CSA process. Feedback from both the focus groups and survey responses advocated for parenting and in-home coaching programs that would help families

function better and improve their parenting skills. OCAP dollars will be dedicated to implementing a parenting program.

The regular and active participation of Child Welfare Services, Probation and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Supervisors and Managers and the Executive Director of Mariposa Safe Families at community meetings such as the Abuse Prevention Collaborative and the Community Partners Program, a mentor-based program for the homeless and poor, and by serving on local boards such as the CAPC and SARB ensure that there is a two-way process for giving and receiving feedback and developing relationships and strategies for forwarding the progress of child and family well-being.

Information gleaned during the CSA assessment process regarding the county's ability to involve stakeholders in planning efforts: A summary of responses to the Self-Assessment Survey, the Peer Review, and feedback from the stakeholder,and foster youth focus groups is included in the appendix. Some key areas of consensus that emerged included:

- In-home support (including parent education, modeling, and home management) is perceived as highly effective in both prevention of child welfare and probation entry, as well as in reunification and out-of-home stability.
- Related to that, parent education also figures prominently as an effective tool in prevention and reunification, and lack of parent knowledge of child rearing and life skills presents a significant challenge as it hinders, delays, or disrupts family reunification.
- Foster parent training and support was identified in the foster youth focus groups as well as in this survey as a service that would support placement stability.
- Behavioral and mental health services were highly endorsed as effective in placement stability and as areas in which social workers/and/or probation officers could use more training to better support their families.
- The general census seems to be that neither CWS nor Juvenile Justice Services solicits nor takes into consideration community input very much.
- There is a perception that while the County is responsive to community needs, the community capacity to meet community needs is stretched, but room for improvement in collaboration was also identified, which would expand and increase efficiency in service provision.
- Respondents frequently acknowledged a lack of resources and limited professional personnel to be an issue that diminishs the county's ability to respond effectively to community needs.
- Some issues with after-hours responsiveness, privacy protection in reporting, and judgmental behaviors of agency staff were raised in respondent's descriptions of their experiences with the agencies.
- The dearth of local foster homes was echoed several times across survey items.
- A need for parent education was identified across several survey items, particularly with respect to: life skills; child development; parenting practices; and job training

- Additional supports that are perceived to be needed in the community include: counseling and other mental and behavioral health services; after-care and follow-ups

Feedback received through the stakeholder process confirms the plan for Child Welfare Services to sponsor the training and implementation of the Nurturing Parenting Programs and to proceed with their plans to participate in the C.A.S.A.T. initiative to implement a trauma-informed approach to practice. Child Welfare Services will also move forward with Safety Organized Practice training and implementation. Wraparound and Differential Response Services will continue to be provided as funding allows and the programs will be reviewed to ensure that they are designed to maximize potential to address the needs of their clients.

Feedback and information gleened from the Stakeholder process suggests the need to communicate on a periodic but regular basis with the service community and the public regarding the status of Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation programs. Strategies for addressing this need will be considered for inclusion in the System Improvement Plan.

For community based organizations:

How the county and community, including the prevention, early intervention, and treatment community-based partners, work together to reduce child abuse and neglect: The community service providers, including CWS and Juvenile Probation, meet monthly at the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative to share information and discuss ways to address abuse prevention and intervention issues. The meeting is chaired by the Executive Directors of MSFI and Mountain Crisis. MSFI and CWS will collaborate on implementation of the Nurturing Parenting Program, a program to be supported with OCAP funding. Training for the parenting program will be open to other community service providers and law enforcement, as well. Recently the county service providers including those involved with prevention, early intervention, and treatment, have focused on poverty in the county, a condition that may contribute to child abuse and neglect. MSFI, the Sheriff's office, BHRS, and other service providers have collaborated on a "mental health first aid" program targeted to the general public. MSFI, Probation, Sheriff, and BHRS are collaborating on services for AB 109 participants who are early releases from prison.

For the tribes/tribal service providers:

Description of the extent to which there is shared involvement in evaluating and reporting progress on the goals for Native American children: Representatives from the Tribal Council participate in community planning by participating in the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative. Advice is sought from tribal representatives during the intervention/placement/and service planning for Native American children. There are three Native American children receiving services from Child Welfare Services and two Probation youth.

G. Service Array:

The availability of child abuse and prevention education to the general public:

Prevention and community-based family support: Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. uses Children's Trust Fund dollars to fund community child abuse prevention and awareness outreach activities. Child abuse and prevention education is provided to the community at events either sponsored or attended by Mariposa Safe Families Inc. and the CAPC. Booths are maintained and staffed with persons able to answer the public's questions and distribute information about community resources, reporting processes, and general information about child abuse prevention and child safety. One of their largest efforts is the bi-annual Safe at Home events, one in Mariposa Township and one in Coulterville which are open to the community. The theme of this year's events is Healthy Habits. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. and the Child Abuse Prevention Counsel review participation and effectiveness of these events by collecting satisfaction and feedback surveys. MSFI maintains the Community Link data base where the public can access information concerning services in the community. They can receive information about community resources and can learn about issues that they may be facing and receive tips on what they can do to address them. This data base also provides information concerning mandated-reporting responsibilities. MSFI is the provider of the family resource center (FRC) called the Mariposa Family Enrichment Center (FEC). The Family Enrichment Center is located in Mariposa Township and there is a satellite center in North Mariposa. Residents are able to come into the resources center to receive referrals for community services and computer assistance navigating the Community Link which contains information about community resources. Small group meetings such as the support group for parenting grandparents and other caregivers and small training groups such as parenting classes and mandated reporting training can meet at the facilities. Mandated reporting training is also available on-line.

Family Preservation: Differential Response Program: This CWS program attempts to prevent/ameliorate family disruption and child placements through offering voluntary, early intervention services. Services such as supporting low income families with clothing, free meals, childcare, and transportation; coaching parents in how to appropriately confront their children; clarifying family roles and coaching on how to establish boundaries, and providing behavior modification and instruction in parenting skills are provided by BHRS staff. CAPIT funds support this program. CWS, Mariposa Safe Families, Inc., and BHRS will be implementing the Nurturing Parenting Programs, which have a relevance level of high and a scientific rating of three – Promising Research Evidence. These programs can be used in a classroom setting or in-home and can be used with all ages of children. The programs will be funded with CAPIT and CBCAP funds.

Reunification services: Mariposa Wraparound provides services to CWS, Mental Health, and Juvenile Probation children, youth and families so that the

families can be reunited or remain intact. The Wraparound Program is a definable way of partnering to provide intensive services to children with complex needs using a team approach. It is intended to be an alternative to residential care. The child and family work directly with a team comprised of professionals and members of the family's community. The team develops an individualized service plan that describes all of the needs identified by the child and family and how those needs will be met to ensure a successful outcome. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. selects and monitors a Parent Partner assigned to the program.

CASA provides advocacy services to youth who are in the CWS/foster care system. The goal is that all foster children are matched with a CASA advocate, although recently due to a shortage of volunteers, the goal has not been met. There is a local desire to match Probation youth with CASA advocates when resources are available.

Kinship care services: Gran & Kinship Families Coffee and Blog: Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. convenes a monthly coffee/meeting of grand parents and kinship relative caregivers to support each other and learn and exchange ideas and resources from their own life experiences with childcare, guardianship, and/or adoption. It is an independent confidential group that provides the opportunity to meet new friends and explore legal, health, educational, financial, mental health and behavioral life experiences.

Independent Living: Services and education for independent living are provided to CWS and Juvenile Probation youth through monthly meetings facilitated by a CWS social worker. The youth develop work with the social worker to develop their own independent living plan. The youth receive life and job skills training to prepare them for entry into the world of independence and work.

Friday Night Live, facilitated by Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. and Alcohol and Drug division of Behavioral Health Services strives to build partnerships for positive and healthy youth development which engage youth as active leaders and resources in their community. FNL is focused on preventing community issues such as underage drinking, drinking and driving, and social hosting. The program also focuses on providing youth with the skills and resources they need to be successful citizens of their communities. The primary focus of FNL program is to form youth/adult partnerships with young people, providing programs rich in opportunities and support, so young people will be less likely to engage in problem behaviors, more likely to achieve in school, and more likely to attend higher education or secure a full-time job. Feedback from the youth participating in this group is useful during the planning and development of prevention programs that address the needs of families at risk of child abuse and/or probation involvement.

Permanency Planning for Youth: Permanency Planning for Child Welfare Services minors consists of ensuring the most permanent plan possible (and appropriate) subsequent to termination of Family Reunification services.

Alternatively, there may be a "fast track" mode whereby FR services are "bypassed". In both scenarios, a WIC Section 366.26 Selection and Implementation of a Permanent Plan hearing is set, at which time the plan of APPLA (Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement), Legal Guardianship or Adoption is found to be appropriate and court ordered as such. An updated case plan is generated and filed with the WIC Section 366.22 report (and attached assessment by Madera County Adoptions Unit). Additionally, a TILP (Transitional Independent Living Plan) is generated for youth age 15 ½ and older. Select PP cases may also entail Administrative Reviews annually (instead of traditional court hearings every six months). Youth age 14 and older may participate in the Mariposa County CYC (California Youth Connection) Chapter and/or ILP (age 16 and older).

Other at risk populations:

Open Arms Ministry is a group of churches offering support and basic needs to the poor and homeless.

Manna House/Lord's Pantry is the community Food Bank for persons in need of food.

Habitat for Humanity is the identified organization for affordable housing in the housing element. It is a Christian ministry dedicated to making shelter a matter of conscience. The organization continues to be active in assisting low income families find housing. 50% of the housing in the County is considered substandard. Local groups are discussing how to put together rehabilitation programs and landlord/tenant mediation.

Poverty Reduction Task Force is a group of service providers in the community working to address issues of poverty. They have contracted with Bridges from Poverty (Donna Beegle) for education and guidance in developing poverty programs. They are implementing the Bridges to Poverty approach to combating or ameliorating issues of poverty.

Capacity Consulting is a locally-run 501c3 that provides grant-writing and other administrative supports to the community non-profit and government agencies providing social and health services.

Mother Lode Job Connection provides assistance for those seeking work. It maintains a computer lab for low-income persons without computers which is funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Coulterville Community Center Warming Center – Coulterville/Greeley Hill and New Beginnings Church provides services to homeless families/individuals and offers a warm place to sleep and transportation. The Unified School District assigns a homeless liaison to the Center.

Culturally-appropriate services: Mariposa County's population is predominantly White. With a growing number of Hispanics moving to the county, providers such as MSFI, Public Health, Education, and ICES child care do obtain resources from or provide staff for Spanish-speaking persons. Services for Native Americans are obtained from the Mariposa American Indian Tribal Council. The Hispanic population is the only ethnic population that meets the 5% threshold for requiring targeted services and those services are being developed over time. The cultural needs of all clients are addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Services to find a permanent home for children 0-5: Mariposa County contracts with Madera County for adoption services. Through this contract, the County shows improved outcomes in the Adoption Composite, particularly in the area of adoptions for children 0-5. Case-carrying social workers conduct family search and engagement activities for their individual clients as part of service plan development.

Services that target the development needs of children: First Five educates and collaborates with local service providers such as Public Health regarding a wide range of services for children. Examples include the Early Start and Smart Start programs.

Public Health offers Smart Start and Early Start programs for young children and their caregivers. Public Health offers immunizations and CHDP/EPSDT health checkups for CWS and probation youth. Pre-natal and peri-natal services are provided.

Services available to children/and/or caregivers with physical, mental, or other disabilities: Caregivers of both CWS and Juvenile Probation may receive services through BHRS, including when they are participants in Drug Court. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. in collaboration with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provides parenting classes (EASE) for families with children exhibiting defiant, oppositional, disobedient, or difficult behaviors

Mental Health/Behavioral Health and Recovery Services: Mariposa County went to Anasazi Medical Health Records in 2007-2008. These electronic records have allowed BHRS to develop plans to keep better track of timeliness of services, as well as to track when treatment plans and assessment renewals are due. It has also allowed BHRS to track services more accurately and in a timely manner. BHRS capital facilities funding was used to build a Family Services Center next to the new Human Services building. The Family Services Center has eight treatment rooms to see clients in, and there is an apartment-like setting that is shared with Child Welfare Services and is used for family visits as well as family training and individual parenting instruction.

The 2013 Mariposa Mental Health Services Act status plan best describes the activities of the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services division as follows:

Since the development and approval of the original Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) plan in 2005, BHRS has been building its infrastructure and increasing the programs under Children's System of Care (CSOC) and Adult System of Care (ASOC) to help BHRS provide a maximum of services and resources to the community. At this point no new programs are planned, and the goal is to improve the programs already developed so they are better meeting the needs of BHRS clients and family members. Some examples of current initiatives follow:

Innovation: The implementation of the Innovation component of the MHSA plan is ongoing. In 2010 work began with California State University, Fresno to create an evidence-based practice (team-decision making) found in child welfare settings, and preparations are being made to apply it to the mental health adult population. BHRS worked with the university for a year to begin developing the infrastructure and measuring tools for the plan but then the project was put on hold due to financial issues. BHRS is hoping to resume work on this component during 2013.

The Mariposa County CSS component of the MHSA consists of two work plans: CSOC and ASOC.

CSOC:

CSOC continues to move forward and make improvements to the services provided. Each year that the program exists, BHRS receives benefit from the previous year's experience. Since its inception, the CSOC unit has increasingly undertaken more and more difficult services. One program improvement has been that more in-home case management and in-home therapy sessions is being provided. Two of the staff are trained and certified in providing Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS). Currently CSOC has had only had one official TBS case, but many of the services provided through the WRAP program satisfy the requirements of TBS services due to the intense in-home case management and therapy services staff provide.

All CSOC Clinicians are trained or are in the process of being trained to use the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), which is an empirically research based assessment tool. The assessment tool will assist in improving the clinical practice used to treat all CSOC clients. The assessment tool will be used to give a baseline measure of where clients are when they come to CSOC as well as a guide to treatment to make sure families are on track to make client driven, recovery based improvements.

As a result of the Human Services move from eight buildings scattered throughout the community into one new building over one year ago, the individual programs within human services are causing BHRS to work more closely with other divisions. This has helped to support the clients by reducing the number of tasks CSOC is requiring the families to do within CSOC, and it keeps from overwhelming the families with the number of required meetings and tasks they must complete before they can exit the system. The unity of human services is making the Team Decision Making (TDM) and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

meetings more effective than they were when the agency's programs were in separate buildings. Mariposa County now has five CSOC programs under the direction of one program supervisor and ten staff members. The programs are as follows:

The Care Unit: MHSA Full Service Partnerships (FSP) works closely with youth between the ages of 5 and 24.9 to provide comprehensive, intensive mental health services for the client and their family. A team dedicated to working with client and family members is providing in home therapy, coaching, life skills, behavior modification, and parenting skills for the clients and their family members. Family Team Members (FTM) and families work together to establish which of the 13 life domains need to be addressed in order to stabilize the youth and meet their mental health needs. These domains include: Safety, Family Problems, Legal Problems, Emotional and Behavioral Problems, Educational Problems, Financial Problems, Living Environment, Social Functioning, Fun and Recreation, Physical Health, Vocational, Cultural and Spiritual, and Addiction Problems. Peer support may be one of the interventions used to stabilize the youth, providing insight from others who have experienced similar situations. To be considered eligible for the Care Unit, a referral is made to the supervisor who reviews it and then a screening for eligibility is done by a group of representatives including: Mental Health, the FSP programs, and other human services professionals who are involved in the client's life. Another service provided to clients that has increased over the past year is the amount of transportation that is provided to clients and family members, as this remains a major obstacle in our rural mountain community.

Project Smile: The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) program is Project Smile, a 12 month program that works closely with the Mariposa County School District, recruiting mentors from two Mariposa County High Schools and protégés from 4 Mariposa County grade schools grades K-8. Mentoring encourages resiliency in youth by fostering caring, respectful relationships, and providing opportunities for meaningful involvement among the protégés. Mentors are selected based on compatibility with protégés' relative interests and ability to be a positive role model. Protégés are selected based on referrals from parents and school staff of students who are beginning to show behavioral problems. The goal is to target youth who are in need of stabilization in a critical life area that are not served by other community agencies. The staff for Project Smile provides transportation for youth within the program as well as group activities and peer mentoring.. Project Respect staff foster and facilitate a grade school program conducted during the 9 month school year. There are two programs, Girls Talk and Boys Rock, which are geared for youth in the fourth through sixth grades. The lead coordinator for Project Smile travels to the four area grade schools teaching socialization skills to students in conflict identified by the principal and school staff. The youth who attend Girls Talk and Boys Rock are not necessarily involved as protégés in Project Smile.

WRAP Around: Mariposa WRAP Around functions in conjunction with Child Welfare Services (CWS) and the Department of Probation. Mariposa County has

been allotted 8 slots, and six of the eight slots are currently filled. The Wrap team consists of a Parent Partner who is a contracted private provider, Probation Officer, Mental Health Clinician, Facilitator, Mental Health Aide, and Community Partners. Referrals are submitted by CWS or Probation to the Human Services Administrative Team, which reviews the referrals and then meets with the submitting agency and the Wrap program supervisor to discuss whether the referral is appropriate or not. It is the job of the Administrative team to determine who is eligible for Wrap services and who is not based on the application that is submitted as well as their financial eligibility. Once accepted into Wrap, the principles of Wrap are followed with an individualized service plan that meets the 13 life domains as determined by the family with their Wrap team. Year to date, 10 youth and their families have successfully graduated from the WRAP program.

Differential Response (DR): The newest program in the CSOC component was added in 2012. DR is a new program from Child Welfare Services (CWS). The referrals are generated by reports received by CWS that are a concern about a child's level of risk but they do not rise to the level of an open case with CWS. Families who qualify are sent a DR introduction letter by CWS, informing them that a DR worker connected with CSOC will contact them. The DR worker then has three days to contact each family and begin working with them to determine where the problems are and to begin providing stability for the children so that the children remain in the home without having an open CWS case.

ASOC:
Recovery, Opportunity, And, Development (ROAD) House:

ROAD House is funded by various mental health dollars and encompasses all MHSA adult services through the FSP program and the Wellness Center Program, also known as the Recovery, Opportunity, And, Development (ROAD) House. The ROAD House is a drop-in center located in the community for anyone needing social contact or help with food, laundry services, and a shower or to watch a movie. This MHSA funded system is well established and continues to include increases in the array and quality of services provided to the community. BHRS has recently had an increasing homeless population that is frequenting the ROAD House along with local clients and community members. This program gives ASOC the opportunity to assist the homeless with daily needs as well as to try and find housing for those who are seeking it. The ROAD House is well established and is continuing to provide case management services to assist individuals in applying for public assistance, housing, and employment.

The Public Guardian/Conservator's Office: This program continues to be one of the components of the ASOC. Since many of the clients served in this program are on Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorships (WIC 5100-5120) they fit well into the ASOC program.

The "Full Service Partnership" (FSP) component: FSP consists of a multi-disciplinary team made up of: an LMFT, an AOD Counselor, and Mental Health aides who provide a wide range of intense case management services to individuals who are placed in an Institute for the Mentally Diseased (IMD), Residential Care Facility (RCF), or who are incarcerated in the county jail. Staff and clients continue to promote the true spirit of the "Recovery Model" by developing and implementing an FSP that is consumer driven, and staff supported in a spirit of, "Whatever it takes." This is promoted by teaching and coaching independent life skills while teaching clients to voice their concerns as they improve in managing their mental illness. BHRS continues to use WET funds to provide stipends for clients who have made progress in their recovery to the point they are able to give back to the community by providing peer support to individuals attending the ROAD House. ASOC continues to utilize the "Transitional Living Apartment" which is located next to the ROAD House to teach one-on-one independent living skills which include: budgeting, nutritional meal preparation, shopping, house cleaning, laundry, hygiene and grooming for individuals who are placed in a supervised setting for overnight visits to further prepare them to be successful at independent living. ASOC is having great success with this approach to recovery. It has witnessed several of its clients go from an LPS conservatorship to being independent while transitioning back into the community as a productive member of society. In the coming year, BHRS plans to build on this foundation and try to have more of an impact on the lives of our citizens who, in the past, have been institutionalized and then seem to be forgotten. BHRS is working to live up to the recovery model by accepting these people where they are and working with them to help them get back into the community as productive members without the stigma of being categorized as a "Mentally Ill client."

5150 Hospitalizations: BHRS also plans to step up its efforts to coordinate with the hospitals when it has clients who are on 5150 holds because they are a danger to self, others or are gravely disabled. BHRS works closely with the hospitals to provide intensive case management services to individuals who are being discharged from the hospital so it can provide supportive outreach services in their homes while assisting them in getting connected and involved in the ASOC programs. ASOC staff is beginning to provide in home counseling, case management and alcohol and drug services for the purpose of working with clients in their environment. It is hoped that this approach will help ASOC staff to identify with its clients and make them more comfortable as staff interacts with them in their environments. Mariposa County has very small percentages of ethnic populations. This year the County did meet the Medi-Cal threshold levels for the Hispanic population (11.05%). BHRS is observing an influx of Hispanic families into the community. Many of these Hispanic families have traditionally worked in the Yosemite National Park, and BHRS did not have much interaction with them. Now they are becoming more a part of the population in Mariposa and BHRS is making efforts to reach out to them. Bilingual staff and speakers are available for Hispanic clients. The Cultural Competency Plan addresses the increase of this population and BHRS plans to begin working with them. In accordance with AB 109 legislation, BHRS has clients who are released from

prison or serving a local sentence commitment that will be transitioning or stabilizing within our community. The Probation department has set up a CORE program as a day reporting center for this population. BHRS hopes to work with Probation to provide more mental health, alcohol and drug and medication services to this population. BHRS plans to continue to work with Probation to offer services in the hopes that it can be of assistance to this growing population. BHRS is also seeing an influx of homeless individuals in the community. The downturn in the economy has added to this problem. One of the community's local non-profit organizations is in the process of conducting a survey to determine how much the homeless population has increased in the last few years. BHRS is hopeful that it will have more of an impact on this population at the ROAD House. There are laundry services at the ROAD House and classes on Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) that BHRS hopes will assist, not only their regular clientele but the growing number of Hispanic and homeless people. Help for the homeless population is also available from other community agencies and from non-agency partners. BHRS also has a few veterans that need attention. In our Cultural Competence Plan BHRS also identified this population as one it needs to pay attention to. BHRS is planning to have 2 teachers from the Veterans Administration to talk to it about what services are available and what the needs of this population are.

Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. operates the Family Enrichment Center (FRC), provides child abuse and prevention education and outreach, holds parenting classes, hosts support groups for parents and caregivers, facilitates alcohol and drug prevention and life skills classes for teens and other at risk youth, and is the lead facilitator for the Bridges Poverty Reduction Program. The Board of Mariposa Safe Families, Inc serves as the CAPC. MSFI receives $20,000 in Children's Trust Fund and OCAP dollars.

Mariposa Heritage House operated by the Alliance for Community Transformations (formerly Mariposa Safe Families) offers alcohol and drug rehabilitation drop-in services.

Alliance for Community Transformation (formerly Mountain Crisis) is a 501 (C) 3 provider who provides domestic violence services in the community. Effective July, 2013 Mountain Crisis changed its name to Alliance for Community Transformations. Previously known for its work in providing domestic violence services and for Project Respect to stop bullying among youth, the organization realized that it had become a multi-service organization. It will continue to work with the Unified School District to provide bullying prevention programs in the schools, since bullying is seen by the community and service providers as a prevalent issue with teens and becoming present even among younger youth. In addition, to domestic violence services and bully prevention, the agency has developed several new programs which provide alcohol and drug services (Mariposa Heritage House), youth development programs (Ethos Youth Center), and offender services (Center for Opportunity, Re-Entry and Education). The work of the agency is to foster comprehensive and integrative approaches to working with the community. They also sponsor Project Respect, a program to

stop bullying. Probation and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services staff have growing concern about bullying and considered it as a problem in the community among teens as well as beginning to show up at younger ages.

Ethos Youth Center is a program and drop-in center operated by Alliance for Community Transformation (Mountain Crisis) to be a catalyst for Mariposa youth to have community, justice, and social change.

The services available for Native American children and those children qualifying under the Indian Child Welfare Act Services to Native Americans: Mariposa County offers medical, dental, and mental health services to the Native American population at the Mi Wu-Mati Healing Center, Mariposa Indian Health Clinic, and Mariposa Indian Dental Clinic. The Mi Wu-Mati Healing Center provides client-centered services to American Indians, integrating professional clinical counseling services with traditional Native American values and practices. The center provides counseling, crisis and referral services and community mental health intervention and prevention activities to American Indian families, adults, and children. BHRS collaborates with the clinic to provide mental health services. Mariposa Indian Health Clinic provides outpatient health services for all ages, CHDP checkups and immunizations, and minor surgeries to Native American clients. Mariposa Indian Dental Clinic provides an array of dental services.

The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians provides an array of services including social, health, and safety services at the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Dental Clinic and the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Health and Wellness Center to Native Americans in Tuolumne and North Mariposa County. A representative from this group participates in the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative.

H. Quality Assurance System: Description and analysis of the following:

The quality assurance system that child welfare and probation agencies utilize to evaluate the adequacy and quality of the systems throughout the continuum of care: Both CWS and Probation rely upon supervisor and manager oversight, feedback from partner agencies, families and caregivers, the Team Decision-Making process when used; and reporting tools and management reports to evaluate their service systems.

The child welfare and probation placement policies for evaluating achievement of the performance measures identified in the county Quarterly Management Reports: CWS and Probation review the quarterly reports internally and have a scheduled conference call with CDSS Outcomes and Accountability staff quarterly, upon the release of a new report.

The effectiveness of county policies for monitoring compliance with the ICWA and MEPA: Supervisors, managers, the Court, and the Tribal Council provide oversight to ensure compliance with these requirements.

Consultation with Local Tribes in Child Welfare Planning Efforts: Child Welfare Services and Probation do not have a formal process for consulting, coordinating, evaluating, and reporting progress with goals for Native American children or child welfare planning efforts with local tribes. A representative of the Mariposa Native American Tribal Council attends the Abuse Prevention Collaborative and provides expert testimony to the Court in Child Welfare and Probation cases regarding Native American children. A representative of the Mi Wu Mati Healing Center and two representatives from Tuolumne Mi Wok Domestic Violence Services participate on the Abuse Prevention Collaborative, as well. The Behavioral Health and Recovery Services division of the Human Services Department collaborates with tribal representatives on the delivery of services at the Mi Wu Mati Healing Center and the Public Health Department participates in services at the Native American Health and Dental Health Clinics. The advice and counsel of the Tribal Council is sought when placement and service plans are required for Native American children who become clients of Child Welfare Services or Probation. Although relatively few Native American children are served by either agency, when they are, culturally appropriate solutions and services are sought. Forging stronger connections with the Tribal community, which could include joint training, development of appropriate placement resources, and seeking regular input/feedback regarding service delivery planning may be a strategy for the future to strengthen the services provided by both public agencies. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Mariposa County Child Welfare Services adheres meticulously to the mandates of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). ICWA addresses the needs of children with confirmed or possible Native American lineage who are involved in dependency court proceedings. The Legal Secretary II has knowledgeable about ICWA matters and ensures all requirements are met, including notices to tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). A representative from the Mariposa County Tribal Council is available to testify at dependency court on ICWA matters. He also participated in Mariposa Superior Court's Blue Ribbon Commission on Families and Children in Foster Care which has been folded into the Abuse Prevention Collaborative. Biennial reviews by the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC), Judicial Council, provide feedback to Child Welfare Services regarding ICWA compliance issues.

Probation ICWA:
The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a federal law that regulates placement proceedings involving children of American Indian heritage. If a child is a member of a tribe or eligible for membership in a tribe, a family has the right to protection under ICWA. These rights apply to any child protective case, adoption, guardianships, termination of parental rights action, runaway/truancy matter, or voluntary placement of children.

The entire legislative history makes it clear that the Act is a directive pertaining to the placement of a Native American child with someone other than the parent or Indian custodian in charge of raising him/her, whether on a permanent or temporary basis. Although there is some overlap, juvenile delinquency proceedings are primarily designed for other purposes. Where the child is taken

out of the home for committing a crime, it is usually to protect society from further offenses by the child and to punish the child in order to persuade that child and others not to commit other offenses.

Placements based on status offenses (actions that are not a crime when committed by an adult), however, are usually premised on the conclusion that the present custodian of the child is not providing adequate care or supervision. To the extent that a status offense poses any immediate danger to society, it is usually also punishable as an offense which would be a crime if committed by an adult. For that reason status offenses are treated the same as dependency proceedings and are covered by the Act and ICWA guidelines, while other juvenile delinquency placements are excluded.

While the Act excludes *placements* based on an act which would be a crime if committed by an adult, it does cover terminations of parental rights even where they are based on an act which would be a crime if committed by an adult. Such terminations are not intended as punishment and do not prevent the child from committing further offenses. They are based on the conclusion that someone other than the present custodian of the child should be raising the child. Congress has concluded that courts shall make such judgments only on the basis of evidence that serious physical or emotional harm to the child is likely to result unless the child is removed.

The Court, Child Welfare and Probation departments have an affirmative and continuing duty to inquire whether a child is or may be of American Indian Heritage (CRC 1439[d]). If the Probation Officer believes that the child is at risk for entering foster care, the child and the parents or guardians must be asked if the child may be Indian or may have Indian ancestors (CRC 1439[d][1]). In the event that the delinquency court is considering terminating parental rights, at the first hearing, the parents or guardians must fill out the JV-130 form. If the parent, family member, or minor indicate the minor may be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, form JV-135 must be sent to the tribe(s) by registered mail. If the name of the tribe is unknown, the form JV-135 must be sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Notices must be sent via certified or registered mail with return receipt requested. All proofs of delivery and responses must be placed in the minor's Court file. The minor's file is stamped on the outside cover to indicate that ICWA has been addressed.

The agency's process for ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated screening, assessment and treatment plan to identify children's mental health and trauma needs: CWS and Probation refer children who may need mental and trauma needs services to BHRS for assessment and treatment services. Although there is sometimes a waiting period, crisis situations are always handled promptly. The Wraparound Program which is housed in the Children's System of Care provides mental and behavioral health services for children in Wraparound. The CAANs assessment system is used by BHRS. CWS plans to implement the Safety Organized Practice (SOP) program in the future. Mariposa County CWS is a participant in the National Child Traumatic Stress

Network through Rady Hospital and will receive training as part of that C.A.S.A.T Initiative.

How the agency effectively monitors prescription medications, including psychotropic medications, for children in foster care: Two children under the supervision of Child Welfare Services receive psychotropic medications. One is in a group home. The second is in placement in an FFA. The County expects the facility administration to monitor the appropriate use of medications. The social worker or probation officer is expected to check for compliance during their visits with the child at the facility site.

The effectiveness of the county's policies for monitoring how a child's physical health and education needs have been adequately identified and addressed: A review of CWS/CMS and SafeMeasures data keeps track of whether a child has had timely health and dental exams and IEP assessments. The supervisor and manager review these reports. In the review month, reports indicated that all children received timely health and dental exams and no child had received an IEP assessment.

The system used to ensure children with special needs and their families receive effective services: The worker is responsible for ensuring that the children/families that need these services get them. Supervisors and managers review cases, thereby providing additional oversight. The feedback from schools, other service-providers, and caregivers provide additional means for monitoring.

The county's policies and procedures for documenting and monitoring compliance with child and family involvement in case planning, including: CWS and Wraparound encourage the use of Team Decision-Making meetings for case planning. This process ensures child and family involvement in the planning. Supervisors and managers review case plans to ensure inclusion. The juvenile court process provides oversight by individuals such as the judge or attorneys concerned with the best interest of children who come to the attention of the Court.

Concurrent planning in every case receiving reunification services, meeting TRP timelines and documenting of compelling reasons: The use of computer tools and supervisory and Court oversight ensure that these requirements are met. Mariposa County contracts with Madera County for adoptions services. Those workers also provide a level of oversight.

Development of a Transitional Independent Living Plan for each child age 16 or over: CWS/CMS and SafeMeasures record the completion of these activities. Supervisory review ensures worker compliance. The Juvenile Court is provided a copy of the ILP plan is included in court reports.

How the county addresses the needs of infants, toddlers, and children, e.g. priorities for safety assessment, service delivery for reunification, and standards regarding the foster parent-to-child ratio: The County currently

uses or will use assessment tools to assist in case planning. Team Decision-Making meetings include caregivers in the case planning process. Worker oversight and supervisor/manager consultation and community service-provider collaboration also are useful processes when developing plans to address needs. Licensing staff oversee the licensing and compliance process for foster homes.

Age appropriate children are referred to the Public Health Department's Children's Medical Services Program (CMSP) and to Early and Smart Start visiting nurse programs for parents with children under 5. Child Welfare Services plans to implement Safety Organized Practice, Trauma-informed practice, and the Nurturing Parenting Programs which have an in-home parenting component. Differential Response and Wraparound Program services also provide an in-home component.

The process the county uses to capture participation and evaluation data for programs supported with CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds:

CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Data Collection: The County does not have an electronic system for gathering, storing, and disseminating CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF program information, other than fiscal information; however, Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. collects demographic and satisfaction data at every workshop and event they sponsor. These methods are used so that Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. can assess the effectiveness of their events and programs. Currently, information is shared at CAPC and the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative meetings, which are attended by community stakeholders, Child Welfare Services and Probation supervisory and/or management staff. Information is also exchanged during the periodic meetings between Mariposa Safe Families, Inc., the receiver of Children's Trust Fund and some CBCAP funds, and the Human Services Department designated OCAP liaison. CWS staff enters case information into CWS/CMS and submits service-provision claiming to the fiscal unit so that the charges can be claimed properly. The Department is interested in developing a more effective OCAP plan. During the System Improvement Plan cycle, the County intends to develop an OCAP plan and process that will help to ensure that funds are used appropriately and effectively, that services are monitored and required data is collected, and that processes to monitor and audit the programs fiscally and programmatic are developed.

How the county monitors the provision and quality of services funded by CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF:

Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) - Child Abuse Prevention Council Board of Directors:
The Child Abuse Prevention Council Board (CAPC) is the official advisory body for the use of Children's Trust Fund and some CBCAP funds allocated to Mariposa Safe Families, Inc for child abuse prevention activities. The CAPC meets monthly. In compliance with the Brown Act, the Agenda, previous Minutes, Director's Report and the Profit and Loss Statement for the previous month are distributed at least 72 hours before the meeting. The agenda is posted at the

Mariposa Court House and published in the Mariposa Gazette a week in advance. The Board members are expected to review all materials (Profit and Loss Statement) before the meeting. The CAPC has a finance committee that advises the Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. Executive Director of all matters pertaining to the budget. The budget is created by the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Directors at the Annual Board of Directors meeting in October of every year. Expenditures and planning for the OCAP funding is carefully evaluated and outlined at that time.

The Board of Directors is made up of multi-agency representatives within the community and community members at large. Currently, the CAPC (MSFI) Board is robust with quite a few newer members. Currently the County Sheriff is the board chair and the co-chair works at a local bank. Newer board members include a couple from Manna House (food bank), the director of the senior center, a community member who is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, a major participant with the school district. Additionally, some members of the Board have served for a long time, such as the Deputy Probation Officer III, a retired person from the Mother Lode Job Connection, and a Social Worker Supervisor II from Child Welfare Services. The Executive Director of Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. participates as well. She supervises the drug & alcohol prevention specialist and the Wraparound parent partner, neither of whom are funded with OCAP dollars.

The County Board of Supervisor's designated public agency to administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funding is the Mariposa County Human Services Department. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. receives $20,000 made up of the Children's Trust Fund and some CBCAP funds.

Description of the process by which the BOS Designated Public Agency adheres to the requirements set forth by the CAPIT/ CBCAP/ PSSF programs: Mariposa Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) and its 501 (c) 3, Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. receives a portion of the CBCAP funds and the Children's Trust Fund dollars from the County of Mariposa. The Human Services Department administers the funds and Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. reports financial information regarding expenditures to them for claiming and oversight purposes. The CAPC is accountable to the California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse Prevention and must comply with the requirements set forth in the Welfare and Institutions Code. There is also a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors and the Child Abuse Prevention Council dba Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. that was approved in March 2009. Accepted accounting principles are required of the CAPC to validate the proper expenditure of these funds.

The CAPC is also accountable to the community to provide child abuse prevention services. An annual report is provided to the BOS and to the OCAP office of CDSS. The Human Services Deputy Director of Social Services, who is the OCAP liaison, and the Executive Director of Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. collaborate each year to produce the annual report to the OCAP. The report is typically written in October and covers the prior July through June fiscal year.

A competitive RFP process was initiated in 2009 to decide the allocation of the 2010-2013 CAPIT and CBCAP funds. There were no successful bidders and so the Human Services Department retained most of these funds. The Department also administered PSSF.

Within the Human Services Department, the Deputy Director of Social Services is responsible for the programmatic oversight of OCAP funds and produces the Annual Plan and the Human Services Fiscal Officer II is responsible for fiscal oversight of all Human Services operations and funding, including the claiming of OCAP funding expenditures to CDSS. During the Annual Plan approval process this Fall, some problems were identified by the OCAP consultant regarding the amount of CBCAP dollars used for administration costs. The Consultant is working with the County to make the necessary corrective action.

CDSS OCAP oversight is another way through which it is ensured that funds are used appropriately and accounted for. In the Fall of 2012, during the OCAP Annual Report review process with the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention, it was learned that the County had used OCAP funding incorrectly, allocating too much funding for administrative purposes. Additionally, the County had not spent or claimed some of the OCAP funding. It is interesting to note that Mariposa County, like other small counties, receives very little Children's Trust Fund dollars, a fund made up of birth certificate and vehicle license fees. This is due in part because the local John C Fremont hospital does not provide birthing services, so births take place in hospitals in adjacent counties such as Merced or Fresno Counties. Typically, only $700-$900 is deposited in the Mariposa Children's Trust Fund for these two activities. This past year, to raise the Trust Fund level to $20,000, the Human Services Department allocated some of the CBCAP allocation received by the County. The Department and the CAPC did not realize that the CBCAP funding would have spending restrictions which required expenditures on direct client services. MSFI sees itself as a community resource for education and support and not a direct service provider. The amount of paperwork and the use restrictions for the CBCAP funds may be too onerous for such a small organization. The unintended consequence of these requirements may result in the loss of community-allocated OCAP funding for child abuse prevention and intervention activities.

The corrective action process the county utilizes to ensure that service providers or subcontractors are held accountable, including service providers receiving CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds: The Human Services Department retains the remainder of OCAP funds. The fiscal unit of the Human Services Department reviews submitted internal purchase claims and then claims the expenditures to CDSS through the Department's quarterly claim. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. engages the services of an accountant to develop quarterly profit and loss statements which can be provided to the fiscal unit upon request. The Human Services fiscal unit does not have sufficient staff to perform regular, on-site audits of the agency's books, although Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. has indicated that it would provide access and financial documents for federal or

state audit review. Reporting forms, developed by the Human Services fiscal unit, were designed to document demographic information regarding persons served at Mariposa Safe Families, Inc., but the information has not been routinely collected. The Department has a verbal agreement with Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. to collect demographic data and an exit satisfaction survey from all participants when activities are funded with OCAP dollars

The Human Services Department retains most of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) funds to be used to support the differential response and parenting services. Staff costs and services provided based on actual employee/program cost and direct service payments, if any, using Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) funds are documented and reviewed by the supervisor and deputy director, and then submitted to the fiscal unit for processing.

The following describes current issues being addressed with the use and claiming of OCAP funds: Usage of all funds except CAPIT is an issue.

- In 2011/12 Human Services used less than half of the CAPIT allocation to fund the newly implemented Differential Program (contracted to Behavioral Health). The remainder of those funds was placed in the Department's realignment fund.
- $20,000 of the Department's approximately $30,000 CBCAP allocation (2011/12) was used to fund the CCTF to bring it up to $20,000. The OCAP liaison, working with the CDSS OCAP Consultant to complete the OCAP Annual Plan, found out in December of 2012 that those funds need to meet all the funding/reporting requirements of CBCAP. This requirement was new information to the County and received after funds had been spent. Consequently, there were claiming overages for administration and the funds were not used in evidence-based programs. The remainder of the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) dollars ($9,904 for Fiscal Year 2011/12 and $10,088 for Fiscal Year 2012/13) was not spent.
- The PSSF funds in 2011/12 were spent, as the Department historically has spent them, on direct services to clients in the particular categories. Again, after funds had been spent, the Department was informed (in December 2012) that those expenditures did not meet the funding requirements.
- For this fiscal year (12/13) Child Welfare Services had already spend some PSSF dollars in the first quarter on activities historically funded. The OCAP liaison intends to request that the Fiscal unit back out those costs and charge them to other appropriate funding sources.
- $20,000 of CBCAP funding has been transferred to MSFI for the 12/13 funding year. Numerous discussions between the Human Services Director and the Executive Director and Executive Committee of MSFI regarding these funds are taking place.
- The Department expects to spend only a portion of the Fiscal Year 2012/13 Child Abuse, Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds. The Department is in the process of identifying, purchasing and providing training on a range

of parenting curriculum for in-home parenting as was identified in the last SIP that is yet to be implemented. We expect to train a number of staff to be able to do in-home and classroom training with the curriculum. The services provided by the Differential Response/Parenting worker will be funded through Child Abuse, Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP). The Department is planning to use Nurturing Parenting Programs which have a Child Welfare System Relevance Level of High and a Scientific Rating of 3 – Promising Research Evidence. These Programs cover all age groups and provide more flexibility in a small county. Efforts are currently occurring to schedule training for staff in Summer 2013 for implementation of this parenting program.

8. Critical Incident Review Process: N/A

9. Peer Review Summary: (see Appendix for list of participants)

Summary of the process taken to conduct the Peer Review: In an effort to increase efficiency and minimize costs for a peer review process that, in the past, required the time and expense of hosting representatives from six or more counties, the leadership of the Human Services Department worked with CDSS and obtained approval for their proposal to be the first county in the State to conduct a Peer Review process through the use of video - technology. Although challenging to develop since there is no uniform technology used by the counties and the State, the process was successful and cost and time efficient. Participating counties' administrations were grateful for minimizing worker time and the participating workers were complimentary of the process. Consultants from CDSS Outcomes and Accountability division worked with the County through-out the process and participated on-site during the Review.

Description of the focus area and the county's performance prior to the Review: For the Peer Review, Child Welfare Services chose "No Recurrence of Maltreatment" as its focus area. The focus area for Probation was "Least Restrictive Placement". The information obtained was used to further inform this Self-Assessment and in the development of goals and strategies for the System Improvement Plan. Mariposa County has seen an increase in the number of child abuse allegations received, particularly for neglect, during the previous C-CFSR period. Performance in the area of no maltreatment reoccurrence has been declining. In January 2013, a local newspaper article was published which reported on a newly released Kidsdata report showing Mariposa County Child Welfare Services to have the largest rate of substantiated child abuse allegations among California counties. Although it is commonly known that rate comparisons can be deceiving when comparing large and small counties' data, public interest about the well-being of Mariposa children and youth was heightened. Over the last few years and in compliance with the efforts of the State Department of Social Services and the Courts, Mariposa CWS has been working diligently to employ interventions that will allow families to remain intact while family dysfunctions are addressed. Programs such as Differential Response have been implemented so that children can remain safely in their own homes with services

provided to families through community referrals or by in-home support from Behavioral Health Services staff. Juvenile Probation has successfully used Mariposa Wraparound Program services to leave youth in their homes or return them to their homes. Over the past two years, Probation has had only two out-of-home placements. Intensive services are provided to the youth and their family by Behavioral Health and Wraparound staff. These services might include drug and alcohol or mental health services, referrals for basic needs, domestic violence services, or parenting and life skills training, or in-home coaching. Team-decision making approaches are used so that participating youth and their families are actively involved in their service plan.

Description of the method for carrying out the process: PLAN FOR USING TECHNOLOGY IN PEER REVIEW (PR)

Mariposa County employed the use of video-conferencing technology for the Peer Review interviews and feedback session. A description of the steps taken by Mariposa County to implement the CDSS-state approved electronic peer review process follows:

- Select Peer Review Team with awareness of electronic presence vs. on-site presence and commitment to participate in process (in addition to normal criteria)
- Develop confidentiality assurances for Peer Review in electronic environment
- Develop orientation/training for Peer Review Team in electronic environment
- Develop mechanisms for Peer Review Team's access to case data/file packets on selected cases for review – provide timeframes for review in relation to web interviews
- Set up conference call/webinar/video for Peer Review Team members to provide orientation/training, to interview worker(s) and supervisor(s) re: selected cases
- Set up additional conference call/webinar/video for debrief process (at end of each team review/end of day/next day) with Peer Review Team and whomever will be collecting information for reporting:
  - Design Debrief guide
  - Determine how teams debrief with co-chairs at end of each review day
  - Provide forum for consolidation of results of interviews
  - Collection of information for reporting
- Conference call/webinar/video for Peer Review celebration.
- Exit Interview with Mariposa County Executive/Supervisory Team
- Post Review "Process Review Meeting" with Mariposa County and State Department of Social Services to evaluate the County's experience with the PR process and collect recommendations for future reviews.
- From "Post Review Meeting" develop Post Review Document to summarize the "electronic" process for future reviews.

Summary of findings and promising practices identified from Peer Counties:

Recommendations for Child Welfare Services

- Social workers would benefit from some identified time with their supervisors
- More time to discuss with co-workers, families that are repeat offenders
- Weekly supervision specifically for investigations
- Weekly staffing for certain investigations that are higher risk, on the radar
- Getting other input from staff and management
- Child welfare could partner more with behavior health re: waitlist for services available, screening for priorities to get those spots
- Provide opportunities for upper management to receive training on child welfare services
- Training on tools such as safety organized practice, safety mapping, safety plans, on-going assessment during investigation to inform families of dangers and worries

Probation Interviews:

Promising Practices Identified through Case Reviews and Staff Interviews

- Wrap around services sound comprehensive, are intimate, and shows the staff know kids/families pretty well
- The Wraparound approach provides insight on what is best to serve kids
- Keep the caseload size at 8 or less, a very manageable number
- Consistency in staff assignments is helpful
- WRAP: weekly meetings occurred, family is included in those meetings
- Child is included in placement decisions along with the family if they are available and appropriate
- WRAP case load allows for approx 2-3 contacts weekly with the child by the probation officer in addition to meetings with an assigned specific drug and alcohol counselor who provides both group and individual counseling sessions
- A case manager is assigned to assist with transportation needs of family and child
- Participants are involved with a mental health counselor independent of the drug and alcohol counselor
- Child is immersed with support systems and service providers, also has contact with counselors, case managers,
- Individuals in community serve as a support system for the child
- Youth center (CYC) representatives have attended wrap sessions with kids, children were active in sports, would like to include coaches as support

Challenges / Barriers

- Same case notes have to be recorded in 3 different systems, Mental Health System, for funding purposes (Anasazi), CWS/CMS - for placement cases, Probation- notes, contacts
- Currently in the process of using the PACT assessment tool
- Currently not an implemented and standardized validated assessment tool used in probation, just starting to use the PACT tool, re: determination of which families receive WRAP
- Currently there is not an objective tool used to determine which families receive WRAP around services
- No documentation to show that families would best be served by this type of service
- Frustration with the difference in case plan requirements of Probation, versus the TDM WRAP team plan. Is there collaboration and communication between the plans? How can it be assured that family of youth is on same page and that the different service providers that are working with the families are on the same page?
- There are different plans and it appears that the master plan is a hand written plan
- Part of the TDM process involves a parent partner
- Parent partner is primarily focused on providing needs of the parent
- Does the parent partner play a role in providing for the needs of the youth as well, including when the youth is in removal status? If not, is there an individual out there that works with the child like a CASA worker?

Recommendations for Probation

- Continue in implementation of standardized assessment tools for both determination of case planning as well as Wraparound cases
- If possible, streamline notes and documentation of contacts
- Implementation of PACT may assist in identifying criminagenic factors and protective factors to be included in the case plan
- There will be better outcomes if everybody works from the same case plan and documentation

In summary, the Peer Review process provided valuable feedback to Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation. Child Welfare Services staff could benefit from more regular interaction and coaching from supervisors, the management staff could benefit from more training in Child Welfare Services, and the staff would benefit from more consultation with peers. Juvenile Probation services could be enhanced by the implementation and use of an assessment tool to be used in decision-making, more efficient ways to collect comprehensive data, more integration of service plans, and perhaps a broader role for the parent partner.

10. **State-Administered CWS/CMS System Case Review:** This review did not occur.

Probation Youth Demographics Data: Wards of the Court (9). All nine are male in the age range 15-19. Seven are participating in the Wraparound Program. Seven were felony cases and two were misdemeanor cases. There is one male on Deferred Entry Judgment who is age 16. It is a felony case. There are nine youth on Informal Probation cases, all misdemeanors. There are 3 males and 6 females in these cases. The youth on Probation's caseload are from the following zip codes: 95338 (15); 95329 (2); 95311 (2).

11. **Outcomes Data Measures:** This section reviews the County's performance on the outcome and process measures that comprise the California Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability System (COAS). The Quarter 2, 2012 Data Extract for FY January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 was used to analyze County performance for the review period. (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports) The same source provided historical data covering the period of 2009 to 2012 which was the period covered by the previous County Self-Assessment Plan. In addition, data recorded and graphed in SafeMeasures was used in some areas to illustrate the County's performance trend over time beginning in 2009 through December 2012. (National Council on Crime and Delinquency Children's Research Center SafeMeasures (http://safemeasures.org/ca) Both sources of information are drawn from CWS/CMS data but from different points in time. Quarterly data from UC Berkeley is a retrospective look at CWS/CMS data while SafeMeasures data is updated biweekly and suggested patterns and the conclusions drawn from them may change. Another source for performance comparisons was data contained in the previous County Self-Assessment Plan which discussed the County's performance in the 2010 through 2012 time period.

Demographic information and client activity counts have been included to demonstrate how small sample numbers can affect statistics and performance outcome measures and to refute any assumptions of disproportionate or disparate treatment of clients by factors such as age, ethnicity, or gender. In addition to the data skewing that may have weaken the analysis contained in this report, slight differences in numbers/percentages may appear throughout the document when similar or the same type of information has been drawn from different sources reporting information based on different points in time. This report provides a snapshot of the County during a particular period of time. Recent reports may show different data numbers, but the trends reflected in this report remain valid.

In the January 1 to December 31, 2011 period, 3,238 children resided in Mariposa County. Allegations by zip code were received in the following order (highest to lowest): 95338, 9595345, and 95326 (highest); 95311and 95306; 95318 and 95389; and 93023 and 00058 (lowest). Two hundred ninety one (291) allegations of suspected child abuse were received and 120 of those were substantiated. Thirty three (33) substantiations resulted in entry into the foster care system. These statistics resulted in an 89.9% allegation incidence per 1,000

children, a 37.2% substantiation rate, and a 27.5% rate of foster care entry per substantiation. This compares to a 51.9%, 9.6%, and 34.5% rate for California. These statistics show a high rate of allegations and substantiations in Mariposa County when compared to California statistics. Other counties with similar results were Del Norte, Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Mendocino, Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Glenn, Trinity, Tuolumne, Calaveras, and Kern. Except for Kern and Mendocino, all of these counties are small, rural counties and may give credence to the theory of statistical skewing. In preparation for the Peer Review, CDSS staff provided statistics to the County for the years 2008 through 2011 showing a rise in Mariposa County's foster care entry rate (incidence per 1,000 children) from 5.4 (2008); 3.0 (2009); 8.3 (2010); and 10.3 (2011) in a four-year period. Only two other small counties had a greater incidence. For 2011, 34.9% of foster care entrants were children age five and under.

Age group	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Children with Substan-tiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allega-tions	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Substan-tiations
Under 1	148	19	128.4	8	54.1	42.1	1	6.8	12.5
1-2	306	35	114.3	17	55.5	48.6	5	16.3	29.4
3-5	484	54	111.5	25	51.6	46.3	6	12.4	24.0
6-10	827	89	107.6	32	38.7	36.0	8	9.7	25.0
11-15	1,019	72	70.6	31	30.4	43.1	13	12.8	41.9
16-17	453	22	48.6	7	15.5	31.8	0	0.0	0.0
Total	3,238	291	89.9	120	37.1	41.2	33	10.2	27.5

Of the 291 allegations received, the majority (245) concerned allegations of general (238) and severe (7) neglect. Of those 110 were substantiated. The other types of allegations received were for physical abuse (22), sexual abuse (10), emotional abuse (2), caretaker absence/incapacity (5), and at risk, sibling abused (7). Fifty-four were assessed only or evaluated out, ninety-two allegations resulted in a determination of unfounded and twenty-five were inconclusive. Since over 59% of all allegations resulted in a determination of being assessed out, unfounded, or inconclusive, it suggests several areas for County review: community awareness and mandated reporter training; active and effective use of Differential Response services, and hotline and social worker training on safety and risk assessment. The regular completion and use of SDM tools may also support social worker efforts. Services that could support families who are struggling might be drug and alcohol or mental health services, domestic violence services, parenting education, job training and employment counseling/opportunities, and connection to services that provide assistance with procuring basic needs.

Child Welfare Services Supervisors and Managers have a policy of encouraging least invasive intervention, preferring to encourage working with the family through approaches such as differential response, voluntary family maintenance and referrals to community services rather than the more invasive approach of court involvement and child removal. An informed but cautious approach is

consistent with the goal of keeping families together and since the County has a shortage of foster and group homes, the approach is also in line with local resources. The success of the approach is reliant upon adequate social worker resources, regular consultation and oversight with supervisors, and the availability of supportive department and community programs, such as differential response and wraparound services to better ensure child safety and family well-being. Small counties such as Mariposa are challenged by limited resource availability and the result of these shortages may be reflected in maltreatment recurrence rates. In contrast, Mariposa County has achieved a 100% performance rate in the area of no recurrence of maltreatment while in foster care and the Probation Department has seen success with placing juveniles in least restrictive placements and often at home by providing wraparound services through the Behavioral Heath Division of Human Services. Child Welfare Services has had relatively few children enrolled in Mariposa Wraparound.

The work of Child Welfare Services social workers is said to be a job of decision-making. Workers are entrusted with responsibility to quickly assess risk and safety issues of children brought to the attention of the agency. They are asked to decide when it is safe to reunite families who have experienced the removal of their child(ren). They are encouraged by Federal, State, and Department policy to err on the side of keeping families together, supported by local supportive services. They are challenged by the limitation of local resources. The weight of making these decisions can hang heavy on the shoulders of the workers, some of whom have only recently graduated from college and have no prior experience with some of the issues that their clients face. The wrong decision can have the multiple effects of children being harmed, families being disrupted, and county, department, and personal liability. Strong support and review from supervisors and managers and clear agency policies are important to help reduce these concerns.

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

   Performance regarding the safety of children is indicated by (a) the percent of children for whom maltreatment does not recur following an initial substantiated abuse/neglect report (Measure S1.1) and (b) the percent of children in foster care who do not experience maltreatment while in care (Measure S2.1).

   Mariposa County selected these measures as focus areas for the 2013 Peer Review. SafeMeasures data ranks Mariposa County SafeMeasures data ranks Mariposa County highest (37.2%) among California counties in the percent of recurrence of maltreatment, with two other small, rural counties next with rates of 26.5% and 23.8%. Although these statistics are alarming and suggests a need for performance and process improvement, they can also be attributed to the statistical skewing associated with small numbers. For example, these statistical percentages apply to 12 children in Mariposa County and 9 and 10 children in another two counties. This mathematical fact

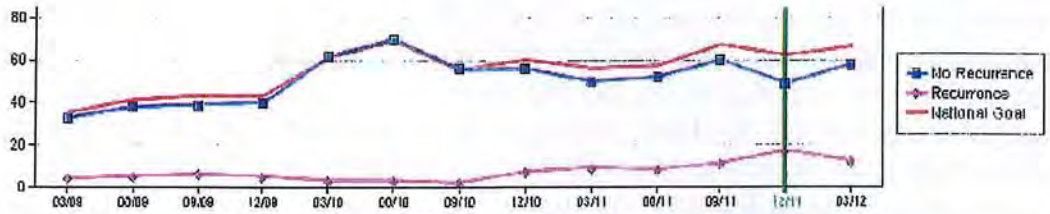
does not lessen the sting that 31 children were harmed a second time after becoming known to a Child Welfare agency.

a. **Measure S1.1 – No Recurrence of Maltreatment**

Measure S1.1 is the percent of children who had a substantiated allegation during the six-month report period who then had another substantiated allegation within six months of the initial abuse/neglect referral.

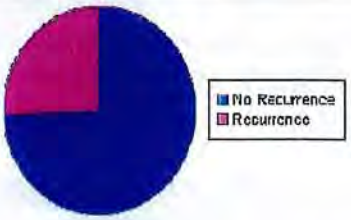
Results: July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 (most recent data) – UC Berkeley

No Recurrence of maltreatment Outcome	Count 68	Percentage
No recurrence	51	75.0%
Recurrence	17	25.0%
National Goal		94.6%
California Performance	39,695	98.6%



No Recurrence of Maltreatment

	Count	Percentage
No Recurrence	49	74.2%
Recurrence	17	25.8%
National Goal	62	94.6%
Total	66	100.0%



For the CSA review period July 1 to December 31, 2011, out of a total of sixty-eight referrals received in the prior six months, there were 17 incidences (25%) of recurrence of maltreatment. Therefore, 75% of referrals did not result in a repeated incidence of maltreatment. This outcome is 19.6% below the federal performance standard for the period (94.6%) and below the State's performance of 98.6%.

During the review period, eight referrals were made for Path 1 Differential Response services. All referrals have been subsequently closed. One was assessed as warranting a CWS referral; services were provided to all but two families; four families had their needs met and four did not.

When compared to baseline data, however, the County's performance in this area is considered to be an area of negative performance (79.3%). Compared to

the previous CSA period, the number of referrals and the number of recurrences has increased. Mariposa County performance in this measure remained close to the National Goal until 9/10 when the recurrence of maltreatment increased gradually until a significant dip in 12/11 followed by improvement in the next quarter. By 6/12 reoccurrence had declined so that the County was at the National Goal. (SafeMeasures extract periods 7/01/11 through 12/31/11 and 10/01/11 through 3/31/12.

Research points to various family demographics that may suggest a greater risk of reabuse.

- Larger families
- Single parent households
- Families who lack social support
- Families in extreme poverty
- Families with multiple needs
- Families engaged with multiple public systems
- Caregivers with alcohol/drug issues
- Caregivers with mental illness
- Caregivers with serious health problems
- Caregivers who are victim/perpetrators of domestic violence
- Use of corporal punishment

Cite: www.humanservices.edu/academy; Honomichl, Ryan D., Phd., & Brooks, Susan, MSW; August 2009; Predicting & Minimizing the Recurrence of Maltreatment; UC Davis Academy Human Services Northern California Academy.

Some or all of these factors, except large family size, are present in families that Child Welfare serves.

This data raises questions for community reflection and suggests possible approaches, both currently in place or in need of development, to change negative outcomes for some children and families.

- How do the community, service providers, and child welfare investigative staff define child abuse and neglect?
- What changes, interventions or services are needed to support children and their families?
- What role does the community take in addressing child abuse and neglect?

Community stakeholders were asked these questions at a meeting of the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative on January 25, 2013. Their comments are in the appendix.

More specifically, most allegations of neglect in the County are attributed to general neglect. Pertinent questions to be reflected upon are:

- What are the indispensable, minimally adequate types of care that children require?
- What actions or failures to act on the part of the parents or other caretaker constitute neglectful behavior?
- Must the parent's or caretaker's action or inaction be intentional, willful or not?
- What are the effects of the actions or inactions on the child's health, safety, and development?
- Is the family's situation a result of poverty, or a result of parental neglect?

Cite: Child Welfare Information Gateway; "Child Neglect: a Guide for Intervention"; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Gaudin, J.M. Jr,; 1993

In Mariposa County, the neglect situations that are frequently seen by Child Welfare investigating staff are as follows:

- Caretaker absence with substance abuse related issues. Meth, alcohol, and prescription medication are huge problems in the County.
- Parents arrested for Drugs/DUI/Domestic Violence related issues.
- Failure to Protect against domestic violence by both parents (I.e. abusive parent and non-protective parent).
- Custody issues between separated parents.
- Lack of Supervision from working and nonworking parents.
- Poverty with living conditions which are substandard. In a recent removal, two toddlers (3yr & 2yr olds), were living in a trailer under extremely dirty conditions with Health and Safety Hazards present.
- Parents with mental illness and poor parenting abilities.
- Parents with little to no support system; may also be isolated from family and friends.
- Young children with rotten teeth; children requiring several dental appointments for corrective treatment due to neglect of medical/dental care.
- Parents addicted to pornography.
- Parents dropping children off with friends/family for long periods of time for drug/alcohol binges.

Mariposa County implemented the usage of the Structured Decision-Making (SDM) safety and risk assessment tool in February 2009. Since that time, department management has emphasized its use by hotline and investigative social workers as a best practice and a support for workers in making assessment decisions. SafeMeasures reports dated December 2012 shows the County having a rate of 87.5% (7 of 8 referrals) for SDM hotline assessment tool completion with a rate of 85.71% (6 of 7 referrals) of referrals screened in for investigation and only one referral (14.29%) screened out of investigation. Two of 6 referrals (33.33%) were assessed by SDM to be in need of an immediate response while 4 (66.67%) were a ten-day response priority. Looking at the yearly trend for January 2012 through December 2012, the County performs at or well about the National Goal for the months of March through September 2012 and shows a decline in SDM usage from October through December 2012,

resulting in a usage rate of 83.61%. January and February were the lowest months of SDM usage. By using the SDM tool to determine safety, 3 of 4 children were determined safe and one child as was assessed as unsafe. The risk tool completion rate was 51.83% with the County maintaining usage at or above the National Goal except for a slight drop in January and June and July, typically months when there are staff shortages.

Child Welfare Services does not currently make aggressive use of the Voluntary Family Maintenance program, as was used previously as documented in the last CSA. The County is planning to implement Safety Organized Practice (SOP) in the future which may result in higher use of the voluntary family maintenance. Currently there is one family receiving Voluntary Family Maintenance services. Child Welfare Services has not contracted for community-based services in the past. Instead, Child Welfare Services has engaged with families having problems in need of social service attention and mentoring and has provided the services with Child Welfare Services staff. In 2011/2012 less than half of CAPIT funds were expended to fund a contract with Behavioral Health to implement a Differential Response program. The Department expects to spend only a portion of the 12/13 CAPIT funds for Differential Response. Child Welfare Services is in the process of identifying, purchasing, and providing training on a range of parenting curriculum for in-home parenting, a need identified in the last SIP. The Department expects to train a number of staff to be able to do in-home and classroom training with the curriculum. The services provided by the Differential Response worker will be funded through CAPIT. The County plans to use Nurturing Parenting Programs which have a Child Welfare System Relevance Level of High and a Scientific Rating of 3 – Promising Research Evidence. These Programs cover all age groups and provide more flexibility in a small county. The County is currently trying to schedule training for staff in Summer 2013 for immediate implementation. Parenting has been consistently identified by community partners as a need for Child Welfare clients and for education and prevention of abuse and neglect for families in the community. Mental Health was providing some parenting classes prior to Fiscal Year 2012/13. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. provided one series of classes this fiscal year (2012/13) which was focused on parenting of children with dysfunctional behaviors.

The Differential Response Program was implemented in October 2011. This program is provided by staff hired specifically for this purpose and assigned to the Department's Behavioral Health & Recovery Division. There is a Memorandum of Understanding for these services using Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds. Since its implementation, there have been 41 referrals to the Differential Response Program. Most referrals are considered Path 1 severity and have been evaluated out as not requiring a Child Welfare response; however, there are family functioning concerns that might improve with parenting education or connection to community resources. A few referrals are considered to be Path 2 severity in for a joint response by Child Welfare Services and Differential Response staff. From October 2011, through October 2012, Differential Response services provided were:

Day Care/Child Care (Children)	1 (provided by ICES)
Family Counseling (Families)	4 (Behavioral Health & Recovery)
Family Workers (Families)	3 (Social Worker or case manager)
Health Services (Children)	5
Health Services (Parents/Caregivers	3
Health Services (Children with Disabilities)	1
Health Services (Parents/Caregivers w/ Disabilities)	1
Health Services (Parents/Caregivers w/Disabilities)	3
Home Visiting (Families)	15 (DR worker)
Multidisciplinary Team Services (Families)	1 (Behavioral Health & Recovery and DR)
Parent Education and Support (Parents/Caregivers)	8 (Active Parenting Now program)
Parent Education and Support (Parents/Caregivers w/Disabilities)	3 (Active Parenting Now program)
Psychiatric Evaluations (Children with Disabilities)	9 (Behavioral Health & Recovery or John C. Fremont Hospital)
Psychiatric Evaluations (Parents/Caregivers w/Disabilities)	3 (Behavioral Health & Recovery or John C Fremont Hospital)
Special Law Enforcement (Children)	9 (DR, truancy worker, and SARB
Teaching & Demonstrating Homemakers (Parents/Caregivers w/ Disabilities)	2 (DR)
Transportation (Children)	2 (DR)
Transportation (Parents/Caregivers)	6 (DR)

Parent education and support was given to families in need in their own home by the DR worker. The education was based on Active Parenting Now materials, which is included in SAMSHA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. Active Parenting Now combines video, activities, and discussion to help parents raise responsible children who are able to resist negative peer pressure. Active Parenting Now for parents of children ages 5 to 12 and Active Parenting of Teens for parents of children ages 11-18 were both used. Clients were able to watch videos, engage in discussions, complete worksheets and listen to information provided by the DR worker. Support was provided by the DR worker in the form of observation, critique, encouragement, "homework assignments", and general coaching with the child and caretaker parent.
http://www.scribd.com/doc/66545132/Active-Parenting-Now
http://www.nrepp.sampsa.gov/ViewIntervention.aspx?id=168

The services available through DR are strengthened further through referrals and collaboration with other local community providers such as ICES for child care services and John C. Fremont Hospital for medical and psychiatric care.

Another program that assists families and children in distress is the Mariposa Wraparound Program. Since the implementation of Mariposa Wraparound in August 2009, more home-based services are being provided for families and children so that families can stay together and children can remain in or close to their home. Children under the supervision of Juvenile Probation and their families have benefited particularly from services provided in the least restrictive placement setting. The Behavioral Health and Recovery division of the Human Services Department administers the program.

Extending the use of Team-Decision Making to the front-end, enhancing Family Search and Engagement activities, and developing strong skills for intake workers in the area of safety plan development and monitoring may provide additional ways to support good social work decision-making, safety for children and diminished recurrence of maltreatment.

There is considerable attention being given by the community to the issue of poverty reduction, a strategy that may have beneficial impact on child maltreatment as a result of general and severe neglect. As documented in the December 5, 2011 minutes of the Combined Meeting of the Child Abuse Interagency Coordination Committee and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the body that is now called the Mariposa Abuse Prevention Collaborative and the organization that serves as stakeholders to inform the CSA, the County has engaged the services of Laura Phillips, Capacity Consulting, to head up a poverty task force and local representatives are being trained as poverty coaches. The group is working to answer the questions, "How do we keep families together?", and regarding Family Preservation, "When a child is removed from their home, how we can try to keep the child in the family and look to provide intense services to achieve that end result?" Discussions such as this were helpful in developing the platform for the Bridges Poverty Reduction Program. An example of one of these discussions follows:

At the December 5, 2011 meeting the group tackled the question "What are the Primary Needs to Help Families? Their discussion is below and demonstrates the governmental and non-profit agencies' interest in collective impact and partnership:

Homeless Scenario and Action Plan: (a discussion)
The hypothetical family consists of a Mom, Dad, and two children. The family is to be evicted within two weeks, they have not showered, are hungry, and one or both parents may have an alcohol problem. Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. meets with them and refers the parent(s) to Mariposa Heritage House for treatment for alcohol. A plan is made to ensure that the children are schooled. Since a lack of housing is a very critical factor affecting family well-being, procurement of housing is identified as a high priority. The family is put in touch with Mariposa Unified Schools Student Support and Homeless Children's Services Program contacts. The Homeless Liaison at the School District can provide transportation and refer the family to Mariposa Department of Human Services for help with cash assistance and employment services, food, and referrals for other services.

Existing or Potential Community Services/Resources:
Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. – Homelessness
Mariposa Heritage House – Alcohol and Drug Issues
Follow up – Mariposa County Unified School District Student Support Services
Homeless Liaison a the School District (provides transportation)
Refer to Mariposa Human Services Department – IF they haven't had Homeless Assistance before- talk to Eligibility Worker about benefits
Other resources – Manna House, Lord's Pantry, Commodities
Mountain Crisis Services – if domestic violence is present
Tuolumne Band of Miwok – Native and Kene Me Wu – Native will also work with domestic violence and sexual assault victims of all tribes
Agency "warming places" are available to North County residents. Coulterville/Greeley Hall area has created a Warming Center out of the Coulterville Community Center (zip code area 95311)
New Beginnings Church – established a 501C.3 to work so homeless families/individuals has a warm place to sleep. Two families/10 people total are currently housed and provided transportation. The church is trying to create a second warming center.

Potential Strategies/Ideas/Service Gaps:
Create a Universal Assessment Tool that can be used at whatever agency first sees the family. – Develop an Intervention and Service Referral Flow Chart.

Share descriptions of unusual case scenarios that may or have been encountered. Identify who the interested parties are, "The Social Network".

Explore the use of a one bedroom apartment for mental health clients made available through the Road House.

Organize Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings and use email blasts to reach out for connections to help solve problems.

The Sheriff's Department is working on a legal assessment authorization to be obtained by churches in order to provide temporary Safety Center Housing..
Develop a process for interagency collaboration and information-sharing with the permission of the family.

Maybe there is a way for us to put together, with families permission, contact with other agencies by networking, to assist families, after taking into consideration who in our community can help.

Homeless Task Force – Project Warm Place targeting faith-based; may be a branch off of a larger homeless project.

There needs to be an increase in communication between groups. Communication is paramount in resolving these problems.

Access Community Development Block Grant Programs out of the federal Housing and Community Development Department. CDBG is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

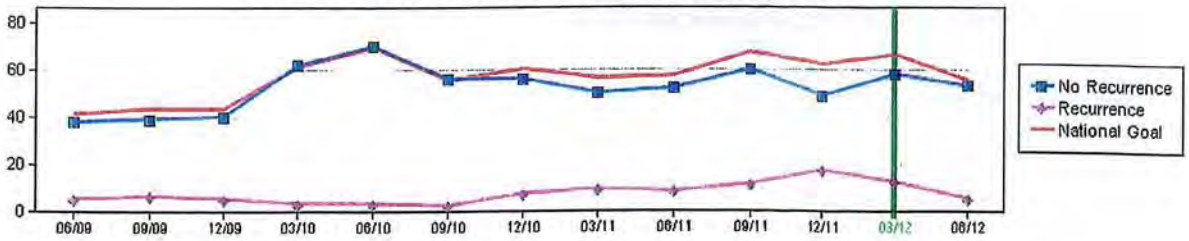
Analysis: Referral Demographics

Sixty-eight Child Welfare Services referrals meeting the definition of this outcome measure were recorded. Of the sixty-eight referrals, the majority (61) were allegations of general neglect. There were two allegations of sexual abuse, one for physical abuse, three for severe neglect, one for caretaker absence/incapacity, and sixty-one referrals for general neglect. The referrals involved children of all age groups, 28 pertaining to children ages 0 - 5 and 21 pertaining to children ages 6 through10; while 19 pertained to children between the ages of ten and seventeen. Seventeen children experienced a recurrence of maltreatment. These recurrences occurred most frequently with children between the ages of 3 through 10. Ten children were white, three Hispanic, and four Native Americans. The sources of most referrals were from Law Enforcement, followed by family/friend and education.

Number of allegations	Age Range	Ethnicity	Allegation Type
68	<1 (5) 1-2 (7) 3-5 (16) 6-10 (21) 11-15 (16) 16-17 (3) 18-20 (0) Total (68)	White (54) Hispanic (5) Native American (8) Black (1) Total (68)	Gen. Neglect (61) Sexual Abuse (2) Physical Abuse (1) Severe Neglect (3) Caretaker Absence Or Incapacity (1) Total (68)

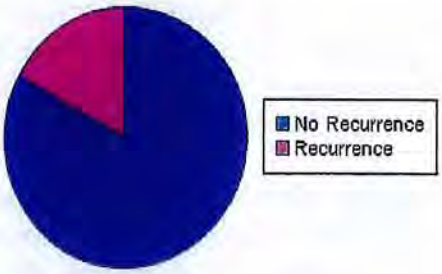
In contrast, California statistics for repeat referrals during this period showed a majority of referrals pertaining to younger children, between the ages of under age 1 to age 10.

Safe Measures data – June/09 through June/12



No Recurrence of Maltreatment

	Count	Percentage
No Recurrence	58	82.9%
Recurrence	12	17.1%
National Goal	66	94.6%
Total	70	100.0%



Summary: The trend for this performance outcome area shows a negative direction in performance. The majority of referrals are for general neglect which focuses attention to certain contributing factors such as poverty or mental health and/or substance abuse issues resulting in inconsistent or poor parenting/caregiving. Drug and alcohol issues misuse or abuse appears in almost every situation in which there has been a recurrence of maltreatment. Substance abuse treatment services in the community are limited, transportation resources are limited and, to recover successfully, participants must engage in the treatment process. Unemployment and underemployment is also affecting the financial well-being of Mariposa families. Periods of stress during periods of low activity can lead to maladaptive behaviors and conditions such as substance use, domestic violence, and depression. All of these issues have been observed by Child Welfare and Differential Response staff. According to the 2007-2011 census quick facts, in Mariposa County, 14.4% of households are living below the poverty level. This rate is the same as that of California as a whole. Median income is approximately $12,000 per year less than that of California. Mariposa Human Services Department's goal to develop and implement an in-home parenting program through the use of OCAP funds may assist in addressing issues of neglectful parenting.

Measure S2.1 – No Maltreatment in Foster Care

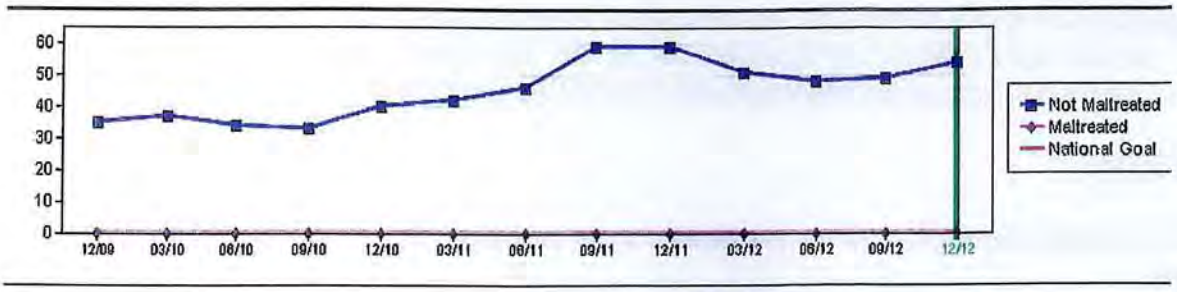
Measure S2.1 is the percent of children in foster care who were not the focus of a substantiated report of abuse/neglect during the 12-month report period where the perpetrator was a caregiver.

Child Welfare Results:

(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)

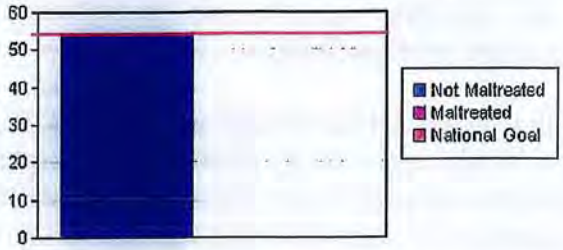
No Recurrence of Maltreatment while in care	Count	Percentage
No Recurrence	48	100%
Recurrence	0	00.0%
National Goal		99.68%
California Performance	79,841	99.6%

Safe Measures Report – December/09 to December/12



No Maltreatment In Foster Care

	Count	Percentage
Not Maltreated	54	100.0%
Maltreated	0	0.0%
National Goal	54	99.68%
Total Children in Foster Care	54	



Analysis: During this review period, Mariposa County has continued to maintain a 100% record of no maltreatment of foster children while in care. This exceeds the national goal and California's performance as a whole. It is important to note, however, that most California counties with the exception of very large counties maintain high performance rates for this outcome measure. In fact, out of 79,841 children in foster care in California, 317 were maltreated.

During the review period, forty-eight Mariposa County children entered foster care. Of those, 3 were under age 1; seven were ages 1-2; eight were ages 3-5; nine were ages 6-10; seventeen were ages 11-15; and four were ages 16-17. The gender ratio of foster children is 21 female and 27 males. Of the forty-eight children, 3 are black, 34 white, six Latino, and five Native Americans.

Mariposa County Probation statistics show two Probation children were in care and none was maltreated. Demographically, both children are males between the age range, 16 and 17. One is white and one is Native American. The Probation Department has embraced providing wraparound services as the least restrictive placement for juveniles under their care. During the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 six children under the care of Probation were enrolled in Mariposa Wraparound, two of whom graduated from services in April, 2012.

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

Performance is assessed by process measures for (a) the timeliness of Emergency Response investigations of reported child abuse/neglect (Measure 2B) and (b) the completion of scheduled child visits by the social worker assigned to the case (Measure 2C).

Measure 2B – Child Abuse/Neglect Referrals with a Timely Response – State Standard: >95%

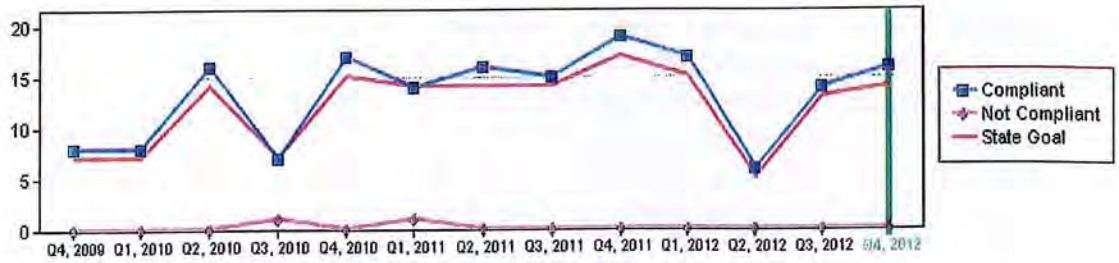
Measure 2B is the percent of abuse/neglect referrals assigned for investigation for which face-to-face contact is made or attempted within designated timeframes: (a) immediate response (2B-1) and (b) 10-day response (2B-2).

Results:

2B-1 Timely Response, Immediate response compliance - State Standard: ≥ 95%

Of all referrals requiring an immediate response, what percentage was responded to immediately?

For the period 4/1/12 through 6/30/12, 100% of immediate response referrals (6) had a timely response by Child Welfare Services. The demographic profile of the 6 children referred for an immediate response was: Age – under 1 (0); ages 1-2 (2); age 3-4 (1); age 6-10 (1); age 11-15 (2); age 16-17 (0) Ethnicity – White (6); Gender – Female (4); Male (2).



2B-2 Timely Response, 10 day response compliance – State Standard ≥95%

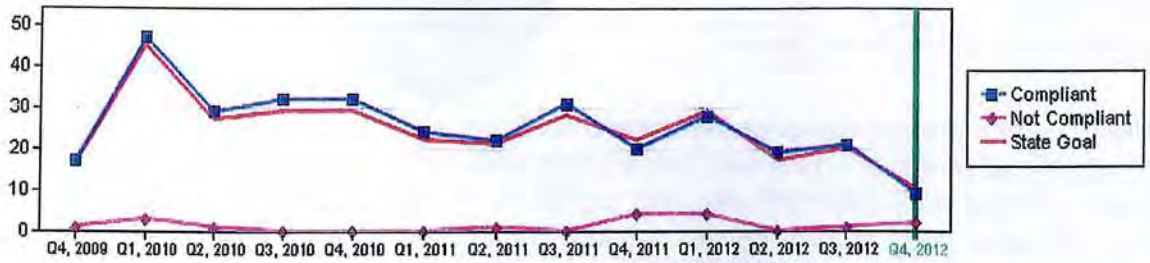
Analysis: For the period April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012, Mariposa County Child Welfare Services received 19 referrals which required a 10-day response. All referral responses were timely. Of the timely responses, one child was Black, thirteen children were White and one child was Hispanic; and one was Native American. The age ranges for all referrals responded to were: under 1(1); age 1-2 (4); age 3-5 (1); ages 6-10 (5); ages 11-15 (6); and ages 16-17 (0); Missing data (2). Ten were female and nine were male.

Compared with the data from the previous CSA period, Mariposa has experienced fewer total referrals for the time period reviewed and more timely responses, perhaps due to the smaller number of referrals to be acted upon.

Immediate Referrals	Number	Age Group	Ethnicity	Gender
		<1 (2) 1-2 (0) 3-4 (1) 6-10 (2) 11-15 (3) 16-17 (4)	White (7) Hispanic (3) Native American (2)	Female (4) Male (8)
	Total (12)	Total (12)	Total (12)	Total (12)

10-Day Referrals		<1 (5) 1-2 (5) 3-5 (1) 6-10 (5) 11-15 (5) 16-17 (2)	White (15) Hispanic (4) Asian/PI (1) Native American (4) Missing (2)	Female (12) Male (14)
	Total (26)	Total (26)	Total (26)	Total (26)

SafeMeasures – Q4/09 to Q4/12



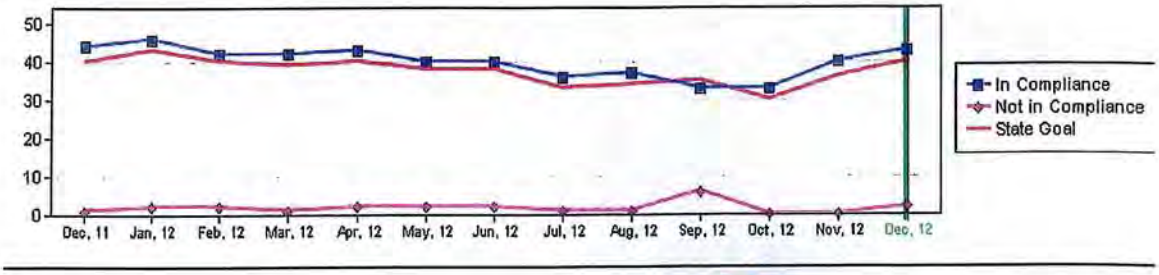
Time to Investigation

	Count	Percentage
Compliant	9	81.8%
Not Compliant	2	18.2%
State Goal	10	90%
Total	11	100.0%

Measure 2C – Timely Social Worker Visits with Child – State Standard: >90%

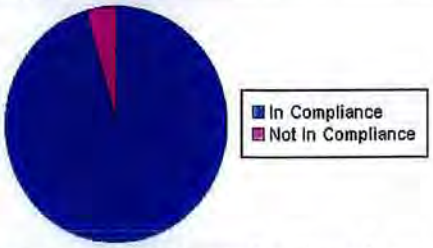
Measure 2C is the percent of all children with an open child welfare case and approved case plan who received a required visit by their social worker during the report quarter. Children with an approved visit exception are not included in computations for Measure 2C.

Results: In April through June, 2012 Mariposa County Child Welfare Services social workers made 43 of 44 (April), 39 of 40 (May), and 39 of 40 (June) timely visits with children. Data from the three sources used: CWS/CMS dynamic reports; the Q2 October 2012 report; and SafeMeasures reports all differed. In general, however, the county is complying with most visit requirements. Of concern, however, is that 2 untimely visits documented in the CWS/CMS dynamic reports for the period were regarding children in ER and FR programs.



Contact Compliance

	Count	Percentage
In Compliance	43	95.6%
Not In Compliance	2	4.4%
State Goal	40	90%
Total	45	100.0%



Summary: Performance levels for Immediate Response (IR) investigations have been maintained at a high level and timely responses for 10-day referrals have improved. Further improvement may be achieved by addressing placement logistic and data entry issues to ensure that actual performance levels are captured and not affected by technical factors that delay documentation of visits in CWS/CMS. Improvement may also be ensured through maintaining an appropriate staffing/workload match. The relationship between staffing levels appropriate to the workload may be shown by a slight deterioration of performance between October/November of 2012 and December of 2012 when workload increased by 10 visits.

Safety Measurement Performance Summary:
Child Welfare Services leadership and social work staff have demonstrated good performance in the area of fostering safety for children through timely response to referrals and maintaining regular contacts. Children in care have remained free from repeat maltreatment. Seventeen children experienced a repeat of maltreatment subsequent to a referral in the previous six months. The County's performance in the category leaves room for improvement. Improvement in this measure was the focus of the CWS Peer Review.

Permanency Outcome 1 – Children have permanency and stability in their living situations without increasing re-entry to foster care:
Performance for Permanency Outcome 1 is measured by four data composites that focus on individual permanency outcomes for children in care: (a) timeliness and permanence of reunifications (Composite 1); (b) timeliness of adoptions (Composite 2); (c) permanency for children in care for long periods of time (Composite 3); and (d) placement stability (Composite 4). Each of the composites is comprised of three to five individual component measures which contribute to a score which indicates the level of performance for that composite.

CFSR Composite 1 – Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification:
Composite 1 combines measures of time to reunification, time in placement, and rates of reentry to form a comprehensive picture of timeliness and permanency of reunification. Four measures contribute to the Permanency Composite 1 Score.

Measure C1.1 is the percent of children who exited to reunification within 12 months of removal during the report period. Measure C1.2 is the median number of months between removal and reunification for all children who exited to reunification during the report period. Measure C1.3 is the percent of children who were removed during the period who were reunified within 12 months. Measure C1.4 is the percent of children who were reunified within 12 months of their removal from home who reentered care within 12 months of reunification.

The performance of the County for the CSA review month shows improved performance and positive direction. The composite score for the County, as shown in SafeMeasures reports extracted in January 2013, paints a different picture with the County's score falling to the position of second to the last in comparison with all California counties. **Since these statistics are rates based on percentages, the small number of children counted in Mariposa County's review results in what seems, at times, to be alarmingly high rates of negative performance. At times performance may be inflated to show very high positive results. These statistics must be viewed within its relational context. Statistics based on small numbers can show a skewed picture.**

Child Welfare Results:

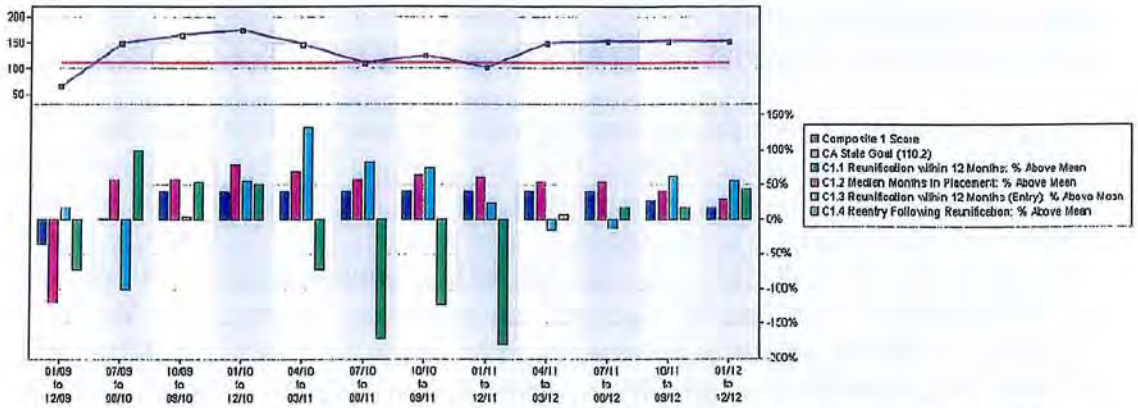
C1.1 Reunification Within 12 Months (exit cohort) – Federal Standard >75.2%

Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year that had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home?

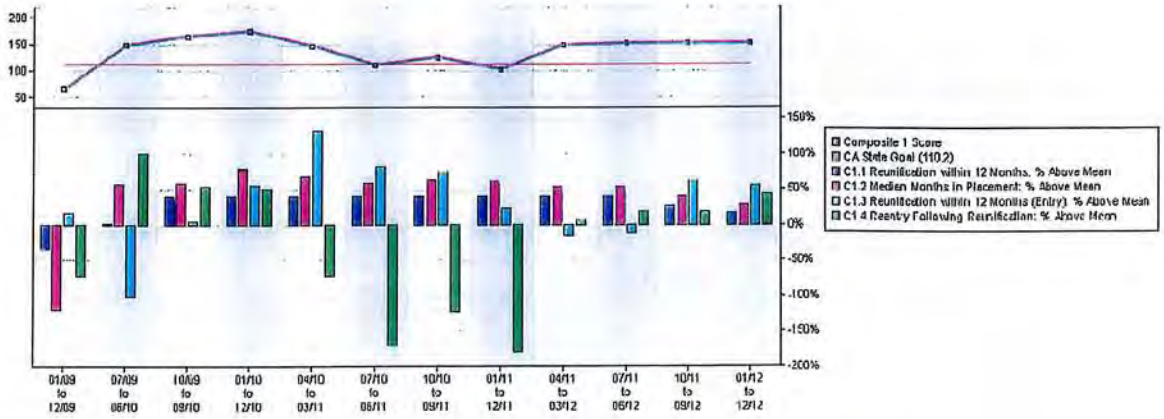
In Q2, 2012 UC Berkeley data (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012), Mariposa County, with twenty-two reunification episodes, achieved a performance rating of 100%, significantly above the Federal Standard of 75.2% and greater than California's performance of 63.4%.

	Number	Age Group	Ethnicity	Gender	Placement Type	Abuse Type
Reunified in less than 12 months	22	1-2 (2) 3-5 (5) 6-10 (4) 11-15 (9) 16-17 (2)	Black (3) White (13) Latino (4) N.Am. (2)	Female (11) Male (11)	Kin (11) FFA (10) Foster (1)	Neglect (22) Sexual (0) Other (0)
Reunified in 12 months or more	0					

Measure C1.1 Results: Performance levels have improved substantially resulting in an outcome rate of 100% for the review month and positive trend direction overall since the last CSA period.



From a longer view, SafeMeasure reports extracted in January, 2013 ranks Mariposa CWS fourth from the bottom ranking for Permanency Measure C1.1. Other small counties have similar rankings. With the implementation of Mariposa Wraparound, Child Welfare Services and Probation have the option of reunifying children with their families and supporting that reunification with Wraparound services. Although Probation has used Mariposa Wraparound as their primary resource to keep children in their homes or in the County, Child Welfare Services has been slower to use the services and has seen less successful outcomes. Since the program's inception, four CWS children have been enrolled.



Measure C1.2 Median Time to Reunification (exit cohort) – Federal Standard: ≤5.4 months

Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification?

In Q1 UC Berkeley data, during the review month of the last CSA, the median time to reunification in Mariposa County was 12.3 months, therefore failing to meet the Federal Standard of 5.4 months and California's performance of 8.4

months. For Q2, 2012, the current CSA review month, the County shows substantial progress in this measure with a median time of 3.3 months which exceeds the National Goal. Twenty-two children were included in the sample with no children currently meeting the definition of the performance outcome measure. The longest stay in care was seen in the age range 16-17 at 9.1 months. The other age ranges are as follows: under one – zero children; ages 1-2 (2.4 months); ages 3-5 (2.8 months); ages 6-10 (4.3 months); ages 11-15 (3.3); and ages 11-15 (3.3 months). The ethnicity of children with the longest stays were Native American (6.5); Latino (3.8); White (3.3); and Black (.8). There was no difference in the median length of stay by gender. Children placed with kin tended to remain in care longer (5.2 months) compared with FFAs (2.4 months; and foster homes (1.9 months). All children included in the sample were referred to Child Welfare Services because of neglect.

A comparison of the age range and median stay profile of Mariposa County and California as a whole shows the aggressive approach Mariposa County has taken to reunify children with their families:

Sample Number of Children in Mariposa	**Median Months in Care by Age Group in Mariposa**		**Median Months in Care by Age Group in California**
0	Under 1		3.4
2	1-2	2.4	9.2
5	3-5	2.8	9.5
4	6-10	4.3	9.8
9	11-15	3.3	8.7
2	16-17	9.1	9.0
Total 22	Total	3.3	8.8

The demographic profile of the twenty-two children reunified and their median months in care were:

Ethnicity	**Gender**	**Placement Type**	**Abuse Type**
Black (3) - .8mos. White (13) - 3.3 Hispanic(4) – 3.8 Native Am. (2) – 6.5 Total (22)	Female (11) - Male (11) - Total (22)	Kin (7) – 5.2 Foster (1) – 1.9 FFA (4) – 2.4 Total (22)	Neglect (22) – 3.3 Total (22)

The last CSA review (Quarter 2, 2009) performance summary showed an even longer median time to reunification of 21 months. According to the SafeMeasures January, 2013 extract, Mariposa County ranked eight from the bottom for California counties in performance for this measure. Other counties who ranked

similarly were, for the most part, very small, although a couple of large counties were ranked low.

Performance during this CSA review month is substantially different from that of the previous CSA review month, showing a great deal of improvement for the County.

Mariposa County has relatively few children (33) in foster care placement, preferring to serve children in their own homes through local services. Voluntary Family Maintenance Program, a program that was used frequently during the last CSA, currently has only one family receiving those services. The County anticipates using this program more frequently in the future when they implement SOP. The children who are in foster care typically have complex needs such as mental health or developmentally delayed issues or family problems such as substance abuse use and there are limited local resources appropriate for the required level of need. A more robust foster parent recruitment, training, and retention program, encouraging licensed foster parents to remain active, and the development of local group home and FFA resources might be helpful in addressing this issue or at least mitigating the subsequent negative impacts of out of county placement.

Measure C1.3 Reunification within 12 months (entry cohort) – Federal Standard - ≥48.4%

Of all children entering foster care for the first time in the 6-month period who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home?

For the period January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011, Mariposa County's reunification rate is 37.5%, less than the Federal Standard of 48.4% and California's performance of 42.2%. For this measure, statistics were gathered on eight children, all removed from their homes because of neglect. Three children were reunified (two from placement in an FFA and one in placement with kin), one child was recorded as having an "other" status, and four remain in care in kinship placement. Having the services of a Wraparound program available for families and children may lead to greater confidence by the Court, Child Welfare Services, and Probation that the risks of reunification are mitigated.

Slightly less than one-half of all California counties exceed the mean for this measure, as does Mariposa County which ranks fourth lowest.

The County continues to show improving performance overall in this measure.

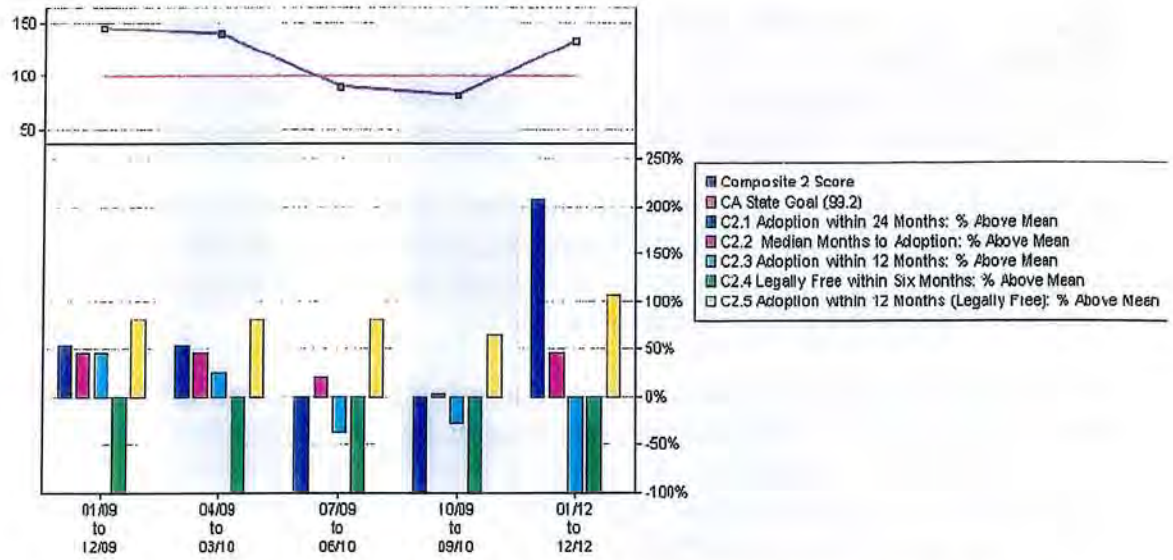
Measure C1.4 Re-entry following reunification (exit cohort) - Federal Standard: ≤9.9%
Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year, what percent reentered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge?

For the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, UCB data indicates the performance outcome of 11.1% for 9 children, 1 with reentry to care and 8 with no reentries. Mariposa County has not met the Federal Standard of 9.9% but exceeded California's performance of 12.2%.

Of the three children included in the sample, 1 child (male, age group 11-15, white) is placed in a foster home. The type of abuse was neglect. The two children still in care are siblings. One child is a female, in age group 11-15, and white. Both she and her brother, age group 16-17 are placed in a foster family home. The type of abuse was neglect.

Reunification Performance Measurement (Permanency) Summary:
Mariposa County Child Welfare Services places children's safety at the forefront when making placement decisions. Although Child Welfare Services places importance on the reunification of children with their families, over time, the County's experience has been that hasty reunifications result, at times, in reentries into care. Both reunification and reentries into care are performance measures and the two are sometimes in conflict. To mitigate the occurrence of failed reunifications, Child Welfare Services employs the practice of extended visits prior to reunification and increased supportive services by the case-carrying social worker after reunification has taken place. These services could be enhanced with frequent and successful use of the Wraparound Program and the services it provides. The addition of a Family Partner program and increased community engagement and collaboration offered through Mariposa Wraparound could benefit the participants enrolled in the Program.

Permanency Composite 2 – Adoption Measures
The Permanency Composite 2 Score is determined by five measures. Measure C2.1 is the percent of children who exited to adoption in the report period whose adoption was finalized within 24 months of removal. Measure C2.2 is the median number of months between initial removal and adoption for all children who exited to adoption. Measure C2.3 is the percent of children who were in care 17 months or longer at the start of the report period who exited to adoption during the report period. Measure C2.4 is the percent of children who were in care 17 months or longer at the start of the report period who became legally freed within the six months. Measure C2.5 is the percent of children who became legally free for adoption during the report period who then exited to adoption within 12 months of being free.



C2.1 Adoption within 24 months (exit cohort) – Federal Standard: ≥36.6%
Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home?

Two children met the criteria of this performance measurement. Both (100%) were adopted in less than 24 months. Both of the children were between the ages of 1 and 2 and were placed in a FFA. Both were male. Mariposa's performance in this area has improved significantly. Mariposa CWS contracts with Madera County for Adoptions services. The two organizations are developing a good working relationship that is benefiting children who are eligible or could be eligible for adoption. Areas for future development might be early and persistent concurrent planning, family finding efforts, and recruitment of fost/adopt homes willing to accept a broader range of placements.

C2.2 Median time to adoption (exit cohort) – Federal Standard: < 27.3 months

Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to adoption?

Mariposa County Child Welfare Services, under contract with Madera County for Adoption services, achieved a median time of 17.5 months. This compares favorably over results from the previous CSA when Mariposa County contracted with the CDSS Adoptions. During that time, the median time to adoption was 48.1 months in care. Two children were included in the review sample. Both were male and placed in FFAs. One was White and one was Hispanic. The median length of time to adoption was 17.2 months and 17.5 months respectively. The performance of the County exceeds that of California at 21.2 months for the same age group.

C2.3 Adoption within 12 months (17 months in care) – Federal Standard: ≥22.7%
Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer on the first day, what percent were discharged to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year?

Of the 3 children who met the definition of this performance measure, all three were not adopted. One youth is age 11-15 and two others are ages 16-17. All three are male. One resides with kin and 2 others are in group home placement.

C2.4 Legally free within 6 months (17 months in care) – Federal Standard: ≥ 10.9%
Of all children in foster care 17 continuous months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the year, what percent became legally free within the next six months?

None of the three children included in the review sample were legally freed within 6 months. The youth are all male. One is in the age range 11-15 and two are in age range 16-17. All are White. One is placed with kin and 2 are in group homes.

C2.5 Adoption within 12 months (legally freed) – Federal Standard: ≥53.7%
Of all children in foster care that became legally free for adoption during the year, what percent were then discharged to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months?

Mariposa County contracts with Madera County for adoption services. No children were included in a sample for this review.

Permanency Composite 3 – Long Term Measure
Three measures contribute to the Permanency Composite 3 Score. Measure C3.1 is the percent of children who were in care 24 months or longer at the beginning of the report period who exited to a permanent home (i.e. reunification, adoption, or guardianship) during the next 12 months and before they turned 18. Measure C3.2 is the percent of children who were legally free at exit who exited to a permanent home before turning 18. Measure C3.3 is the percent of children who emancipated or turned 18 while still in foster care and were in care three years or longer.

C3.1 Exits to permanency (24 months in care) – Federal Standard: ≥29.1%
Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year and prior to turning 18?

Mariposa County has three youth included in this sample review. All three were White and male. One youth is in the 11-15 age group and 2 are in the 16-17 age range. All remain in care. One is placed with kin and 2 are in group home placements.

Mariposa County performance of 0% does not meet the national goal or California's performance. During the previous CSA, five children were included in the sample review and Mariposa's performance was 100%. Performance dropped sharply in September, 2009 to 87.5%. The decline and the number of children included in the sample review have continued downward. This demonstrates how data entry errors/omissions or different reporting time periods can affect statistic results.

C3.2 Exits to permanency (legally free to exit) - Federal Standard: ≥98%
Of all children discharged from foster care during the year and were legally free for adoption, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18?

Mariposa County's performance in this area is 100%. There were two children included in the sample, in age ranges 1-2, both male and in pre-adopt placements. One is White and one is Hispanic.

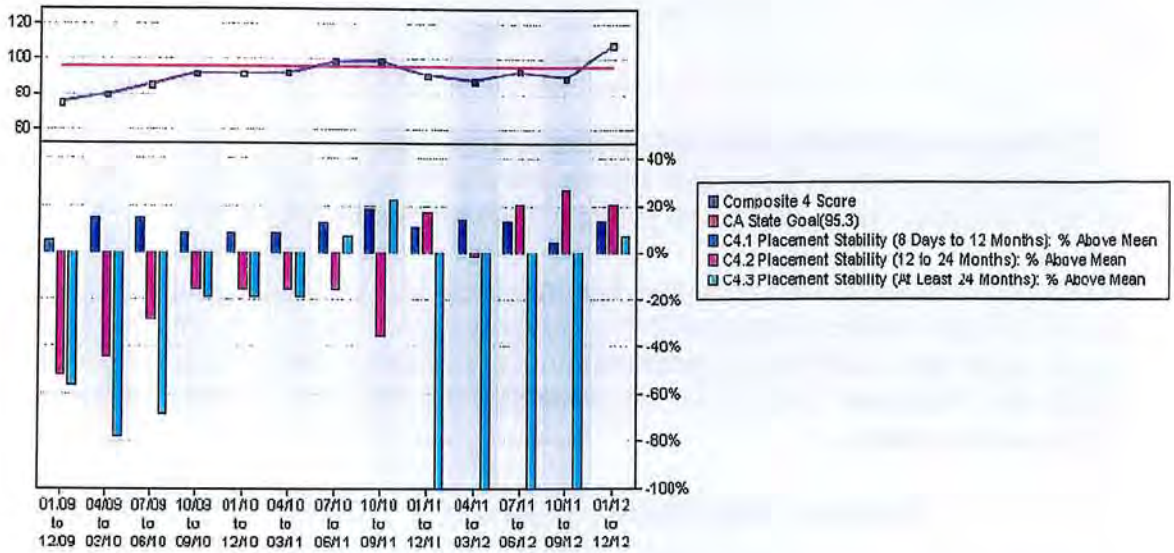
C3.3 In care 3 years or longer (emancipated or age 18 in care)- Federal Standard: ≤ 37.5%
Of all children in foster care during the year who were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while in care, what percent had been in foster care 3 years or longer?

Currently for this measure, Mariposa's performance is 100%. One child is included in the sample review. He is male and white. His placement is categorized as Other.

Mariposa County's performance rate at the last CSA review period was 66.1%; thereby failing to meet the Federal Standard of ≤ 37.5% and comparing favorably to California's performance of 61%. Three children in Mariposa County met the definition of this performance measure. If a more current and longer view is taken, Mariposa County' performance rate for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 is 50% with four children included in the review sample.

A small sample number affects the outcome of this measure.

Permanency Composite 4 – Placement Stability Measure
Three measures contribute to the Permanency Composite 4 Score. Each is defined by the percent of children who had no more than two placements since they entered care. Measure C4.1 reports stability for children who were in care 8 days to 12 months during the report period. Similarly, Measures C4.2 and C4.3 report stability for children who were in care between 12 and 24 months or more respectively.



C4.1 Placement Stability – Federal Standard: ≥ 86%

Of all the children served in foster care during the year that were in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

Twenty-six children in Mariposa County met the definition of this performance measure. The County's current performance rating is 100% compared to its previous CSA rating of 62.5%. The current performance exceeds the Federal Standard of 86%. During the previous CSA period, the County initially placed children in shelter care when they were first taken into care. The time spent while the child was safely placed in a receiving home allowed time to assess the child's need for placement and to determine the appropriate level of placement. It also allowed time for family search and engagement activities. The benefits of placing children initially in shelter care are mitigated by the additional placement that the child experiences and the adjustments that moving entails, as well as the time required by social workers to effect the move. The shelter care placement can negatively affect this performance measure by adding an additional placement count.

Currently Mariposa CWS has twenty-six children in placement for 8 days to less than 12 months and all 26 have experienced no more than 2 placements.

	Number	Age Group	Ethnicity	Gender	Placement Type
Two or fewer placements	26	Under 1 (2) 1-2 (3) 3-5 6-10 (7) 11-15 (9) 16-17 (0)	Black (3) White (15) Hispanic (3) NatAmer (5)	Female (12) Male (14)	Kin (14) Foster (3) FFA (9)

			Missing (2)		

C4.2 Placement Stability – Federal Standard: ≥65.4%
Of all children served in foster care during the year that were in foster care for at least 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placements settings?

Mariposa County's performance rate has improved to 71.4% when compared to the 46.2% performance rate during the previous CSA review. With their current performance rate, Mariposa's performance has surpassed the Federal Standard of 65.4%. Fourteen children in Mariposa County met the definition of this performance measure.

	Number	Age Group	Ethnicity	Gender	Placement Type
Two or fewer Placements	10	1-2 (5) 3-5 (10 6-10 (2) 11-15 (3) 16-17 (0)	White (6)	Female (2) Male (8)	Pre Adopt (2) Kin (4) FFA (3) Guard. (1)
More than two placements (total of prior and recent)	4	Under 1 (0) 1-2 (0) 6-10 (0) 11-15 (1) 16-17 (0)	White (7)	Female (3) Male (1)	FFA (3)
Total	14				

C4.3 Placement stability – Federal Standard: ≥ 41.8%

Of all children served in foster care during the year that were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

Mariposa County had four children in care who met the definition of this performance measure. Mariposa County's performance rate at 0% compares unfavorably with the previous CSA rate of 33.3% with nineteen children included in the sample. The County has not met the Federal Standard of 41.8%. The previous practice of placing children in emergency shelter care may have affected the placement numbers of children in care for longer terms.

	Number	Age Group	Ethnicity	Gender	Placement Type
Two or fewer placements	0				
Two or more placements	4	11-15 (1) 16-17	White (4)	Female (3) Male (1)	Kin (2) Group (2)

		(3)			
Total	4				

Process Measures:

Permanency Outcome 2 – The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.
The preservation of family relationships and connections is measured in three ways: (a) the extent to which children with siblings in foster care are placed together (Measure 4A); (b) the extent to which children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive setting possible (Measure 4B); and (c) the extent to which ICWA-eligible children in foster care are placed in settings that maintain their ethnic and cultural background (Measure 4E).

4A - Children in foster care that are placed with ALL siblings
Children in foster care that are placed with SOME or ALL siblings
Point-in-time results for Measure 4A are reported in terms of (a) the percent of children with a sibling(s) in care who are placed with all of their siblings and (b) the percent of children with sibling(s) in care who are placed with some or all of their siblings. The first day of the report month is used as the point-in-time for both measures.

In October, 2012 eight children were included in the review. For those eight, none were placed with all of their siblings but four were placed with some. These numbers are much lower than those of the previous CSA period. In April 2009 in Mariposa County, there were twenty eight instances of foster care placement. Of those 28 instances, thirteen involved sibling groups. Nine sibling groups were placed together with all siblings for a performance rate of 69.2% and 69.2% were placed with all or some siblings. There were ten instances involving sibling groups of two. Six sibling groups were placed together. Three out of three sibling groups of three were placed together.

4B - Foster Care Placement in Least Restrictive Settings, Least Restrictive Entries
For the current review period, the data in the quarterly report did not match the data in the CWS/CMS dynamic reports. In general, however, for first entries the majority of children were placed in FFAs, followed by foster homes, and kinship placements. The cause for removal was neglect in all situations except for two due to physical abuse. The majority of first entries were for children between the ages of 3 and ten. The following placements were recorded April 1, 2009: pre-adopt 14.3% (4), kin 25% (7), foster 14.3% (4), FFA 10.7% (1), group 7.1% (2), guardian other 21.4% (6), runaway 3.6% (1), trial home visit 3.6% (1).

4B – Least Restrictive Placement (Point-in-Time)
In a sample that included placements with kin, foster homes. FFAs, group placement, guardian placement, and trial home visits, the longest placements were for group home and guardianship placements, followed by kin.

4E - Placement Status for children with ICWA eligibility
For October, 2012 one child, placed with relatives, was determined to have ICWA eligibility. During the prior review period in April 1, 2009, one child was also determined eligible. In that situation, the youth was in placement for less than 12 months and placed with a non relative, non-Indian substitute caregiver. For those children who are multi-ethnic, a sample including 4 children showed all four were placed with relatives.

5B (1) – Rate of Timely Health Exams
Out of sample of seventeen, all were timely. The sample included the placement types of kin, foster home, FFA, group home, transitional housing, and guardianship. The sample also included children who were White, Hispanic, and Native American. **5A - Timely Medical Exams, Quarter 1, 2009**
94.1% of cases measured were in compliance (16). One case was not compliant.

5B (2) - Rate of Timely Dental Exams
Similar results were found for this measure. All sixteen dental exams were timely and the children included in the sample had a similar demographic profile. Out of 23 counts, 100% were compliant. **5B** - Timely Dental Exams, Quarter 1, 2009
Out of 13 counts, 100% were compliant.

5F – Psychotropic Medications
Out of 20 children, two take psychotropic medications. All are White. One is female and one is male. One is in a group home placement and the other is in a FFA. One is in the age range of 11-15. The other is between 16 and 17 years of age. **5F** — Psychotropic Meds Authorization
For Quarter 1, 2009, out of 27 children in foster care 2 children or 7.4% receive psychotropic medication. During Quarter 4 2008, 36 children were in foster care and 2 received psychotropic medications (5.6%).

6B – Individualized Education Plan
None of twenty children included in the sample have had an IEP plan. All ages were represented as well as most placement types. The ethnicities of White, Hispanic, and Native American were represented.

8A – Completed High School or Equivalency
One youth was included in the sample and met the goal of this measure.

8B – Obtained Employment
One youth was included in this sample and did not meet the goal of employment.

8A – Housing Arrangements
One youth was included in this sample and met this goal.

8A – Received ILP Services
One youth was included in this sample and met this goal.

8A – Permanency Connection with an Adult

One youth was included in this sample and met this goal.

Summary:

In the past, social worker/ probation officers relied upon their observation and assessment skills during their regular contacts with families and children to determine the progress families were making towards providing for their children's needs. Since the implementation of the CWS/CMS dynamic reporting data collection, the availability of SafeMeasures reports, the Structured Decision Making Assessment Tool in Child Welfare Services and the PACT Assessment Tool for Probation, social workers and probation officers have tools to assist them in making uniform and unbiased determinations and supervisors and managers have tools to assist with oversight.

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Appendix 1

CORE REPRESENTITIVES

The membership of the Abuse Prevention Collaborative, whose participants include all C-CFSR required core stakeholder categories, provided the local feedback necessary to inform the CSA process.

Core Representatives

Margarita King	Public Health Nurse	Public Health Department	5362 Lemee Lane, Mariposa, CA 95338
Celeste Azevedo	Student Services Director	Unified School District	5082 Old Hwy North Mariposa, CA 95338
Chevon Kothari	Executive Director	Mountain Crisis	5079 Hwy 140 Mariposa, CA 95338

Data Sources

Margerita King	Public Health Nurse	Public Health Department
Jaydene Johnson		Unified School District and Mountain Crisis
Brenda Lewis		Mountain Crisis

Required Participants

Cinnamon Fleener Doug Binnewies Connie Pierce Susan Arlington Cindy Robles	Executive Director Sheriff/Chairman Probation Officer/Board Member Human Services Dept./Board Member Board Member	Mariposa Child Abuse Counsel/Mariposa Safe Families, Inc./Children's Trust Fund Commission (CAPC)
John Lawless	Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Human Services	County Alcohol and Drug Department & County Mental Health Department
Nancy Bell	Deputy Director of Social Services, Human Services	Office of Child Abuse Prevention Designated Liaison
Stephen Dahlem	County Counsel	Human Services Department Juvenile Court Counsel
Kathy Butler Lisa Ames	Social Services Manager, Social Services	Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council
J. Dana Walton	Assistant Presiding Judge	Mariposa County Superior Court

The Board of Mariposa Safe Families also serves as the Child Abuse Prevention Council. The Children's Trust Fund is administered by Mariposa Safe Families, Inc.

By order of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors the Human Services Department is the designated agency to administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF. The Department Executive Team provides oversight of the funds.

Recommended Stakeholders

Caroline Fruth Jim Evans Pam Gingold	Executive Director Former Executive Director CASA Volunteer	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Stephen Bulfer	St. Joseph Parish Priest	Faith-based Community
Doug Binnewies	Sheriff	Law enforcement
Alison Tudor Aaron Marcus	Program Director Prevention Program Specialist	Domestic Violence Prevention Provider
Karen Rust Linda Dougherty-Kelly	Foster Care Liaison/Guidance Counselor Speech Therapist	Mariposa County Unified School District
Mariah Tate	Drug & Alcohol Prevention Specialist	Mariposa Safe Families, Inc.

Other Stakeholders

Anita Petrich	Community Member, Mental Health Advocate and Retired Social Worker	Founder and facilitator of Grand Families monthly meetings
Bryan Blew	Director	Heritage House and C.O. R. E.
Candy O'Donel Browne	Board Member	Alliance for Community Transformations
Chevon Kothari	Executive Director	Alliance for community Transformations
Debbie Drenon	Mental Health Assistant III	SMILE Program and Project Respect/Mariposa County Human Services
Tyson Wellcome	Program Director	Ethos Youth Center
Jeane Hetland	Director	First 5
Kim Fletcher Thomas Cooke	Deputy District Attorney District Attorney	Mariposa County District Attorney's Office
Mary Jane Erickson	Job Connection Manager	Mother Lode Job Connection
Meghan Kehoe	Coordinator	Mariposa County Victim Witness
Virgin Campbell Bryce Johnson	Deputy Probation Officer Deputy Probation Officer	Mariposa County Probation Department

Alliance for Community Transformations is the parent agency for Valley Crisis Center of Merced, Mountain Crisis Services, Center for Opportunity, Re-entry and Education (C.O.R.E.), Mariposa Heritage House and Ethos Youth Center.

Appendix 2

MARIPOSA COUNTY STAKEHHOLDERS MEETING NOTES

January 25, 2013

1. How does the community define child abuse and neglect?
   - Lack of supervision by parents for young and older children.
   - Physical and mental abuse and harming the child.
   - Sexual abuse.
   - Poor parenting skills.
   - Perceived risk (view the child is at risk of all these things).
   - Substance abuse in household.
   - Neglecting to provide medical treatment.
   - It's in the penal code. Read the law. See what's necessary under the law.
   - Welfare and Institutions Code and Division 31.
2. What changes, interventions or services are needed to support children and their families?
   - Parenting classes within the community.
   - Family counseling within the county.
   - System's accountability to people in some black and white areas we are trying to define.
   - Encouraging youth who are receiving services to participate as stakeholders.
   - More services for special needs kids: speech therapy, education, mental health.
   - Recognizing needs of parents with children with disabilities.
   - Better communication between school district and CWS in special education needs regarding knowledge within special education.
   - Increased collaboration between CWS and DV services.
   - Poverty reduction efforts: increase access to health care, mental health care, jobs and educational opportunities.
   - Mandated services for Child Welfare and Probation families.
   - Programs set up for families (grants) so they have things to do other than alcohol or drugs. For instance, so they can go on family trips.
   - Informing parents of resources available to them, e.g., parenting classes. The information needs to get out there.
   - We need to start in schools with education.
   - Expanded services and support for foster youth.
   - Follow through when a recommendation is made for psychological evaluations. It should not be 3 months after the child is removed from the home.
   - Need to understand why youth are not engaging in ILP for the maximum benefit.
   - Programs like WRAP should be expanded.
3. What role does the community take in addressing child abuse and neglect?

- All of us need to have goal of 100% of foster children placed in county.
- People being diligent and looking out for children.
- Campaign to engage community and re-educate the community.
- Social norms campaign.
- Community could use a lot of listening to the youth. Engaging them in the process. Give them a voice.
- An open lunch at high school with community leaders.
- More discussion like this should happen in our community.
- Remove fear of CPS and MH. Interact with the community (so they are not afraid of us).
- I read about this meeting in the paper three weeks ago. Where's the public? Need more advertisement.
- Do a really good investigation to determine the real issue.
- Engage the public as stakeholders.
- Youth invite the public for a listening session (e.g., California Youth Connection).
- Get information from public less formally and more often (e.g., at picnics every three months).
- This county needs an Ombudsmen office.

MARIPOSA COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
LIST OF ATTENDEES

Cinnamon Fleener, Mariposa Safe Families, Inc.
Chevon Kothari, Alliance for Community Transformations
Vikki Fosmo, Parent Partner
Other person sitting next to parent partner
Tyson Wellcome, Ethos
Jim Evans, Court Appointed Special Advocates
4 interested community members
Sheila Baker, Child Welfare Services
Susan Arlington, Child Welfare Services
Jeremy Briese, Sheriff's Deputy
Brian Gomes, Batterer's Programs
Linda Dougherty-Kelly, Special Ed teacher/ Court Appointed Special Advocates

Presenters/Others:
Jim Rydingsword, Human Services
Nancy Bell, Human Services
Connie Pearce, Probation
Henry Franklin, California Department of Social Services
Barbara Ricciuti-Colombo, California Department of Social Services
Kathryn Berry, Human Services

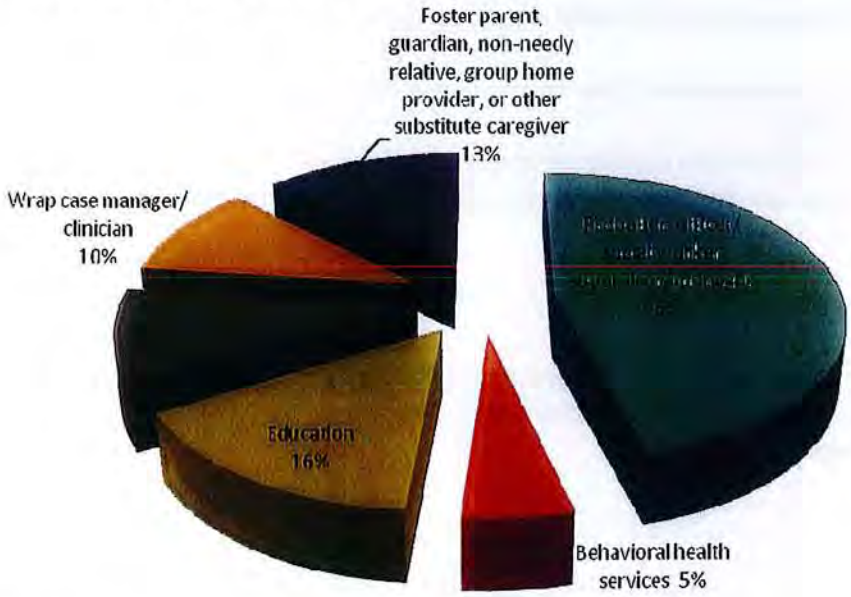
APPENDIX 3

COUNTY SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY ANALYSIS

SAMPLE

Between March and April 2013, community members who have worked with Child Welfare Services in some capacity were asked to complete an online survey. A total of 42 community members responded to the request. The figure below shows the distribution of the types of community members who responded.

FIGURE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS



RESULTS

The responses represented in the survey results reflect a range of opinion on how the county Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation systems are functioning. This section provides a general overview summary of responses, followed by more detailed reports of findings for each survey question asked.

SUMMARY

Some key areas of consensus that emerged include:

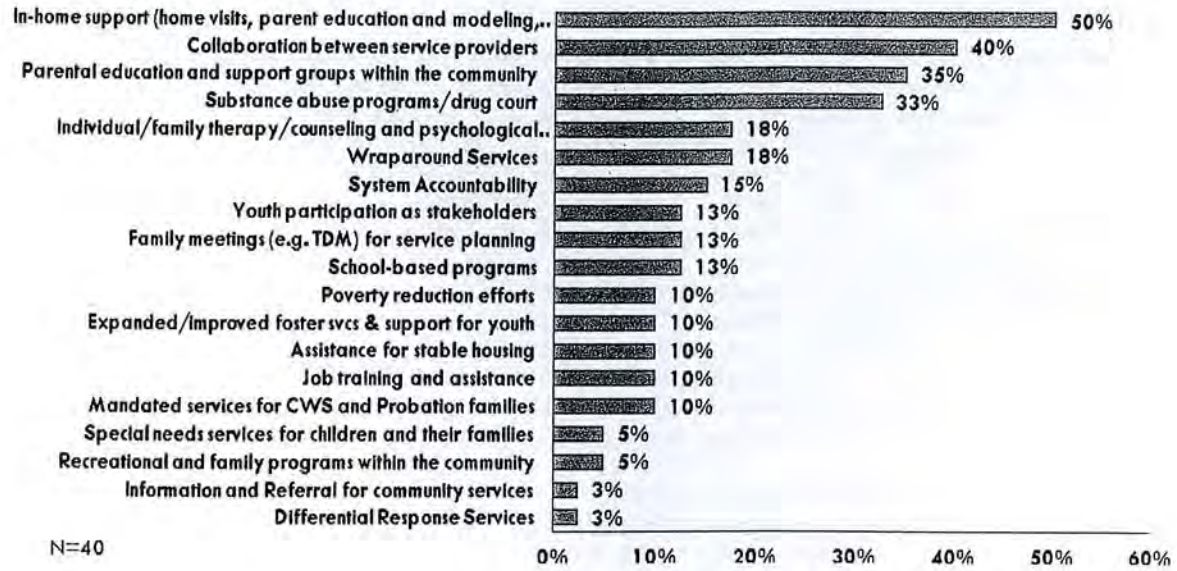
- In-home support, (including parent education, modelling, home management) is perceived as highly effective in both prevention of child welfare and probation entry, as well as in reunification and out-of-home placement stability.
- Related to that, parent education also figures prominently as an effective tool in prevention and reunification, and lack of parent knowledge of child rearing and life skills presents a significant challenge as it hinders, delays, or disrupts family reunification.
- Foster parent training and support was identified in the foster youth focus groups as well as in this survey as a service that would support placement stability.

- Behavioral and mental health services were highly endorsed as effective in placement stability and as an area in which social workers and/or probation offices could use more training to better support their families.
- The general consensus seems to be that neither CWS nor Juvenile Justice Services solicits nor takes into consideration community input very much.
- There is a perception that while the County is responsive to community needs, the community capacity to meet community needs is stretched, but room for improvement in collaboration was also identified, which would expand capacity and increase efficiency in service provision.
- Respondents frequently acknowledged a lack of resources and limited professional personnel issues that diminish the county's ability to respond effectively to community needs.
- Some issues with after-hours responsiveness, privacy protections in reporting, and judgmental behaviors of agency staff were raised in respondents' descriptions of their experiences with the agencies.
- Collaboration within and across agencies and with other community providers was mentioned several times as an area for improvement.
- The dearth of local foster homes was echoed several times across survey items
- A need for parent education was identified across several survey items, particularly with respect to:
  - Life skills
  - Child development
  - Parenting practices
  - Job training
- Additional supports that are perceived to be needed in the community include:
  - Counseling and other mental and behavioural health services
  - Aftercare and follow-ups

MOST EFFECTIVE SERVICES FOR PREVENTION

Respondents were asked to identify the top three services they believe are most effective in preventing children from entering the Child Welfare Services of Juvenile Probation systems.

FIGURE 2. MOST EFFECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES



Respondents who selected "Poverty reduction efforts" were invited to further comment on their response in an open-ended text box. Below are the four responses collected:

- *Develop more outreach programs to educate better wellness with families through the community.*
- *Advocates to help navigate the system.*
- *It's obvious that poverty plays a HUGE role in the decay of the family unit. If there were more services to help those families in need (ex: assistance finding affordable, stable housing, food stamps, electricity vouchers, assistance with purchasing propane for hot water, etc..) that would reduce the number of children entering the Child Welfare System. I know there are services out there, but sometimes the process of accessing those benefits is difficult and/or impossible.*
  For example, there is a waiting list in Mariposa for HUD but many families need affordable, stable housing now.
- *Job Creation and Programs that will help families create better lives for themselves.*

When the most effective prevention services are examined by respondent self-identified category (e.g., Probation/Social Worker, foster parents, etc.), we find that in-home support and parental education and support groups are the most highly endorsed across respondent categories. We also find that what is perceived to be most effective often reflects professional perspectives, as in the case for Behavioral Health respondents' endorsement of substance abuse programs as the most effective preventative service. In the case of respondents from the Education field, their identification of collaboration as the most effective prevention method makes sense as they tend not to be direct service providers, but are certainly engaged in collaborative efforts to serve the students under their purview. The table below lists the prevention efforts that were endorsed by the majority of each respondent group.

TABLE 1. MOST EFFECTIVE PREVENTION BY RESPONDENT CATEGORY

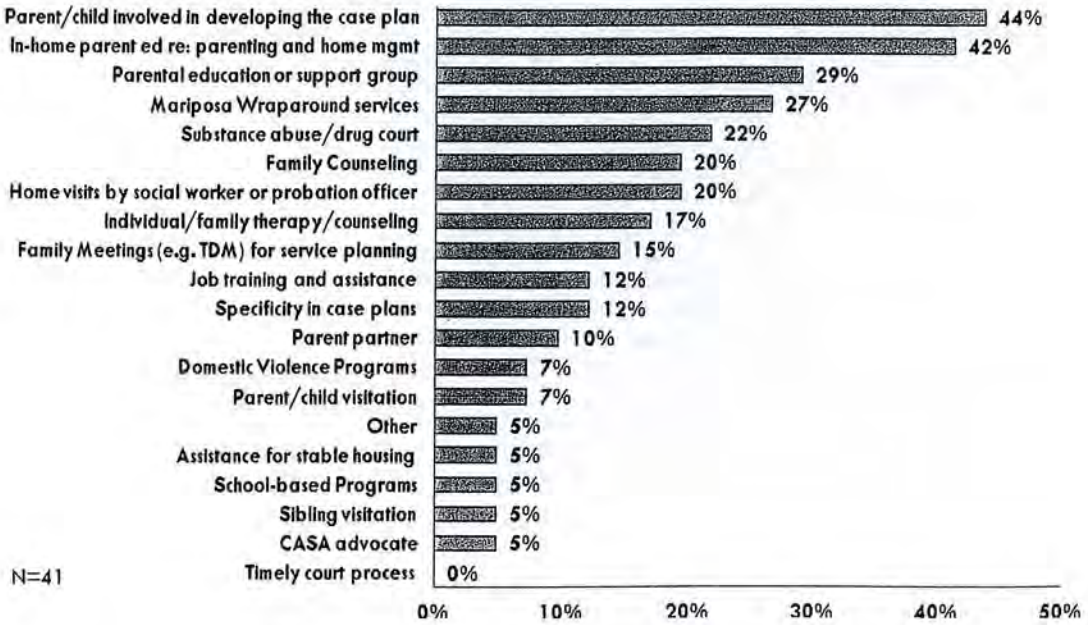
Effort	Top endorsement by:	Frequency
In-home support (home visits, parent education and modeling, I&R)	Probation/social worker	9 out of 18 respondents
	Foster parents	3 of 5
	Wrap	3 of 4
Parental education and support groups within the	CASA	4 of 4

community	Foster parents	3 of 5
Substance abuse programs/drug court	Behavioral Health	2 of 2
Collaboration between service providers	Education	4 of 6

MOST EFFECTIVE FOR REUNIFICATION

Respondents were asked to identify the top three services they believe are most effective in reunification.

FIGURE 3. MOST EFFECTIVE FOR REUNIFICATION



The two respondents who selected "Other" added the following comments:

- *I think everything starts with the family in the home. If a Mother and a Father would focus on parenting instead of trying to be the child's best friend, some of our children would be better off. That is not saying a parent can not be a child's best friend, however, there must be consequences for breaking the rules and accountability when needed. Boundaries must be established and held firmly. Love is also very important.*
- *Only a good faith based program will really help*

When examined by respondent category, some clear preferences are shown that align with professional perspectives. For example, the greatest concentration of probation/social workers endorsed "home visits by social worker or probation officer" as the most effective in reunification.

TABLE 2. SERVICES MOST EFFECTIVE FOR REUNIFICATION BY RESPONDENT CATEGORY

Efforts for Reunification	Top endorsement by:	Frequency
Parent/child involved in developing the case plan	Behavioral Health	1 of 2
	Foster parent	3 of 5
	Education	3 of 6
Home visits by social worker or probation officer	Probation/social worker	8 of 18
In-home parent education concerning parenting and home management	Behavioral Health	1 of 2
	Wrap	2 of 4
	CASA	3 of 4
	Education	3 of 6
Mariposa Wraparound services	Behavioral Health	1 of 2
Individual/family therapy/counseling	Behavioral Health	1 of 2
Parent/child visitation	Behavioral Health	1 of 2

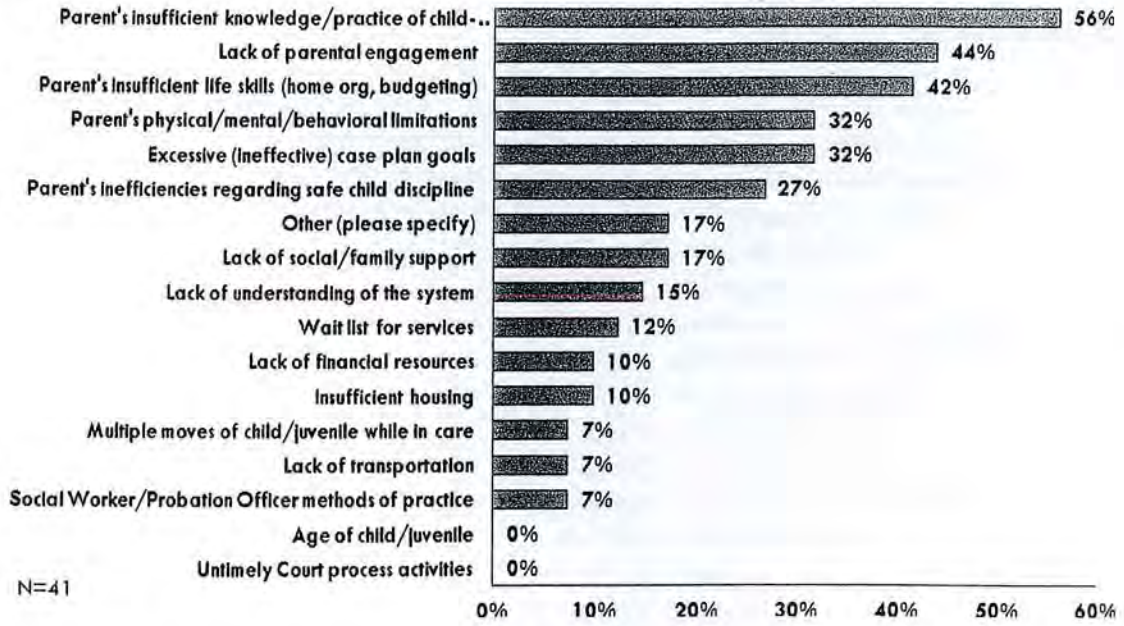
Family Meetings (e.g. TDM) for service planning	Behavioral Health	1 of 2
Family Counseling	Wrap	2 of 4

Note that in the case of Behavioral Health respondents, since there were only two in this category, a majority was not always found. As such, their endorsements are included. In addition, where more than one effort was endorsed by a majority, both efforts are listed for that respondent category. For instance, of the four Wrap respondents, there were two who endorsed "Family Counseling" and two endorsing "in-home parent ed". Two was the highest concentration endorsing any single effort, so both are reported here.

OBSTACLES TO REUNIFICATION

Respondents were asked to select the top three elements they believe hinder, delay, or disrupt reunification for families.

FIGURE 4. BARRIERS TO REUNIFICATION



Comments included by the seven respondents selecting "Other" are presented below:

- *Parent's not taking the time to pay attention to their children spending a majority of their time doing what they did prior to having a child.*
- *a lack of true acountability is the most detrimental thing I can think of*
- *Parents not able to complete substance abuse program before CPS timeline expire or inability to remain drug free*
- *the distrust the public has towards CPS ,and the ability of the County human services to correct it.*
- *Lack of Housing is a big problem.*
- *Is it possible for children to be placed in dual jurisdiction with CWS and Probation simultaneously?*
- *out-of-area placement*

Examining responses by respondent categories, the strong endorsement of parents' lack of parenting knowledge across groups mirrors overall findings above. It is also interesting to note the focus by foster parents and behavioural health workers on parents' physical/mental/behavioural limitations and the focus by respondents in the education field and from Wrap services on parents' insufficient life skills. Interesting too, to note foster parents' citation of excessive/ineffective case plan goals.

TABLE 3. OBSTACLES TO REUNIFICATION BY RESPONDENT CATEGORY

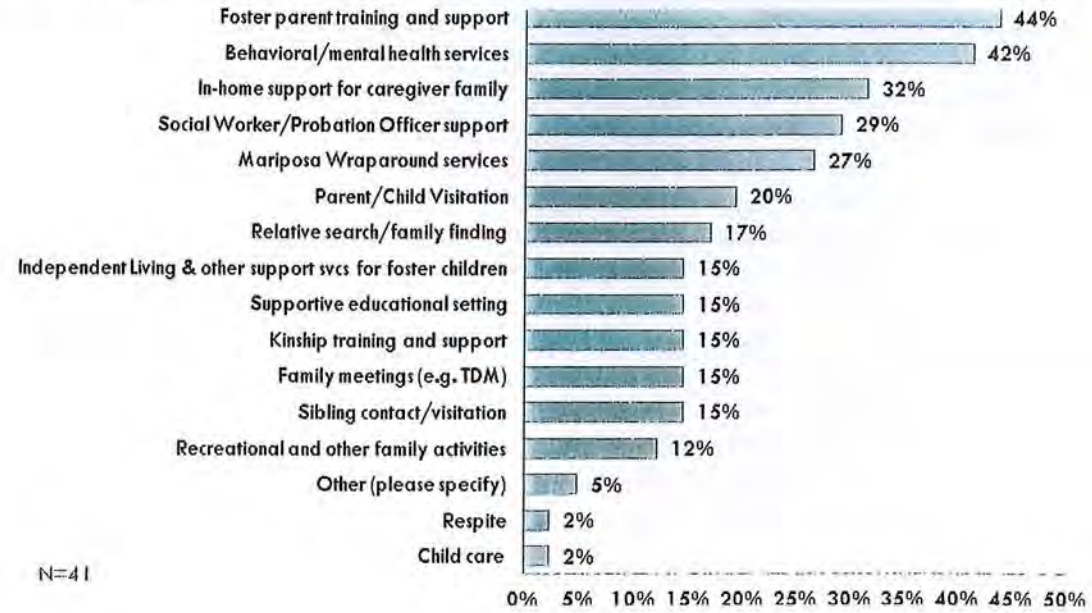
Obstacles to Reunification	Top endorsement by:	Frequency
Parent's insufficient knowledge/practice of good child-rearing practices	Probation/social worker	12 of 18
	Wrap	3 of 4
	CASA	4 of 4

	Education	3 of 6
Parent's physical/mental/behavioral limitations	Behavioral Health	2 of 2
	Foster parents	3 of 5
Parent's insufficient life skills (home organization/cleanliness, budgeting)	Education	3 of 6
	Wrap	3 of 4
Lack of parental engagement	Behavioral Health	2 of 2
Excessive (ineffective) case plan goals	Foster parents	3 of 5

PLACEMENT STABILITY

Respondents were asked to select from a list the three services they believe to be most effective in increasing placement stability.

FIGURE 5. SERVICES SUPPORTING PLACEMENT STABILITY



The two respondents who selected "Other" offered the following additional comments:

- *keep the children together as a group and recognize that some people are not capable of raising children and should not be reunited with them*
- *Listening to the concerns of the caregiver and allowing the caregiver to take an active part in decision making for the child*

Among foster parents, the following services were identified as most effective for placement stability[1]:

- Foster parent training and support
- Social worker/ Probation officer support
- Mariposa Wraparound services
- Parent/child visitation
- Kinship training and support

For probation officers and social workers, foster parent training and support received the highest concentration of endorsements (9 of 18 respondents selected this). Interestingly, "social worker/probation officer support" was not the most roundly endorsed by this group of respondents.

[illegible]

Between the two respondents in the **behavioural health** field, foster parent training, in-home support, social worker/probation officer support, kinship training, behavioural/mental health services, and independent living support were each endorsed by one or the other respondent.

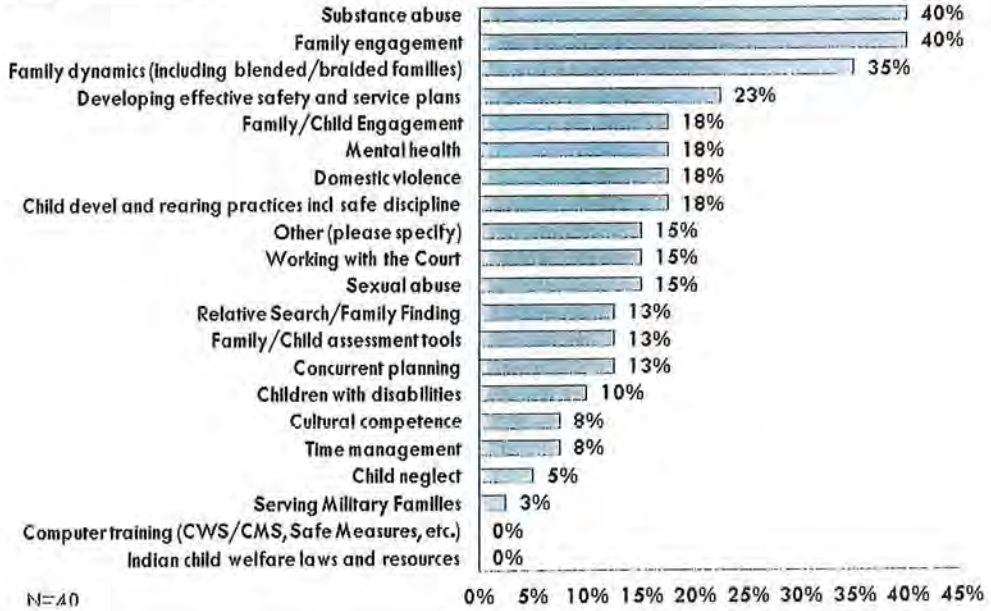
Among respondents identified as **CASA**, sibling contact/visitation, behavioural/mental health, and supportive educational setting was identified by two of the four respondents as most effective in placement stability.

Endorsed by three of the six respondents in the **education** field were in-home support and behavioural/mental health services. The latter was also endorsed by three of the four **Wrap** respondents.

TRAINING NEEDED

Respondents were asked to select three areas in which they believe social workers and/or probation officers need training to better serve children and families.

FIGURE 6. TRAINING NEEDED



The six respondents who selected "Other" provided these additional comments:

- *You need to realize that without a faith based plan and true accountability change will be very rare and the family will stay dysfunctional*
- *Trauma informed care*
- *They need to spend more time with the families, really get to know them on a personal level. It's easy to spend little time with a family and make a judgement (from the perspective of a person who most likely did not have any poverty or substance abuse struggles in their own lives & families). How can a person who never experienced these unfortunate, complex family issues make decisions and judgements about "how things should be" if they don't truly understand what their families are going through?*
  Also, CASAs & teachers are the ones who spend the MOST time with these children and their families and should be more involved in the decision making process. Social Workers and Probation Officers should be in better contact with CASAs & educators and be more willing to collaborate before making decisions.
- *Clear understanding of educational system*
- *Pro-active community engagement, diplomacy, bias avoidance.*
- *foster parent/caregiver support training*

Eight of the 18 probation officers and social workers identified a need for training around family engagement, which was also most highly endorsed by CASA, foster parents, and behavioural health workers. Two of the five foster parents also identified training needs in family dynamics, domestic violence, and mental health.

Respondents in the field of education perceive training needs around child development and rearing practices, which was endorsed by four of the six respondents in education.

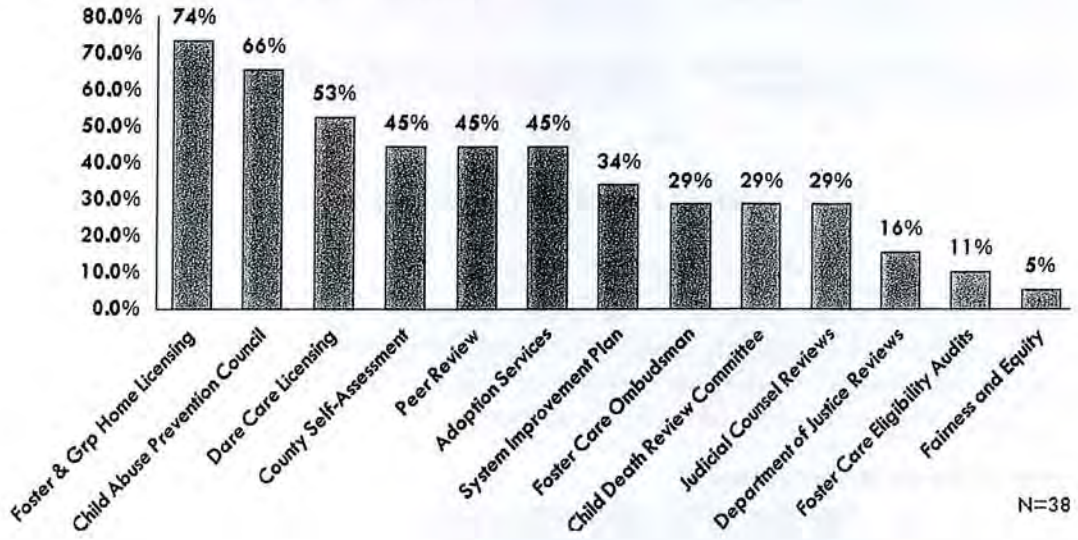
Two of the four Wrap respondents identified training needs in sexual abuse and developing effective safety and service plans, which was also endorsed by behavioral health workers. One or the other behavioural health

respondent also endorsed family dynamics, **substance abuse, working with the court** and **relative search/family finding** as areas they believe social workers and/or probation officers need training in.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN SERVICES AND PROBATION

AWARENESS OF ACTIVITIES

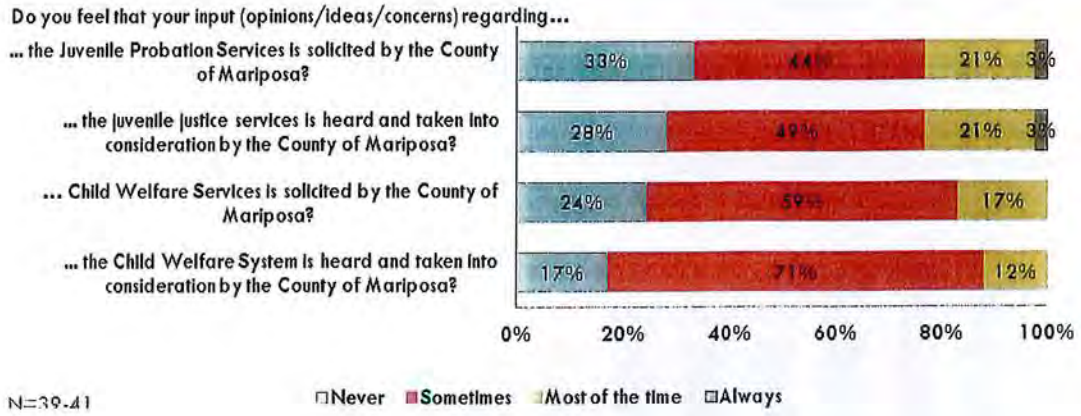
FIGURE 7. COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF COUNTY ACTIVITIES



PROVIDING INPUT

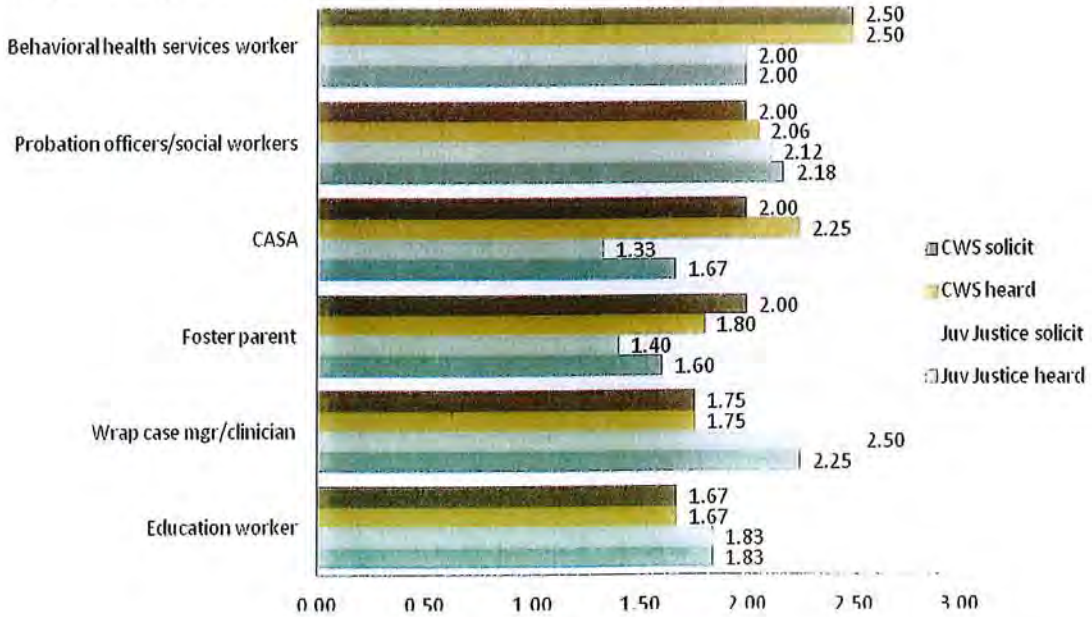
Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they feel their opinions/ideas/concerns are either solicited or taken into consideration by probation services and child welfare services. For the most part, respondents feel their opinion is "sometimes" solicited and/or taken into account. However, results suggest that neither the juvenile services nor the child welfare service agencies are very solicitous of feedback or take it into consideration. While no respondents indicated that their opinions are "always" solicited or taken into consideration, one respondent felt their opinions are "always" solicited and one indicated their opinions were "always" taken into consideration by juvenile justice services.

FIGURE 8. PROVIDING INPUT



When examined on a 4-point scale (with 1="never" and 4="always") by respondent category, we find that respondents from the education field provided the lowest relative rankings, while behavioural health workers provided the highest relative rankings[2]. Figure 9 illustrates the ratings respondents provided on the extent to which each agency solicits their input and then takes it into consideration.

FIGURE 9. AGENCY SOLICITATION AND CONSIDERATION RATINGS



The large majority (78%) of respondents indicated that they know who to contact if they have opinions, ideas, or concerns regarding either Mariposa Child Welfare Services or Mariposa Juvenile Probation Services.

A total of seven respondents indicated they did not know who to contact. The table below provides the frequency distribution of those who do not know who to contact with concerns with either Mariposa Child Welfare Services or Mariposa Juvenile Probation Services by respondent category.

Respondent Category	Frequency	Percent within Respondent Category	Percent of those who do not know who to contact
Probation officer/social worker	3	17%	43%
Education worker	2	33%	28%
Foster parent	2	40%	28%
Total	7		100%

HOW DO THE HUMAN SERVICES AND PROBATION DEPARTMENTS RESPOND TO THE EXPECTATIONS AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY?

I feel the Human Services and Probation Departments do a great job with the needs of the community. We are at a time where public services are overwhelmed with people who are in need. When you couple the fact that we are doing more with less, then one must recognize the stellar job both departments are doing.

When asked how responsive departments are to community needs and expectations, respondents offered a range of responses, and the overall sentiment represented by responses was that the agencies do an adequate job responding to community expectations and needs. Key issues highlighted by responses include:

- Acknowledgment of resource and personnel **limitations**
- Need for more internal and community **collaboration**
- Interest in seeing agencies be more **proactive** in their community responsiveness

Many comments offered commendations, expressing satisfaction with Human Services and Probation Departments' responsiveness to community needs and expectations:

I believe that both departments respond appropriately to community needs.
I believe efforts are being made to respond to the expectations.
Both agencies respond well to the community's needs.
We deal only with dependency cases, and I believe that Human Services does a good job responding to community needs.
In my view, Human Services and Probation are very responsive the needs of Mariposa County residents and do an adequate job at assessing the safety of residents and of protecting those who have no voice.

While some comments suggest the departments are responsive to the community, others felt that despite what the County might do, community expectations cannot be met:

I think that the general community is confused by the roles of Human Services and Probation and so expectations are not always met. There needs to be heightened PR to know what these departments provide, but also what their limitations are.
Both agencies attempt to develop programs and services to address community needs based on the needs that have been identified while working with this population. However, it is nearly impossible to meet community expectations.

Others offered more qualified praise:

Our experience shows that they meet our needs most of the time if you speak to the right people.
I believe they are doing their best.
No personal experience, but for those who need services I've not heard of disappointments.
Leadership: great. Some staff: Not so great.
I feel the Human Services and Probation Departments do a great job with the needs of the community. We are at a time where public services are overwhelmed with people who are in need. When you couple the fact that we are doing more with less, then one must recognize the stellar job both departments are doing.

Similar to the last comment, some respondents acknowledged resource and personnel limitations the departments contend with in trying to provide services to community members in need:

Fair. Limited resources.
With apparently tied hands and overworked staff.
I just know that cooperation between CASA and Human Services could be better, but that is in flux due to frequent personnel changes in both agencies.

Other respondents also offered comments and some suggestions particularly around training and collaboration:

They need to work on providing more accessible training for caregivers. We do not have enough foster families in our community because training is lacking
I don't believe they are effectively partnering with the schools. They have programs and funding they use to keep positions, but they do not effectively collaborate.
I wish they could collaborate more on certain cases with dual jurisdiction. But overall, I think both depts work diligently to respond to the needs of the community.

Other comments expressed varying levels of disappointment with the agencies' responsiveness:

Fair
human services could do better (quickly)
Human Services frequently fails our families.
Like they are doing their jobs without passion; working 9-5 and that's all. There is such a constant turnover of social workers at Mariposa Human Services... nobody sticks around long enough to see a case all the way through. Does that serve the needs of the community? NO.
I think there's a lot of distrust with the human services Department especially around CPS

Below are two different quotes citing a concern that service provision is judgmental:

Poorly at times, and are judgmental towards mental health clients.
Judgmental

And two respondents expressed concerns that the agencies are perhaps not proactive enough:

The response to the needs of the community is usually reactive as opposed to proactive
I believe they respond when they are forced to look at things, I am not sure they are proactive.

DESCRIBE THE CAPACITY OF CURRENT SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN MARIPOSA COUNTY.

I think there is generally a good level of capacity when service providers work together. Putting multiple minds and resources together can yield better results. Limited low income housing, limited jobs and limited transportation all collide to make it very difficult for some families to reunify and take the steps necessary to care for their children. If the system had more comprehensive supports, this could be alleviated.

Responses to this survey item were quite varied. While some comments expressed satisfaction with the current resources and services available in the community, more comments identified gaps in service, challenges, and inefficiencies with respect to:

- Limited resources
- Needs around additional support for and access to local foster care
- Limitations in personnel
- Additional needs around mental and behavioural health resources

Several positive comments suggest that the community capacity to meet community needs is satisfactory:

The capacity of services appears to be sufficient
We've been lucky that most of the time we are able to get what we need for our clients.
I think the capacity to provide the services is there
I think we do a fairly good job of meeting the needs of the community
There are a lot of services available in Mariposa, and I think the knowledge of them is getting out. e.g. safe at home events
There are several resources available to people in Mariposa County that meet the needs of children and families. The people affiliated with these departments are trained and educated to deal with the current problems at hand. Everyone I deal with tends to be optimistic and positive about changing the current situation in these people's lives.

However, the comments above seem to contradict the bulk of the comments that suggest that the service provision community capacity is challenged and strained by the population seeking services:

I'm under the impression that capacity needs to be expanded.
I believe the services are strained at this time.
Very few services available.
Low.
limited resources
Limited due to lack of funding, employment, housing, and staff.

The need for greater support around foster care was a theme that was raised by several comments:

The system is very busy. there is a lot of need for foster/abused children services.
More Foster homes, More Housing, Jobs, Better Communication between Agencies, More outlets for Children / Teens..
We need more local services. Too many foster children and service providers are located out of county. This disrupts family reunification.
They need some work. Education issues are not taken into consideration as much as they should be and the concerns of foster families are not considered which I feel is a reason we lack foster families in this community

Several comments pointed to a greater need for trained personnel :

There are more families & children in need than there are people helping them. It's a tough job though, I get

it. It's hard enough to find people within the community who are willing to volunteer to be a CASA. Because of that, there aren't enough CASAs to go around. Would be great if there were more CASAs & Social Workers, so that way each person could spend more quality time with the families in need and make better decisions.
Capacity is an ongoing issue as Human Services has a difficult time successfully recruiting and retaining qualified staff. Seems they are always in the training mode and struggle with keeping staff once they have been trained.

Other comments point to a greater need for more effective collaboration:

We have multiple agencies duplicating services. We do not have all of the services working in harmony with each other to make sure we do not have overlaps or gaps.

A lack of services and resources around behavioural and mental health were also pointed out:

I think there is generally a good level of capacity when service providers work together. Putting multiple minds and resources together can yield better results. Limited low income housing, limited jobs and limited transportation all collide to make it very difficult for some families to reunify and take the steps necessary to care for their children. If the system had more comprehensive supports, this could be alleviated. Also, there is a lack of MH care for children. Children almost have to be at risk for hospitalization or death before accessing truly meaningful services. I would like to see services targeting youth increase.
Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse services do not meet the needs of the community. Nor do we have adequate parenting education and support services.

Additional comments and suggestions included:

Increase prevention to reduce the need for services.
Inadequate presence outside of the offices/BHS building.
What are the needs??? It is the job of the family to provide for the needs of the children. food, shelter, clothing. Beyond that everything is a "want" not a "need".
I'm unable to make a general statement.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCE REGARDING THE TIMELINESS AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE AGENCY'S ACTION RELATED TO YOUR REPORT?

For the most part, respondents reported a high level of satisfaction with the agency's timeliness and responsiveness:

very good
very good
fine
good
generally good
Good response time for both.
They have been very responsive and easy to contact.
Quick and appropriate response and aid.
Responsiveness has been timely.
They have been timely and cooperative for the most part.
Child Welfare has been responsive in a timely manner to reports/requests from the Probation Department.
Timely
timely
Very responsive
they have always responded quickly
Improving communication with CWS workers and CASA advocates. Yeah.

However, some respondents did not experience such timely responsiveness:

Depends, sometimes expedient, sometimes days.
2 to 3 days
I have heard both sides, sometimes they wait too long and sometimes they jump too quickly.

Two comments point to areas for improvement around the after-hours service:

Child Welfare Social Workers are very punctual and professional whenever I make a report or need services. After hours services could use a little work.
Re CWS - timely response during business hours, but poor response after hours.

Some respondents offered examples of challenging experiences they have had, with two citing violations of privacy, which points to possible areas for (re)training:

Halfway through my last case, the social worker took a new job in Arizona. The new, timid, fresh-out-of-school social worker was unresponsive and not ready to take on this extremely dynamic case. She didn't respond to many of my emails or phone calls, and I eventually had to get in touch with the head of Human Services to get any response.
One instance of violation of appropriate privacy practices, one instance of interpersonal misconduct, both involving the same social worker. Most other interactions have been both professional and courteous.
It takes too long usually for anything to happen. Frequently the reporting person's anonymity is compromised.

ARE THERE AREAS THAT YOU SEE AS A WAY FOR THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT AND/OR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES TO BE MORE TIMELY AND/OR EFFECTIVE?

While a few comments reiterated satisfaction with timeliness...

They are fairly quick
Generally, timeliness is good.

...other comments pointed to areas for improvement, such as with on-call response:

Re CWS - better response after hours.
Never put anyone on call who cannot respond in under 30 minutes. No out of county on-call people.

Several comments expressed a desire to see an increase in staff and resources, thereby reducing caseloads and improving responsiveness:

More help
Yes, better pay therefore better morale
Aside from hiring and training additional staff not at this time.
Hire more CWS SWs and Probation Officers.
Hiring of more social workers and probation officers as caseloads can be heavy.
Less cases per person.

Some suggested that agencies engage in greater outreach efforts and spending more time in the community:

Although I realize that we get very busy with paperwork, I would like to see people at both departments to find more time to be in the field so that we may find what is REALLY going on with our clients.
Child Welfare Services: Get out of the building (i.e. more outreach). Probation: could do a better job getting to know the general youth population outside of monitoring offenders.

Again, collaboration within and between agencies and community providers was raised as a potential means for improving timeliness and effectiveness:

The Wraparound program would be more successful for CWS youth participants if the Social Workers assigned to these cases actively participated in the Wraparound meetings.
Coordination between agencies is critical. Ensuring that multiple people and agencies respond to all reported incidents is important for the integrity of the evidence gathering.
Yes, answer your phone and respond to your emails. Be more willing to collaborate with those agencies and people who are trying to help you--like CASA!
Continued collaboration with local partners.

Additional comments included:

Improve effectiveness by providing services as soon as possible to eliminate the need for removal of children from their homes.
Respect the expertise of the professionals in each agency

HAS THE TIMELINESS OR RESPONSE OF THE AGENCY AFFECTED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AGENCY?

15 of the 26 valid responses to this item indicated simply: "No", with no additional comment; two responses indicate simply: "Yes", with no further comment.

Others left positive comments indicating confidence in the timeliness and/or response of the agency and good relationships:

> *The timeliness and response of the CWS system has been good. If I need someone, I will get somebody unless it is after hours.*
> *No. I have a generally positive impression of the both agencies, including some very positive and helpful interaction with ILP staff.*
> *Yes, it's reassured me.*
> *Yes, I can rely on prompt efficient and professional service.*
> *Yes. We have a good working relationship with CWS. We don't have a lot if any interaction with Probation. Probation and CWS have a positive relationship.*

However, some respondents indicate their relationship with the agency has been negatively affected:

> *Yes - negatively.*
> *Some of the responses by CPS have broken my trust*
> *Yes, it reminded me that social workers are just normal people doing their jobs. Working 9-5, without passion. Like I said earlier, it's a hard job, I get it. I have little faith that anything has improved within the system since I was a youth in foster care over 10 years ago. It's a dysfunctional system and nobody works together.*
> *Overall though, I have decent relationships with the people involved in my cases. I am willing to "play the game" if it means I can see my little girl and hopefully help to make well educated decisions regarding her future.*

HOW HAS THE TIMELINESS OR RESPONSE OF THE AGENCY AFFECTED YOUR FAMILY OR THE FAMILY YOU CALLED ABOUT?

Of the 17 valid responses, four comments stated simply, "No" with no additional remarks and one response was, "Yes" with no additional comment.

Two additional comments suggest there has been no affect with respect to timeliness or response:

> *no affect*
> *Has not been a problem.*

A few comments again reiterated satisfaction with timeliness and responsiveness:

> *Positively*
> *It was very helpful to the one in crisis.*
> *Improved my opinion.*
> *For the most part, CWS does a good job.*
> *Many children have improved safety*
> *CWS and Probation work collaboratively to address matters involving youth and their families who may fall in both systems.*

Other comments suggest dissatisfaction and timeliness or response issues producing a negative affect:

> *The agency has failed, in my previous case, to encourage consistent sibling visitations and counselling sessions. The foster parents eventually succeeded in isolating the child from her biological family (mother, father, & siblings). The agency did nothing to stop it; they were just tired of dealing with the hot-head foster parents.*
> *Confusion, frustration, all the way to being able to solve their immediate needs quickly.*

Abused children were being left in homes
Staff shortages

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OR ISSUES FACING FAMILIES AND YOUTH NO LONGER RECEIVING CHILD WELFARE OR PROBATION SERVICES?

Responses to this survey item centered around three themes: Counseling needs, follow-up support, and employment prospects.

Several comments indicated a perceived need for counseling and other additional after-care supportive services:

Counselling
Counselling
I believe they need counselling and follow up after exiting the system.
Continued support
Continued supportive services.
Continued support and maintenance. Mentors.
Continued contact for progress
Follow-up care and investigation
Lack of support
Lack of after care services and support for parents and youth.
Lack of aftercare services and support.
There seems to be a lack of services for those families who are not falling apart, but who may be on the edge. I think many families need extra support in order to become effective parents.
Support so that families don't re-enter the CWS system.
Lack of positive role models.

Two comments indicated a need for accountability, perhaps to ensure that families and youth continue to make progress when they are no longer receiving services:

They do not have anyone holding them to task or hold them accountable and when they are on their own, they seem not to care because no one is watching.
Accountability

Several other comments point to financial challenges that families and youth face upon exit from the systems:

Funds, It has been my experience that some on welfare do not want to work because they would lose their support.
Employment, addiction, safe housing, accountability.
The lack of affordable housing and jobs
Joblessness
Educational opportunity and career planning and prep
Classes in Life Skills and Job Training

Additional comments include:

How & why they drop out of the system when they still have eligibility.
Foster kids 18 need services to help them until they are 21.

WHAT ARE THE SERVICES FAMILIES AND YOUTH MIGHT NEED?

There was wide consensus among responses to this item that families and youth need counseling. Of the 26 responses to this item, counseling is named a total of 11 times. More specific counseling needs were also identified, such as with substance abuse and domestic violence:

Counseling, check ups from time to time
Counseling
Counseling.
Counseling
Counseling
Mentors. Counseling.
Counseling, substance abuse counseling
Counseling parenting domestic violence prevention
Access to treatment (substance abuse, mental health, etc.)
Peer and professional support groups, and some timely intervention.

Parenting skills were also identified as a needed service:

Aftercare services. Ongoing Parenting education programs. Family Counseling.
Foster youth: better ILP/transitional support to adulthood. Families: Substance abuse and parenting skills.
substance abuse, parenting, life skills
Parenting skills, counseling and job training. Some times there is not sufficient transportation
parenting-youth interventions

Basic needs, such as housing and food were cited:

Access to basic supports (housing, jobs, etc.)
Housing, food, help with transitioning life skills after 18.
Food, shelter, clothing, medical
Affordable housing, jobs

Job skills training and financial assistance are also clear needs that families and youth have:

Job training
Counseling, job connection, financial assistance.
Job training, fair housing, HUD, aftercare.
Poverty reduction
More emphasis on literacy, tutoring, attention given to employment skills.

Afterschool and aftercare services were also cited:

Aftercare services.
Aftercare services and support.
Afterschool programs

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, HOW CAN THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT OF PROBATION JUVENILES IN LEAST RESTRICTIVE SETTINGS?

Responses to this survey item focused on recruitment and training of foster families and also educating those in the home environments of youth.

Two comments indicate satisfaction with how the Probation Department and community service providers are already contributing to successful placement:

It does
They are doing a great job already.

Some comments focused on close examination of each individual case and its particular circumstances:

Comprehensive case analysis
Successful placement can be accomplished with a thorough review of the juvenile's circumstances
Mentorship, assessment, and looking at the home to see the environment the youth/family are in.

Many comments revolved around developing more well-trained foster families, keeping foster care local, and educating families so that children can stay in the home:

Have foster homes trained for receiving these youths.
Establishing more foster homes locally that accept Probation youth and provide information and training to individuals who may qualify as a NREFM placement.
Recruit for local Foster Family homes so Mariposa youth do not have to be placed out of county and removed from everything that is familiar to them.
Use local certified group homes
By providing necessary information to those who would be responsible for supervising the individual
Become part of family intervention team to help develop consistent consequences for not following through on behavior contracts both in the home and in school. Simple, synchronized specific behavior contracts in home and school.
Ensuring that families have the tools necessary to maintain the child in the home
Try to educate the families and keep children in the home

Additional comments provided suggestions as to what else might be done for successful placement:

Some of the skills that they can get at CORE would be helpful for rehabilitation giving tools to use back in the community setting.
Develop mentorship programs.
By creating alternative sentencing programs.
Create, encourage and reward engagement in positive activities. Match programs to interests.

Other comments include:

Why do we want the least restrictive settings???

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, HOW CAN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF FAMILIES TO AVOID A RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT AND FOSTER CARE ENTRY OR RE-ENTRY?

Again, in response to this item, the notion of aftercare and follow-up figured prominently, as did counseling and parenting skills development.

Several comments focused on continued follow-up with families:

Continued family maintenance
Follow up care and making sure that the parents attend parenting classes.
Monitoring of progress
Maintain positive relationship with family and check-in to provide support.
Regular in-home visits and in-school monitoring of social and academic progress for warning signs.

Parent education, counseling, and mental health screenings and services were also cited:

Parenting classes/ childhood development sessions and sound discipline techniques taught.
Education
Family Counseling/Parenting Classes
Counseling parenting classes, and substance abuse classes
Teach the parents to be parents and learn to work for work to help support their family
Improve mental health services. Make services more available and outreach.
I think using effective screening/risk assessments is good and that providing training to foster parents or Kin would help improve the youth experience and lower re-offense rates.
Multifaceted approach, there is no "one answer", if there is addiction in the family - hit it head on, if there is abuse - counseling/therapy, if they are homeless - find suitable longer-term housing, only dealing with one aspect will not take care of the whole person/family

Ensuring that adequate support is available and that families know how to access support services were also cited as pathways to success:

Help to be sure the family has a support system in place and contacts to reach out to.
Continued support and family education on how to connect with services.

Again, keeping foster homes local was raised as a possible contributor to success:

Establish more foster care homes locally and encourage family finding and NREFM placements.
Recruit more local Foster Family homes. Provide more wraparound services to this population. Require social workers to be actively involved with wraparound services so parents are not overwhelmed by Court and CPS requirements.

Some comments simply suggested a positive approach to support:

By offering incentives rather than punitive measures. Carrot should be used versus the stick.
Be an active part of goal attainment and celebration

Finally, two comments called into question the wisdom of keeping children in their families of origin:

Change the way adoptions happen. Make the living situation permanent for the child earlier rather than later
Stop with the antiquated belief that the family must always be reunited. In today's broken families it often would be better to have the children adopted out to already stable families

DO YOU THINK THERE ARE MISSING SERVICES IN THE AGENCIES OR COMMUNITY THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CHILDREN GOING BACK INTO FOSTER CARE OR RE-OFFENDING? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

Responses to this item were varied, but pointed to a perceived need for additional services.

Some respondents did express that they did not think any services were missing:

No I do not. I believe that we do a pretty good job evaluating it all. I think that when we over-analyze, that is when we do damage because we overwhelm these people.
no
no
none at this time

However, several comments identified a need for additional mental health and counseling services:

Mental health services - in particular qualified psychiatric or psychological services.
Lack of mental health services.
Insufficient parenting education programs/mentoring for parents of this population, when it is needed.
Family counseling services are also lacking.
Yes. As mentioned previously, Parent Education Programs for all child age groups; Family therapy.

Most of the comments represented a wide array of additional services that are perceived to be missing in the community:

Community Case Management services
Expanded WRAP services
Alcohol and Drug Programs for adults and youth
low income housing
supportive job training and placement
Insufficient CASA volunteers.
Yes. Differential Response is lacking. The 1st and 2nd level response is not provided. CWS and PO workers are expected to do this and they are over-extended and just making referrals.
Lack of local foster homes and service providers.
I believe we need to have collaboration between applicable agencies to work together with each child's case.
Unless there is viable employment opportunities to allow self-sufficiency, where are we leading the families to? If our goal is financially independent, emotionally secure, stable, safe, families, then, we need more than another program.
Increased case management to assist with linking parents up with educational opportunities, career planning, and internships.
Continued family services
Yes. 1) Engaged adults. 2) After-school and after hours activity programs.
The lack of permanence for the children.
A lack of stern discipline and an immediate punishment for crimes committed.

ACHIEVING SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING MEANS: PREPARING YOUTH WITH SKILLS FOR MANAGING ADULT LIFE AND CREATING MEANINGFUL PERMANENT CONNECTIONS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN THE FIRST DECADE OF ADULT LIFE. WHAT CAN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES AND/OR PROBATION DEPARTMENT DO TO SUPPORT THESE TWO IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING?

Again, a wide variety of responses were offered to this query, but comments focused on life skills development, peer, and family support and mentoring.

In preparing youth with life skills, additional issues such as housing, education, and jobs were also raised in the comments offered:

Enhance life skills services.
Life coaching
Life skills, jobs and transportation
Establish transitional living services that will address all needs of this population and provide aftercare services and support.
Dedicate staff and dollars to provide life skills and housing support to young adults from 14 or 15 to 21.
Education in Life Skills, Job Training with local business and a way to get where they need to go.
Education
Help with job skills and finding jobs for our young adults, substance abuse
Real life experience classes and mentorship programs
Again, attention given to literacy and skills leading to employment. We are in a high tech society; young people without advanced skills will be stuck in service jobs or perpetual unemployment, as is the case in European countries.

Echoing responses to previous questions, the issue of accountability was raised:

Support them in any way we can but hold them accountable when they are compromising their case.
Accountability for decisions being made
Hold children accountable so they will become more responsible

A few comments singled out a need for reinforcing the ILP program:

ILP
We need a more robust ILP program
Figure out why foster youth are not fully engaging in ILP, (or drop out) and tailor the program to keep them involved.

Another set of comments focused on the need to build stronger connections to family members:

Peer-to-peer support groups and try to maintain some engagement with family members. Family connections are more important than physical and environmental stability.
Help youth identify or establish meaningful relationships with adults who are committed to provide support, encouragement and guidance. Implement Family Finding to locate relatives who have the ability and willingness to help this population of youth become successful.
Follow up with the youth to ensure that they have some type of a kinship connection

Additional comments offered an array of additional support services and practices:

More in depth counseling.
Wrap services
Work with local non-profits to build support systems for these kids and not just ignore them.
Encourage involvement in family oriented activities such as boy scouts, girl scouts, etc.
Instill self-esteem, self-worth, hope for the future? Find a way to move forward from their situation now and to teach how to use these experiences for wisdom and not shame.
Be more supportive and less judgmental
Find and assign mentors matched to youth.

Mentoring youth and parents in different skills, hobbies, recreational activities, and of course job training, shadowing, and volunteer programs.

UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COUNTY'S SELF-ASSESSMENT AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROCESS ADDRESSES CHILDREN WHO ARE ALREADY INVOLVED WITH PROBATION AND/OR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES, DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON HOW WE CAN IMPROVE OUR PROCESSES?

Comments in response to this item were truly all over the map. As a summative statement, one respondent offered:

I think that most people affiliated with both departments due a fantastic job. As far as services, I feel that with the amount of resources that we have in our county, we do a good job.

Some respondents offered thoughts around preventative measures:

Providing early intervention and prevention services is very important.
Start working with "at risk" children and families before they are in the system. Work with the schools to identify families and put the staff and money into programs to help. We know what to do but we do not have the programs/money to do the work.

Others shared thoughts around perceived needs for youth skills development:

I would like to see programs like Ethos expand to work with youth- giving them the skills and tools they need to be successful.
Apprentice programs so young people could learn marketable skills.

Some comments demonstrated an appreciation for the feedback the county is soliciting and some suggest the solicitation of additional systematic feedback from those engaged in the systems:

Increased input from foster youth and children/youth involved in the juvenile dependency process. Self-and peer-assessments are excellent.
Listen to people not financially tied to the system
Ask the youth for their assessment of how everyone is doing!
Thanks for listening to community ideas. Thanks for being real people that share common concerns for our Mariposa youth, their families and community.
On-going monitoring of the County's compliance and progress in addressing the issues identified through this process. Identifying and documenting problems as they occur and developing solutions to those problems as they occur. Quarterly reviews and Annual reports of the County's progress in addressing the issues identified in the CSA and SIP. Develop a user friendly tool to monitor compliance and progress in meeting goals. County should be working on CSA and SIP throughout the year and not wait until the last minute to submit these reports to state.

Yes, others left final comments that point to problematic issues with trust and respect:

if a child or family doesn't believe they can trust the CPS system how honest can may be about their situation
I believe that child welfare and probation treat individuals with no respect.

Still others were still unsure as to how to respond:

I lack the knowledge about what goes on...
Didn't know they existed till now. Not sure.

And others offered a varied assortment of suggestions and observations:

Ensure that the professionals from both entities work together and in their own respective fields
Support them, but don't coddle them.
Expand mental health services.
Get out of the building. ;)

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Appendix 4

Foster YOUTH FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Two high school seniors attended the focus group and spoke candidly of their experience with foster care. To protect the youth's identity, names are not used and gender references are fictionalized. One youth was no longer in foster care, having been adopted, but spoke of experiences with the foster care system when s/he was in it. Both youth are preparing to graduate high school.

1. Does your caseworker include you in making case plan decisions (deciding where you will live, your goals for your living arrangements, what help you need and will get, your contact with your family members, talking about how things are going for you)?

For one of the participating youth, the answer was a resounding NO. This youth did not have a good relationship with their caseworker and felt that decisions about his case were not discussed with him. He had a younger sibling whose needs he had raised repeatedly to his caseworker, but which went unattended. As a result, he feels his sibling is in a far worse situation today than he might be in had he received the attention and needed resources at the time they were brought to the attention of the caseworker.

The second participant had a very positive relationship with their caseworker and felt very included in decisions about their case. Participant #2 reported that her monthly meetings with her caseworker always gave her opportunity to discuss issues relevant to her and she felt her input was usually taken into consideration and acted upon by her caseworker.

However, both expressed disappointment that many promises were made to them by their caseworkers that were not fulfilled. Both participants said they had been promised enrollment in a workshop or a group that never materialized, or that they were promised material goods that were never delivered upon. This led them to feel they were just being told what they wanted to hear, but that the caseworkers never intended to follow through on such promises.

2. Which services (things) have been most helpful in helping you get back home, get where you want to be, or be on your own?

Both participants felt that being a foster youth made one "grow up faster" and become more independent and resilient without support from others. This was perceived to be a positive outcome, but also a drawback, in that they felt the foster system has led them to be unable to trust others and/or develop strong attachments.

Participant #1 cited the R.E.A.L. program that was very helpful in preparing life skills and how to live on his own. This participant also received some counseling that he found to be very helpful. The therapy was consistent and lasted until he returned home, and he found that to be very helpful.

Participant #2 feels the foster system will help her in achieving her goals of attending college and moving away to another state. She wants to attend college and understands there are stipends and grants available to help her pursue this. Moreover, she feels that having a foster family provides a security net that would allow her to take such risks as moving out of state with the knowledge that should she need help along the way, someone would

come to her aid. Despite the fact that she does not have a close relationship with her foster parents and has many serious misgivings about them, she is grateful for the safety net the foster parents provide.

Participant #2 acknowledges that her caseworker has tried to be supportive, but many times, she just felt misunderstood and that the caseworker simply doesn't know what to do or how to help. Moreover, she has witnessed considerable turnover in the staff that have been involved in her case:

"They don't mean to, but a lot people that I've been with for awhile, they either bail out on me that's what's happened with my whole situation, that's why I'm in foster care because everyone's bailed out... My counselor, my caseworkers,...it's just annoying getting used to people over and over again."

3. Which services (things) have been most helpful to your family?

Participant #1 stated that family therapy sessions were very helpful to his family, but he qualified that by saying he thinks his family paid for it, though the counselor was found through the foster system.

Participant #2 is not in close contact with family members with few exceptions, and had nothing to say about what may have helped her family.

4. What scares you about leaving care and/or returning home?

Neither participants are planning on returning to their birth homes, as one has been adopted into a new family, and the other has no intention of returning home, and is rather looking forward to moving out on her own. Nonetheless, both expressed fears around being "independent" that centered around issues of financial solvency. Both raised the example of "What if I lose my job?" and felt that being in foster care gave them a sense of security that even if they did lose their job, ultimately their foster parents would be there to support them. Potentially giving up that safety net was the greatest source of fear for these youth.

"Not having a safety net... You're going out there by yourself without having a fall-back."

5. What can your worker do to help you be safe, have a good living situation (home) and not moved around so much, help you return home to your family, or be successful on your own?

Both participants had a lot to say about how they feel they have been treated by both their caseworkers and their foster families, and also had some suggestions to make. It was clear that a good relationship with the caseworker was critical to a successful foster youth. While participant #2 had a good relationship with their caseworker, both said that they felt their caseworkers would often tell them things and promise things (such as enrollment in a class or program, or material goods that were requested) that they never followed through with, and that eventually, the youth came to understand this as the caseworkers simply making promises to tell them what they wanted to hear, without having any intention of fulfilling them.

Both participants also agreed that it would be extremely beneficial for foster parents to receive high quality training about the particular needs of foster children and that a more stringent screening process should accept only highly trained and qualified parents to become foster parents, given the specific and high needs that foster children will present. Both participants felt that foster parents were not very sensitive to them and that where biological children were present in the family, they routinely felt they were treated inequitably. One participant suspected (and the other agreed) that foster parents are motivated by the monetary support they receive, and that this motivation does not invite high quality parents to foster children, most of whom will have high needs.

Having more stringent screening processes and more training may also prevent disruptive turnaround and prevent foster youth from having to move from family to family.

"If they have other kids living in the house, they don't notice it, but they do so much unfair stuff."

"Some of them don't get it how foster kids need to be treated with a little more attention because they've been through a lot and certain things that might not bother other kids might kill us inside... Before they do it, they need to understand how a foster kid feels and how they need to be treated."

"It doesn't matter how long they've been foster parents, they won't understand unless they've been in it themselves."

Participant #1 suggested that foster youth meet with two or three foster parents and be given a choice of which family might be the better fit. Participant #2 spoke of the alienating experience of arriving at the foster home the first day and meeting their foster family for the first time in their home. Both agreed that it would be immensely beneficial to meet a few parents beforehand, then the youth can pick the one they fit best with. This would have the benefit of not only giving the youth and parents to meet before the day the youth moves in, but also reduces the likelihood that the youth will have to move again due to a poor match with the family.

Participant #2 also expressed the wish that the foster system could successfully match foster youth with a single foster family with whom the youth would stay until they are age 18 and/or ready to move out and who would be committed to be there for the youth even after they leave foster care.

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Appendix 5

PEER REVIEW PARTICIPANT LIST

Child Welfare Contacts	Probation Contacts
Calaveras County Sharon Connell - **PARTICIPANT** Social Worker III sconnell@co.calaveras.ca.us 209-754-2854 **Colusa County** Donna Dennis - **PROGRAM MANAGER** CWS/APS, Public Guardian 530-458-0290 dennida@cws.state.ca.us **Inyo County** Krista Cooper - **PARTICIPANT** CPS Social Worker Supervisor kcooper@inyocounty.us 760-872-1727 **Mariposa County** Charles Peugh - **PARTICIPANT** Social Worker IV cpeugh@mariposashc.org 209-742-0909 Genaye Mowrer- **PARTICIPANT** Social Worker IV gmowrer@mariposahsc.org 209-742-0894 Iris Chynoweth - **PARTICIPANT** Social Worker IV ichynoweth@mariposahsc.org 209-742-0893 Ann Conrad - **PARTICIPANT** Social Worker Supervisor II aconrad@mariposahsc.org 209-742-0880	**Trinity County** Tim Rogers - **PARTICIPANT** Superintendent of Juvenile Hall trogers@trinitycounty.org 530-623-1204 Ext: 132 **Tuolumne County** Joelle Kewish - **PARTICIPANT** Senior Probation Officer JElliott@co.toulumne.ca.us 209-533-7505 **Mariposa County** Bryce Johnson - **PARTICIPANT** Deputy Probation Officer III bjohson@mariposahsc.org 209-742-0225 Connie Pearce - **PARTICIPANT** Deputy Probation Officer III cpearce@mariposashc.org 209-742-1294

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2011 MARIPOSA COUNTY CHILD CARE DATA

Mariposa County

Data that describes child care – statewide and in California counties

The *2011 California Child Care Portfolio*, the eighth edition of a biennial report, presents a unique portrait of child care supply, demand, and cost statewide and county by county. The child care data in this report was gathered with the assistance of local child care resource and referral programs (R&Rs). R&Rs work daily to help parents find child care that best suits their family and economic needs. They also work to build and support the delivery of high quality child care services in diverse settings throughout the state. To access the full report summary and county pages, go to our website at www.rrnetwork.org.

PEOPLE	COUNTY			STATE		
	2008	2010	CHANGE	2008	2010	CHANGE
Total number of residents[1]	18,772	18,251	-3%	38,246,598	37,253,956	-3%
Number of employed residents[2]	8,780	8,370	-5%	17,059,600	15,916,300	-7%
Number of children 0-12[1]	1,968	2,164	10%	7,017,233	6,569,785	-6%
Under 2	326	314	-4%	1,095,851	991,812	-9%
2 years	158	148	-6%	537,511	516,002	-4%
3 years	148	147	-1%	546,708	516,611	-6%
4 years	122	166	36%	543,312	506,908	-7%
5 years	145	173	19%	545,944	505,175	-7%
6 - 10 years	708	843	19%	2,648,052	2,512,016	-5%
11 - 12 years	361	373	3%	1,099,855	1,021,261	-7%
Children 0-12 with parents in the labor force[3]		1,480			4,211,870	
Children 0-5 living in poverty[4]	N/A	33		626,804	705,084	12%

CHILDREN 0-12 WITH PARENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE[3]	
COUNTY	STATE
68%	64%

CHILDREN 0-5 LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2010[4]	
COUNTY	STATE
4%	24%

CHILD CARE AND FAMILY BUDGETS[5]

17% of families with children in Mariposa County earn less than minimum-wage[8]

For more information about child care in MARIPOSA COUNTY:

Infant/Child Enrichment Services
1-209-966-4474
www.icesagency.org

1. CA DOF population projections (2008). U.S Census (2010).
2. Employment Development Department (2008 & 2010).
3. Network calculation based on ACS 2009 5-year estimate.
4. ACS 2009 5-year estimate.
5. Median cost of a 2-bedroom (HUD 2010) and mean child care rates (2009).
6. CA Dept. of Industrial Relations (Minimum wage).
7. Based on 70% of state median income for a family of 3.
8. ACS 2009 5-year estimate.

The *2011 Child Care Portfolio* is produced by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network | (415) 882-0234 www.rrnetwork.org

Mariposa County Child Care

AGE / TYPE

CHILD CARE SUPPLY[1]	LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS			LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES		
	2008	2010	CHANGE	2008	2010	CHANGE
Total number of slots	127	166	31%	246	198	-20%
Infant slots (under 2 years old)	0	0	—			
Preschool slots (2-5 years old)	106	145	37%			
School-age slots (6 years and older)	21	21	—			
Total number of sites	6	8	33%	24	18	-25%

CHILD CARE REQUESTS[2]	
Under 2 years	29%
2 years old	21%
3 years old	7%
4 years old	11%
5 years old	14%
6 years and older	18%

25%* Children 0-12 with parents in the labor force for whom a licensed child care slot is available[3]

0 Children on waitlists to receive a child care subsidy[4]

* This estimate is based on the 364 licensed slots in Mariposa County and does not include license-exempt programs.

SCHEDULE AND COST

CHILD CARE SUPPLY[1]	LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS	LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES
Full-time and part-time slots[5]	13%	96%
Only full-time slots	—	—
Only part-time slots	87%	4%
Sites offering evening, weekend or overnight care	—	50%
Full-time infant care[6]	$10,529	$5,636
Full-time preschool care[6]	$7,212	$5,643

CHILD CARE REQUESTS[2]	
AGES	FULL-TIME[5]
Children 0-5	39%
Under 2	25%
2 years	33%
3-5 years	56%

REQUESTS FOR CARE DURING NON-TRADITIONAL HOURS	
Evening / weekend / overnight care	14%

MAJOR REASONS FAMILIES SEEK CHILD CARE[7]

88% Employment

13% Parent seeking employment

LANGUAGE

CENTERS WITH AT LEAST ONE STAFF SPEAKING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES[7]

English 100%, Spanish 25% and Sign language 13%

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SPEAKING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES[7]

English 100%, Spanish 11% and Sign language 6%

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME[8]	
English	94%
Spanish	4%
Asian/Pacific Island Languages	—
Another Language	1%

1. Child Care Resource & Referral Databases January 2008 and 2010.
2. Child Care Referral Requests April/May/June 2010.
3. Total licensed slots divided by number of children with parents in the labor force.
4. CA Centralized Eligibility Report April-June 2010.
5. Full-time is defined as 30 or more hours per week; part-time is less than 30 hours per week.
6. Mean child care cost. Child Care Regional Market Rate Survey 2009.
7. Percentages may exceed 100% when multiple options are chosen.
8. ACS 2009 5-year estimate.

For more information about child care in MARIPOSA COUNTY:

Infant/Child Enrichment Services
1-209-966-4474
www.icesagency.org

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Human Services
February 2013

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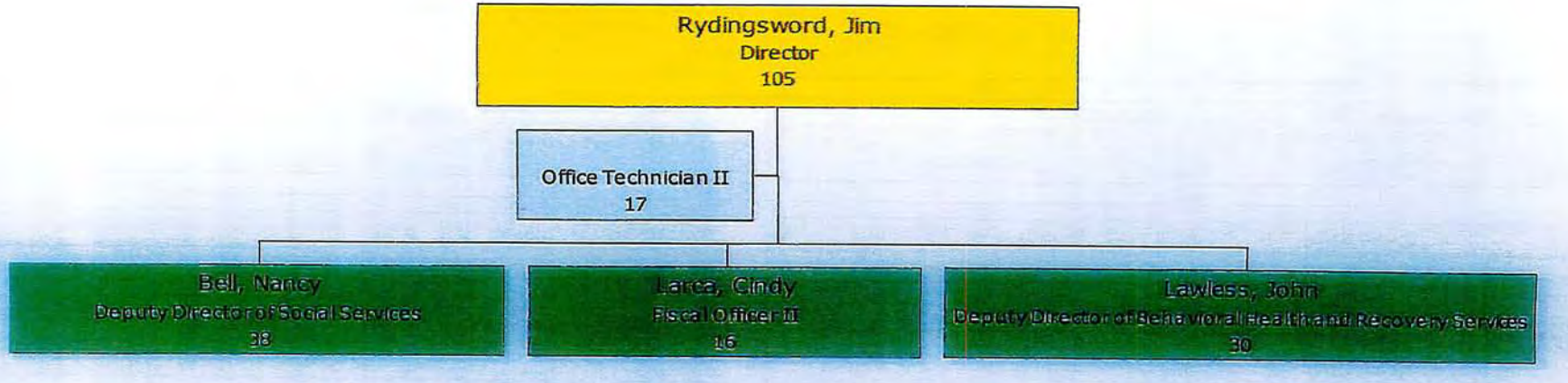
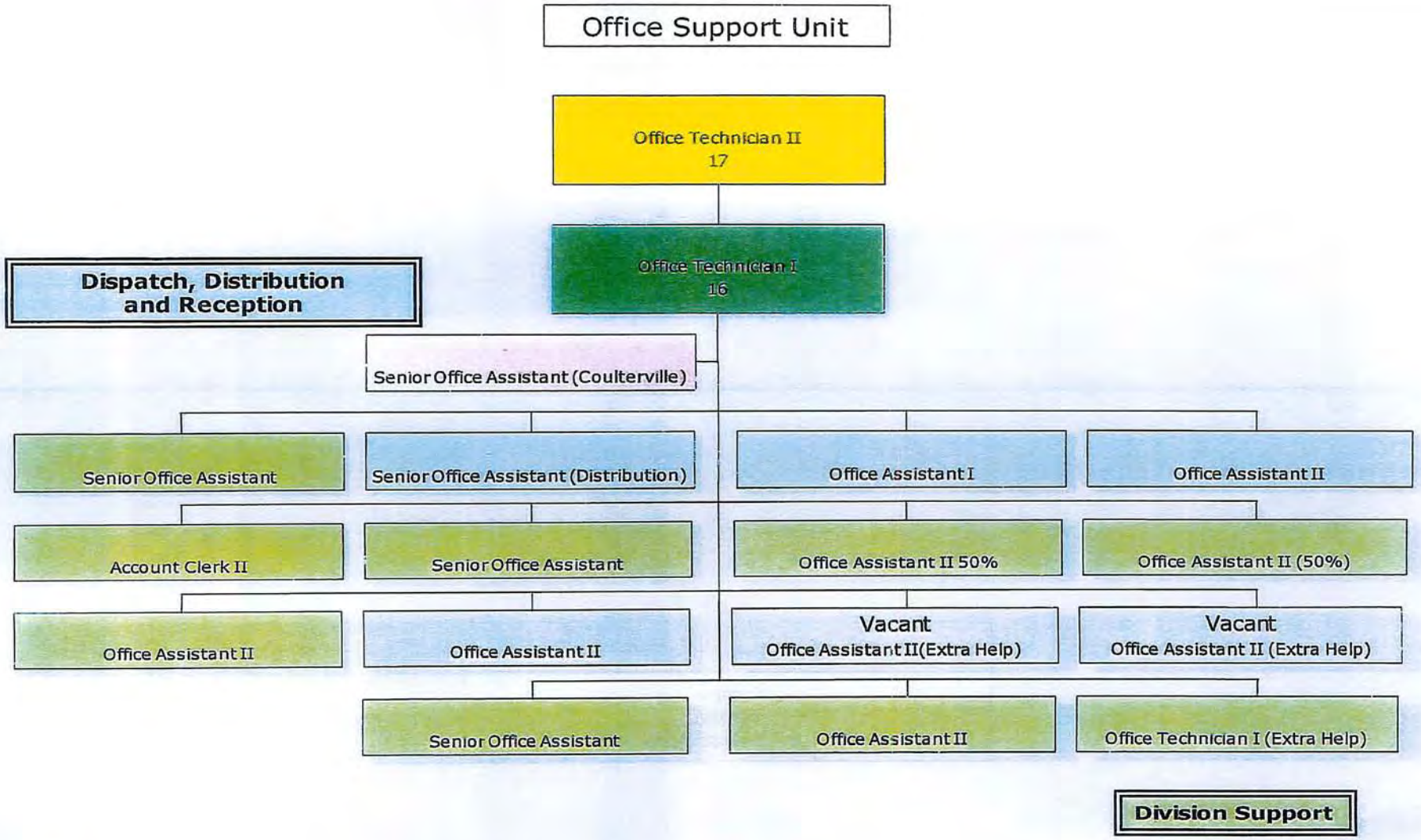
Human Services Department
Organization Chart

Administration



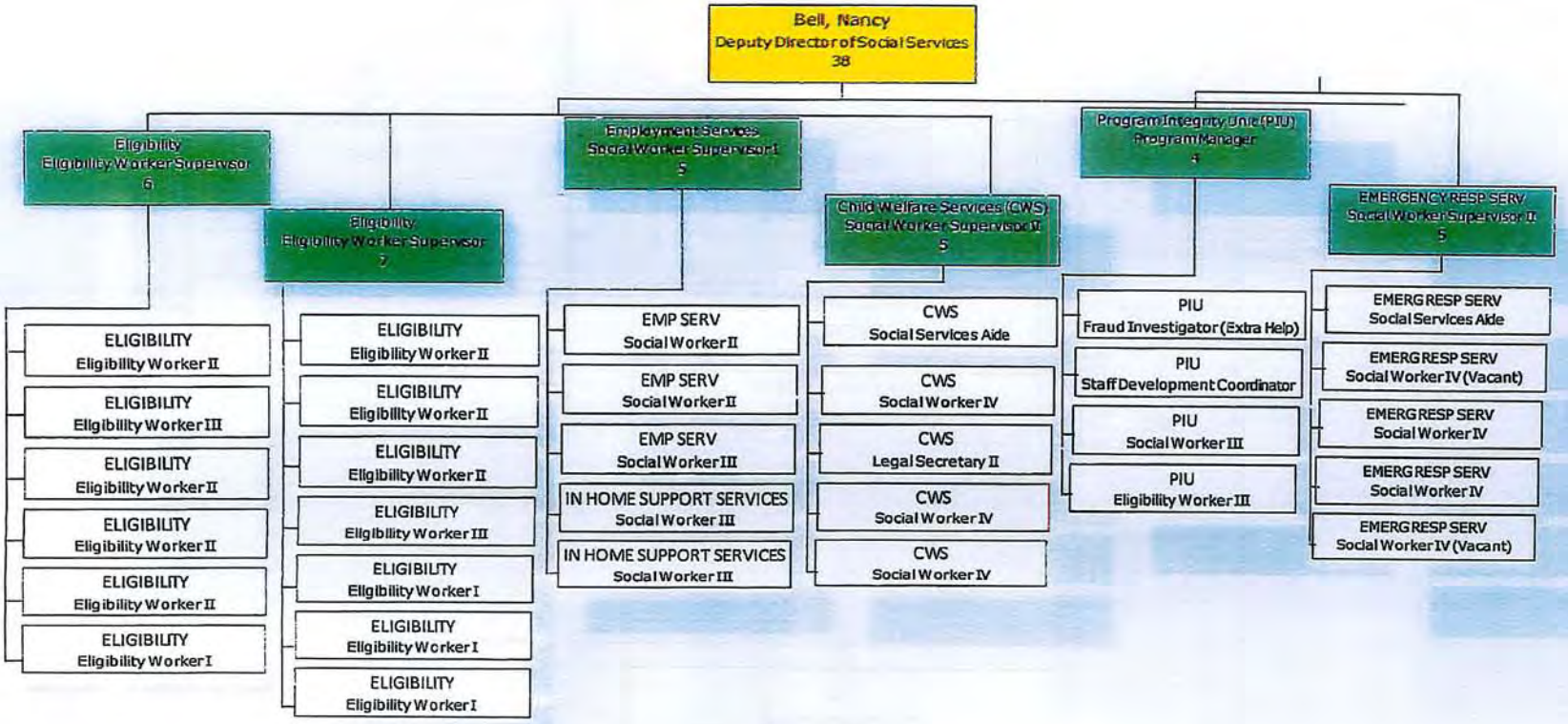
Last Modified 2/6/2013

Human Services Department
Organization Chart



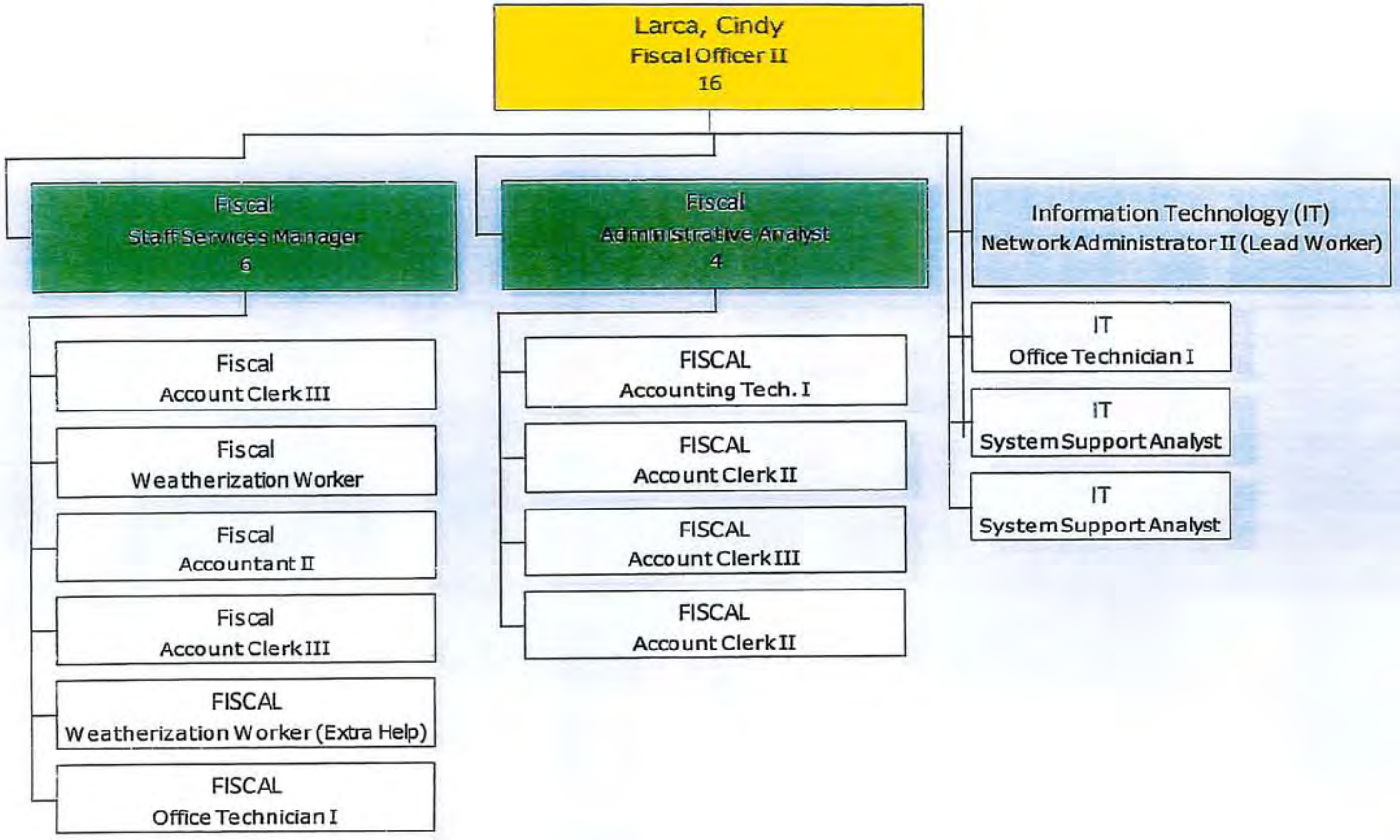
Human Services Department
Organization Chart

Social Services



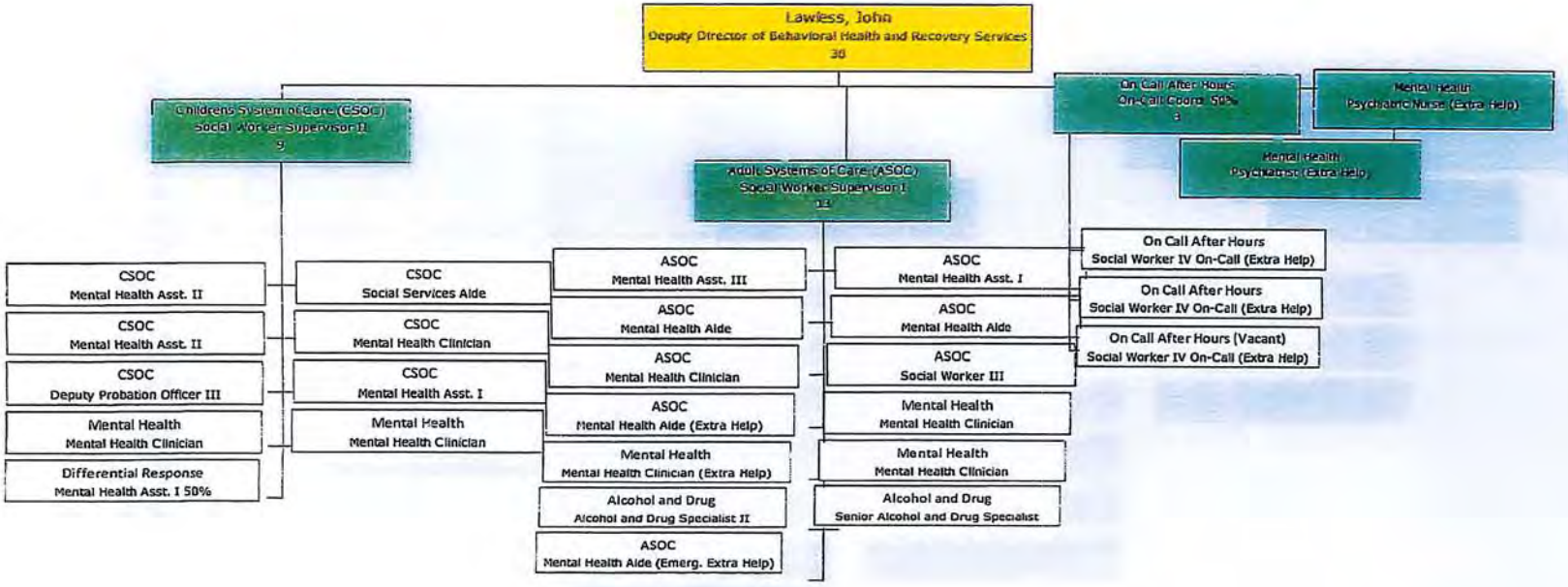
Human Services Department
Organization Chart

Fiscal Administration



Human Services Department
Organization Chart

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services



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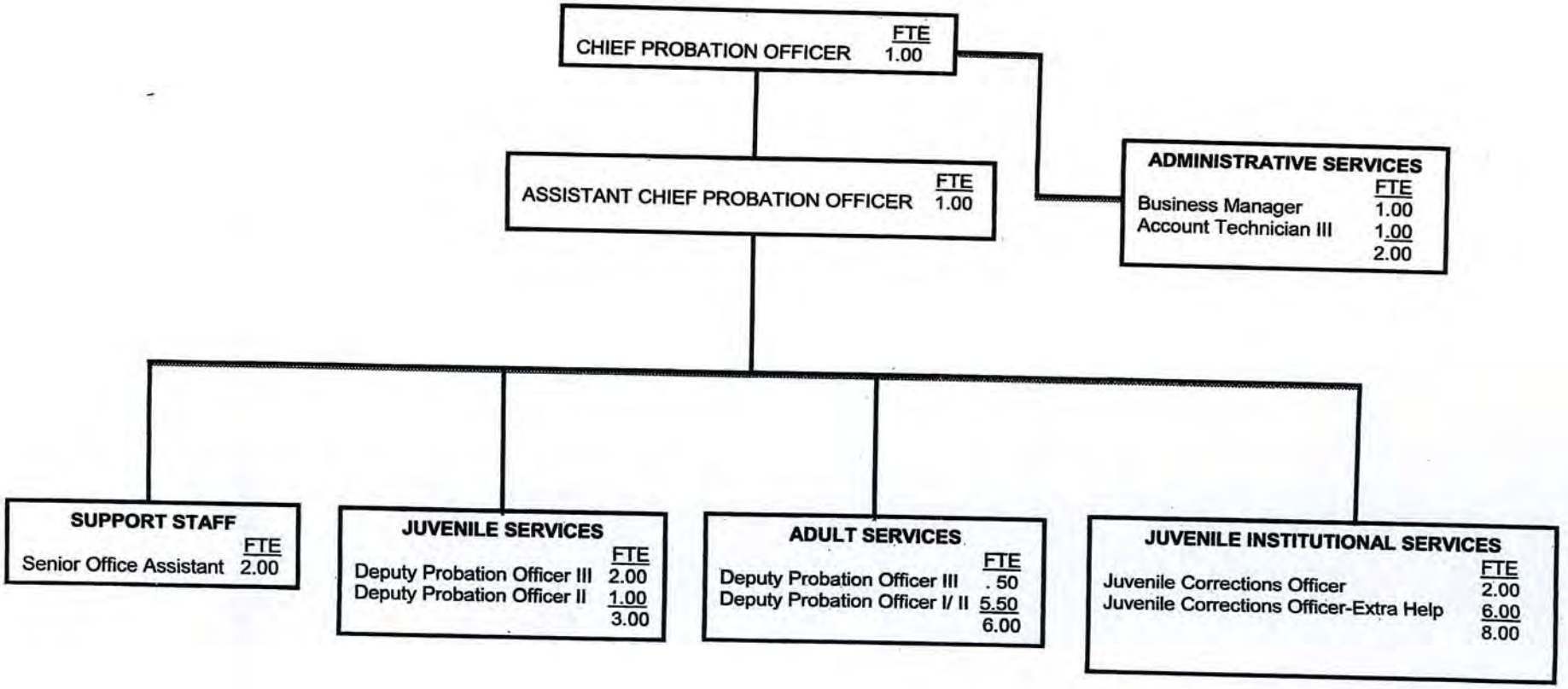
Appendix 8

PROBATION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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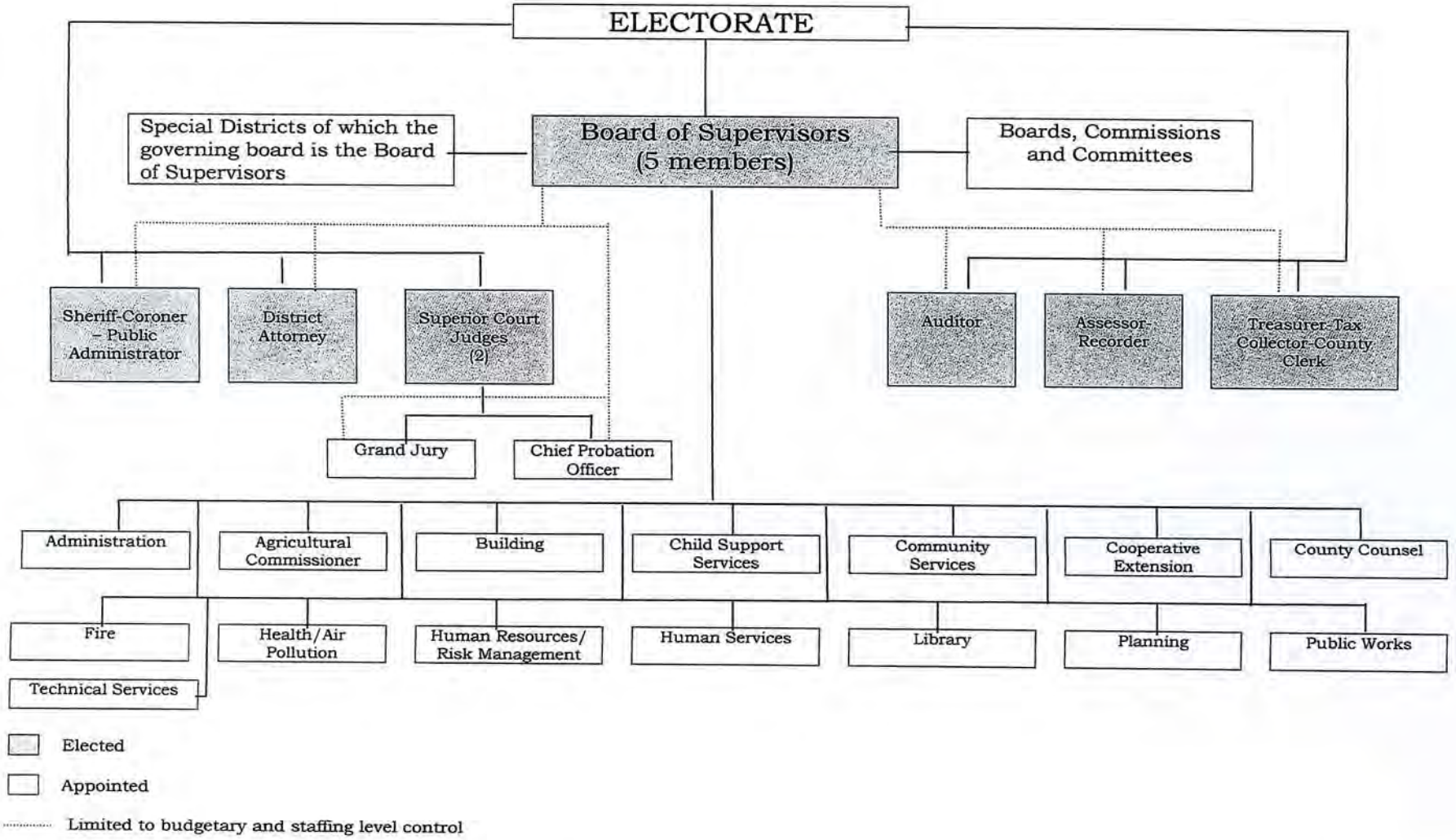
Appendix 9

MARIPOSA COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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Appendix 10

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL and BOARD of MARIPOSA SAFE FAMILIES, INC. BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Susan Arlington—Board Member
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P O Box 99
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Doug Binnewies—Chair
Mariposa County Sheriff
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dbinnewies@mariposacounty.org

Lester Bridges—Board Member
Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce
Business Owner
3821 Pinecrest Drive,
Mariposa, Ca 95338
(209)769-3304
lesternbridges@yahoo.com

Mary Loughran—Treasurer
Co-President Manna House
3529 Hill Top Drive
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 742-6638

Terance Loughran—Secretary
Co-President Manna House
3529 Hill Top Drive
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 742-6638 (Unlisted)

Gwen Nitta—Board Member
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Mariposa, CA 95338
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gnitta@sti.net

Connie Pearce—Board Member
Mariposa County Probation
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cpearce@mariposacounty.org

Terri Peresan—Board Member
Mariposa County Community Service Dpt
Director
5246 Spriggs Lane
Mariposa, Ca 95338
(209)966-5315
tperesan@mariposacounty.org

Cindy Robles—Board Member
Mother Lode Job Training
P.O. Box 1915
Mariposa, Ca 95338
(209)966-3643
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Christene Scott—Vice Chair
West America Bank
P O Box 157
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scottfam@sti.net

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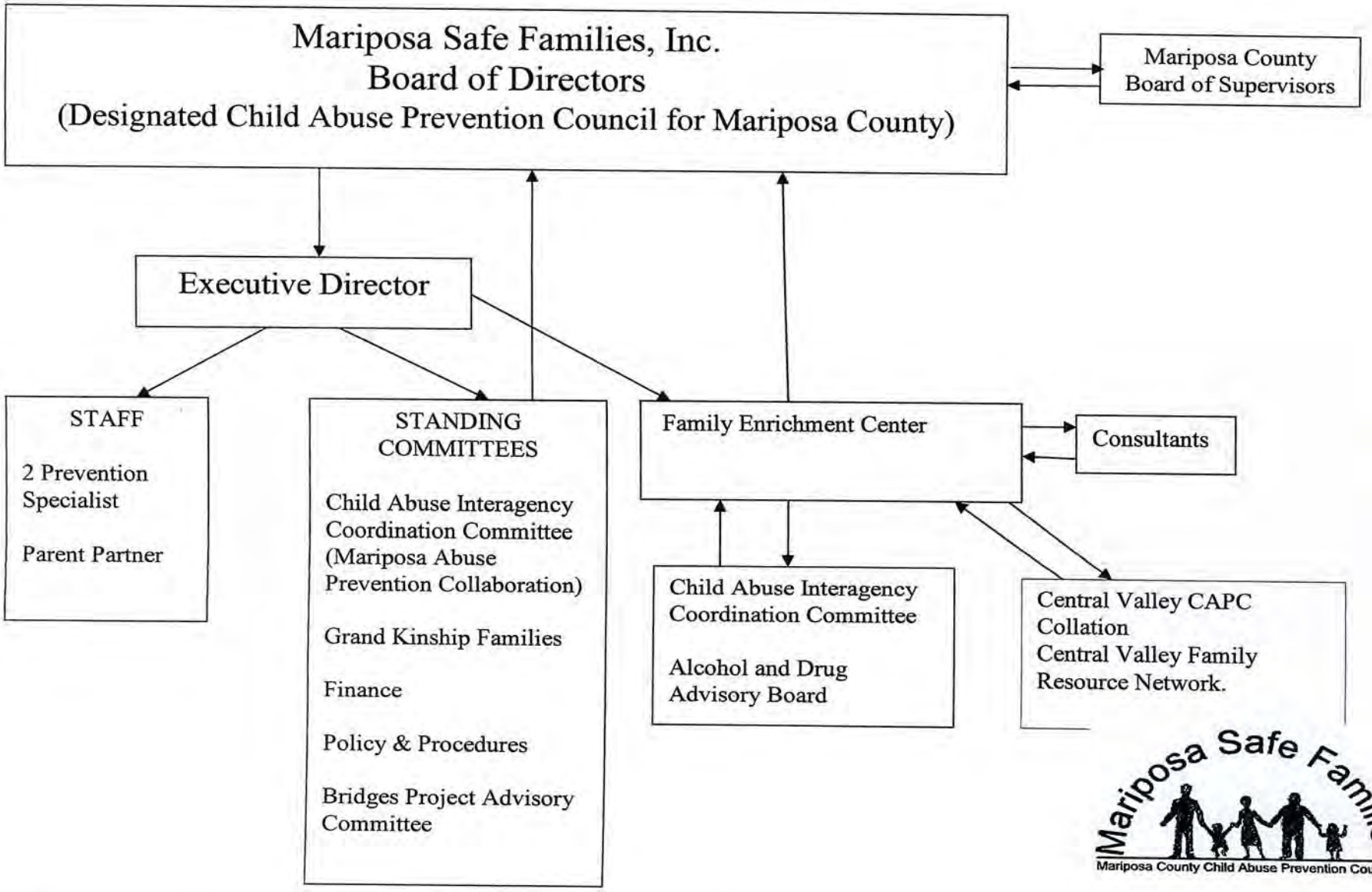
MARIPOSA SAFE FAMILIES, INC. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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APPENDIX 12

MARIPOSA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

Overview: The Prosperity Initiative is a collaborative of community based and county programs working collectively to help people transition from poverty to prosperity.

The Challenge: With an estimated population of 18,191, Mariposa County's residents face the challenge that many small, rural communities face – a high degree of poverty and multiple barriers to escaping it. An estimated 14.2% of the population lives below the federal poverty level. Poverty in Mariposa County is exacerbated by: extensive distances to reach services, virtually no public transportation, the high cost of gas and insurance, a paucity of living wage jobs, a lack of vocational or college training opportunities, limited human service options coupled with the growing costs associated with the provision of government based services, and a "pioneering spirit" which makes many resistant to government assistance.

The Solution: Building the capacity of a grassroots, collaborative effort to move community members from poverty to prosperity. In partnership with community-based organizations, the faith community and concerned citizens, Mariposa County Human Services has taken the lead to initiate and build the capacity of a grassroots effort to combat poverty, which has come to be known as the Prosperity Initiative. Under the lead of a local non-profit, Mariposa Safe Families (the local Child Abuse Coordinating Council) and a coordinating body of local non-profit organizations, business owners, faith based organizations, and county programs known as the Bridges Project, the Prosperity Initiative offers a multi-pronged strategy aimed at addressing immediate needs of families in poverty while simultaneously developing pathways for continued upward mobility within the community. This Initiative was founded under the support of a Community Service Block Grant and Human Services funding which helped to build the capacity of the Bridges group and Mariposa Safe Families, while helping to strategize and articulate a plan for addressing poverty. Capacity building efforts during year 1 of the Project aimed to strengthen the governance and fund development skills of organizations, improve the data collection evaluation methods to measure success, and assist organizations to search for and write grant applications. Planning efforts helped to lead community based organizations and partners through a needs assessment process, a review of evidence based practices, and a strategic planning process to find solutions. The Bridges Project is currently working on the implementation of a Community Partners Program, one strategy of the Prosperity Initiative. This strategy will develop a volunteer corps of "Community Partners" who will assist individuals and families in poverty in learning skills, accessing needed resources, and receiving on-going support and mentorship to lift them out of poverty. Similar to evidence-based mentoring models or "parent partner" models, this program will match community members, who are interested in and knowledgeable about poverty and community resources, with families in poverty who are motivated to engage in efforts to move into prosperity. Community Partners will be recruited, trained and matched with families and outcomes will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the Program. Although this aspect of the Prosperity Initiative is still in its early stages, the overall Initiative has accomplished many important successes to date: First, it has fostered a spirit of collaboration within Mariposa County, bringing non-profits, county entities, churches, and interested community members together in a grassroots way to collectively find solutions to poverty versus operating independently which can cause a silo effect. This spirit has extended beyond poverty as these groups come together to find solutions in the realms of education, transportation and more. Second, the shift from seeing the solutions to poverty from being the responsibility of local government to being a community responsibility will ensure on-going sustainability over time. Finally, the introspection and willingness on the part of partner organizations to build internal capacity to maximize effectiveness, to have critical conversations about the barriers that our own organizations have created for community members, and to leverage resources and strengths of has helped to create a strong and sustainable Project.

The Budget: To date, approximately $60,000 in Community Services Block Grant funds and Human Services Funds have been expended to support the capacity building, planning and implementation efforts of the Prosperity Initiative. This relatively small sum of money has helped to increase the capacity of 20 participating organizations/groups, has engaged many more community members, and has built momentum for meaningful change in poverty and many other challenges faced by Mariposa County.

Contact Information: For more information regarding the Prosperity Initiative, contact Jim Rydingsword, Mariposa County Human Services Director at (209) 966-2000 or jrydings@mariposahsc.org (PO Box 99, Mariposa, CA 95338).

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MARIPOSA COUNTY

Human Services/Social Services · (209) 966-2000

RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-371

MEETING: September 3, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Rydingsword, Human Services Director

RE: 2013 County Self Assessment for California's Child and Family Services Review

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RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve the 2013 County Self-Assessment for California's Child and Family Services Review, Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign and the Department to Submit to the California Department of Social Services.

As part of a previously triennial cycle, and now as a five year cycle, each California County must develop a document which incorporates input from various child welfare constituents and review the full scope of Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation Services within the county. Mariposa's first County Self-Assessment was approved and submitted in 2004, the second in 2007, and the third in 2010. In an effort to minimize duplicative processes, maximize resources, and increase partnerships and communication between organizations, the needs assessment for the Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT), Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Plan has been incorporated into the California Children and Family Services Review process.

The development of this document required input from numerous County and community agencies that serve families and children. Also included were families that have been served by either Child Welfare or Probation. Both strengths and weaknesses have been identified and will be used to build on the next step in the process which will be the Self-Improvement Plan for Probation and Child Welfare Services. The identification of the community's need for prevention and community-based services will focus the future use of CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Make changes to the report and resubmit for approval. Delay in approval will delay and shorten the time available to develop the next step in the California Child and Family Services Review - the Self Improvement Plan.

Resolution - Action Requested 2013-371

ATTACHMENTS:
CSA 2013 - Working Final Doc (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Rick Benson, County Administrator/Clerk 8/28/2013

RESULT: **ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier