California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

For submittal of: CSA [x] SIP [ ] Progress Report [ ]

County	Trinity
SIP Period Dates	2013-2018
Outcome Data Period	July 1, 2010-December 31, 2012
County Child Welfare Agency Director	
Name	Christine Zoppi
Signature*	Christine Zoppi
Phone Number	530-623-1314
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1470 Weaverville, CA 96093
County Chief Probation Officer	
Name	Hal Ridlehuber
Signature*	
Phone Number	530-623-1204
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 158 Weaverville, CA 96093
Public Agency Designated to Administer CAPIT and CBCAP	
Name	Christine Zoppi
Signature*	Christine Zoppi
Phone Number	530-623-1314
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1470 Weaverville, CA 96093
Board of Supervisors (BOS) Signature	
BOS Approval Date	
Name	
Signature*	

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Mail the original Signature Sheet to:

Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau
Attention: Bureau Chief
Children and Family Services Division
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 8-12-91
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Signatures must be in blue ink

Contact Information

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	Agency	Trinity County Probation
	Phone & E-mail	530-623-1204 trogers@trinitycounty.org
	Mailing Address	P.O. Box 158, Weaverville, CA 96093
Public Agency Administering CAPIT and CBCAP (if other than Child Welfare)	Name	
	Agency	
	Phone & E-mail	
	Mailing Address	
CAPIT Liaison	Name	Jessica Iford
	Agency	Trinity County Child Protective Services
	Phone & E-mail	530-623-8276 jiford@trinitycounty.org
	Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1470, Weaverville, CA 96093
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California - Child and Family Services Review

Trinity County Self-Assessment

JULY 2010-FEBRUARY 2013

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CDSS
CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

12.17.12

Introduction

Trinity County Health and Human Services and Probation Departments has elected to use version 7 of the new C-CFSR guide for it 2013-18 cycle. During planning and preparation, both departments, along with the Child Abuse Prevention Council and CDSS counterparts planned and executed a Peer Review, Interviews, focus groups and a community Stakeholder meeting in development of this County Self-Assessment. The goal of these meetings and information gathering was to obtain honest and constructive assessment from peers, staff and the community about the strengths and challenges that exist for Trinity County youth and families involved with Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation.

C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

C-CFSR Planning Team

The C-CFSR team formed in October of 2012 and began to meet weekly, combining staff from Child Welfare, Probation and several Representatives from the local Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), along with the county consultants from CDSS Outcomes and Accountability Bureau (OAB)and Office of Child Abuse prevention (OCAP). Weekly meetings were used to review the guide, develop a plan for implementation, and organize the county process. The key staff are listed below:

Thomas Bradford	Juvenile Probation Officer	Probation
Julie Cockerton	County Consultant	CDSS-OAB
Heather Coto	County Consultant	CDSS-OCAP
Elizabeth Hamilton	Supervisor of Child Welfare	CWS
Ann Houle	Clinical Director	CAPC

JESSICA IFORD	STAFF SERVICES ANALYST	CWS
ANNE LAGORIO	AODS DIRECTOR/PREVENTION PROGRAM	CAPC
NOEL O'NEILL	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR	CAPC
TIM ROGERS	SUPERINTENDENT OF JUVENILE HALL	PROBATION

CORE REPRESENTATIVES

IN ADDITION TO THE C-CFSR PLANNING TEAM, THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS WERE REPRESENTED IN THE STAKEHOLDER PROCESS, BOTH AS REQUIRED AND ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:

Megan Blanchard	PHN, Interim Supervisor	Public Health
Sherry Chandler	Substance Abuse Specialist	AODS
Confidential	Current Foster Youth	Foster Youth
Confidential	Current/Former Parents	Parent/Consumer
Confidential	Resource Families	Relative/NREFM
Confidential	Resource Families	RFL FFA
Yoni Desmond	Parent Rep	CAPC
Chellie Gates	Facilitator	Northern Training Academy
Peggy Hammett	Clinician/Case Manager	BHS
Ann Houle	Clinical Director	BHS/Mental Health
Jessica Iford	Fiscal Officer	Co. Children's Fund/CAPIT Liaison/CBCAP Liaison/PSSF Liaison
Elizabeth Johnson	Presiding Judge	Trinity County Superior Court
Anne Lagorio	Supervisor	AODS/Prevention
Margie Lee	Executive Director	Human Response Network-CBO/DV/ECE/Child Care
Joe Micrans	Councilor	County Office of Ed-TH Feeder Schools
Constance Mitchell	PHN	Health/CHDP
Katie Nazady	Councilor	Mountain Valley

		Unified
Noel O'Neill	Executive Director	BHS/CAPC
Nena Panza	Executive director	Ready For Life FFA
Carolyn Prior	Adoptions Supervisor	CDSS Adoptions Arcata District Office
Alan Sanger	Foster Youth Services Liaison	TCOE
Absent	Tribal Representative	Yurok Tribe

THE CSA PLANNING PROCESS

THE PLANNING TEAM FIRST BEGAN MEETING IN THE FALL OF 2012 TO REVIEW COUNTY DATA AND DETERMINE WHAT FOCUS AREA TO SELECT FOR THE PEER REVIEW. AFTER AN INITIAL IN PERSON MEETING IN NOVEMBER TO KICK OFF THE PLANNING, MEETINGS WERE HELD BI-MONTHLY UNTIL DECEMBER, AND THEN WEEKLY THROUGH MARCH 2013. TEAM MEMBERS CONSISTED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM CDSS OAB AND OCAP, HHS, PROBATION, CAPC AND UC DAVIS. THROUGH COLLABORATION, THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO DEVELOP A PLAN THAT WOULD SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY WHILE MEETING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF CDSS IN THE NEW DRAFT GUIDE, V7. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE PEER REVIEW WOULD BE USED TO FOCUS ON THE TARGET AREAS FOR EACH PROGRAM, WHILE USING ITS FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS TO MORE BROADLY LOOK AT THE SYSTEM OF CARE, NOT JUST THE FOCUS AREA OF THE PEER REVIEW, AND FOLD THAT INFORMATION INTO THE LARGER CSA.

PARTICIPATION OF CORE REPRESENTATIVES

DURING THE WEEK OF THE PEER REVIEW THERE WERE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CORE REPRESENTATIVES WHOSE FEEDBACK WAS GAINED THROUGH FOCUS GROUPS, AND THEN A LARGER STAKEHOLDER MEETING WAS HELD ON MARCH 29TH. THESE MEETINGS WERE USED TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE AROUND SPECIFIC PRACTICES AS WELL AS THE SYSTEM OF CARE AND IDENTIFY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS. FROM THE NEEDS, THE C-CFSR PLANNING TEAM WILL USE THIS INFORMATION TO BUILD STRATEGIES AND HOLD A SECOND STAKEHOLDER MEETING IN JULY TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIES FOR THE NEXT SIP AND TO LOOK AT NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND HOW THE SYSTEM OF CARE CAN BE IMPROVED.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

IN ORDER TO GATHER A MORE HOLISTIC BODY OF INFORMATION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT DURING THE PEER REVIEW AND AFTER, THAT ALL FOCUS FEEDBACK WOULD FIRST BE LOOKING AT THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF CARE AND INCLUDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION RELATING TO THE PEER REVIEW TOPICS THAT WOULD GIVE A BROAD VIEW OF WHAT WAS WORKING WELL AND WHERE TARGETED IMPROVEMENTS WERE NEEDED. THE COUNTY USED INTERVIEWS, FOCUS GROUPS AND QUESTIONNAIRES AS METHODS FOR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AS OUTLINED BELOW.

ONE STAFF INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE WEEK OF THE PEER REVIEW TO GATHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT PRACTICE AND CASE SPECIFICS FROM PROBATION OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS. RELATIVES, FOSTER FAMILIES, YOUTH, FAMILIES OF ORIGIN, PROBATION OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WERE ALL PROVIDED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE IN A FOCUS GROUP SETTING TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC AREAS THAT IMPACT THEM WITHIN THE SYSTEM OF CARE AND ANY CONCERNS IN REGARDS TO CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION OUTCOME MEASURES. THOUGH THERE WERE NO PROBATION YOUTH PRESENT AT THE FOCUS GROUP CONDUCTED FOR YOUTH, SURVEYS WERE SENT OUT TO THE YOUTH FOR FEEDBACK USING SIMILAR QUESTIONS TO THE FOCUS GROUP. NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED AND WITH ONLY TWO (2) ACTIVE YOUTH IN PLACEMENT, THEIR PROBATION OFFICERS WERE GOING TO FOLLOW UP ON GETTING FEEDBACK FROM THESE YOUTH.

Demographic Profile

GENERAL COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

	Trinity County	California
Population		
Total population, 2012 estimates[1]	13,022	38,041,430
Total child population, 2010 projection[2]	2,585	9,225,094
Age (Child population in 2010)[3]		
0-2 years	12.9%	15.9%

[1] http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06105.html
[2] http://www.kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx?loc=325&cat=6&vai=true
[3] http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/child-population-age.aspx?loc=325,2&fmt=141

3-5 years	16.5%	16.3%
6-10 years	24.9%	27%
11-13 years	18.2%	16.8%
14-17 years	27.42%	23.8%
Ethnicity (Child population by ethnicity in 2008)[4]		
African American	.2%	5.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	11.1%
Caucasian	72%	23.3%
Hispanic	15.3%	51.6%
Native American	5.1%	.4%
Other	6.2%	3.8%
Primary Language[5]		
English	56.8%	93%
Spanish	28.6%	4.4%
Indo-European	4.3%	1.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9.5%	.5%
Other	.9%	.2%
Tribes[6]		
Total number of tribes that have Federal Recognition	3	115
Housing		
Housing Units	8,723	13,720,423
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2010	6%	30.8%
Median value of homes, 2000	$264,200	$421,600
Fair Market Rent, by unit size (2013)[7]		
Studio	$581	NA

[4] http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/child-population-race.aspx?loc=325&loc=2&fmt=140&pf=1
[5] http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?fpt=table
[6] http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/tribal/list-of-federal-and-state-recognized-tribes.aspx#ca
[7] http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2013_code/2013summary.odn

1 Bedroom	$585	NA
2 Bedrooms	$782	NA
3 Bedrooms	$1,152	NA
4 Bedrooms	$1,385	NA
Households and Household Income[8]		
Median Household Income, 2010	$37,672	$61,632
Median Household Income, 1999	$27,711	$46,461[9]
Poverty and Economic Indicators[10]		
Children at or below poverty, percent, 2010	27%	19%
Unemployment, 2010	22%	16.6%
Free/Reduced Cost School Meals, 2011[11]	61%	56.7%
Free/Reduced Cost School Meals, 2010	62.1%	55.9%
Rate of Homelessness, 2007-2010[12]	LNE	3.1%
Household Composition/Family Structure	2007-2011	2007-2011
Female-Headed Household	LNE	Not Available
Male-Headed Household	LNE	Not Available
Married Couple (Opposite Sex)	LNE	Not Available
Unmarried Couple (Opposite Sex)	LNE	Not Available
Unmarried or Married Same-Sex Couple	N/A	Not Available
Other Households	LNE	Not Available
CalWORKs (AFDC Aided Cases)[13]		
CalWORKs cases, 2012	344	Not Available

[8] http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?fpt=table
[9] http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/c2kbr-36.pdf
[10] http://www.childrennow.org/subsites/publications/invest/cdb07/cdb07_trinity.htm#family2
[11] http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/map/free-school-meals-eligible.aspx?loct=3&tf=64&fmt=675&ch=&layer=counties&center=-119.53125,37.42252593456304&zoom=5&overlay=-1|null
[12] http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/homeless-students.aspx?f=1
[13] http://www.kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx?loc=325&cat=c&fmt=139&fmt=141&fmt=140&fmt=144&fmt=138&fmt=1011&fmt=1012&fmt=729&fmt=205&fmt=473&fmt=482&fmt=488&fmt=474&fmt=726&fmt=727&fmt=1001&fmt=1002&fmt=1003&fmt=597&fmt=953&fmt=954&fmt=756&fmt=1025&fmt=862&fmt=871

CalWORKs cases, 2011	410	Not Available
CalWORKs cases, 2010	404	Not Available
Health Insurance (children 0-17)[14]		
Employment Based Insurance, 2009	48.4%	Not Available
Medi-Cal/Healthy Families, 2009	48.8%	Not Available
Uninsured	2.2%	Not Available
Privately Purchased	LNE	Not Available
Children With Disabilities		
Active California Children's Services Enrollees, 2009 (Under 1)	LNE	Not Available
Active California Children's Services Enrollees, 2009 (1-21)	1.7%	Not Available
Special Education Enrollment, 2009	210	Not Available
Special Education Enrollment, 2010	202	Not Available
Special Education Enrollment, 2011	201	Not Available
Special Education Enrollment, 2012	187	Not Available
Rates of Intentional Injury,	11	Not Available
Rates of Unintentional Injury,	7	Not Available
Infants Born at Low Birth weight, 2010	LNE	Not Available
Kindergartners with All Required Immunizations, 2010	78.7%	Not Available
Number of births per 1,000 young women ages 15-19, 2007	LNE	Not Available
2-1-1 Calls	N/A	N/A
Juvenile Felony Drug and Alcohol Arrest Rate per 1,000, 2009	0	Not Available
Rates of law enforcement calls for domestic violence, 2010 (by %)	3.6	Not Available
Rates of law enforcement calls for domestic violence, 2010 (by %)	36	Not Available

[14] http://www.kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx?loc=325&cat=a&pf=1

Child Maltreatment Indicators

Trinity County is a rural, mountainous county that covers an area of 3,179.25 square miles, but only has 4.3 persons per square mile., classifying it as a frontier county. It houses an alpine mountain range, lakes, rivers and largely is national and privately held forests. The local economy is primarily based upon logging, forestry, natural resources, and tourism. The local employment rates are higher than the state average by almost 6%, and the rate of those living below the poverty line is over 3% higher than the state average.

Due to its rural nature and large land mass, tracking of maltreatment data can be problematic in Trinity County. Domestic Violence, mental health, substance abuse, housing availability, and many other data sets currently are not tracked by region within the county or are so small that a single incidence can greatly skew data. General statistics that are available for this data set are included in the county demographics section above. Due to the small number of incidence in some categories, the county falls within the LNE, or Low Number Event, class which does not always have enough data available for comparison.

Though tracking of some of these data sets is problematic, there are strong trends observed by workers and supported in the CWS system data that supports several areas of concern in child maltreatment. For example, Data collected from 2007-2011 as part of a federal grant project showed that of all families that formal cases were opened for in CWS, 75% or more had substance abuse as a primary reason for coming into care. So there is a high correlation between the incidence of substance abuse and maltreatment, though this was not the only risk factor present in these cases. There are several sections of the county that are more impoverished and often that is where more of the referrals for neglect have come from. Historically, the Hayfork area is a zone of the county with a higher rate of children coming into care for its population, but this is not significantly disproportionate.

With a small population base, rural and isolated geography and limited data tracking methods have made isolating trends difficult when a single families entrance into care can drastically skew the data. What can be said is that the

SEVERITY OF THE REFERRALS HAS BEEN OF SUCH A NATURE THAT THERE ARE A HIGHER NUMBER OF CASES THAT REQUIRE FORMAL INTERVENTION AND AS SUCH, CASELOADS HAVE DRAMATICALLY INCREASED SINCE 2010. IT IS THOUGHT THAT IN PART THIS TREND WAS TIED TO THE INCREASE IN DRUG PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING IN THE COUNTY AFTER THE PASSAGE OF PROP 215, AND THE CORRELATING INCREASE IN OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THAT HAS SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED.

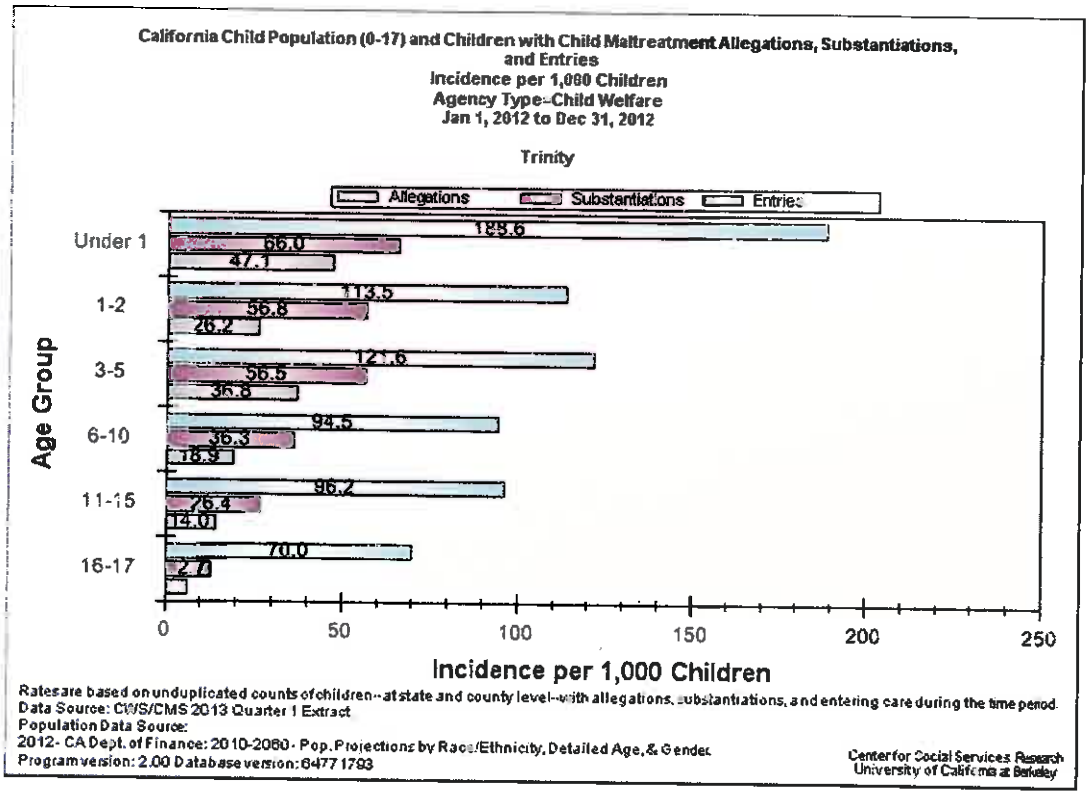
THOUGH THERE IS LIMITED DATA ON SOME OF THESE MEASURE CATEGORIES, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE ARE TWO SPECIFIC COUNTY CENTERS THAT OFFER SERVICES, ONE IN THE COUNTY SEAT OF WEAVERVILLE, THE OTHER IN THE SOUTHERN TOWN OF HAYFORK. THESE TWO CENTERS OFFER SERVICES COUNTY WIDE AND RESIDENTS HAVE TO TRAVEL SOMETIMES FOR GREAT DISTANCES TO GET TO SERVICES. THIS CREATES A BARRIER TO ACCESSING SERVICES AND TO AGENCIES PROVIDING MEANINGFUL SERVICES TO FAMILIES IN A COST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION POPULATION

IN LOOKING AT THE POPULATION OF CHILDREN THAT ENTER THE CHILD WELFARE OR PROBATION SYSTEMS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE RATES OF OCCURRENCE WITHIN A SINGLE GROUP ARE OFTEN SKEWED BY THE SMALL NUMBERS AVAILABLE. A SINGLE FAMILY'S DATA CAN CREATE A SPIKE OR TREND THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY EFFECTIVE FOR EVALUATING A SPECIFIC DATA SET FOR A SYSTEMIC TREND.

THE RATE OF SUBSTANTIATED REFERRALS TO CHILD WELFARE AVERAGE AT 55.8%, WITH APPROXIMATELY 10.2% OF THE TOTAL CHILD POPULATION HAVING BEEN REFERRED FOR SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE IN 2012, VERSUS THE STATE AVERAGE AT ONLY 5.3%.[15] WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT THE AGES OF THE CHILDREN WITH SUBSTANTIATE REFERRALS ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE RATES OF REFERRAL STATEWIDE EITHER. TRINITY COUNTY HAS A MUCH HIGHER RATE OF REFERRAL SUBSTANTIATION AT 36.1% VERSUS 17.4% CALIFORNIA STATE AVERAGE. IN ADDITION TO A CONSIDERABLY HIGHER OVERALL REFERRAL AND SUBSTANTIATION RATE, TRINITY COUNTY ALSO HAS A HIGHER RATE OF SUBSTANTIATIONS THAT RESULT IN YOUTH AGES 6-17 ENTERING INTO CARE, AT OVER 50% AND THE STATE AVERAGE IS CLOSER TO 33%.

[15] http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx



Public Agency Characteristics

Political Jurisdictions

Trinity County is split into five districts, each represented by a member of the Board of Supervisors. Each district represents a zone of the county, but the two districts with the greatest numbers of youth in care are Districts 2 and 3, which are also the districts with the heaviest population base in the county seat of Weaverville, and the second largest town, Hayfork. Child Welfare and juvenile probation are units within the larger county Departments of Health & Human Services and County Probation that report to the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Officer, as well as their Director and Chief of Probation and associated state counterparts for these programs. They both work closely with local law enforcement from the Trinity County Sherriff's Office (TCSO),

Trinity County District Attorney's Office (DA) and the local California Highway Patrol Office.

In addition to partnerships with other jurisdictions, there is a strong relationship with the local school and county office of education. Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE) funds a position for a co-located Foster Youth Services Liaison housed within Child Welfare. This individual is a part of the child welfare team and serves all youth in foster care and probation placements as an education liaison and looks out for the education needs and welfare of children as part of the system of care.

Though there are several tribes with local residents, there is not a strong presence within Trinity Counties boundaries from the local native American tribes. Just over the county border there is a Reservation in Hoopa, CA where the Hoopa and Yurok Tribes have a large presence and there is a tribal social services department. Where there are joint cases between our county and the tribe involving tribal members or their relatives, the county strives to work with the tribe in supporting families in accessing culturally sensitive services. At this time, however, the only local presence is from the Tribal TANF Office in Weaverville, but it has a very limited scope in supporting tribal members.

County Child Welfare and Probation Infrastructure

Child Welfare

Child Protective Services consists of a single office centrally located in the county seat of Weaverville and is under the Department of Health and Human Services. The supervisor runs the unit under the supervision of the Director and Deputy Director. There are 5 full time social workers, 6 supportive program staff, 2 AmeriCorps members and a supervisor, as well as a co-located education Liaison who works for Trinity county Office of Education (TCOE). The unit is organized in a team approach that supports a vertical caseload structure, with a few modifications. Cases initially come in and run through a primary Emergency Response worker (ER) who is the primary on investigations and helps carry voluntary cases (prior to court involvement) to prevent entry into care and will

CARRY CASES FROM DETENTION THROUGH JURISDICTION. ONCE A CASE REACHES JURISDICTION, IT IS ASSIGNED TO AN ONGOING WORKER BY THE SUPERVISOR THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE CASE.

CASE ASSIGNMENTS ARE MADE BASED UPON SOCIAL WORKER CURRENT CASELOAD VOLUME, WORKER SKILL LEVEL AND COMPLEXITY OF CASES. MORE EXPERIENCED SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ASSIGNED FAMILY MAINTENANCE (FM)AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION (FR), NEWER OR LESS EXPERIENCED SOCIAL WORKERS ARE USUALLY ASSIGNED VOLUNTARY, PERMANENT PLACEMENT (PP) AND LESS COMPLEX FM CASES. CURRENTLY THERE ARE 3 ONGOING WORKERS WHO HANDLE THE MAJORITY OF THE FR/FM CASELOADS AND A 4TH WORKER HAS A MIXED CASELOAD OF PP/FR, THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) AND EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) CASES. THIS WORKER HAS A SPECIALIZED FOCUS WORKING WITH YOUTH TRANSITIONING INTO LONG TERM OPTIONS OUTSIDE OF THE TRADITIONAL ADOPTIONS TRACK OR REUNIFICATION AND PRIMARILY SERVES TEENS. AS BEST PRACTICE, SOCIAL WORKERS CARRY CASES FROM BEGINNING UNTIL THEY CLOSE OR ARE TRANSFERRED TO ADOPTIONS.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTIVE STAFF INCLUDE A SOCIAL SERVICES AIDE, WHO WORKS IN A SUPPORTIVE ROLE TO ASSIST SOCIAL WORKERS WITH CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONDUCTING FACE TO FACE CONTACTS AS NEEDED, BUT ALSO HAS AN INDEPENDENT ROLE IN CONDUCTING RELATIVE AND NON RELATED EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER (ALSO KNOWN AS NREFM, WHICH ARE FAMILY MEMBERS OF FRIENDS THAT ARE ABLE TO MEET STATE STANDARDS FOR PLACEMENT AND ACT AS CHILD SPECIFIC FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS) ASSESSMENTS FOR PLACEMENT, DOES COURT RELATED FILINGS, DISCOVERY, AND OTHER CASE RELATED WORK AS ASSIGNED BY THE SUPERVISOR. THE ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE SOCIAL SERVICES AIDE TO HELP WITH ENTERING PLACEMENTS INTO THE CWS/CMS SYSTEM, COMPLETING INITIAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND ELIGIBILITY APPLICATIONS FOR ALL CHILDREN COMING INTO CARE, ASSORTED OFFICE FUNCTIONS, FRONT DESK COVERAGE, ETC. A VOCATIONAL ASSISTANT WORKS CLOSELY WITH STAFF AND CLIENTS IN PERFORMING DRUG TESTING, TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND VISITATION. THIS POSITION INVOLVES EXTENSIVE TIME IN THE FIELD AND WORKS CLOSELY WITH SOCIAL WORK STAFF TO HELP MEET CLIENT NEEDS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THEIR SERVICES.

IN ADDITION TO THESE STAFF, THERE ARE SEVERAL SPECIALIZED POSITIONS IN THE UNIT. A SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST WORKS WITH ALL OF THE FAMILIES WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. THIS WORKER IS THE LIAISON WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR ALL RELATED SERVICES, CONDUCTS EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSESSMENTS FOR ALL CHILDREN 0-5 AND HELPS TO COORDINATE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL CHILDREN IN CARE. SHE

ALSO ACTS AS A FACILITATOR IN FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS AND FOR THE NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAM. A PART TIME FOSTER CARE NURSE WORKS DIRECTLY WITH FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORKERS TO TRACK AND HELP ENSURE MEDICAL AND DENTAL NEEDS ARE MET FOR ALL CHILDREN, AS WELL AS HELPING COORDINATE ALL PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS FOR FOSTER YOUTH. SHE UPDATES HEALTH AND EDUCATION PASSPORTS FOR FR AND PP CASES AND GATHERS PERTINENT INFORMATION FOR COURT REPORTS. AN EDUCATION LIAISON EMPLOYED BY TRINITY COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION IS CO-LOCATED AND HOUSED AT THE CPS OFFICE. HE ACTS AS A PRIMARY ADVOCATE FOR ALL EDUCATION RIGHTS AND NEEDS FOR FOSTER YOUTH, HELPING TO IDENTIFY HOMELESS YOUTH AND CONNECT YOUTH TO SERVICES. HE ALSO ENSURES ALL EDUCATION NEEDS AND RIGHTS ARE MET AND HELPS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO YOUTH IN TRANSITIONING BETWEEN SCHOOLS, INCLUDING TRACKING CREDITS.

THE UNIT HAS RECENTLY ADDED TWO AMERICORPS MEMBERS AS FAMILY SUPPORT AIDES TO ITS PREVENTION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT. THESE TWO FAMILY SUPPORT AIDES WORK WITH THE ER SOCIAL WORKER TO PROVIDE DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSES (DR) PROGRAM SERVICES TO FAMILIES THAT DO NOT RISE TO THE LEVEL OF MORE FORMAL INTERVENTION BUT STILL ARE AT RISK. THESE WORKERS OFFER NEEDED INTENSIVE SERVICES TO VOLUNTARY CASES UNDER THE SUPERVISION THE ER SOCIAL WORKER TO PREVENT FORMAL ENTRY INTO CARE, TO HELP FAMILIES STABILIZE AND GAIN TOOLS TO BE HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL. THEIR SCOPE OF WORK INCLUDES PROVIDING ASSESSMENTS, DIRECT SERVICES, CASE MANAGEMENT SUPPORTS, PARENTING EDUCATION AND REFERRALS. THEY ALSO HELP WITH FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES THROUGH THEIR PROGRAM. THE STAFF SERVICES ANALYST IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING THE UNIT IN DEVELOPING POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REPORTS, QUALITY ASSURANCE, BUDGETS, AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS. SHE ALSO ACTS AS THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING COORDINATOR AND WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE SUPERVISOR TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAM CHANGES. THE SUPERVISOR HOLDS A COMPLEX ROLE IN PROVIDING DIRECT SUPERVISION TO THE UNIT AND CARRYING SENSITIVE CASES AS NEEDED, BUT ALSO HAS DUTIES THAT COVER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SITTING ON MULTIPLE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS, ETC.

THIS STRUCTURE HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD TO SUPPORT WORKER ABILITY AND TO PROVIDE THE BEST QUALITY SERVICES TO CLIENTS. IT REQUIRES THAT WORKERS BECOME WELL ROUNDED AND DIVERSE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER DURING TRANSITIONS WHILE CONTINUING TO PROVIDE STAFF WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP A LEVEL OF SPECIALTY THAT THEY CAN USE TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT THE TEAM. STAFF ARE

ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS AND TO EXCEL IN THEIR PROGRAM, THEN TO HELP CROSS TRAIN STAFF TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SUPPORT AND COVERAGE AT ALL TIMES TO SUPPORT OFFICE FUNCTIONING. THE DOWNFALL TO THIS STRUCTURE IS THAT IF THERE IS SIGNIFICANT TURN OVER, THE BURDEN OF THESE CASELOADS FALLS TO A FEW IN TRANSITION PERIODS. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE NOT EXACT CASELOAD RATIOS, AS MUCH OF THE DETERMINATION FOR CASELOADS IS BASED UPON LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL WORKER. FOR EXAMPLE, A SENIOR WORKER WITH 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WILL NOT BE CARRYING THE SAME CASELOAD AS A NEW SOCIAL WORKER WITH LESS THAN A YEARS' EXPERIENCE. THE TYPE OF CASE, COUPLED WITH EXPERIENCE, IS WEIGHTED WHEN ASSIGNING CASES. THE DEPARTMENTS GOAL IS TO MOVE TOWARD CASELOADS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO THE CASELOAD STUDY DONE BY THE AMERICAN HUMAN SOCIETY AND PUBLISHED BY CWDA[16].

THOUGH STAFF TURNOVER HAS DRAMATICALLY SLOWED IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, IT HAS BEEN AN ISSUE IN THE PAST. STAFF TURNOVER PRESENTS A CHALLENGE IN THAT IT TAKES TIME TO TRAIN STAFF ON BOTH LOCAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT EXPERIENCED WORKERS. THIS MEANS THAT THERE ARE INCREASED WORKLOAD DEMANDS ON EXISTING STAFF DURING TURN OVER AND TRAINING OF NEW STAFF AND THIS STRESS CAN SOMETIMES IMPACT THE QUALITY OF THE CASEWORK STAFF ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE. SERVICE PROVIDERS HERE ARE LIMITED, SO THE DEPARTMENT WORKS AS A CLOSE KNIT TEAM TO HELP FAMILIES ACCESS SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND WHEN THEY ARE NOT, THE DEPARTMENT STRIVES TO HELP FAMILIES FIND WAYS TO HELP ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS. THIS HOLISTIC APPROACH IS ONE OF THE STRATEGIES THE DEPARTMENT USES TO ADDRESS THE OVERWHELMING NEEDS OF ITS FAMILIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

ONE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS' OF THE COUNTY THAT IMPEDED RECRUITMENT OF EXPERIENCED STAFF IS THE RURAL NATURE OF THE COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT LOCATED NEAR ANY MAJOR UNIVERSITIES AND ITS UNIQUE MAKEUP DRAWS MORE OF A RETIREMENT POPULATION THAN A YOUNGER WORKFORCE. IT HAS BEEN AN ONGOING CHALLENGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO RECRUIT STAFF THAT HOLD A DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK, EITHER A BACHELORS OR MASTERS. IN RESPONSE, TRINITY COUNTY IS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTIES THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A MSW IN SOCIAL WORK FOR THE ENTRY LEVEL SOCIAL WORKER. THE COUNTY REQUIRES ALL SW TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF AN AA DEGREE AND AT LEAST 30 UNITS OF COLLEGE CREDITS IN RELATED FIELDS AND TWO OR MORE YEARS' EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN A CASE MANAGEMENT OR SERVICE DELIVERY ROLE OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE, OR A MINIMUM OF

[16] http://www.cwda.org/downloads/publications/cws/SB2030Study.pdf

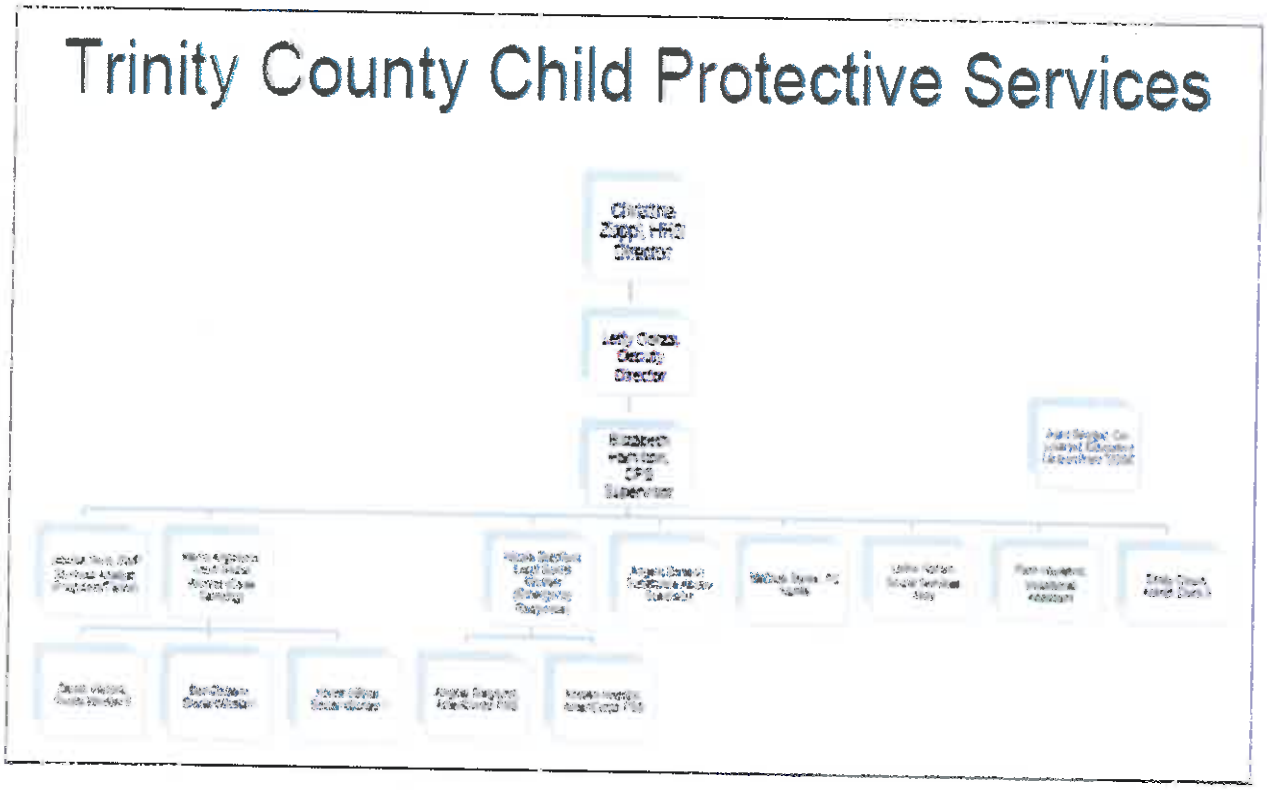
A BACHELOR'S DEGREE WITH 30 UNITS IN RELATED FIELDS. WE HEAVILY RECRUIT FROM NEW GRADUATES FROM THE TWO CLOSEST BSW AND MSW PROGRAMS AND HAVE HAD LUCK RECRUITING ONE STAFF MEMBER, AS WELL AS RECRUITING A TRANSFER MSW FROM ANOTHER COUNTY. CURRENTLY THE COLLECTIVE STAFF OF 14 HOLD: 1 MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK WORKING TOWARD THEIR LCSW CLINICAL HOURS, 1 MASTERS IN SCHOOL COUNSELING, 1 1 BACHELORS' IN SOCIAL WORK, 1 BACHELOR'S IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP, 1 BACHELORS' IN ART HISTORY, 1 BACHELORS'' IN HISTORY,1 BACHELORS' IN LEGAL STUDIES AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND 1 ASSOCIATES' DEGREE IN NURSING. THERE ARE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL STAFF WHO ARE CURRENTLY WORKING TOWARDS THEIR BSW PREREQUISITES AND MSW OUTSIDE OF WORK.

IN ADDITION TO THE DEGREES HELD BY STAFF, THERE ARE SEVERAL STAFF WITH EXTENSIVE YEARS OF SERVICES. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE OF THE COLLECTIVE STAFF IS 5.03 YEARS, AND THE AVERAGE OF THE SOCIAL WORK STAFF ALONE IS 6.16 YEARS. IN ADDITION TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, SEVERAL OF THE STAFF HAVE ALSO BEEN FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND HAVE THE ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE UNDERSTANDING THE SYSTEM ON A PERSONAL LEVEL AND ARE ABLE TO USE THIS TO HELP THEM IN THEIR WORK. STAFF ALSO ATTENDS SOCIAL WORKER CORE AND ADDITIONAL TRAININGS TO EQUIP THEM TO COMPLETE THEIR DUTIES, MANY OF WHICH HOLD SEVERAL SPECIALIZATIONS.

UNIT DEMOGRAPHICS ARE OUTLINED BELOW, BUT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AS SUCH A SMALL OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH STAFF TO TRACK TRENDS AS A SINGLE STAFFING CHANGE GREATLY SKEWS DATA. THE CURRENT SELF-IDENTIFIED RACE AND ETHNICITY COUNTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1 HISPANIC OR LATINO, 14 NON-HISPANIC OR LATINO; 2 NATIVE AMERICAN, 1 ASIAN, 0 BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN, 0 PACIFIC ISLANDER AND 15 WHITE. SALARIES RANGE FOR STAFF BASED UPON CLASS AND STEP WITHIN CLASS. AS A MERIT SYSTEMS COUNTY, OUR JOB CLASSIFICATIONS ARE DEVELOPED WITH MERIT SYSTEMS AND THE COUNTY CHOOSES TO USE OR NOT USE THE MSS CLASSIFICATIONS BASED ON ITS STAFFING NEEDS. WHAT CAN BE STATED IS THAT DUE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL WORK DEGREES BEING LOWER, THE SALARY RANGES HERE ARE ALSO A BIT LOWER THAN STATE AVERAGES. THOSE WORKERS WITH GREATER EXPERIENCE CAN NEGOTIATE TO ENTER AT HIGHER STEPS WITHIN THEIR CLASS TO BE COMPETITIVE. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SALARIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTLY.

OVERALL, THE DEPARTMENTS TURNOVER RATES HAVE DECREASED AND STAFF RETENTION IS INCREASING. THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF RETENTION IS NOW AT 4.23 YEARS IN THE UNIT.

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL STAFF CHANGES IN THE LAST YEAR: TWO NEW POSITIONS ADDED WITHIN THE LAST 2 MONTHS FOR A NEW PREVENTION PROGRAM, ONE NEW FOSTER CARE NURSE TO REPLACE A 15 YEAR VETERAN, 2 NEW SOCIAL WORKERS TO FILL VACANCIES FOR STAFF MOVING OUT OF THE AREA, AND THREE INTERNAL PROMOTIONS CREATING ONE VACANCY FOR A LATERAL PROMOTION FOR ONE ADMIN CLERK TO MOVE INTO THE DEPARTMENT. THERE CURRENTLY IS A SINGLE VACANCY FOR A SOCIAL SERVICES AIDE POSITION THE DEPARTMENT IS PURPOSEFULLY LEAVING VACANT UNTIL NEEDED. THERE HAVE BEEN NO DISMISSALS IN THE LAST YEAR. THE CURRENT SUPERVISOR TO WORKER RATIO IS 1:14 FOR ALL DIRECT REPORT STAFF OR 1:5 FOR SOCIAL WORKERS. FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, PLEASE SEE THE CHART BELOW.



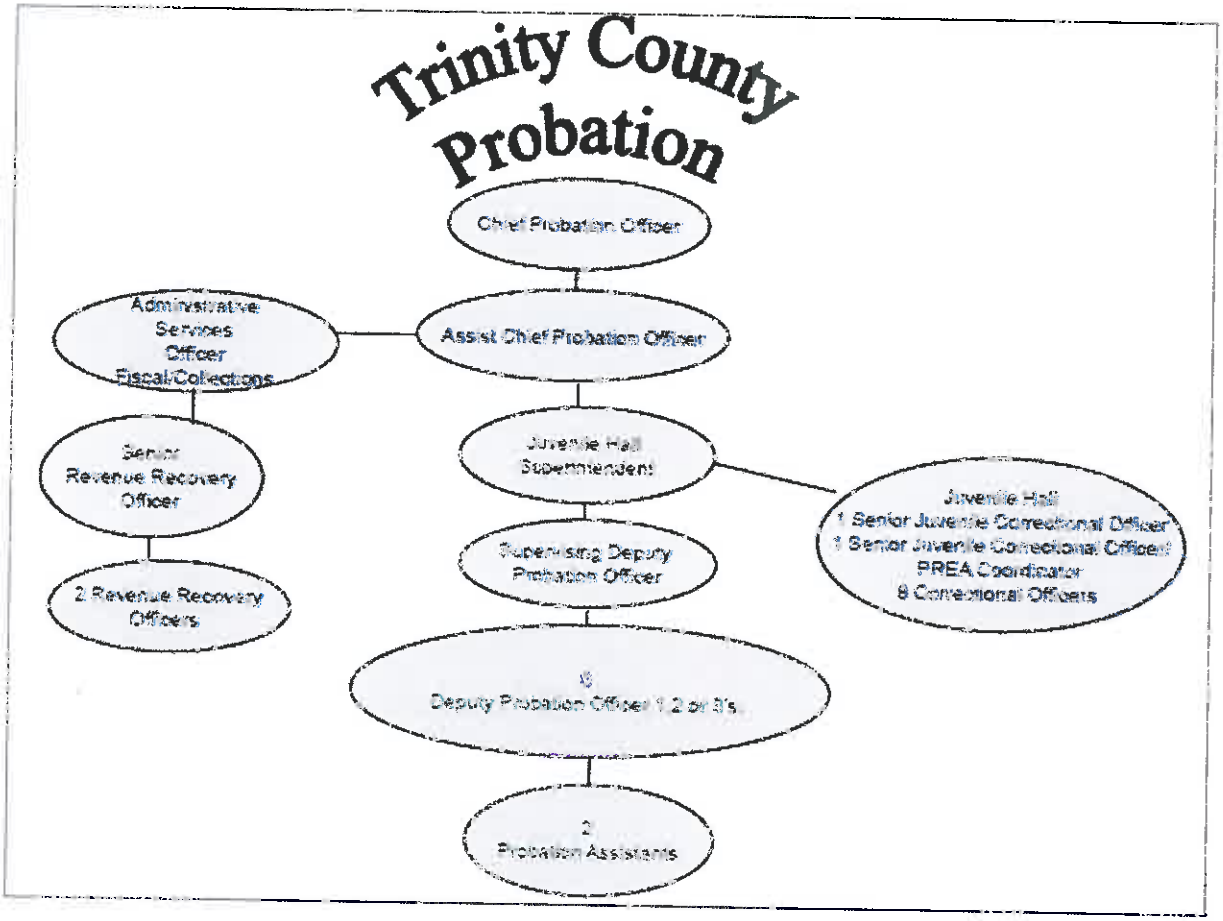
PROBATION

TRINITY COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION HAS A UNIQUE STRUCTURE IN THAT IT HAS SUCH A SMALL POPULATION OF YOUTH IN PLACEMENT. THE AVERAGE PLACEMENTS FOR YOUTH IN THIS PROGRAM IS 2 ANNUALLY OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. CURRENTLY, THERE IS A DIRECT LEVEL OF VERTICAL SUPERVISION AND ALL CASES ARE CARRIED FRONT TO BACK BY A SINGLE OFFICER. THIS OFFICER IS THE JUVENILE OFFICER THAT OVER SEES ALL INFORMAL AND FORMAL

PROBATION CASES, AND THEN WOULD CARRY THROUGH CASES UNTIL THEIR RESOLUTION. ALL CASES ARE ASSIGNED BY THE SUPERVISING JUVENILE OFFICER, WHO HOLDS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THESE CASES AND ACTS AS THE DIRECT REPORT SUPERVISOR FOR THIS OFFICER. PROBATION HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN A VERY LOW TURNOVER DEPARTMENT THAT TYPICALLY ONLY HAS OPENINGS WHEN VETERAN STAFF RETIRE. THE CURRENT JUVENILE OFFICER HAS BEEN WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR OVER 8 YEARS, BUT HAS BEEN CARRYING THE JUVENILE CASES FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS.

THIS OFFICER HOLDS A BACHELORS' DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AND HAS RECEIVED BASIC PROBATION CORE. THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT REQUIRES ALL DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICERS HOLD A MINIMUM OF A BACHELORS' IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK OR ANOTHER RELATED FIELD. ONE OF THE CHALLENGES IN TRAINING HAS BEEN IN GETTING ACCESS TO CWS/CMS AND HAVING TO USE TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS TO TRACK JUVENILE CASES, AS PROBATION ALSO USES PACT AND ENTERS DATA THERE. THIS HAS PROVIDED SOME LEARNING CURVE CHALLENGES AND THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT STAFF TO ASSIST THE OFFICER IN COMPLETING ALL FIELDS IN THE CWS SYSTEM. WHEN THERE ARE OPENINGS FOR PROBATION OFFICERS, THE DEPARTMENT USES A COMPETITIVE RECRUITMENT THROUGH THE COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT. LIKE THE CPS UNIT, THE SALARY RANGE FOR PROBATION OFFICERS IS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THE STATE AVERAGE. FOR SPECIFIC RANGES, PLEASE CONTACT PROBATION DIRECTLY.

CURRENTLY THE PROBATION OFFICER (PO) CARRIES AN AVERAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 25-35 CASE AT ANY GIVEN TIME, INCLUDING PLACEMENT, VOLUNTARY, WARD SHIP AND PENDING COURT CASES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES IN STAFFING IN THE LAST THREE YEARS WHEN THE CURRENT DEPUTY PO WAS PROMOTED INTO HIS CURRENT POSITION AND THE FORMER JUVENILE OFFICER TRANSITIONED INTO ADULT ONLY PROBATION RATHER THAN A JOINT CASELOAD. THIS WORKER IS A DIRECT REPORT TO THE SUPERVISING DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER, WHO IS ALSO THE CURRENT ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF PO. THE DEPARTMENT IS UNDERGOING MANY STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND THIS MAY CONTINUE TO CHANGE AS THEY REFINE THEIR ROLES AND PROCESS IN THE COMING YEAR OR TWO. THE CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART, REFLECTING THE PROBATION DEPARTMENTS CURRENT STRUCTURE IS BELOW.



Financial/Material Resources

Child Protective Services is a unit that uses no county general funds. This means that the Department and all services offered are provided solely through the state and Federal allocations under the 2001 Realignment structure. The rural nature of the County also means that there is extensive travel required to provide services to clients and costs associated with creating infrastructure may be increased. Probation varies in that they receive some general fund for their administration and programs, but they primarily rely on Federal Tile IV-E funding to support their Juvenile Placement Programs. Again, the lack of local resources and general funds puts more pressure on the agency to support any local programs through funding and resources, which are limited.

Child Welfare/Probation Operated Services

JUVENILE HALL-TRINITY COUNTY JUVENILE HALL, CONSTRUCTED IN 2001, IS A CO-ED FACILITY WITH A RATED CAPACITY OF TWENTY EIGHT (28); TWELVE (12) DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ROOMS AND ONE (1), FOUR (4) PERSON DORMITORY IN A PODULAR DESIGN. TWENTY-TWO (22) OF THE BEDS ARE ASSIGNED FOR PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION AND POST ADJUDICATION SANCTIONS, WHILE SIX (6) BEDS ARE ASSIGNED TO THE TRINITY YOUTH CAMP PROGRAM LOCATED WITHIN THE FACILITY. THE AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AVERAGE FOR THE YEAR 2012 WAS TEN (10) JUVENILES. GENERALLY, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ROOMS ARE OCCUPIED BY MINORS PARTICIPATING IN THE CAMP PROGRAM. WITHIN THE FACILITY IS THE TRINITY COUNTY YOUTH CAMP WHICH IS A LONGER-TERM REHABILITATIVE SETTING FOR POST-ADJUDICATED YOUTH FROM BOTH IN AND OUT OF COUNTY.

THE FACILITY MAINTAINS FULL COMPLIANCE WITH STATE OF CALIFORNIA TITLE 24 (CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODES) AND TITLE 15 (CRIME PREVENTION AND CORRECTIONS) REQUIREMENTS. THE AGENCY OVERSEEING BIENNIAL FACILITY INSPECTIONS IS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (BSCC). THE TRINITY COUNTY JUVENILE HALL RECEIVED ITS LAST FULL STATE AUDIT IN JUNE OF 2012, AND NO ITEMS OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE 24 OR TITLE 15 STANDARDS WERE IDENTIFIED (INSPECTION REPORT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST). ADDITIONAL YEARLY LOCAL INSPECTIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: FIRE & LIFE SAFETY, MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, BUILDING SAFETY, TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY, SCHOOL PROGRAMS, JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION, AND THE COURTS (CITED REPORTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST).

BOTH THE SHORT-TERM AND CAMP PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED AROUND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES SEEKING SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY, AND FOCUS ON INDIVIDUALIZED COMPREHENSIVE CASE PLANNING IN AREAS RANGING FROM EDUCATION SKILL-BUILDING, VOCATIONAL READINESS/LIFE SKILLS TRAINING, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNSELING.

YOUTH ARE PLACED IN JUVENILE HALL UPON A LAWFUL ALLEGATION OF AN ACT WHICH CONSTITUTES A CRIME, AND BECAUSE A PROBATION OFFICER HAS MADE A DECISION TO HOLD THE YOUTH IN CUSTODY UNTIL SEEN BY A JUDGE FOR A DETENTION HEARING. THE JUDGE WILL THEN DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE TO HOLD THE YOUTH THROUGH THE COURT PROCEEDINGS OR TO RELEASE BACK TO THE PARENTS. YOUTH ARE SEEN BY THE JUDGE WITHIN TWO (2) DAYS IF BOOKED ON A MISDEMEANOR, NOT COUNTING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS. FOR FELONY OFFENSES, YOUTH MUST BE SEEN BY A JUDGE WITHIN THREE (3) DAYS NOT COUNTING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.

All youth are given a physical examination within 96 hours of being admitted into the Juvenile Hall. On-going health care is overseen by a county medical Health Officer/Doctor. Unless youth have graduated or received a GED, they are required to attend school Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). School starts at 9:00 and ends at 2:45 with breaks and lunch in between. This facility contracts with Trinity County Behavioral Health, Trinity County AODS, and the Human Response Network.

The following programs are provided at the Juvenile Hall: Substance Abuse - Trinity County Behavioral Health – AODS; Life Skills - Human Response Network; Religious Programs - Community Volunteers; Mental Health Counseling - Trinity County Behavioral Health; Victim Awareness - Trinity County Probation Department; Anger Management Counseling - Human Response Network; Vocational Readiness Program - Trinity County Probation Department

In addition to outside programs, there are a number of resources available to youth in custody in the Juvenile hall. Reading materials are available to youth in the facility. However, family may bring in books or magazines with the understanding that any books brought in becomes the property of the Juvenile Hall. Recreation and leisure activities in Juvenile Hall include such things as basketball, foose ball, ping pong, handball, hacky sack, drawing/art, reading, listening to music, writing, and watching TV/movies

County Operated Shelters-The county does not currently operate or offer any emergency shelter homes or facilities. For children who are detained, Social Work or Probation staff find placement for youth in either FFA, Foster Homes, Relative or Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFM) care immediately. On a rare occasion, youth may be placed into Group home care with the courts order. Currently Relative (Kinship) and NREFM assessments can be done by either Department using a joint protocol for emergency placements.

County Licensing-Trinity County has not operated a licensing program since August of 2008. Currently, all licensing functions are held by Community Care Licensing (CCL) and Trinity County is served by the CCL office in Arcata. Those interested in being foster parents are referred to CCL, or to FFAs that serve the community. The county does, however, still conduct the Relative/NREFM

ASSESSMENTS FOR ITS DEPENDENTS. THOUGH THE COUNTY DOES NOT LICENSE HOMES, IT DOES HELP TO SUPPORT ONGOING TRAINING PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH IT LICENSED, FFA, KINSHIP AND NREFM HOMES.

COUNTY ADOPTIONS-THE COUNTY HAS RECEIVED ADOPTIONS SERVICES THROUGH CDSS ADOPTIONS FROM THE ARCATA DISTRICT OFFICE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THIS HELPS TO PROVIDE FOR ALL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET AND THE TWO AGENCIES HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS

AS A DIVISION OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CPS HAS A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH CALWORKS AND PUBLIC HEALTH, WHO ARE COLLOCATED ON THE SAME CAMPUS AND SERVE JOINT CLIENTS. IN ADDITION TO CO-LOCATION, ALL THREE UNITS ARE PART OF A LINKAGES TEAM THAT LOOKS AT JOINT CASE PLANNING AND SERVICE DELIVERY TO ENSURE FAMILIES' NEEDS ARE MET AND THAT THERE IS CLEAR COMMUNICATION AROUND PLACEMENT MOVES. PROBATION HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO PROGRAM STAFF AS NEEDED, BUT HAS FEWER JOINT CLIENT NEEDS, SO A FORMAL MECHANISM FOR JOINT WORK HAS NOT BEEN NEEDED THUS FAR.

BOTH PROBATION AND CPS HAVE BUILT STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRINITY COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS), WHICH HOUSES BOTH MENTAL HEALTH AND ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SERVICES (AODS). WHEN PLACEMENT OCCURS, BOTH DEPARTMENTS WORK WITH BHS STAFF TO ENSURE THAT YOUTH AND FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES THEY NEED. PROBATION WORKS CLOSELY WITH AODS PREVENTION SQUAD AND TRINI-TEENS PROGRAMS TO DO DIVERSION AND TREATMENT FOR JUVENILES WITH ADDICTION OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES, WHICH CPS HAS BUILT A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH ADULTS AODS PROGRAMS AND HOUSES A CO-LOCATED SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST TO HELP FAMILIES DEAL WITH ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND ACCESS TO SERVICES. THE PARTNERSHIPS HERE ARE CRUCIAL TO HELPING GET YOUTH INTO SERVICES AND MEETING THEIR NEEDS.

EDUCATION SERVICES ARE BOTH DONE IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR LOCAL EDUCATION LIAISON, WHO IS CO-LOCATED AT CPS, AND SERVES ALL YOUTH IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT. THE LIAISON TRACKS ALL THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS, CREDITS, INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS (IEP), ETC. HE HELPS TO INPUT THEM ALL INTO THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION PASSPORTS (HEP), ATTENDS ALL EDUCATION RELATED MEETINGS, HELP ARRANGE

ACCESS TO DENTAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH WHO WHAT EXTREME MEDICAL NEEDS, PARTICIPATES IN SEVERAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS ALL SUPPORTING KIDS IN PLACEMENT.

State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS AFTER 18-SINCE THE ROLLOUT OF AB 12, OR THE FOSTERING CONNECTIONS AFTER 18 INITIATIVE, TRINITY COUNTY CPS, WHO IS ALSO THE DIRECT ILP PROVIDER, HAS DEVELOPED PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES FOR ITS YOUTH WHO WERE FORMERLY AGING OUT AT 18. THE COUNTY CURRENTLY OFFERS EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) TO YOUTH, BUT HAS ONLY HAD A HANDFUL OF YOUTH BE ELIGIBLE FOR AND ENTER INTO THE PROGRAM TO DATE. TO HELP WITH PREPARING YOUTH FOR THE TRANSITION, THERE ARE MEETINGS THAT ARE SCHEDULED AT THE 6 MONTH AND 90 DAY MARKS PRIOR TO A YOUTH TURNING 18 TO INFORM AND PREPARE THEM TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT STAYING IN CARE AND HOW THEY CAN CONTINUE TO SUCCEED AND MEET PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. THE ILP WORKER IS ALSO THE PERMANENT PLACEMENT (PP) AND EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) CASE WORKER, ALLOWING THEM TO HAVE A SINGLE FACE AND CONTACT AND HELPING TO MAKE IT EASIER TO ACCESS SERVICES IN COUNTY, AND THE WORKER HELPS TO COORDINATE ALL SERVICES FOR YOUTH PLACED OUT OF COUNTY.

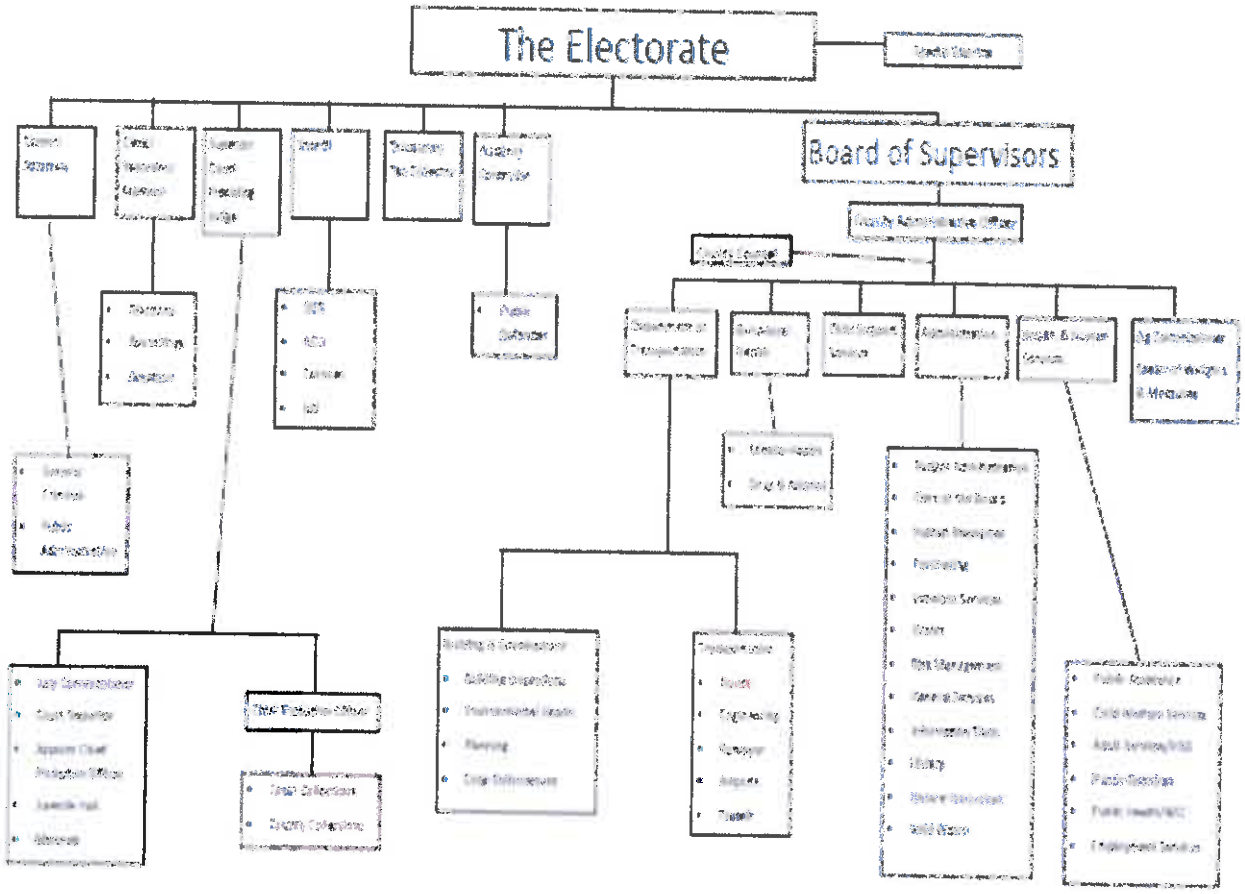
KATIE A. V BONTA-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS) AND CHILD WELFARE HAVE PARTNERED UP TO IMPLEMENT SERVICES UNDER KATIE A AND ENSURE THAT ALL YOUTH IN CARE ARE RECEIVING TIMELY ACCESS TO SERVICES. IN ORDER TO HELP ENSURE THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED, THE LIAISON BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A DIRECT CONTACT TO HELP PREPARE ALL REFERRALS AND TRACK THE ASSESSMENTS OF YOUTH AND ACCESS TO SERVICES. THEN A MONTHLY MEETING BETWEEN BHS AND CPS STAFF TO REVIEW OPEN REFERRALS HELPS TO FAST TRACK NEW REFERRALS, REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES AND COORDINATING CARE FOR CHILDREN PLACED IN AND OUT OF COUNTY. THIS LARGE OUT OF COUNTY PLACEMENT POPULATION HAS ADDED AN ADDITIONAL LEVEL OF COMPLEXITY TO MEETING THIS MANDATE AND OFFERING SERVICES, SO CONTINUAL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO REFINE AND IMPROVE PRACTICES AROUND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

In addition to these formalized programs, the County has implemented several program Improvement strategies into practice. Over the last three years SIP, Trinity County has implemented and integrated Participatory Case Planning, which is an inclusive model that makes the family a central player in developing all their case planning. We additionally have implemented Family Team Meetings to staff challenges with families ranging from placement, family crisis, key turning points with families in their case, etc. Both of these are meant to address safety and permanency outcomes and help support families in their reunification process. The goal is to treat the family as a whole and help them engage in services by making them a key player at the table rather than dictating terms of their reunification plans. This helps to shift the CPS and Probation Departments roles from adversarial to a partner.

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Designated Commission, Board of Bodies

The BOS-Designated Public Agency

Trinity County Health and Human Services is the Board of Supervisor designated agency that administers all prevention funding, including Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT), Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) programs. The department has assigned the analyst in CPS to act as the liaison for all three programs and to be the data collection and administrator for these funds, and the agency oversees and acts as the fiscal agent for these funds, as per state requirements. HHS Director, Deputy Director and Supervisor act together to administer the use of CAPIT and PSSF funds, while the Local Child Abuse Prevention/Family Violence Prevention Council (CAPC/FVPC) is the body that make the choices on use of funds for CBCAP and the County Children's Fund (CCTF).



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (CAPC)

TRINITY COUNTY BOS APPROVED THE RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE CAPC/FVPC IN 2005 AND CLARIFIED ITS SCOPE IN 2010.IT IS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION WITHIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND HAS DEVELOPED ITS OWN SCOPE OF WORK, BYLAWS AND INFRASTRUCTURE. THE COMMITTEE HAS A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP THAT CONSISTS OF ALL THE KEY PLAYERS INVOLVED IN PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION EFFORTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY EVENTS AND FUNDING LOCAL MINI GRANTS AND SERVICES. ALL STAFF TIME IS DONATED AS IN KIND MATCH TO THIS ORGANIZATION SO THAT ALL FUNDS AVAILABLE CAN BE MAXIMIZED TO OFFER DIRECT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS. THIS BODY ALSO OVERSEES THE AWARD OF THE CBCAP FUNDS TO PROVIDE LOCAL COMMUNITY BASED PREVENTION AND IS A SOURCE FOR CREATING LOCAL PARENT LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LARGER COUNCIL, WHICH IS MADE UP OF THE STATE DESIGNATED MEMBERS. BOTH THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CAPC AND THE COUNTY CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND COMMISSION ARE SERVED IN THIS BODY.

County Children's Trust Fund Commission, Board or Council

The funds for the CCTF are held in the County Children's Fund, which is where the CBCAP funds are also deposited into, however the funds are carefully tracked and monitored so as not to be mixed and are accounted for separately. HHS has all functions, data and services tracked by the analyst for CPS and the services will be published annually in the local paper and are available upon request from the commission throughout the year. The larger group is given monthly updates on this information and jointly makes decisions about all funds and how they are spent.

PSSF Collaborative

The PSSF Collaborative is an administrative team, made up of the CPS Supervisor, HHS Director and Deputy Director and is run from within HHS. They use the SIP, annual stakeholder feedback and client needs assessments to determine the use of funds for these programs under the program rules. They have the options to award these funds directly or use the FRP process to find services that meet the needs of their target populations and line up with the goals of the county SIP. They reassess these needs annually, calling the collaborative together as needed, and evaluate program effectiveness.

Systemic Factors

Management Information Systems

CPS uses a variety of tools to help in information management including CWS/CMS, SafeMeasures, SDM, the Berkley CWS/CMS Dynamic Report System and additional outside tracking tools. Though SafeMeasures and SDM are tied directly to CWS/CMS, they are only able to provide information as well as the

INFORMATION THAT IS INPUT INTO THE SYSTEM. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS ACCURATE DATA ENTRY, BI-WEEKLY REPORTS ARE RUN TO ENSURE THERE IS ACCURATE DATA ENTRY AND THAT CASE MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS ARE BEING MET BY DIRECT LINE STAFF.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS ARE ALSO RUN WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT ALL MANDATORY FIELDS AND REQUIRED CASE INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY ON A MONTHLY BASIS BY THE ANALYST. FROM THESE REPORTS STAFF AND SUPERVISORS ARE ABLE TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN CASES, PERFORMANCE, DATA ENTRY AND LOOK AT INTER PROCESSES AND PRACTICES TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND EFFICIENCY. THIS IS DONE IN CASE STAFFING, INDIVIDUAL STAFF SUPERVISION AND HELPS TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. CURRENTLY THE SYSTEMS ARE BEING UTILIZED FOR MOST CASE FUNCTIONS, BUT THE UNIT IS LOOKING AT WHAT ADDITIONAL TOOLS CAN BE USED TO FURTHER IMPROVE PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING LOOKING AT THE USE OF MOBILE DEVICES IN THE FIELD TO IMPROVE ACCURACY OF DATA AND ACCESS TO TOOLS.

THE DYNAMIC REPORTS SYSTEM IS UTILIZED MY MANAGEMENT TO LOOK AT OVERALL TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE REGULARLY, BUT AT A MINIMUM QUARTERLY DATA IS PULLED TO REVIEW PERFORMANCE AND LOOK AT PROGRESS WITH THE SIP AND THE STRATEGIES THAT ARE BEING USED TO MEET DEPARTMENT NEEDS.

PROBATION USES CWS/CMS TO ENTER PLACEMENT INFORMATION AND OTHER REQUIRED DATE, BUT THEIR PRIMARY CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IS THE PACT SYSTEM, AND THERE HAVE BEEN CHALLENGES IN ENSURING THAT THERE IS DATA ENTRY INTO BOTH SYSTEMS AND NOT CREATING DUPLICATIVE WORK FOR THE PO. CURRENTLY THEY HAVE SUCH SMALL CASELOADS THAT DATA OUTCOMES ARE SKEWED AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO USE THE DATA TO MEASURE THEIR PRACTICES AND SERVICES. MORE CAN BE LEARNED AT THIS POINT FROM A CLOSE CASE REVIEW THAN BY THESE TOOLS. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT AS THE TOOLS ARE REFINED AND SOLUTIONS TO THIS DATA ENTRY ISSUE WILL BE DEVELOPED, WHICH COULD INCLUDE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIVERSAL CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR PROBATION THAT WOULD ACT SIMILARLY TO CWS/CMS AND HELP UNIFY PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE THAT IS DESIGNED FOR PROBATION NEEDS AND ADDRESSES THE CRIMENOGENIC FACTORS IN PROBATION CASES.

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

In order to ensure all needs and case requirements are met for children in out of home care, the department ensures that every court report is submitted to parties in a timely manner. Reports include a case plan that is developed between the social worker and the family and current health, educational and placement information, and that all parties are noticed in a timely manner and in accordance with state law and Welfare and Institutions code. Social workers must develop a case plan for families with the family and when appropriate, the child. The supervisor reviews and approves the case plan prior to attaching it to the court report for the courts review for the Dispositional hearing and all hearing after. The Education Liaison and FC Nurse maintain the children's records and update the Health and Education Passport to be attached to all court reports. Each report is written by the social worker and reviewed and approved by the supervisor and child welfare attorney to ensure that all elements are present and that the recommendations and requested findings and orders are ready to the courts review.

Once the reports are ready to be filled, the departments' clerk makes copies of all reports, submits them to the Court Clerk's Office to be filed, and then distributes them to all parties, including parents, for review prior to the hearing. The Department strives to meet all timelines for parties to review the reports prior to the court hearing. From this point, the court has time to review all reports, attachments and proposed findings and orders to ensure that children's and parents' rights are being upheld. Hearing and the timelines for all hearings are monitored by both the Department and the Court, and special attention is paid to permanency hearings and noticing timelines for those hearings. For termination of parental rights, the court follows the provisions of the Adoptions and Safe Families Act, as well as WIC 300 and the CA Juvenile Rules of Court. The department uses the Juvenile court forms for all findings and orders , as approved by the Administrative office of the Courts, and these forms ensure that all required Title IV-E and B findings are made, as well as ensuring that the next hearings are set within the appropriate time frame.

The CPS Supervisor carefully reviews the cases with the CPS attorney for the timelines on each case and will work with each social worker to make sure that the permanency hearings happen by 12 months and every 6 months thereafter, unless the court deems it necessary to happen more frequently with an interim

HEARING. FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR), THE DEPARTMENT TAKES A PROACTIVE APPROACH IN REVIEWING EACH CASE TO ENSURE THAT TERMINATION OCCURS IN A TIMELY MANNER, UNLESS THERE IS A COMPELLING REASON TO MAINTAIN PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND THAT ALL NOTICING AND REQUIRED FORMS AND ORDERS BE MADE IN ORDER TO DO SO.

IN ADDITION TO TIMELY FILING AND RECEIPT OF COURT DOCUMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS A CLERK THAT MAINTAINS A COURT CALENDAR, ENSURES THAT ALL NOTICES ARE DONE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMELINES, ETC. SHE UPDATES THE COURT CALENDAR 1-2 TIMES A WEEK AND HANDLES NOTICING, PROOF OF SERVICE AND THE ALL REQUIRED INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA) AND PARENTAGE FORMS AND PROCESS ARE COMPLETED, AND THEN REVIEWS THESE WITH THE SUPERVISOR, SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE DEPARTMENTS' ATTORNEY. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE REFERENCED PROCESSES, THE DEPARTMENT REGULARLY STAFF AND REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF ALL COURT CASES AND ENSURES THAT TIMELINES ARE BEING ADHERED TO. FOR THOSE CASES WHERE YOUTH ARE IN PP AND HAVE NOT MOVED TO ADOPTION, THE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS THEIR CASE IN AN IN DEPTH STAFFING AT LEAST EVERY 90 DAYS TO LOOK AT PERMANENCY OPTIONS FOR EACH CHILD. THIS CLERK ALSO RECEIVES ALL COURT MINUTES AND SIGNED FINDINGS AND ORDERS FROM THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE, RECORDS THEM INTO THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, AND FILES THEM IN THE DEPARTMENT'S COURT FILES.

TO ENSURE THAT THE COURT AND THE DEPARTMENT ARE WORKING TOGETHER, THE JUDGE AND CPS SUPERVISOR MEET, AS WELL AS THE CLERK'S OFFICE, TO REVIEW PROCESS AND LOOK FOR WAYS TO STREAMLINE PROCESS AND WORK AROUND CHALLENGES PERIODICALLY. REGULAR COMMUNICATION ON THESE ISSUES IS ALSO HANDLED AS NEEDED VIA PHONE OR EMAIL, AND THE COURT WILL ISSUE A MEMO WHEN NEEDED TO INFORM ALL PARTIES OF CHANGES IN COURT PROCESS. AS COMMUNICATION IS USUALLY ONE OF THE BIGGEST BARRIERS, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PURSUE DEVELOPING A BROWN BAG LUNCH FORUM ON A BI-MONTHLY BASIS TO HELP IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE COURT AND THE DEPARTMENT.

CASE PLANNING FOR EACH CASE IS DEVELOPED WITH THE FAMILY IN PARTICIPATION AND WITH THE CHILDREN, WHEN APPROPRIATE. THE SOCIAL WORKER WILL REVIEW THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, AGES AND STAGES ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR CHILDREN 0-5, ANY MENTAL HEALTH OR AODS ASSESSMENTS, CONDUCT A FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT THROUGH SDM, REVIEW THE FAMILIES RISK AND SAFETY ASSESSMENTS, AND THEN REVIEW THE FAMILIES PERCEPTION OF THEIR DESIRES. THEN TOGETHER THEY DEVELOP A PROPOSED CASE PLAN THAT THEY TAKE BACK TO THE SUPERVISOR FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE COURT. IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE ADDITIONAL PARTIES, INCLUDING TRIBES AND TRIBAL SOCIAL SERVICES THAT NEED TO BE AT THE TABLE, FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS (FTM) MAY BE CALLED TO HELP ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES CAN BE AVAILABLE TO HELP SUPPORT THE FAMILY IN CASE PLANNING. ONCE A CASE PLAN IS APPROVED, SIGNED AND ORDERED, THE SOCIAL WORKER REQUESTS AND RECEIVES MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORTS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS, REVIEW THE FAMILY'S PROGRESS AT LEAST ONCE MONTHLY WITH THE FAMILY, AND WITH THE SUPERVISOR TO ENSURE THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS OR TO REASSESS FAMILY NEEDS.

FOR CAREGIVERS AND FOSTER PARENTS, THE SOCIAL WORKER WILL WORK WITH THEM TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR NEEDS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE FAMILY'S CASE PLAN, AND FOR YOUTH IN PP, THE CARE PROVIDER IS INCLUDED IN THE CASE PLAN JUST AS A PARENT WOULD BE, WITH ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT. ALL PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ARE GIVEN AN INITIAL OVERVIEW OF THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE BEGINNING OF THE CASE OR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE, AND THEN ARE PERIODICALLY REMINDED THROUGHOUT. THE DEPARTMENT ENSURES THIS BY REQUIRING THAT THEY REVIEW THESE RIGHTS WITH THE SOCIAL WORKER AND SIGN A FORM INDICATING THEY UNDERSTAND THEM AND HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THESE RIGHTS, AND THIS IS FILED IN EACH CASE FILE.

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

THOUGH TRINITY COUNTY DOES NOT LICENSE ITS OWN FOSTER HOMES, IT DOES RELATIVE AND NREFM APPROVALS. THE COUNTY HAS A DESIGNATED WORKER WHO IS TRAINED AND IS ASSIGNED TO DO ALL RELATIVE APPROVALS AND REPORTS TO THE DIRECTOR FOR ALL HOME APPROVALS. THE COUNTY HAS DEVELOPED DETAILED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR BOTH EMERGENCY AND STANDARD HOME APPROVALS THAT MEET LICENSING AND TITTLE 22 STANDARDS. IN EACH CASE, ALL FAMILIES ARE ASSESSED BY THE HOME APPROVAL WORKER WHO RUNS ALL REQUIRED BACKGROUND CHECK, CLEARANCES, FACILITY INSPECTIONS, AND REQUIRED PAPERWORK. IN ADDITION, INTERVIEW AND ORIENTATIONS ARE CONDUCTED TO ENSURE THAT ALL CAREGIVERS UNDERSTAND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS THROUGH THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THEM AS CAREGIVERS IF A CHILD IS PLACED IN THEIR CARE. ONCE THEIR FILE IS COMPLETE, THE FILE IS TAKEN TO THE DIRECTOR OF HHS FOR REVIEW AND IF THE FILE IS COMPLETE IT IS APPROVED OR DENIED. THE CAREGIVER IS THEN INFORMED OF THEIR APPROVAL OR DENIAL, ALONG WITH THE SOCIAL WORKER FOR THE CHILD IN QUESTION

AND THEN THE SOCIAL WORKER CAN WORK WITH THE COURT AND OTHER INVOLVED PARTIES TO DETERMINE PLACEMENT.

BY SEPARATING OUT THIS FUNCTION FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER WE CAN ENSURE THAT THERE ARE CONSISTENT STANDARDS MET AND THAT EACH PLACEMENT MEETS ALL TITLE IV-E AND IV-B REQUIREMENTS. THEN, THE CAREGIVER WILL BE REASSESSED ANNUALLY FOR AS LONG AS THE CASE IS OPEN AND A CHILD IS IN PLACEMENT AND ALL FORMS, HOME INSPECTIONS AND APPROVALS ARE RENEWED IN THE SAME MANNER. AS A COURTESY AND TO SUPPORT CONSISTENCY, CPS HAS AGREED TO ASSIST PROBATION IN CONDUCTING RELATIVE AND NREFM ASSESSMENTS TO ENSURE THAT AL THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.

FOR TRIBAL HOMES, THE HOME ASSESSMENT WORKER WILL COLLABORATE WITH THE TRIBAL SOCIAL WORKER AND COLLABORATE TO ENSURE THAT ALL REQUIRED BACKGROUND CHECKS, FACILITY REQUIREMENTS OR TRIBAL DOCUMENTATION AND AGREEMENTS ARE MET, AND AGAIN, THESE WILL BE REVIEWED WITH THE DIRECTOR AND THEN THE COURT OR TRIBE WILL MAKE PLACEMENT. FOR THOSE CHILDREN THAT MAY BE ADOPTABLE, IT IS COUNTY PRACTICE THAT ALL YOUTH IN FR BE REFERRED TO STATE ADOPTIONS FOR AN ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE THEIR ADOPTABILITY JUST AFTER THE DISPOSITION HEARING IN THE EVENT THAT REUNIFICATION FAILS. THIS ALLOWS THE ADOPTIONS WORKER AND THE CASE CARRYING SOCIAL WORKER TO BEGIN THE CONCURRENT PLANNING DISCUSSION EARLY ON. THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY IS TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT WHEN POSSIBLE, THE CHILD'S FIRST PLACEMENT BE CONCURRENT IF POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE PLACEMENT MOVES.

THOUGH THE COUNTY DOES NOT LICENSE ITS OWN HOMES, THERE IS AN OVERWHELMING NEED FOR LOCAL FOSTER HOMES AND THE DEPARTMENT ACTIVELY RECRUITS FAMILIES AND REFERS THEM TO CCL AND LOCAL FFA'S TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF LOCAL FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT OPTIONS. ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ARE OFFERED LOCALLY TO SUPPORT KINSHIP CAREGIVERS AND FOSTER HOMES AS WELL, AND THE LOCAL KSSP PROGRAM OFFERS CLASSES IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE COMMUNITY ON A REGULAR BASIS. ANNUAL FOCUS GROUPS OR SURVEYS ARE BEING USED TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE EFFORTS TO HELP REFINE HOW TARGET AUDIENCES CAN BE REACHED MORE EFFECTIVELY. INCREASED RECRUITMENT EFFORTS ARE NEEDED MOVING FORWARD TO HELP MAINTAIN FOSTER YOUTH WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND WILL BE DETAILED IN THE UPCOMING SIP.

ALL RECRUITMENT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT LOCAL FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS ARE DIVERSE AND THAT THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF HOMES TO MEET THE VARYING NEEDS OF THE FOSTER CARE POPULATION. AGAIN, IT IS DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT SPECIALIZED HOMES WITHOUT RUNNING A LOCAL LICENSING PROGRAM AND NEW STRATEGIES FOR RECRUITMENT OF THESE POPULATIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE UPCOMING SIP.

STAFF, CAREGIVER AND SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL NEW SOCIAL WORKERS AND PROBATION OFFICERS COMPLETE THE REQUIRED COMMON CORE, THE TRAINING COORDINATOR FOR EACH AGENCY TRACKS TRAINING FOR EACH STAFF PERSON AND HELPS TO SCHEDULE AND ARRANGE FOR STAFF TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED MODULES, ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL TRAININGS TO ENHANCE THEIR SKILLS WITHIN THE TWO YEAR WINDOW. THESE TRAINING NEEDS ARE REVIEWED AT LEAST ONCE PER QUARTER AND IF ADDITIONAL TRAINING IS REQUIRED IT WILL BE ARRANGED AS NEEDED. EACH EMPLOYEES PROGRESS AND TRAININGS WILL BE REVIEWED AT EACH PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PERIOD. TRAINING NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED THROUGH A MANAGER OR SUPERVISOR EVALUATION OF STAFF PERFORMANCE, CHALLENGES DISCUSSED DURING STAFFING AND SUPERVISION TIME WITH INDIVIDUAL TIME WORKERS AND THROUGH REVIEW OF EACH WORKERS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS WITH THEIR CASELOAD. IN ADDITION TO THE COMMON CORE, EACH AGENCY REQUIRES ADDITIONAL MANDATORY TRAINING FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL JOB DUTIES AND TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH COUNTY POLICIES. IF A STAFF MEMBER SHOWS AN AREA THAT REQUIRES ADDITIONAL TRAINING, THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE ATTEMPTS TO OFFER STAFF AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAINING IN THAT AREA TO ADDRESS ANY SKILL DEFICIENCIES.

IN ADDITION TO ACCESSING AS MANY REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY OFFERINGS AS POSSIBLE, THE COUNTY REGULARLY OPENS UP TRAININGS BETWEEN AGENCIES SUCH AS CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES, PROBATION, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, AODS AND PUBLIC HEALTH. WITH THE ADVENT OF KATIE A, BOTH CPS AND PROBATION ARE ALSO MAKING ACTIVE EFFORTS TO PARTNER WITH BHS TO ENSURE THAT TRAUMA IS ADDRESSED THROUGH TIMELY ACCESS TO METAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES. TRAINING HAS BEEN OFFERED ON THIS AREA AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OFFERED TO KEEP STAFF CURRENT ON WORKING WITH THIS POPULATION AND ADDRESS THEIR SPECIFIC NEEDS. ADDITIONALLY, STAFF, FOSTER PARENTS, AND FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAININGS ON SERVING OR MEETING THE

NEEDS OF TRAUMATIZED YOUTH, DRUG EXPOSED CHILDREN, GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED AND QUESTIONING (GLBTQ) YOUTH, SEX OFFENDERS AND CHILDREN WITH OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS. THE LOCAL KINSHIP TRAINING PROVIDER OFFERS MANY OF THESE CLASSES AND THEY ARE OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY FREE OF CHARGE.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE COUNTY INCLUDES ALL LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS IN TRAININGS IT OFFERS, INCLUDING EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAMS, TRAUMA, INTERVENTIONS, DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN, SEXUAL ASSAULT/ABUSE, ETC. SEVERAL EVENTS ARE HELD DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND LOCAL SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND OTHER AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. BOTH PROBATION AND CPS ACT AS A REFERRAL POINT FOR MANY OF THESE SERVICES TO THE INDIVIDUALS THEY SERVE. OFFERING INCREASED TRAININGS TO LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS ON MORE INTERVENTIONS WOULD HELP TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS THAT ARE OFFERED, BUT IDENTIFYING RESOURCES FOR THIS PURPOSE WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO INCREASING THESE OFFERINGS.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CURRENTLY, NEITHER CPS OR PROBATION ARE RECEIVING TA FROM THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER, BUT NEW LEADERSHIP IN BOTH AGENCIES WILL BE EXAMINING WHAT IS AVAILABLE AND CONSIDERING THESE SUPPORTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SIP IN 2014.

AGENCY COLLABORATION

TRINITY COUNTY CPS AND PROBATION HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG WORKING PARTNERSHIP AND IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL FORMAL BODIES THEY JOINTLY PARTICIPATE IN, REGULAR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LINE STAFF AND MANAGERS ABOUT JOINT CASES AND PROCESSES HELP TO ENSURE THAT YOUTH AND FAMILIES ARE SERVED WHILE WORKING TOWARD MEETING MANDATES AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT GOALS. PROBATION AND CPS JOINTLY SERVE YOUTH THAT ENTER BOTH THE DEPENDENCY (WIC 300) AND DELINQUENCY (WIC 600) SYSTEMS, AS MANY OF THE FAMILIES SERVED STRUGGLE WITH SIMILAR RISK AND SAFETY ISSUES AND FAMILY DYNAMICS. IN ORDER TO HELP CLARIFY RESPONSIBILITY AND JURISDICTION, THE DEPARTMENTS AND THE COURT JOINTLY HAVE DEVELOPED AND ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR CROSS JURISDICTIONAL CASES, THE DUAL JURISDICTION (241.1) PROTOCOL. UNDER THIS

AGREEMENT, CASES ARE WORKED TOGETHER THROUGH THE JURISDICTION HEARING AND THE COURT REVIEWS A JOINT REPORT THAT OUTLINES THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE CASE, AND THEN DETERMINES WHICH AGENCY WILL TAKE THE LEAD. FROM THERE, THE LEAD AGENCY ACTS AS THE PRIMARY CASE MANAGER ON THE CASE, BUT THE TWO DEPARTMENTS STILL WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE ALL ELEMENTS OF BOTH CASES ARE MET.

BOTH AGENCIES ALSO SHARE SEVERAL KEY FUNCTIONS SUCH AS INVESTIGATIONS, FAMILY FINDING, RELATIVE ASSESSMENT, ILP SERVICES, EMANCIPATION OR EXTENDED FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS, JOINT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLANNING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES. BOTH DEPARTMENTS HAVE SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES, PROCESSES AND POLICIES OUTLINING THESE JOINT FUNCTIONS. JOINT TRAININGS ARE ORGANIZED SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR OR AS NEEDED TO SUPPORT PROGRAM CHANGES, AND JOINT RELEASES OF INFORMATION ARE USED TO SHARE INFORMATION BETWEEN AGENCIES. THOUGH TRIBES ARE THE SINGLE LARGEST MINORITY POPULATION SERVED, THERE ARE NO FORMAL BODIES IN PLACE TO DISCUSS JOINT CASES. WHEN A JOINT CASE ARISES, THE DEPARTMENTS WORK JOINTLY WITH THE INDIVIDUAL TRIBE OF THE CLIENT TO ENSURE SERVICE PROVISION, THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF ICWA ARE MET, AND TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES THAT ARE BOTH CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND MEET THEIR NEEDS TO ADDRESS RISK, SAFETY AND REHABILITATION NEEDS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED HOWEVER, THAT TRIBES AND TRIBAL TANF HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO EFFORTS TO DISCUSS SYSTEM ISSUES YET. IT IS THE COUNTIES HOPE THAT THIS WILL CHANGE IN THE COMING YEARS AND THAT THEY WILL BECOME A STRONGER PARTNER AT THE TABLE IN DEVELOPING SERVICES IN THE NEXT C-CFSR CYCLE.

IN ADDITION TO THESE SHARED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, BOTH AGENCIES SIT ON SEVERAL COMMITTEES INCLUDING:

MID-LEVEL MANAGEMENT TEAM (MLMT)-A JOINT TEAM THAT IS COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, AODS, CPS, PROBATION, OFFICE OF EDUCATION, AND HUMAN RESPONSE NETWORK (HRN), THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION PROVIDING MANY SERVICES TO CLIENTS. THIS GROUP LOOKS AT AND DETERMINES ELIGIBILITY AND NEED FOR INCREASED INTERVENTIONS AROUND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES OR PLACEMENT INTO HIGHER LEVELS OF CARE, SUCH AS THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES (TBS), MOVING YOUTH INTO HIGHER LEVELS OF CARE SUCH AS GROUP HOMES OR INTO AN INTENSIVE TREATMENT RATE IN A CURRENT PLACEMENT. THIS IS ALSO THE BODY THAT WILL DISCUSS KATIE A CLIENTS ACCESS TO SERVICES.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL/FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COUNCIL-THIS JOINT COUNCIL SERVES AS BOTH THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL AND LOOKS AT ALL ISSUES AROUND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN THE COMMUNITY. IT IS THE BODY THAT ALSO IS DESIGNATED BY THE BOS TO OVERSEE CBCAP FUNDING AND THE USE OF ALL CHILDREN'S TRUST FUNDS.

SEXUAL ABUSE, RAPE AND TREATMENT (SART)-THIS IS THE BODY THAT OVERSEES INVESTIGATIONS, POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY JOINT AGENCIES, AND ALSO WHO WOULD BE A PART OF ENSURING ACCESS TO ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS VICTIMS OF SEXUAL CRIMES.

CHILDREN'S SYSTEMS OF CARE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING-AT LEAST ONCE ANNUALLY A LARGER STAKEHOLDER MEETING IS ORGANIZED TO DISCUSS WHAT IS WORKING WELL, GAPS IN SERVICES AND HOW BOTH AGENCIES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE THE BEST SERVICES POSSIBLE. FOR THIS BODY, BOTH CPS AND PROBATION USE THIS FEEDBACK TO ADJUST THEIR PRACTICES AND TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES. THIS CROSS SYSTEM MEETING ALSO HELPS TO BUILD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROVIDERS AND ACT AS A NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD COLLABORATIONS AND BETTER OF PROVIDERS SERVICE OFFERINGS AND SCOPE OF WORK. MEMBERS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: FAITH BASED COMMUNITY, FIRST FIVE, PARENTS AND PARENT LEADERS, CBO, SCHOOLS, EDUCATION LIAISONS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, PRIVATE SERVICES PROVIDERS, KINSHIP EDUCATION SERVICES, FFA'S, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROVIDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, THE COURT, STATE ADOPTIONS AND ALL CPS AND PROBATION STAFF.

ALL OF THESE GROUPS' FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE USED BY CPS AND PROBATION IN EXAMINING THEIR PERFORMANCE, NEEDS AND SUCCESSES. THIS FEEDBACK IS USED TO DRIVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND HOW RESOURCES ARE ALLOCATED FROM BOTH DEPARTMENTS BUDGETS. THIS INFORMATION IS SHARED BETWEEN ALL PARTNERS AND THEN PRESENTED TO DEPARTMENT HEADS, THE BOS AND INCLUDED IN ANNUAL SIP UPDATES. THE GOAL IS TO CONTINUE TO GROW THIS PROCESS AND ENSURE THAT QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT BECOMES AN INTEGRATED PROCESS THAT WILL CONTINUALLY INFORM ALL PARTNERS ON HOW TO BEST IMPACT THE SYSTEM OF CARE. IN THE NEW SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN, ONE OF THE GOALS WILL BE TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL WORK GROUPS TO FOCUS ON AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT THAT WILL GUIDE PROCESSES AND HELP WITH IMPLEMENTATION. EACH MEMBER WILL HOLD SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES TO HELP SUPPORT

THESE EFFORTS AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL RELATED PLANS.

SERVICE ARRAY

TRINITY COUNTY IS A GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED AREA AND WITH ITS SMALL POPULATION BASE, THERE ARE NOT AN EXTENSIVE NUMBER OF PROVIDERS, BUT THE COMMUNITY HAS ADAPTED TO DEVELOP MECHANISMS TO MEET AS MANY AREAS OF NEED AS POSSIBLE.

PREVENTION SERVICES-LOCAL PREVENTION SERVICES ARE OFFERED THROUGH LIMITED VOLUNTARY CASES BY THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT, THOUGH AN EXPANSION OF SERVICES IS BEING ESTABLISHED CURRENTLY AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW UNDER THE NEW SIP PLAN. OTHER ASSOCIATED PREVENTION SERVICES ARE LISTED BELOW.

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS-HUMAN RESPONSE NETWORK (HRN) IS THE SINGLE CBO LOCATED IN WEAVERVILLE, THE COUNTY SEAT, AND WITH A SMALLER OUTREACH CENTER LOCATED IN HAYFORK THAT IS STAFFED SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK TO REACH OUTLYING PORTIONS OF THE COUNTY. THEY HOUSE CHILD CARE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PARENTING EDUCATION, HOUSING, HOME VISITATION, WELCOME BABY, AND A VARIETY OF ADDITIONAL FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAMS TO SERVE FAMILIES. THEY ARE A NON-PROFIT THAT IS PRIMARILY GRANT FUNDED AND LOOKS AT SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. THEY SIT ON MOST PLANNING AND ORGANIZATIONAL BOARDS AND HAVE BEEN SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 25 YEARS. MOST OF THEIR SERVICES ARE FREE OF COST OR HAVE A SLIDING SCALE FOR FEES. THE SERVICES THAT ARE LIMITED IN AVAILABILITY, SUCH AS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, MAY REQUIRE THAT FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS GET ON A WAITING LIST FOR ACCESS TO SERVICES.

HRN OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES: TEMPORARY HOUSING TO HOMELESS OR UNDER HOUSED FAMILIES, HOMELESS HOUSING FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES GETTING RE-ESTABLISHED FOR UP TO TWO YEARS, RENTAL ASSISTANCE, UTILITY ASSISTANCE, CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE, PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, PARENTING EDUCATION, HOME VISITATION , WELCOME BABY, TEEN INTERVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH IN JUVENILE HALL, TOBACCO EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION, ADVOCACY PROGRAMS, AN ARRAY OF VARIOUS PREVENTION PROGRAMS, AND LOCAL HUD PROGRAMS. HRN'S IN HOME PARENTING PROGRAM IS FUNDED THROUGH THE CAPIT.

FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES-IN ORDER TO PREVENT REMOVAL AND PRESERVE FAMILIES, BOTH DEPARTMENTS STRIVE TO LOOK AT EACH FAMILY AND THEIR HOLISTIC NEEDS AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE, INTERVENE WITH VOLUNTARY OR PREVENTION SERVICES. CPS USES DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE TO IDENTIFY LOWER RISK FAMILIES AND OFFERS REFERRALS TO LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT WILL ADDRESS RISK AND SAFETY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A FORMAL RESPONSE TO THE LOWEST RISK FAMILIES. FOR MORE MODERATE RISK FAMILIES, FAMILIES ARE CONNECTED TO THE AMERICORPS PREVENTION PROGRAM. THE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES MEMBERS WORK WITH FAMILIES TO ADDRESS RISK AND SAFETY WITH ASSESSMENT, INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT, PARENTING EDUCATION AND COACHING, AND REFERRAL TO SPECIALIZED SERVICE PROVIDERS WHERE APPLICABLE TO MEET FAMILY NEEDS. THIS LOWER LEVEL RESPONSE HELPS STABILIZE FAMILIES AND PREVENT FORMAL ENTRY INTO CARE OR PREVENT FAMILIES FROM ESCALATING INTO HIGHER LEVEL RESPONSES. THEY WILL CONNECT FAMILIES WITH MENTAL HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, MENTORING, HEALTH CARE SERVICES, HOME DEMONSTRATION SERVICES (WHICH CAN INCLUDE TEACHING BASIC LIFE SKILLS), AND OTHER IDENTIFIED NEEDS. WHEN NEEDED, THESE CASES ARE SOMETIMES SHARED AS VOLUNTARY CASES WITH CPS. PROBATION CAN ALSO REFER FAMILIES TO THESE SERVICES OR MAY CARRY AS INFORMAL PROBATION CASES TO AVOID FORMAL DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS. OFTEN, THIS CAN INCLUDE SIMILAR SERVICES, BUT THEY ARE TAILORED TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE YOUTH THAT LED THEM TO COMMIT OFFENSES THAT BROUGHT THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF PROBATION. MANY OF THESE YOUTH HAVE SIMILAR RISK AND SAFETY NEEDS TO CHILD WELFARE FAMILIES, SO THE ARRAY OF SERVICES ARE SIMILAR TO MEET THESE COMMON NEEDS.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES-FOR FAMILIES IN REUNIFICATION, THERE ARE SEVERAL LOCAL PROVIDERS FOR SERVICES TO TREAT OR PROVIDE INTERVENTION FOR RISK FACTORS. ANGER MANAGEMENT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSESSMENTS AND SERVICES ARE OFFERED THROUGH EITHER WRIGHT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES OR THE TURN AROUND PROGRAM; THERAPEUTIC SERVICES ARE OFFERED THROUGH BHS OR FROM PRIVATE PROVIDERS UNDER CONTRACT TO THE DEPARTMENTS UPON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING; EVIDENCE BASED PARENTING EDUCATION IS OFFERED THROUGH HRN OR DIRECTLY BY CPS; SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENTS IS OFFERED ON AN OUTPATIENT BASIS BY AODS AND FOR INPATIENT, THE COUNTY HOLDS CONTRACTS WITH SEVERAL PROVIDERS FOR INPATIENT TREATMENT AND SOBER LIVING IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES SUBJECT TO MEETING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS; OTHER INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT NEEDS ARE ASSESSED BY STAFF AND SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE SOUGHT OUT AS NEEDED. FOR YOUTH IN REUNIFICATION SERVICES, BOTH AGENCIES OFFER INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICES AS PER EACH YOUTHS NEEDS. TRADITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH,

SUBSTANCE ABUSE, TRAUMA INFORMED SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES, AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICES ARE OFFERED TO YOUTH, AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AS NEEDED AND IDENTIFIED IN NEEDS ASSESSMENTS.

ADOPTIONS-IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ADOPTIONS AND PERMANENCY SERVICES, CPS HAS PARTNERED WITH CDSS STATE ADOPTIONS TO OFFER ADOPTIONS SERVICES THROUGH THE ARCATA DISTRICT OFFICE FOR ALL TRINITY COUNTY YOUTH. FOR ALL YOUTH IN REUNIFICATION, CPS REFERS ALL YOUTH TO STATE ADOPTIONS AT THE DISPOSITIONAL HEARING TO DETERMINE THEIR ADOPTABILITY STATUS IN THE EVENT THAT REUNIFICATION FAILS AND ENSURE THAT PERMANENCY IS NOT DELAYED. IF DETERMINED ADOPTABLE, THE ADOPTIONS WORKER COLLABORATES WITH THE CASE CARRYING WORKER THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE CASE AND WILL HELP TO IDENTIFY ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT OPTIONS OR ASSESS CURRENT SUBSTITUTE CARE PROVIDERS FOR ADOPTION WHEN REUNIFICATION FAILS. ONCE ADOPTIONS PLACEMENTS ARE MADE, JOINT REPORTS ARE DONE BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS UNTIL THE ADOPTION FINALIZES AND ADOPTIONS WILL PROVIDE ANY POST-ADOPTIONS WRAP SERVICES.

KINSHIP CARE SERVICES-KINSHIP CARE, WHICH INCLUDES RELATIVE CARE PROVIDERS, AS WELL AS NON-RELATED EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS (NREFM) PROVIDERS, ARE USED AS PLACEMENT OPTIONS FOR FOSTER CARE AND PROBATION PLACEMENTS. THESE CARE PROVIDERS ARE PREFERRED AS THEY ARE USUALLY MORE CONNECTED TO THE YOUTH AND ARE OFTEN MORE COMMITTED TO THEIR PERMANENCY AND CAN HELP KEEP YOUTH IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THESE PROVIDERS ARE HELD TO THE SAME BACKGROUND CHECK AND FACILITY STANDARDS AS ALL OTHER LICENSED PROVIDERS, BUT ARE NOT CURRENTLY REQUIRED TO HAVE THE SAME TRAINING REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO PLACEMENT. HOWEVER, THESE TRAININGS ARE IMPORTANT TO HELPING TO SUPPORT THEM IN OFFERING STABILITY AND SUPPORT TO THE YOUTH THEY CARE FOR, SO BOTH DEPARTMENTS OFFER ACCESS TO TRAINING AND SUPPORTS THROUGH THEIR AGENCIES AND THROUGH THE LOCAL KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM (KSSP) OFFERED BY SHASTA COLLEGE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THESE TRAININGS AND PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE AND ARE OFFERED IN EITHER WEAVERVILLE OR HAYFORK TO FAMILIES. CHILD CARE AND FOOD IS OFFERED AT EACH SITE AS AVAILABLE.

AS THE ASSESSING AGENCY FOR THESE PROVIDERS, CPS ALSO CAN OFFER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES THAT ARE INDIVIDUALIZED TO THESE FAMILIES TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. WE HAVE FOND THAT THERE ARE TOO FEW FAMILIES TO FORMALIZE AN ARRAY OF SERVICES THAT TARGET A SPECIFIC NEED, AND THE COMMUNITY AND CLIENTS ARE BETTER SERVED BY HAVING FUNDING DESIGNATED TO SERVE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AS THEY ARISE.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES-TRINITY COUNTY HAS A SMALL POPULATION AND WITH A LIMITED ILP BUDGET, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PROVIDING MEANINGFUL ILP SERVICES WAS TO HOUSE ILP WITHIN CPS AND ASSIGN ITS DUTIES TO A SINGLE SOCIAL WORKER AND FUND THE CASE MANAGEMENT TIME THROUGH THE EXISTING CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, AND SAVE ALL ILP FUNDING FOR DIRECT SERVICE PROVISION. THIS WORKER HELPS ENSURE YOUTH ARE PREPARED TO ENTER SERVICES AT 15 ½ AND THEN COMPLETE THE TILP AND UPDATE THE CASE PLAN UPON ENTRY INTO ILP SERVICES AT 16 AND EVERY 6 MONTHS THEREAFTER, OR UNTIL THE ILP YOUTH AGES OUT F SERVICES. EACH YOUTH IS ASSESSED AND A PLAN OF INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICES IS DEVELOPED WITH THE YOUTH, BASED UPON NEEDS AND THE YOUTHS GOALS. WITH MANY OF THE COUNTY'S YOUTH BEING PLACED OUT OF COUNTY, ILP YOUTH THAT CANNOT BE SERVED DIRECTLY BY THE TRINITY COUNTY ILP WORKER WILL BE REFERRED TO RECEIVE SERVICES FROM THE ILP PROGRAM OF THE COUNTY THEY ARE PLACED. TRINITY ILP WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INCENTIVES AND SERVICES IF THE COUNTY OF PLACEMENT WILL NOT. SERVICES INCLUDE INCENTIVES, CASE MANAGEMENT, DRIVERS EDUCATION, HEALTH EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP, EMANCIPATION SUPPORTS, CLOTHING, AND SUPPORTS FOR THEIR INDIVIDUALIZED GOALS. THE ARRAY OF SERVICES ARE OUTLINED IN THE COUNTIES ILP PLAN AND POLICIES.

PERMANENCY PLANNING-IT IS THE PRACTICE FOR ALL OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS FOR BOTH DEPARTMENTS THAT WHEN EXAMINING ANY OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT THAT THE PLACING WORKER CONSIDER CONCURRENCY FOR EACH CHILD. IN THE EVENT THAT REUNIFICATION FAILS OR IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO RETURN A WARD TO THEIR FAMILY OF ORIGIN, EACH DEPARTMENT MUST CONSIDER OTHER PERMANENT OPTIONS RANGING FROM CONTINUED OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT TO ADOPTIONS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. AT REGULAR INTERVALS IN EACH CASE THERE WILL BE A REVIEW OF PLACEMENT AND A DETERMINATION MADE TO SEEK PERMANENT OPTIONS IF REUNIFICATION SHOULD FAIL. EACH DEPARTMENT IS CHARGED WITH LOOKING FOR THE MOST PERMANENT OPTION AVAILABLE TO OFFER YOUTH STABILITY AND SECURITY AND HELP BEST SUPPORT THEIR LONG TERM SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING. CPS HAS IMPLEMENTED A POLICY AND PROCESS TO REVIEW CASES EVERY 90 DAYS WHERE A YOUTH HAS BEEN IN CARE FOR 18 MONTHS OR LONGER *AND* NOT ACHIEVED PERMANENCY OR REUNIFICATION.

KATIE A- TO ENSURE THAT ALL YOUTH IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT ARE NOT DELAYED IN BEING ASSESSED AND ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, BHS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CPS AND PROBATION, HAS DEVELOPED A PLAN TO HELP STREAMLINE THE REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT

PROCESS FOR ALL YOUTH IN CARE. ONCE ASSESSED, ALL ELIGIBLE YOUTH ARE SET UP WITH SERVICE PROVISION TO MEET THEIR NEEDS WITHOUT DELAY, AND ARE TRACKED AS PARTICIPANTS UNDER KATIE A. THESE CASES ARE THEN REVIEWED IN INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS TO ENSURE THAT ALL YOUTH ARE GETTING MEANINGFUL SERVICES AND THEY ARE MEETING THE OUTCOMES AND WELL BEING OF THE YOUTH. THESE OUTCOMES ARE TRACKED AND REPORTED IN REGULAR REPORTS TO THE STATE AS PART OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM. ONE OF THE CHALLENGES FOR THE COUNTY IS THAT ALL OUT OF COUNTY PLACEMENTS EITHER HAVE TO HAVE THESE SERVICES SET UP IN THEIR COUNTY OF PLACEMENT OR TRINITY COUNTY WILL MAKE PROVISIONS FOR A LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDER TO SERVE THEM PAID FOR BY BHS. THIS PROCESS HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN VERY SLUGGISH, SO UNDER KATIE A THERE IS ENHANCED FOCUS ON REMOVING THESE DELAYS TO ENSURE TIMELY SERVICES FOR ALL YOUTH, ESPECIALLY HIGH RISK YOUTH AND THOSE IN HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE PLACEMENTS. THESE ARE ALSO REVIEWED BY MID-LEVEL MANAGEMENT TEAM (MLMT).

VICTIMS WITNESS-FOR ALL YOUTH WHO ENTER INTO CARE, THE DEPARTMENT AUTOMATICALLY APPLIES FOR VICTIMS WITNESS FOR EACH CHILD AND SECURE THE ACCESS TO THESE SERVICES. THE GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT IF AFTER THEIR CASE CLOSES THERE ARE ADDITIONAL NEEDS FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, SUCH AS COUNSELING, THE YOUTH HAS A FUNDING SOURCE THAT CAN HELP PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES.

YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE/TREATMENT-FOR YOUTH WHO ARE FACING SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION, AODS OFFERS TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, AS WELL AS PREVENTION OR EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS INCLUDING TRINITEENS AND TRINITY CHOICES. BOTH ARE OFFERED TO YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE HALL, PLACEMENT, AND WHO ARE STILL AT HOME.

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENTS-CPS ENSURES AL YOUTH COMING INTO CARE, AGES 0-5 RECEIVE A DEVELOPMENTAL AND EMOTIONAL/SOCIAL ASSESSMENT THAT IS EVIDENCE BASED AND IS USED TO HELP INFORM SERVICES. THE AGES AND STAGES TOOL IS USED JOINTLY BY THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST AND FC NURSE DURING HOME VISITS TO HELP DETERMINE NEEDS AND RISK FOR THIS POPULATION OF YOUTH IN CARE. THE RESULTS ARE SHARED WITH THE SOCIAL WORKER AND USED TO INFORM CASE PLANNING WITH THE FAMILY AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL STRIVE TO BE CULTURALLY RELEVANT, SERVE ALL CLIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DISABILITY OR BEING IN A HARD TO SERVE POPULATIONS. LOCAL STAFF ARE OFFERED TRAININGS TO HELP THEM SERVE AND CONNECT TO THESE

POPULATIONS, AS THERE IS NOT FUNDING OR ENOUGH VOLUME TO NECESSITATE THE NEED FOR SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS, LIKE BILINGUAL WORKERS, SPECIALIZED POPULATIONS, ETC., AT THIS TIME. THE GREATEST INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE FAMILIES SERVED IS POVERTY AND THE LACK OF LOCAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THIS NEED. AS SUCH, THERE IS A FOCUS ON MAKING SERVICES AS EASY TO ACCESS AND FREE OF COST WHENEVER POSSIBLE. MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED AT SEVERAL SITES WITHIN THE COUNTY TO HELP AID IN ACCESS TO SERVICES, OR MAY BE OFFERED IN HOME TO HELP REMOVE BARRIERS AROUND TRANSPORTATION OR CHILD CARE. ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF THE PROGRAMS OFFERED LOCALLY IS THAT ALMOST ALL OF THEM ARE SMALL AND CAN BE INDIVIDUALIZED TO OFFER THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICES TO CLIENTS.

OF THE AREAS WHERE GAPS IN SERVICES ARE PRESENT, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN A LACK OF EVIDENCE BASED (EB) INTERVENTIONS OFFERED TO FAMILIES FOR BOTH PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS, BUT THAT HAS BEEN SLOWLY CHANGING OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. ONE OF THE GOALS IN THE COMING SIP WOULD BE TO INCREASE THESE EB PROGRAM OFFERINGS TO ENSURE BETTER QUALITY SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER AREAS OF PREVENTION EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY WITHIN THE COUNTY. THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION ADMINISTERS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND ALSO HOUSES THE MCKINNEY-VENTO PROGRAM, SERVING UNDER HOUSED OR HOMELESS YOUTH. THEY EDUCATE THE SCHOOLS AND DO COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO IMPROVE AWARENESS AND INCREASE ACCESS TO SERVICES. TIS WILL ALSO HELP MAKE CONNECTIONS TO THE LOCAL REGIONAL CENTER FOR ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS TO REGIONAL CENTER SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE CLIENTS. HRN OFFERS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY ALONG WITH THE VICTIM'S WITNESS PROGRAM HOUSED IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. THERE ARE MANY FREE OF COST EDUCATIONAL OFFERING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, INCLUDING SEVERAL LOVE AND LOGIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE RATED AS A PROMISING PRACTICE, OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS THROUGH CBCAP FUNDING. BHS ALSO OFFERS THE INCREDIBLE YEARS, AN HIGHLY SUPPORTED EVIDENCE BASED RATED PROGRAM, IS OFFERED TO ALL PARENTS WITH CHILDREN 0-8 AT NO COST THROUGH MIXED FUNDING, WHICH INCLUDED CBCAP.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

In order to ensure quality assurance activities occur throughout the child welfare related systems of care, both Probation and CPS have cooperatively developed plans for their joint activities and individual plans for areas of responsibility that are individual. One of the primary methods used is the feedback from the annual Systems of Care meetings and the feedback from the Peer review and CSA process, ongoing staff and client feedback, as well as feedback from OCAP funded services. Child welfare and probation meet at a minimum of once per quarter to review its progress, compliance with outcomes and performance in its quarterly data reports. From these meetings, plans on how to address performance issues can be developed and used to adjust policies, procedures and access to services. Though probation and child welfare are both held to the same outcomes data measures, it should be noted that probation has so few numbers in care that their data is statistically insignificant as an indicator of practice as a single child's data completely skews outcome measures. For Probation, interviews and specific case information will be more useful in helping to guide case directions.

Department policies for both CPS and Probation have set guidelines in place that follow the requirements under ICWA that ensure that court forms and mandates under said act are met. CPS has specific staff assigned to collect ICWA information on all families and then complete all related processes in engaging tribes for Indian families. Under the Multi Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA), the department makes strides to ensure that no child is denied or delayed placement due to any issue related to ethnicity or religious affiliation and seeks to find families that are the best match to each child's individual needs.

Social worker's work cooperatively with each child's placement family, FC Nurse, Substance Abuse Specialist who jointly handle referrals and early childhood assessments, behavioral health manager, doctor or telepsych provider, counselor, etc. to develop a comprehensive plan for services for youth and ensure that they are trauma informed, meet their individual circumstances and covers comprehensive assessments for developmental and psychological needs. Additionally, for youth with any need for psychotropic medications, the social worker and FC Nurse have a policy that ensures joint responsibility for completing the JV-220 and receiving court orders for medication prior to their administration. Probation follows the same process for its youth. For youth with medication needs, they are tracked and regularly re-evaluated by the FC Nurse

AND MEDICAL PROVIDERS, THEN ORDERS ARE MADE BY THE COURT AT LEAST EVERY 6 MONTHS. THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO ALL YOUTH IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT. ALL OF THIS INFORMATION IS REPORTED BACK TO THE COURT IN THE COURT REPORT FOR EVERY CHILD, AND IS DISCUSSED IN STAFFING WHEN CHANGES OCCUR TO ENSURE THAT NO NEEDS ARE OVERLOOKED.

ALL YOUTH HAVE THEIR MEDICAL AND DENTAL NEEDS TRACKED BY THE FC NURSE, BUT THE FC NURSE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIALIST JOINTLY CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS IN THE PLACEMENT OF EVERY CHILD 0-5 USING THE AGES AND STAGES ASSESSMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL AND EMOTIONAL/SOCIAL NEEDS. THIS INFORMATION HELPS TO INFORM SERVICES FOR YOUTH. UNDER KATIE A, ANY YOUTH IN OUT OF HOME CARE WHO MEETS ONE OF THE CRITERIA OUTLINED IN KATIE A. WHO ARE SHOWING ANY SYMPTOMS OF NEED ARE ALSO REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT, SUCH AS SPEECH THERAPY, PSYCHOLOGICAL, MEDICATIONS, ETC. CURRENTLY THE COUNTY IS SELECTING A NEW SCREENING TOOL THAT WILL BE USED ON ALL YOUTH IN CARE AGES 6-18 TO LOOK FOR MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS THAT WILL HELP TO INFORM THE REFERRAL PROCESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH FURTHER. WE ANTICIPATE THIS BEING ROLLED OUT IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE NEXT SIP CYCLE. ONCE NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DEVELOPED A PROCESS FOR MAKING MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES REFERRALS THAT TRACKS THEIR PROGRESS, SUPPLIES INFORMATION TO THE SW AND HELPS TO EVALUATE THE PROGRESS OF SERVICES THROUGH MONITORING, MONTHLY FEEDBACK FROM THE PROVIDERS AND ONGOING CASE MANAGEMENT WITH THE CHILD'S PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS TO LOOK AT THE CHILD'S PROGRESS IN SERVICES AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. FOR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, THESE REFERRALS ARE HANDLED THE SAME WAY, BUT ARE PROCESSED BY THE EDUCATION LIAISON, WHO IS CO-LOCATED IN THE CPS OFFICE FROM TCOE.

STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO INCLUDE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE CASE PLANNING PROCESS AND EACH CASE PLAN IS REVIEWED BY THE SUPERVISOR WITH THE SW TO REVIEW THE CASE PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ENSURE THAT THE FAMILY WAS INCLUDED. ALSO, THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES SW TO USE THE STRUCTURED DECISION MAKING (SDM) FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT WITH THE FAMILY TO HELP IDENTIFY NEEDS IN THE CASE PLANNING PROCESS, COMPLIANCE IS MONITORED BY THE SUPERVISOR. AS A CASE PROGRESSES, IF THE PARENT DOES NOT PROGRESS TOWARD REUNIFICATION AND IT IS DETERMINED THAT TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR) IS APPROPRIATE AND THE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE PURSUED, THEN THE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS THE TIMELINES FOR THE REQUIRED NOTICING,

APPEALS TIMELINES AND WORKS COOPERATIVELY WITH THE CLERK, SW, SUPERVISOR AND ATTORNEY TO ENSURE THAT ALL DOCUMENTATION AND TIMELINES ARE COMPLETED. ADDITIONALLY, THE ILP WORKER WORKS WITH THE CASE CARRYING SW AND ILP ELIGIBLE YOUTH THE ENSURE THAT EACH HAS A TILP THAT IS CURRENT AND THAT IT IS USED IN THE CASE PLANNING PROCESS. ALL OF THESE DOCUMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE CASE FILE AND ATTACHED TO EACH COURT REPORT FOR THE COURTS REVIEW. SUPERVISORS ALSO REVIEW THESE TO ENSURE THEY ARE COMPLETED AND REGULAR REVIEW OF THE ILP CASELOADS AND COUNTY DATA ARE USED TO EVALUATE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND ACCESS TO SERVICES.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL CASES RECEIVE ASSESSMENTS, ACCESS TO SERVICES, HAVE THE SERVICE EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATED, PLACEMENT, ETC., CPS CONDUCTS A WEEKLY STAFFING, IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUAL STAFFINGS THAT OCCUR BETWEEN THE SW AND THE SUPERVISOR, WHERE THE COLLECTIVE TEAM THAT IS SUPPORTING THE FAMILY STAFFS THE PROGRESS, NEEDS, ASSESSMENTS AND SERVICES TOGETHER TO DETERMINE HOW TO BEST SERVE FAMILIES. TIMELINES, MANDATES, ETC. ARE ALL CONSIDERED AND INCORPORATED INTO DECISIONS MADE AT THESE MEETINGS. THE GOAL IS TO CREATE CLEAR, STRONG TEAMS THAT WRAP AROUND FAMILIES AND PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICES; DECISIONS MADE AS A TEAM ARE STRONGER AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL THE FACTORS IN THE CASE. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, MAJOR DECISIONS OR PLANNING WILL OCCUR WITH THE FAMILIES IN FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS (FTM) TO INCLUDE THE FAMILY IN THE PROCESS. IT IS A CORE VALUE THAT THE FAMILY SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO BE AT THE CENTER OF THE CHANGE PROCESS AND BE A PART OF DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR CASE AND FAMILY.

FOR ALL OCAP FUNDED SERVICES, THE CBCAP/CAPIT/PSSF LIAISON WORKS DIRECTLY WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS TO TRACK AND RECORD DATA, EVALUATE PROGRAMS, REVIEWS PROCESSES FOR COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION AND THIS INFORMATION IS TURNED INTO THE LIAISON 30 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE GRANT PERIOD ALONG WITH THE NARRATIVE REPORT ABOUT THE PROGRAM, AS OUTLINED IN THE MOU BETWEEN THE FUNDER AND THE GRANTEE/SERVICE PROVIDER. BOTH CBCAP AND CAPIT ARE FUNDED PROGRAMS WITH A FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION COMPONENT THAT HAS A PRE-DEVELOPED FRAMEWORK, BUT FOR PSSF, THE FUNDING IS USED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE ACCESS TO CLIENTS FOR SERVICES THAT THEY WOULD OTHERWISE NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS. THESE SERVICES ARE RECORDED BY THE LIAISON AND THEN AT THE COMPLETION OF SERVICES, THE CLIENTS DEMOGRAPHICS, PROGRESS, AND OUTCOMES ARE RECORDED AND USED FOR THE ANNUAL REPORTING PROCESS AND TO HELP CPS ADMINISTRATION EVALUATE EFFECTIVENESS AND DETERMINE IF CHANGES TO FUNDING USE SHOULD BE CHANGED IN THE FUTURE. INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS WITH SERVICE

RECIPIENTS ARE ALSO CONTACTED TO HELP GAIN A BETTER LEVEL OF FEEDBACK ABOUT SERVICES UNDER REVIEW.

IF A FUNDED PROGRAM DOES NOT COMPLETE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE FUNDED PROGRAM WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED FROM RECEIVING FUTURE FUNDING. A THOROUGH REVIEW OF ALL EXPENSES IS CONDUCTED BY THE LIAISON AND FISCAL TEAM PRIOR TO A FINAL REVIEW BY THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE. THEY ENSURE THAT THE FUNDS ARE ONLY SPENT ON ALLOWABLE EXPENSES THAT ARE OUTLINED IN THE MOU, AND THE PROPOSALS ARE THOROUGHLY REVIEWED BY THE LIAISON AND THE CBCAP/CAPIT COMMITTEES PRIOR TO APPROVING FUNDING TO ENSURE THAT THEY MEET REQUIREMENT AND ANY RFP REQUIREMENTS ADDED BY THE COUNTY. IN DEPTH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE GRANT PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS ARE ACCURATELY RECORDING DATA FOR THE FUNDED PROGRAMS, AND THAT DATA IS RECORDED FOR THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM BEING FUNDED. CURRENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUBCONTRACTORS USED FOR THESE SERVICES TO ENSURE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PROGRAM EFFICACY.

Critical Incident Review Process

THE COUNTY HAS A CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM (CDRT) THAT REVIEWS ALL FATALITIES/NEAR FATALITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY. THE CDRT'S PURPOSE IS TO : 1) TO IDENTIFY NON-ACCIDENTAL CHILD DEATHS; 2) TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD DEATHS THROUGH SHARED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS; 3) TO ACCUMULATE STATISTICS OF CHILD DEATHS; 4) TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD DEATHS BASED ON THE REVIEWS AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION. THE TARGET POPULATION FOR CASE REVIEW IS ALL CHILDREN UP TO 18 YEARS OF AGE WHO DIE IN TRINITY COUNTY. THE TEAM WILL CONSIDER CASES OF CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY IF THEY DIE WITHIN COUNTY LIMITS. IN ADDITION, TEAM MEMBERS OF AGENCIES MAY REQUEST THAT ADDITIONAL CASES BE REVIEWED INVOLVING CHILDREN WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF TRINITY COUNTY AND HAVE PARTICULAR INTEREST TO AN AGENCY, OR WHICH REMAIN SUSPICIOUS AND UNRESOLVED AND HAVE DIED IN A HOSPITAL OUTSIDE OF TRINITY COUNTY.

CPS AND PROBATION ARE MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM AND PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THESE REVIEWS, BUT THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OR REQUIRED MEMBERS: TRINITY COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE; TRINITY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT; TRINITY COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; TRINITY COUNTY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES; TRINITY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH; TRINITY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; TRINITY COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT; TRINITY COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH; TRINITY COUNTY HOSPITAL; TRINITY COUNTY COUNSEL. OTHER AGENCIES WISHING TO PARTICIPATE MAY JOIN BUT MUST MAKE A 1 YEAR MINIMUM COMMITMENT TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SERVICES AND BE RELEVANT PARTICIPANTS TO THE PROCESS. IN ADDITION TO THESE STANDING MEMBERS, OTHER AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS MAY BE INVITED TO ATTEND TEAM MEETINGS WHEN, AFTER AN INITIAL REVIEW, THE TEAM FEELS THAT THESE OTHER AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS: (1) MAY HAVE DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT A CASE; (2) MAY BE MENTIONED IN A PERTINENT MANNER IN CASE RECORDS FROM A STANDING TEAM AGENCY; OR (3) MAY HAVE PARTICULAR SUBJECT EXPERTISE WHICH MAY ENHANCE THE OVERALL REVIEW.

AS CHILD DEATH OR NEAR DEATHS IS A RARE OCCURRENCE, THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD AS NEEDED OR FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING UPDATES TO PROCESS FOR THE GROUP, RATHER THAN ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE. THE PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1) THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE TRINITY COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE WILL COMPILE A LIST OF ALL THE DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 19. THE LIST WILL INCLUDE THE CHILD'S NAME, THE DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH OF THE CHILD, THE LOCATION OF THE DEATH, THE ADDRESS OF THE CHILD, THE MOTHER'S NAME, THE BIRTH FATHER'S NAME, THE NAME OF THE ADULT MALE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, THE CAUSE OF DEATH, AND THE COUNTY OF ORIGIN. 2) THE LIST WILL BE SENT TO THE TEAM CHAIRPERSON TO BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. 3) EACH TEAM MEMBER IS THEN RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING HIS/HER INTERNAL AGENCY RECORDS TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE CHILD OR FAMILY AND THEN BRINGING THAT INFORMATION TO THE NEXT TEAM MEETING FOR DISCUSSION. THE AGENCY FILES AND RECORDS ARE NOT MAILED TO TEAM MEMBERS AND ARE NOT REPRODUCED FOR CENTRAL FILES. 4) IF TEAM MEMBERS WISH TO BRING UP NAMES OF ADDITIONAL CASES, THEY CAN BRING THEM UP AT THE MEETING. 5) TEAM MEMBERS MUST BRING THEIR PACKETS OF INFORMATION. IF A TEAM MEMBER CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETING, HE/SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERY OF ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHILD TO THE TEAM BY THE DATE AND TIME OF THE MEETING. 6) THE TEAM MAY OPENLY DISCUSS ALL RELEVANT CASE DATA ON SIDE DURING THE MEETING. NO WRITTEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING WILL BE MAINTAINED.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING OR BY THE CHAIR TO ABSENT MEMBERS FOLLOWING THE MEETING. ALL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE OFFERED VERBALLY. 7) IN THE EVENT THAT A CASE HAS YET TO PROGRESS SUFFICIENTLY TO PROVIDE A CONCLUSION AT THE MEETING, IT WILL BE RESCHEDULED. IF IT IS ONGOING, IT WILL BE PLACED ON SUCCESSIVE AGENDAS UNTIL RESOLVED. AT ANY TIME, A TEAM MEMBER MAY REQUEST THAT A CASE BE RECONSIDERED.

FOR EACH CASE WHERE THE CHILD WAS EITHER IN AN OPEN CPS OR PROBATION CASE, OR HAD AN OPEN REFERRAL, THE INFORMATION IS THEN RECORDED AND REPORTED DIRECTLY TO CDSS AS REQUIRED AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL ASSIGN AN ANALYST TO KEEP RECORDS ON CHILD DEATHS TO USE FOR VERIFICATION OF STATE DATA EACH QUARTER. THIS INFORMATION IS THEN CONFIRMED EACH QUARTER WITH CDSS TO ENSURE THAT THE CORRECT DATA IS ON FILE FOR THE COUNTY WITH CDSS. WHEN A CHILD DEATH OCCURS THAT FALLS UNDER SB 39, W&IC § 10850.4 (C), AND MPP SECTION 31-502.33, THE COUNTY WILL FOLLOW ITS POLICY OF RELEASING RECORDS WITHIN TEN DAYS AS PER CODE. A DETAILED POLICY OUTLINES TIMELINES, DOCUMENTATION, REDACTION, ETC. AND IS ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT. SHOULD THERE BE A RISE IN THE RATE OF CHILD DEATHS, A FURTHER REVIEW INTO ANY SYSTEMIC ISSUES WOULD BE CONDUCTED TO LOOK FOR ANY NEEDED POLICY OR PRACTICE CHANGES TO ADDRESS THIS RISK. CURRENTLY THERE IS NO DATA OR TRENDS TO SUGGEST THIS NEED.

Peer Review Summary

FOCUS AREA

CPS CHOSE TO EXAMINE ITS RE-ENTRY INTO CARE AS ITS FOCUS AREA FOR THE 2013 PQCR. PRIOR TO THE PQCR, THE DEPARTMENTS PERFORMANCE WAS 21.1% REENTRY RATE FROM 7/1/10-6/30/11, OR Q2 2012. IN THIS TIME PERIOD, THERE WERE FIFTEEN YOUTH WITH NO REENTRY, AND 4 WITH A REENTRY, WHICH FELL BELOW THE NATIONAL GOAL FOR THE COUNTY WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY TWO YOUTH REENTERING CARE IN THAT TWELVE MONTH PERIOD. ONE OF THE CHALLENGES IN USING RAW STATISTICAL DATA IN SUCH A SMALL COUNTY IS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXTRAPOLATE QUALITY PATTERNS FROM SUCH LOW NUMBER EVENTS (LNE) AND DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT PATTERNS WITHOUT LOOKING DEEPER

INTO EACH OF THESE CASES TO SEE IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL FACTORS THAT MIGHT HAVE IMPACTED ENTRY RATES. IN THIS CASE, A SINGLE FAMILY WITH THREE CHILDREN RE-ENTERED CARE TOGETHER AND THE 4TH ENTRY WAS A CHILD IN FAMILY MAINTENANCE (FM) WHOSE PARENT HAD A SEVERE ILLNESS/DISABILITY THAT VOLUNTARILY PLACED THEIR CHILD WITH THE DEPARTMENT. IN BOTH CASES, THERE WERE INTERVENTIONS THAT HAD BEEN MADE, BUT DUE TO A DRASTIC CHANGE IN FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES, EACH FAMILY SUFFERED A RE-ENTRY. THOUGH THIS PATTERN IS CLEAR, THE DEPARTMENT'S GOAL IS TO REDUCE ENTRY AND REENTRY RATES AND WANTED TO EXAMINE ITS PRACTICES TO SEE WHERE CHANGES COULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE FAMILY OUTCOMES.

PROBATION CHOSE TO EXAMINE REUNIFICATION FOR ITS PLACEMENTS. PRIOR TO THE PQCR, THE DEPARTMENTS PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN AT 0% FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS OF THE PRIOR SIP (2010-13). IN LARGE PART, THIS IS DUE TO HAVING SEVERAL CHALLENGES. PROBATION HAS ONLY BEEN USING THE CWS/CMS SYSTEM FOR THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF AND HAD NO DATA RECORDED TO SUPPORT THIS AREA, BUT AS THEY DID A INTERNAL CASE REVIEW, THEY SAW THAT NONE OF THEIR YOUTH HAD REUNIFIED. SOME HAD EXITED INTO CARE WITH ANOTHER RELATIVE OR HAD GONE TO A TRANSITIONAL LIVING SITUATION, OR HAD SIMPLY EMANCIPATED. THOUGH THE AVERAGE CASELOAD FOR PROBATION IS ONLY TWO-THREE YOUTH PER YEAR, THIS IS AN AREA OF PRACTICE THAT THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT WANTED TO EXAMINE TO SEE HOW IT COULD IMPROVE ITS PRACTICE AND OFFER YOUTH MORE OPTIONS TO REUNIFY.

METHOD

IN THE FALL OF 2012, THE COUNTY FORMED A TEAM MADE UP OF STAFF FROM CPS, PROBATION, CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL AND CDSS OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU AND OFFICE OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION. ADDITIONALLY, UC DAVIS WAS CONTRACTED WITH TO HELP FACILITATE TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND FACILITIES ISSUES, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE EVENT. TOGETHER THIS TEAM REVIEWED THE PROCESS AND DATE FOR THE COUNTY, DRAFT VERSION OF THE GUIDE, SELECTED FOCUS AREAS AND FORMED A TIMELINE FOR THE PROJECT. THIS GROUP MET BI-WEEKLY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS AND THEN WEEKLY FOR THE LAST 8 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE PQCR IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT THE COUNTY WAS READY FOR THE EVENT.

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A TOTAL OF TWELVE CASES WOULD BE SELECTED TO GIVE AN ADEQUATE SAMPLING; EIGHT FROM CPS AND FOUR FROM PROBATION. THE GROUP DID NOT

HAVE A FINALIZED VERSION OF THE GUIDE, SO IT WAS AGREED TO WITH CDSS THAT VERSION 7.9 WOULD BE USED, WHICH WAS APPROVED AS OF 12/17/12 BY BOTH CDSS REPRESENTATIVES. THIS DRAFT VERSION WAS THEN USED TO DETERMINE THE NEEDS AND GOALS OF THE EVENT AND A JOINT TIMELINE WAS AGREED TO WITH A SCOPE OF WORK. AFTER SELECTING THE FOCUS AREAS, CDSS HELPED TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE COUNTIES THAT MIGHT BE GOOD TO INVITE TO PARTICIPATE, AND THE COUNTY STAFF THEN MADE CONTACT AND INVITED PARTICIPANTS TO ATTEND. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THREE TEAMS OF 3 WORKERS EACH CONSISTING OF ONE PROBATION OFFICER (PO) AND TWO SOCIAL WORKERS (SW) WOULD BE USED TO REVIEW CASES. AFTER SELECTING CASES, A MASTER SCHEDULE OF THE EVENT WAS CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CDSSS AND TEAMS WERE FORMED AND ASSIGNED CASES.

THE GROUP THEN WORKED WITH CDSS TO DEVELOP TOOLS FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL FOCUS AREAS AND THEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CASE REVIEW INTERVIEW PROCESS. THEN THE GROUP IDENTIFIED ALL THE FOCUS GROUPS THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW IN ORDER TO GET INFORMATION FOR THE PEER REVIEW. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THERE WOULD BE A TOTAL OF SIX FOCUS GROUPS WOULD BE CONDUCTED THE WEEK OF THE PEER REVIEW, AND THE ADDITIONAL PARTNERS THAT NEEDED TO BE INTERVIEWED WOULD BE CONDUCTED DURING THE COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING HELD LATER THAT MONTH. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE COUNTY WOULD FACILITATE ITS OWN EVENT, BUT US TA FROM UC DAVIS AND STAFF FROM CDSS TO TRAIN PARTICIPANTS AND TO HELP CONDUCT FOCUS GROUPS.

DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT ALL AGENCIES/PARTIES WERE ON SITE AND PARTICIPATED IN RUNNING THE EVENT OR OFFERING SUPPORT. TEAMS CONDUCTED CASE REVIEW INTERVIEWS ON SITE WHILE A CDSS REVIEW OF THE CWS/CMS FILE WERE TO BE CONDUCTED OFF SITE. AT THE END OF EACH DAY, PARTICIPANTS DEBRIEFED WITH CDSS STAFF AND GAVE A DAILY DEBRIEF THAT WAS THEN PRESENTED TO MANAGEMENT AND STAFF AT THE END OF THE WEEK, ALONG WITH FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS BASED UPON ALL THE NEEDS IDENTIFIED DURING THE WEEK.

CDSS STAFF PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN FACILITATING GROUPS AND OFFERING TRAINING TO PARTICIPANTS. THEY WERE VERY HELPFUL AND ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM. STAFF AT BOTH THE COUNTY AND STATE LEVEL WORKED TOGETHER TO HANDLE THE INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS, BUT COUNTY STAFF WERE NOT PARTICIPANTS IN THESE DISCUSSIONS OR IN DEVELOPING FEEDBACK. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS WORKED IN THIS SITUATION, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROCESS FELT LIKE IT WAS DRIVEN BY STATE STAFF AND HAD A VERY SPECIFIC STATE AGENDA. IF THIS IS A TRULY COUNTY DRIVEN PROCESS, IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO RE-EVALUATE HOW THE

FACILITATION PORTION OF THIS EVENT IS RUN, PERHAPS BY AN OUTSIDE FACILITATOR USING A MANUAL OR TOOL DEVELOPED BY THE STATE IN LIEU OF BEING RUN DIRECTLY BY STATE STAFF. CREDIT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS EVENT IS DUE LARGELY TO A GREAT TEAM OF LOCAL AND STATE STAFF WHO WORKED VERY WELL TOGETHER DURING THIS PROCESS, WHICH WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DEVELOPED AT THE TIME.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

CPS: *PROMISING PRACTICES*

- USE OF SDM/INFORMAL ASSESSMENT THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE CASE
- SAME SOCIAL WORKER THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE CASE
- PRIVATE THERAPY PROVIDED FOR CLIENTS WHEN NEEDED
- COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES (I.E. TRIBES, DA, AOD, PROBATION, FAR NORTHERN, HRN, TBS, VA, FAMILY COURT, ETC.)
- CREATIVITY IN ESTABLISHING WRAP-LIKE SERVICES
- WHEN FAMILY MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE, HAVE PLACED IMMEDIATELY
- QUICK ASSESSMENTS FOR PARENTS AND RELATIVES AND YOUTH
- FUEL CARDS, GAS MONEY
- INFORMAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY EXTENDED FAMILY
- ATTEMPTS MADE TO KEEP CHILDREN PLACED CLOSE ENOUGH TO PARENTS' LOCATION TO PROMOTE BOND AND RELATIONSHIP
- SEEKING OUT OPTIONS TO KEEP SIBLINGS PLACED TOGETHER
- ENGAGED WITH BIOLOGICAL PARENTS THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE CASE (ATTEMPTING TO ENGAGE)
- FFA BROUGHT CHILDREN TO PARENTS FOR VISITATION
- GOOD PROGRESSIVE TRANSITION TO FAMILY OF ORIGIN
- COOPERATIVE FOSTER PARENTS/RELATIVE PLACEMENTS (ALLOWING A POSITIVE TRANSITION)
- VISITING CHILDREN AT SCHOOL AND/OR IN PLACEMENT
- BIOLOGICAL PARENTS WERE VISITED DURING DRUG TESTING
- AGENCY PUT SUPPORTS IN PLACE PRIOR TO REUNIFICATION
- KEEPING CHILDREN IN THEIR SCHOOL OF ORIGIN
- ASSESSING CHILDREN INDIVIDUALLY/UTILIZING LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENTS
- LINKAGES/CAL WORKS

Barriers / Challenges

- Not a great deal of outside trainings
- High caseloads and short staffed
- Social workers taking cases with little transition
- Poverty/unemployment, and lack of employment opportunities
- Close living quarters, not enough space for all family members
- No formalized family search
- Primary focus is on bio parents in the community for services; however, there is a lack of focus on other parents outside of the county
- Threat of assault on staff/law enforcement
- If not placed with relatives, placement out of county is common
- Only one foster home within the county
- Mother's Attorney advised client to not engage with agency or participate in services
- Attorney stalled case
- 27 (numerous) continuances (case transfer)
- Bypassing certain parents when they are involved, seeking services, or living in the home with another parent that is receiving services
- Not in the youth's best interest to bypass FR services as to parents
- Limited efforts to engage extended family once the parent has been bypassed
- Biological parents traveling long distance for visitation
- Case transferred between several counties (3 different counties involved)
- Biological parents just jump through hoops rather than making behavioral changes for long-term successful outcomes
- Court not going along with CWS recommendations (returning youth too early)
- Had a visiting judge
- Judge needing to recues himself
- No inpatient treatment in the county
- County's reaction to relapse/not recognizing relapse is part of recovery

- Drug use in and of itself is not a reason for removal; however, it is a reason for removal in an open case (exigent circumstances); Is there a consistent practice in place?
- Parents moving out of the community because their children are placed outside of the county

Strengths

- ER worker stays with case from entry throughout the life of the case (an outcome resulting from being short staffed)
- Tribal involvement, paying for a service
- Maximizing the limited resources
- Relative placements (local relatives coming forward and becoming available)
- Small town community ties
- Informal support provided by extended family
- Court has barred the non-cooperative attorney
- Biological father expressed wanting to take time to prepare for reunification. The agency worked with Father to slowly transition children back home.

Probation: ***Promising Practices***

- Low staff turn-over
- Experienced probation officers
- Children have fewer POs involved
- Prior knowledge of Youths
- Training an additional officer
- ILP services
- Education Liaison involved with IEP and overall school issues
- PO addressing behavioral changes with youth

Barriers / Challenges

- No concurrent planning
- No relative searches or family finding
- Possible limited communication between agencies

- Came into care close to age of majority (prior CPS cases)
- Limited knowledge of the Youths
- Limited time and resources to focus on Title IV-E placements
- Difficulty determining which agency may best meet the Youth's needs

Strengths

- Training an additional officer
- Youth connected with school staff, and self-initiated contact with the staff (reached out for assistance)
- Education Liaison involved with IEP and overall school issues
- FFA placement
- When parents are willing to engage, PO was able to effectively interact with parents
- Utilize group homes that have all available services to meet child's needs
- Children graduating from high school

Peer Promising Practices

Peer Review participants included representatives from Shasta, Butte, Glenn, Stanislaus and Monterey counties. Peer Review participants were able to share some of the following promising practices from their counties with local staff to help improve processes and outcomes:

Expanding Differential Response (DR) to include more front end interventions and reduce the number of families coming into care and reducing the number of families going through the court system in formal cases, as in Monterey. They had been able to reduce the number of cases in FM and FR and create units or teams that did more hands on front end prevention. As they save money on Title IV-E placements, they were able to generate cost savings and re-invest into these programs. The goals is to address the family needs early rather than to wait and have to formally intervene in a traditional response. Their initial data showed that these interventions were successful and they were also seeing a reduction in re-entry rates.

In permanency planning, several counties suggested using Skype as a means to help facilitate visits with family members that are further away or to help kids connect with relatives in prospective Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) placements to help build bonds prior to moving, or to facilitate visits with family here after a move. Also suggested were Team Decision Making meetings (TDM) for looking at prevention services or in making placement decision or possible voluntary services. (Trinity county had replaced this model with FTM in the last two years, though there are several TDM facilitators on staff currently)

Another county participant suggested the development of programs for parent partners or another model that works with parents of youth in care and connecting them to a mentor who can help guide them through the system or act as a sponsor of sorts to help them walk through recovery, reunification, services, etc. Another participant had suggested that a new campaign be used to help educate the community, families and partners to help them understand the purpose, mission and services offered by the department. This community outreach would have a dual goal of helping to increase community engagement and use of services while also helping to re-brand the department as a more family supportive agency rather than the older model of an adversarial agency.

State Administered CWS/CMS System Case Review

The State is developing the case review and the findings were not available from CDSS for this report. For additional information on this process, please contact CDSS, Outcomes and Accountability Bureau.

Outcome Data Measures

Child Welfare:

S1.1 No Recurrence of Maltreatment

From July 1, 2010 to December 2012, Trinity County's CPS performance for no recurrence of maltreatment averaged at 2.83%, far below the California average of 6.86% over the same time period. The recurrence of maltreatment measure shows that Trinity CPS has been at 96% or higher ever year for the last three years and had performed higher than the national goal of 94.6%.[17]

Analysis

County performance has improved in this measure in the last several years, from an average of 13.06% in the previous C-CFSR cycle to the current 2.83%. Though this is a small data set to compare and small data can be skewed by a large sibling set entering care, there are several things that should be highlighted in comparing this data. In the previous period, caseloads were lower and the recurrence rates were higher, requiring us to look at the practices that were being employed to look at why with high caseloads that recurrence rates are down. First, the department began to look at how it could incorporate several practices, including participatory case planning, family team meetings, and use of assessments to help guide access to services. These services are all geared at helping the family truly address their risk and safety issues and to help them ensure that they have addressed the issues that brought them before the department and prevent recurrence.

Department practice and policies require all SW's include families in case planning and that service development is informed by the use of assessments. Eventually performance will likely level off, but it is our goal to maintain excellence reunification rates and a low recurance rate, which are usually tied together. As reunification rates rise, typically recurrence or re-entry rates rise. Reunification needs to be solid to prevent recurrence after youth go home, so the department also has decided that it will support longer supervision of FM after reunification to ensure family stability and

[17] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

TRANSITIONS. ONE AREA THAT IS DIFFICULT TO EXAMINE IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES, AS THERE IS SUCH A SMALL NUMBER OF YOUTH, EACH TIME WE PULL DATA IT CHANGES COMPLETELY BASED ON A SINGLE CHILD. OVERALL, WE DO SEE A SLIGHTLY HIGHER RATE OF ENTRY OR RECURRENCE IN NATIVE CHILDREN, BUT THEY ARE THE SECOND LARGEST REPRESENTED POPULATION IN THE COUNTY AND IT IS NOT BEYOND WHAT IS EXPECTED.

USE OF CAPIT FUNDS HAVE OFFERED NURTURING PARENTING AS AN EB INTERVENTION OPTION SINCE 2010 AT NO COST TO FAMILIES COUNTY WIDE, OFFERED ON SITE TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES AN INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS BY USING A COACHING MODEL WORKING WITH FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES. THIS PROGRAM IS ATTRIBUTED IN PART AS A SERVICE THAT HELPS TO EDUCATE AND EMPOWER FAMILIES TO MAKE DIFFERENT CHOICES AND PREVENT RECURRENCE. WE HAVE RECEIVED EXCELLENT FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS THAT SUPPORT ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

S2.1 NO MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE

FROM JULY 2010-JUNE 2013, TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAS HAD NO MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE, 0% RATE, VERSUS THE CALIFORNIA AVERAGE OF .37% FOR THE SAME TIME PERIOD. IN FACT, THERE HAS NOT BEEN A MALTREATMENT IN CARE FINDING IN THE LAST 5 YEARS. COUNTY PERFORMANCE SURPASSES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AT 99.68% IN THIS AREA.[18]

ANALYSIS

AS PART OF ITS PRACTICE AROUND SEARCHING FOR THE MOST PERMANENT AND BEST MATCHED HOMES, THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN GREAT CARE IN DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ITS FFA PROVIDERS AND THOROUGHLY VETTING ITS RELATIVE/NREFM FAMILIES PRIOR TO PLACEMENT. THIS DEEPER REVIEW OF PLACEMENTS GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARE IN THE BEST MATCHED PLACEMENT, BUT HAS THE ADDED BENEFIT OF BEING A "HARM IN CARE" REDUCTION TOOL. THIS MEASURE CAN BE SKEWED BY A SINGLE OCCURRENCE, BUT WE HAVE NOT HAD THAT HAPPEN SINCE THE 2007/08 SFY, WHEN A SINGLE CHILD EXPERIENCE MALTREATMENT. AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH

[18] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

STATE REQUIREMENTS, SW SEE YOUTH EACH MONTH IN CARE AND OUR PRACTICE IS TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH THE YOUTH TO CREATE BOND AND OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO YOUTH TO SHARE ANY CONCERNS OR ISSUES OCCURRING IN THE HOME, AND THAT GIVES THE SW THE INFORMATION THEY WILL NEED TO ADDRESS ANY POSSIBLE RISK OR SAFETY ISSUES RIGHT AWAY. STRESS HAS BEEN PUT INTERNALLY ON MAKING THESE QUALITY HOME VISITS AND THAT HAS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE STRATEGIES THAT HAVE LED TO ONGOING RATED OF NO MALTREATMENT.

THERE ARE NO RACIAL/GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES TO REPORT OR TIES TO OCAP FUNDED PROGRAMS FOR THIS MEASURE.

C1.1 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)

IN THE LAST 3 YEAR PERIOD, THE COUNTY PERFORMED AT AN AVERAGE OF 70.14% REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT), VERSUS THE CALIFORNIA AVERAGE OF 64.07 FOR THE SAME PERIOD. THIS MISSES THE NATIONAL GOAL OF 75.2, BUT NOT ONLY BY 5.06%, AND THIS COULD CHANGE WITH A SINGLE REUNIFICATION.[19]

ANALYSIS

IN LOOKING AT THE RATES FOR THIS MEASURE, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT DATA SETS OF 7, 4 AND 6 CHILDREN IN EACH YEAR BEING REVIEWED FOR THE COUNTY. THIS SMALL DATA SET IS HARD TO PULL PATTERNS FROM, BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL PRACTICES THAT COULD IMPACT THIS PERFORMANCE. FIRST, THE DEPARTMENT HAD CHANGES SOME OF ITS PRACTICES AROUND REUNIFICATION AND HAD, IN SEVERAL CASES, ASKED FOR THE ADDITIONAL 6 MONTHS OF SERVICES TO HELP ENSURE THAT CHILDREN COULD BE SAFELY RETURNED AND HAVE A LOWER RISK OF RE-ENTRY BY ENSURING THE FAMILY WAS STABLE PRIOR TO REUNIFICATION. SECOND, THERE WERE ISSUES IN SEVERAL OF THE CASES WHERE EXCESSIVE CONTINUANCES BY THE PARENTS COUNCIL RESULTS IN DELAYING HEARINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS WERE PUSHED BEYOND THE 12 MONTH MARK. A THIRD CONTRIBUTING FACTOR COULD BE THE LACK OF LOCAL RESOURCES OR THE DELAY IN ACCESSING THEM TO ADDRESS RISK AND SAFETY ISSUES DELAYING REUNIFICATION. THIS IS A SYSTEMIC ISSUE THAT HAS BEEN AN ONGOING AREA UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

[19] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

INTERNALLY, PRACTICES AND POLICIES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO HELP GUIDE SW PRACTICE AND SUPERVISION TO TRY TO ENSURE THE TIMELINES FOR REUNIFICATION ARE MET WHILE BALANCING THE NEED FOR MEANINGFUL REDUCTION IN RISK AND SAFETY COUPLED WITH BUILDING NETWORKS OF SUPPORT TO REUNIFY FAMILIES AND ENSURE THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF RE-ENTRY IS REDUCED. THIS IS A FINE BALANCE THAT ADDITIONAL PRACTICES AND POLICIES WILL BE DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT IN THE COMING SIP CYCLE. THERE WERE NO CLEAR PATTERNS AS TO RACIAL, ETHNIC OR GEOGRAPHICAL PERFORMANCE, BUT THOSE IN OUTLYING COMMUNITIES ARE KNOWN TO FACE ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING SERVICES. IN ORDER TO OFFER EB TREATMENT/PROGRAMS, THERE HAS BEEN A PUSH IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS TO REQUIRE HIGHER LEVELS OF EB CURRICULUM BE OFFERED FOR ALL OCAP FUNDED INITIATIVES, AND IT IS THE COUNTIES HOPE THAT THIS HAS IMPACTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPACT THE TIMELY REUNIFICATION DATA.

C1.2 MEDIAN TIME OF REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT)

IN THE LAST 3 YEAR PERIOD, THE COUNTY PERFORMED AT AN AVERAGE OF 7.3 MONTHS MEDIAN TIME TO REUNIFICATION, COMPARED TO THE STATES AVERAGE TIME OF 8.66 MONTHS. THIS STILL FALLS SLIGHTLY SHORT OF THE NATIONAL GOAL OF 5.4 MONTHS. THIS DATA IS TAKEN FROM THE REUNIFICATIONS OF 19 PER YEAR, THE THREE YEAR AVERAGED RATE.[20]

ANALYSIS

LONGER STAYS IN CARE PRIOR TO REUNIFICATION CAN BE FOR A VARIETY OF FACTORS. FOR EXAMPLE, YOUTH WHO'S CASES HAVE HAD EXCESSIVE DELAYS MAY HAVE A LONGER STAY IN CARE DUE TO CONTINUED HEARINGS. ANOTHER FACTOR THAT IMPACTS REUNIFICATION IS GETTING PARENTS TO ENGAGE IN SERVICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TRINITY COUNTY PLACES YOUTH PRIMARILY OUT OF COUNTY DUE TO LACK OF LOCAL PLACEMENTS, AND THIS LEADS TO SEVERAL BARRIERS IN PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN SERVICES AND VISITATION. ALSO, A LACK OF RESOURCES SUCH AS HOUSING SOMETIMES DELAYS REUNIFICATION WHILE PARENTS ARE WORKING TO ESTABLISH A HOME FOR THE CHILD TO RETURN TO. THERE HAS NOT BEEN AN OBSERVED OR STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT PATTER AROUND RACE, ETHNICITY OR GEOGRAPHIC ZONE OF THE COUNTY;

[20] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

HOWEVER, THERE WERE A SEVERAL SPIKES IN INCREASED TIME IN CARE FOR OLDER CHILDREN. THESE WERE ATTRIBUTED TO A SINGLE SIBLING SETS REUNIFICATION DATES SKEWING THE DATA.

TO TRY TO ADDRESS THESE DELAYS, STAFF WORKS WITH FAMILIES TO HELP THEM ACCESS SERVICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE DEVELOPED AN IN-HOUSE POSITION TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND AODS SERVICES FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH, FC NURSE AND ED LIAISON WORK COOPERATIVELY TO GET YOUTH ACCESS TO SERVICES AND STAFF TRIES TO HELP CONNECT PARENTS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE DEPARTMENT EVEN OFFSETS SOME COSTS FOR PRIVATE THERAPY OR SERVICES WHEN THE FAMILY HAS NO ABILITY TO PAY TO PREVENT DELAYS TO SERVICES AND REUNIFICATION. ONE OF THESE SOURCES IS PSSF, WHICH CAN COVER HELP WITH SPECIALIZED NEEDS, THERAPY, EVALUATIONS, ETC.

C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (ENTRY COHORT)

FROM JANUARY 1, 2010-JUNE 30, 2012 TRINITY COUNTIES' CPS REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS RATE WAS AVERAGED AT 44.53%, WITH CALIFORNIA'S PERFORMANCE AT 41.23% FOR THE SAME PERIOD. THE NATIONAL GOAL WAS 48.4%.[21] THOUGH TRINITY MISSED THIS GOAL, IT WAS CLOSER TO THE GOAL THAT THE STATE AVERAGE. THIS AGAIN IS A LNE, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 18 YOUTH BEING INCLUDED IN THIS MEASURE. A SINGLE SIBLING SET OR CHILD CAN CHANGE THE DATA. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT TRINITY COUNTIES' RATE OF THOSE STILL IN CARE AT 12 MO. IS AVERAGED AT 49.3% FOR THIS TIME PERIOD, WHEREAS THE STATES AVERAGE WAS 54.86%.

ANALYSIS

TRINITY COUNTY CPS STRIVES TO HELP FAMILIES REMOVE BARRIERS TO RETURNING CHILDREN HOME. FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN OVER AGE 3, THIS IS TYPICALLY 12 MONTHS. THE DATA HERE DOES NOT SHOW ANY SIGNIFICANT PATTERNS OR ANOMALIES, BUT WHAT SHOULD BE NOTED IS THAT WHEN IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE FAMILY, THE DEPARTMENT WILL OFFERED EXTENDED SERVICES TO THE 18 MONTH MARK IF THAT WILL HELP THE FAMILY BE STRONGER AND REUNIFY. THE BELIEF THAT FAMILIES NEED

[21] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports.* Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

QUALITY CHANGE RATHER THAN THE FASTED CHANGE SOMETIMES LEADS TO LONGER STAYS IN CARE, BUT THE DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS FAMILIES WHO NEED ADDITIONAL TIME AND ARE ON TRACK TO REUNIFY. THE COUNTIES PERFORMANCE IN THIS MEASURE HAS FLUCTUATED OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS, BUT HAS NOT BEEN CONSISTENT IN ITS GROWTH. AS WITH SEVERAL OTHER MEASURES, THE DEPARTMENT SEEKS TO HELP REUNIFICATION THROUGH REMOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES FOR FAMILIES THAT ADDRESS THEIR RISK, SAFETY AND HELP THEM CREATE LASTING CHANGES THAT HELP THEM SUCCEED AND PARENTS. CAPIT FUNDED PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED LOCALLY FOR PARENTING AND PSSF PROGRAMS COVER COSTS FOR SERVICES THAT REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING NEEDED SERVICES.

THERE IS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN ANY RACIAL, ETHNIC OR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS COVERED BY THIS MEASURE, THOUGH WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE SOME PARENTS ACCESS SERVICES IN REDDING AND HAVE HAD SEVERAL CLIENTS MOVE THERE WHEN THEIR CHILDREN WERE PLACED THERE. IN EACH CIRCUMSTANCE THE MOVE WAS NOT JUST DUE TO TRANSPORTATION, BUT USUALLY AN ISSUE OF NEEDING TO RELOCATE TO SET DISTANCE BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND A SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS A FORMER PARTNER WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE RELATIONSHIP, OR TO BE IN A NEW COMMUNITY TO BUILD SUPPORTS OUTSIDE OF THEIR FORMER FRIENDS WHEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE WAS PRESENT. WE HAVE SEEN MANY FAMILIES STRUGGLE WITH REMAINING IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND BEING ABLE TO BREAK FREE OF OLD PATTERNS, SO SOME TRY A CHANGE OF LOCATION TO HELP SUPPORT THEIR RECOVERY. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO RELOCATE, BUT WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT THE FAMILIES CHOICES TO GET STRONG, HEALTHY SUPPORTS AROUND THEM.

C1.4 REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD AN AVERAGE RATE OF 86.56% FOR NO REENTRY WITHIN 12MONTHS, WHILE CALIFORNIA'S AVERAGE WAS 87.9%. BOTH FELL SHORT OF THE NATIONAL GOAL OF 91.1% NO REENTRY. THIS IS ANOTHER LNE, WITH A TOTAL OF 7 CHILDREN OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD REENTERING CARE, INCLUDING A LARGER SIBLING SET THAT SKEW THE OVERALL AVERAGE.[22]

ANALYSIS

[22] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ANALYSIS, THERE IS A SINGLE REENTRY IN CARE, BUT IN THE SECOND YEAR THERE IS A SIBLING SET OF 4 AND IN YEAR THREE OF THE DATA THERE IS ANOTHER SIBLING SET OF 2 THAT CAUSE THE MEASURE TO FALL BELOW THE NATIONAL STANDARD. IT IS A CHALLENGE TO HAVE THE DATA TELL A STORY BASED ON SUCH A SMALL DATA SET, BUT IN REVIEWING THE INDIVIDUAL CASES IN THE SET, WE SEE THAT THERE WAS A SINGLE FAMILY IN EACH OF THESE REENTRIES, RATHER THAN MULTIPLE FAMILIES. WHAT THIS LEADS US TO CONSIDER IS WHAT ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO PREVENT REENTRY AND HELP THE FAMILY HAVE LASTING CHANGE THAT WOULD HELP PREVENT THEM FROM RETURN TO CARE OR ONGOING CRISIS. THE DEPARTMENT HAS LOOKED AT IT PROCESS AND IS CONSIDERING WHAT ADDITIONAL PREVENTION EFFORTS CAN BE PUT IN PLACE TO HELP PREVENT RE-ENTRY AND FUTURE FORMAL INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING EXPANDED VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS OR OUTSOURCING TO A DR PROVIDER. A LACK OF STRONG COMMUNITY BASED INTERVENTIONS IS A CHALLENGE FOR FAMILIES, ALONG WITH A LACK OF PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH A COMMUNITY THAT FACES GENERATIONAL POVERTY AND A LACK OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, COUPLES WITH LIMITED HOUSING, A HIGH RATE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT MORE ENTRIES INTO CARE, THE CAPC HAS TRIED TO SOLICIT MORE EB PROGRAMS FOR ITS CBCAP GRANTS, AS WELL AS FROM CPS PROVIDER FOR BOTH CAPIT AND PSSF FUNDING. THE HOPE IS THAT INCREASING THESE TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS AND INCREASING UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THESE NEEDS WITH PROVIDERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WILL HELP TO INCREASE REFERRAL AND ACCESS TO THESE SERVICES AND HELP IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND CHILD SAFETY. THE BEGINNING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY INFORMED PRACTICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT IS ANOTHER STRATEGY THAT AIMS AT REDUCING THE RATE OF ENTRY AND HELPING TO EMPOWER FAMILIES TO LOOK AT THEIR RISK AND SAFETY DIFFERENTLY AND ACCESS MORE OF THEIR OWN NETWORK OF CARE.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT WHEN REUNIFICATION HAPPENS TOO QUICKLY, WE HAVE SEEN FAMILIES REENTER CARE, AND HAVE TAKEN THE STANCE THAT WE WOULD RATHER IT TAKE A LITTLE LONGER TO HELP A FAMILY SUCCEED AND NOT COME BACK THAN TO REUNIFY QUICKLY AND KEEP TRAUMATIZING CHILDREN BY COMING BACK INTO CARE AGAIN AND AGAIN. OUR GOAL IS TO TRY TO MEET OUR MANDATES WHILE TRULY

SUPPORTING FAMILIES BEING WHOLE AND HEALTHY, PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO RAISE CHILDREN IN.

C2.1 ADOPTION WITHIN 24 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD A RATE OF 64.83% OF YOUTH WHO EXITED TO ADOPTION FIND PERMANENCE WITHIN 24 MONTHS, VERSUS 35.03% FOR THIS STATE AVERAGE FOR THE SAME PERIOD. THE NATION GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE IS 36.6%, BUT THE ADOPTIONS RATE IN THE COUNTY FAR SURPASSES THIS RATE.[23]

ANALYSIS

THE HIGHER RATE OF ADOPTION WITHIN 24 MONTHS CAN PRIMARILY BE ATTRIBUTED TO ITS HIGH VALUE ON CONCURRENT PLANNING AND ACTIVE EFFORTS TO FIND A CONCURRENT HOME RIGHT AWAY FOR EACH CHILD SO THAT IF REUNIFICATION FAILS, THE CHILD IS NOT DELAYED IN ACHIEVING PERMANENCE. IT IS THE DEPARTMENTS STANDARD THAT SOCIAL WORKERS ARE HELD TO THE STANDARD OF EVALUATING EACH PLACEMENT FOR BOTH ITS FIT DURING REUNIFICATION AND THE NEED TO SEEK CONCURRENT PLANNING AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IF THE PARENTS FAILED REUNIFICATION. THIS IS DONE BOTH UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION FROM THE SW SUPERVISOR AND IN A JOINT STAFFING ON A REGULAR BASIS. IN SITUATIONS WHERE THERE ARE CONTESTED PLACEMENT ISSUES, FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS ARE SOMETIMES HELD TO DISCUSS PLACEMENT AND OTHER RELATED CASE ISSUES.

IN ADDITION TO A HIGH VALUE FOR CONCURRENT PLANNING, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DEVELOPED A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR STATE ADOPTIONS DISTRICT OFFICE AND AS A POLICY, ALL SW REFER CASES IN REUNIFICATION TO ADOPTIONS TO HAVE AN ASSESSMENT AT DISPOSITION IN THE EVENT THAT THE FAMILY DOES NOT REUNIFY, SO PLACEMENT DISCUSSION INCLUDE THEIR INPUT INTO ALL CONCURRENT PLANNING. WE HAVE NOT SEEN A SIGNIFICANT TREND IN REGARDS TO ANY PARTICULAR RACE, ETHNICITY OR GEOGRAPHIC REASON. IN ADDITION, WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE COURT AND THE CHILDREN'S COUNCIL, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO TRIED TO ENSURE THAT PERMANENCE IS NOT DELAYED FOR CHILDREN BY ENSURING TIMELINES ARE MET FOR NOTICING, ETC. AND THAT THERE ARE NOT EXCESSIVE CONTINUANCES. IN SOME CASES,

[23] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

THERE HAVE BEEN NEEDS TO HELP ADOPTIVE FAMILIES MEET A SPECIAL NEED TO PREVENT DELAYS IN FINALIZATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT USES THESE FUNDS FROM PSSF ADOPTIONS PROMOTION AND SUPPORT TO HELP WITH SPECIALIZED BEHAVIORAL NEEDS, OR RESOURCES AS NEEDED. IN EACH OF THESE CASES, WE HAVE SEEN THESE FAMILIES ADOPT AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVE PERMANENCE.

C2.2 MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION (EXIT COHORT)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD AN AVERAGE OF 19.1 MONTHS AS ITS MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION, WHEREAS CALIFORNIA'S RATE WAS AT 28.63 MONTHS. THE NATIONAL GOAL IS 27.3 MONTHS.[24] THIS IS FOR A TOTAL OF 27 CHILDREN OVER THE 3 YEAR PERIOD.

ANALYSIS

THE MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION FOR CHILDREN EXITING CARE TO ADOPTION HAS VERY SIMILAR RATIONALE AS THE PREVIOUS DATA SET. THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING PERMANENCE AND ACTIVE EFFORTS IN CONCURRENT PLANNING ARE THE STRONGEST FACTORS IN THE FASTER RATE OF ADOPTION. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THE DEPARTMENTS COMMITMENT TO HELPING REMOVE BARRIERS TO PLACEMENT USING PSSF FUNDS TO MEET UNUSUAL NEEDS WHEN NO OTHER SOURCE WILL.

WHAT SHOULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER IS THE AGES OF THOSE IN CORRELATION TO THEIR MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION. WHAT STOOD OUT WHILE ANALYZING THIS MEASURE WAS THE SIGNIFICANT JUMP IN AGE WHEN LOOKING AT THE 16-17 YEAR OLDS, WHO AVERAGE AT JUST 39 MONTHS MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION. WE ARE FINDING THESE ARE THE YOUTH WHO PERHAPS HAD AN EARLIER FAILED ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT OR WHO INITIALLY DID NOT WANT TO BE ADOPTED AND LATER CHANGED THEIR MINDS. THIS GROUP WAS IN CARE SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER THAN ANY OTHER. THERE WAS ANOTHER ANOMALY IN 2011 THERE WERE A FEW CHILDREN, AGES 11-15, WHO HAD ALSO EXPERIENCED FAILED ADOPTIVE PLACEMENTS AND THEN MOVE SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE FINDING PLACEMENT. IN THIS GROUP THERE WAS A SINGLE INCIDENCE WHERE A CHILD WAS IN CARE A TOTAL OF 74 MONTHS, DRASTICALLY SKEWING THE ENTIRE DATA SET. IT IS A CHALLENGE TO ANTICIPATE A PLACEMENT FAILURE AFTER THE 366.26 HEARING, SO THE DEPARTMENT

[24] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

TRY'S TO DO ITS BEST AT ASSESSING PLACEMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND LOOKING FOR WAYS THE DEPARTMENT CAN HELP SUPPORT PLACEMENTS FOR CHILD STABILITY.

THERE ARE NO RACIAL, ETHNIC OR GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THIS OUTCOME MEASURE.

C2.3 ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (17 MONTHS IN CARE)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD AN AVERAGE OF 29.3% OF ITS CHILDREN IN CARE FOR 17 MONTHS OR MORE ACHIEVE ADOPTION WITHIN 12MONTHS. CALIFORNIA'S RATE FOR THE SAME TIME PERIOD WAS 20.16%, WHILE THE NATIONAL GOAL IS 22.7%.

ANALYSIS

THIS MEASURE EXAMINES THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ARE IN CARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A YEAR WHO ACHIEVE AN ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS, OR BY THE END OF THAT YEAR. TRINITY COUNTY PERFORMS WELL ABOVE THE STATE AVERAGE BY ALMOST 9%, AND ALMOST 7% ABOVE THE NATIONAL GOAL. THIS MEANS THAT CHILDREN WHO ARE IN CARE ARE ACHIEVING PERMANENCE IN ADOPTIONS WITHIN THE 12 MONTH GOAL. THIS IS A TOTAL OF 9 OF 31 CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD, WHICH IS A POSITIVE TREND. MUCH OF THIS SUCCESS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE STRONG COMMITMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE EARLY REFERRALS TO STATE ADOPTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN FOR ADOPTABILITY AT THE DISPOSITIONAL HEARING FOR THOSE IN FR. FROM THERE, THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AGENCIES IN COORDINATING PERMANENCY PLANNING AND COOPERATION IN LOOKING FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN HAVE HELPED TO ACHIEVE THIS RATE OF ADOPTION. ALSO, THE COORDINATED CASE PLANNING HELPS CHILDREN GOING TO ADOPTION TO EXPERIENCE THE FEWEST DELAYS IN THEIR CASE AND KEEP THEM ON TRACK TO ADOPTION.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A REFLECTION OF THE TEAMWORK AND INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION BETWEEN TRINITY COUNTY CPS AND STATE ADOPTIONS DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF AND PRACTICES. TIS INCLUDES JOINT STAFFING MONTHLY, REGULAR COMMUNICATION, AND COORDINATED CASE PLANNING. THERE ARE NO RACIAL, ETHNIC OR GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THIS OUTCOME MEASURE.

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

From July 2010 to June 2013 Trinity County CPS had an average of 4.16 % of its children in care for 17 months or more who were legally free for adoption within 6 months. California's Rate for the same time period was 7.8%, while the National goal is 10.9%.

Analysis

Trinity County CPS performs under the state average for this data measure. This can be attributed to several causes. The Department opts not to seek legally freeing children for adoption until there is a identified permanent plan and placement ready to move toward adoptions, preventing any legal orphans from remaining in foster care when not necessary. The Department works closely with State adoptions to prevent this situation, so that sometimes delays terminating parental rights. The second cause can be attributed to delays within the courts process. This can be delays in noticing due to absent parents that extend timelines, cases in appeal that extend timeframes, or cases who are given extede3d timelines for reunification and then fail, which push the timelines for termination of rights out beyond the 12 month timeline.

There are no ethic or geographical issues related to this issue, but for cases that fall under ICWA, there are sometimes additional delays in cases due to trying to coordinate case services with the tribes or in finding permanent placements that meet tribal needs.

C2.5 Adoption within 12 Months (Legally Free)

From July 2010 to June 2013 Trinity County CPS had an average of 62.26% of its children who were legally free for adoption and were adopted within 12 months. California's Rate for the same time period was 64.26%, while the National goal is 53.7%.

Analysis

Trinity County CPS performed above the national goal of 53.7% and achieved adoptions for 16 of the 27 children in this category. This performance can be attributed to strong permanency planning by social workers and a strong partnership with State adoptions. Social workers regularly meet with their supervisor to discuss and plan for permanency options with youth who will not be returning home. This active process has helped to support youth not being delayed in achieving permanence.

ANOTHER PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO WORK WITH THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY TO HELP ENSURE THAT THE CHILD'S VOICE AROUND PLACEMENT IS HEARD IN COURT.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES RELATED TO THIS MEASURE.

C3.1 EXIT TO PERMANENCY (24 MONTHS IN CARE)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD AN AVERAGE OF 36.17% OF ITS CHILDREN WHO WERE IN CARE (FOR AT LEAST 24 MONTHS) EXIT TO PERMANENCY WITHIN YEAR OR AT 18. CALIFORNIA'S RATE FOR THE SAME TIME PERIOD WAS 30.27%, WHILE THE NATIONAL GOAL IS 29.1%.

ANALYSIS

THOUGH A RELATIVELY SMALL SAMPLE OF DATA, THIS IS BASED UPON A TOTAL OF 10 OF 27 CHILDREN IN THIS DATA SET ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR THIS PERIOD. THESE ARE YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN IN CARE FOR AT LEAST 24 MONTHS OR LONGER WHO ACHIEVED PERMANENCY. IN THE 2012/13 FISCAL YEAR, THIS INDICATOR JUMPED TO 50 % FOR THIS YEAR. THIS IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE IS ATTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE DEPARTMENT REVAMPING ITS WORK ON PERMANENCY AND INTEGRATING PERMANENCY PLANNING FOR THOSE IN CARE IN THIS DATA MEASURE AS A PART OF REGULAR PRACTICE. AT LEAST ONCE A QUARTER THE PROGRESS ON THESE LONG TERM CASES ARE BROUGHT TO A STAFFING AND THE PERMANENT PLAN IS REVIEWED WITH STAFF, WHERE WE LOOK AT THEIR CASE AND HOW WE CAN HELP SUPPORT THE YOUTH IN ACHIEVING PERMANENCY BY REMOVING BARRIERS, LOOKING AT HOW THEIR PLAN IS WORKING AND EVEN REEXAMINING RELATIVES, ETC. THE GOAL IS TO ENSURE THAT NO CHILD STAYS IN CARE WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND THEM PERMANENCY OUTSIDE OF THE SYSTEM. ADDITIONALLY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH IS FFA'S TO HELP RECRUIT CONCURRENT HOMES TO SUPPORT PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN WITH THE FEWEST MOVES POSSIBLE.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THIS MEASURE, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OFTEN FINDING PLACEMENTS FOR THESE DIFFICULT CASES SOMETIMES REQUIRES LOOKING FURTHER OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY AND DOES DEMAND INCREASED STAFF TIME FOR TRAVEL AND COORDINATION TO SUPPORT THESE PLACEMENT EFFORTS.

C3.2 EXITS TO PERMANENCY (LEGALLY FREE AT EXIT)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD 100 % OF ITS YOUTH WHO WERE LEGALLY FREED FOR ADOPTION EXIT TO PERMANENCY PRIOR TO THEIR 18TH

BIRTHDAY. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 96.93 %, WHILE THE NATIONAL GOAL WAS 98%.

ANALYSIS

THIS WAS MEASURE FOR A TOTAL OF 29 CHILDREN IN THIS THREE YEAR WINDOW, WHICH EXCEEDED THE NATIONAL GOAL. THE DEPARTMENT STRIVES TO FIND PERMANENCE FOR EVERY CHILD AND THROUGH BETTER EARLY CASE COORDINATION AND THE INCREASED FOCUS ON PERMANENCY PLANNING, AS WELL AS RE-EVALUATING PERMANENCY FOR THOSE IN CARE 24 MONTHS OR LONGER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS LEVEL OF SUCCESS. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE AND THAT NO CHILD WILL EXIT CARE WHO IS LEGALLY FREE AND WANTS PERMANENCY.

THERE ARE NO ETHIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE.

C3.3 IN CARE 3 YEARS OR LONGER (EMANCIPATION/AGE 18)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD AN THREE YEAR AVERAGE OF 44.43% OF ITS YOUTH WHO WERE IN CARE 3 YEARS OR LONGER WHO EITHER EMANCIPATE OR WERE IN CARE ON THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 56.36%, WHILE THE NATIONAL GOAL WAS 37.5%.

ANALYSIS

THIS MEASURE IS A CHALLENGE. IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THIS DATA SET, THERE WERE NO CHILDREN IN CARE FOR THIS MEASURE, ONE IN THE SECOND YEAR AND THEN ANOTHER IN THE THIRD YEAR. THIS MEANS THIS ENTIRE SET IS BASED UPON 2 YOUTH, WHICH IS SUCH A SMALL DATA SET THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH ANY PATTERNS BASED UPON PRACTICE. IN EXAMINING THESE CASES, BOTH YOUTH IN CARE HERE WERE IN PLACEMENTS THAT HAD FAILED DUE TO BEHAVIOR ISSUES AND HAD RESULTED IN THE YOUTH MOVING INTO GROUP HOME CARE AND THEN LATER STEPPING BACK DOWN INTO RESIDENTIAL CARE. IN BOTH CASES, IT TOOK ADDITIONAL TIME FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO HELP IDENTIFY AND ASSIST THE YOUTH IN FINDING PERMANENCY, AND ULTIMATELY BOTH YOUTH CHOSE TO EMANCIPATE AT 18.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE.

C4.1 PLACEMENT STABILITY (8 DAYS TO 12 MONTHS IN CARE)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD A THREE YEAR AVERAGE OF 91.5% OF ITS YOUTH IN CARE (8 DAYS TO NO MORE THAN 12 MONTHS) HAVE 2 OR

FEWER PLACEMENTS. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 85.73%, WHILE THE NATIONAL GOAL WAS 86%.

ANALYSIS

THIS OUTCOME MEASURE REPRESENTS A TOTAL OF 132 OF 146 CHILDREN IN THIS THREE YEAR PERIOD WHO WERE ABLE TO HAVE TWO OR FEWER PLACEMENTS. THE HIGH PERFORMANCE IN PLACEMENT STABILITY IS DUE TO THE STRONG AND ONGOING EFFORTS BY THE DEPARTMENT TO INCORPORATE THOROUGH PLACEMENT MATCHING, USE OF FAMILY PLACEMENTS, AND THE WRAPAROUND STYLE OF CASE MANAGEMENT TO PREVENT PLACEMENT MOVES OR DISRUPTIONS. STAFF LOOKS CLOSELY AT PLACEMENTS TO LOOK FOR THE BEST LONG TERM PLACEMENT IN THE EVENT THAT CHILDREN DO NOT REUNIFY, WE LOOK FOR A PLACEMENT THAT COULD TURN INTO A PERMANENT PLACEMENT, OR A CONCURRENT HOME. THIS IS ALSO DUE TO SUCCESSFUL REUNIFICATION RATES IN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE.

C4.2 PLACEMENT STABILITY (12 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS IN CARE)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD A THREE YEAR AVERAGE OF 71% OF ITS YOUTH IN CARE (12-24 MONTHS) HAVE 2 OR FEWER PLACEMENTS. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 66.7%, WHILE THE NATIONAL GOAL WAS 65.4%.

ANALYSIS

THOUGH THE COUNTY STILL PERFORMED WELL ABOVE THIS GOAL AND STATE PERFORMANCE, THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN PLACEMENT STABILITY FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN IN CARE FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE. THIS IS REPRESENTED BY 14 CHILDREN OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD OF A TOTAL OF 63 IN THIS DATA SET HAVING BEEN IN MORE THAN 2 PLACEMENTS. THESE CHALLENGES INCLUDE CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR ISSUES ARISING AFTER FAILED REUNIFICATION AND FAILED PLACEMENTS THAT DO NOT RESULT IN A PERMANENT PLAN AND REQUIRE A PLACEMENT CHANGE INTO A NEW HOME. WHEN CHILDREN REMAIN IN OUT OF HOME CARE AND DO NOT ACHIEVE PERMANENCY, THE RISK OF THEM DEVELOPING BEHAVIORS THAT CAN CHALLENGE PLACEMENT INCREASES. ADDITIONALLY, DUE TO THE LACK OF LOCAL PLACEMENTS, MANY CHILDREN ARE PLACED OUT OF COUNTY AND THEN THERE IS A STRAIN ON PLACEMENT WITH A LACK OF LOCAL RESOURCES, VISITATION PROVIDERS, AND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC OR RACIAL ISSUES. THE GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES INVOLVED HERE ARE TIED TO THE LACK OF LOCAL RESOURCES AND PLACEMENT HOMES. THE COUNTY PLACES AT LEAST 65% OF ITS PLACEMENTS OUT OF COUNTY, WHICH LEADS TO DELAYS IN

ACCESSING SERVICES SUCH AS SUPERVISED VISITATION, MENTAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES, STAFF DELIVERY OF SUPPORTS SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION, CHILDREN MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THEIR FORMER COMMUNITY AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH FRIENDS, TEACHERS, ETC. ALL OF THIS IMPACTS THE CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS AND CAN LEAD TO CHALLENGES IN MAINTAINING PLACEMENT.

C4.3 PLACEMENT STABILITY (AT LEAST 24 MONTHS IN CARE)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013 TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD A THREE YEAR AVERAGE OF 40.33% OF ITS YOUTH IN CARE (AT LEAST 24 MONTHS) HAVE 2 OR FEWER PLACEMENTS. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 35.6%, WHILE THE NATIONAL GOAL WAS 41.8%.

ANALYSIS

IN THIS MEASURE, THE COUNTY R DROPPED JUST SLIGHTLY BELOW THE NATIONAL GOAL, MISSING IT BY 1.5%. AGAIN, THE LONGER THAT YOUTH ARE IN CARE AND AWAITING PERMANENCE, THE MORE LIKELY THEY ARE TO EXPERIENCE TRAUMA AND RESOURCE ISSUES THAT LEAD TO BEHAVIOR ISSUES AND PLACEMENT DISRUPTIONS. HERE, WE SEE A DROP IN PLACEMENT STABILITY FROM THE 12-24 MONTH MARK BY JUST OVER 30%. THIS DROP IN STABILITY HAS CAUSED THE DEPARTMENT TO CLOSELY EXAMINE ITS EFFORTS IN BOTH SEEKING PERMANENT HOMES FOR YOUTH AND IN HOW IT CAN ENGAGE YOUTH IN THE PERMANENCY PROCESS TO HELP SUPPORT THEM AND PREVENT DISRUPTIONS. WE KNOW THAT EACH PLACEMENT DISRUPTION IS TRAUMATIC AND CAN CAUSE FURTHER CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH LONG TERM, SO IT IS IMPERATIVE WE WORK TO PREVENT PLACEMENT MOVES WHENEVER WE ARE ABLE. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THAT OFTEN, THOUGH NOT ALWAYS, CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT ACHIEVED PERMANENCY AT THIS POINT HAVE STRUGGLED WITH EITHER SPECIAL NEEDS AND HAVE HAD MOVES TO HELP GET THEM INTO PLACEMENT THAT CAN BETTER MEET AND SUPPORT THEIR NEEDS, BUT ALSO FOR YOUTH WITH CHRONIC BEHAVIORAL CHALLENGES THEIR PLACEMENT MOVES ARE TIED TO THEIR BEHAVIORS. FOR EXAMPLE, A CHILD WITH DIFFICULT BEHAVIORS MAY MOVE THROUGH SEVERAL PLACEMENTS AND IF THEY DO NOT STABILIZE AND THEIR BEHAVIORS ESCALATE, THEY COULD END UP MOVING TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE. FOR THOSE GOING INTO GROUP HOME CARE, THIS MEANS MOVING THROUGH GROUP HOME LEVELS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE TO THEIR BEHAVIORS. FOR YOUTH WITH DANGEROUS OR HIGH RISK BEHAVIORS, THIS COULD MEAN STEPPING UP INTO HIGHER LEVELS OF CARE, AND AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION, THEY MUST STEP BACK DOWN IN CARE BEFORE RETURNING TO A FOSTER HOME. SO YOUTH WHO END UP IN A LEVEL 14 GROUP HOME MAY HAVE SEVERAL PLACEMENTS JUST TIED TO THEIR BEHAVIOR ESCALATION AND THEN NEED TO BE STEPPED DOWN IN CARE.

THESE YOUTH ARE VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE AND OR NEGLECT, BUT THEY OFTEN HAVE CHALLENGES THAT COMPLICATE THEIR SITUATION AND MAKE PLACEMENT MOVES UNAVOIDABLE. THERE ARE NO ETHNIC OR RACIAL ISSUES, BUT AGAIN, GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES AND LACK OF LOCAL PLACEMENTS AND SERVICES CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHALLENGES IN PLACEMENT STABILITY OVERALL.

2B PERCENT OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REFERRALS WITH A TIMELY RESPONSE

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

FROM APRIL 2010 TO JUNE 2013, USING THAT QUARTER AS THE DATA EXTRACT PERIOD FOR EACH YEAR, TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD A THREE YEAR AVERAGE OF 96.87% OF ITS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE REFERRALS MEET THE TIMELY INVESTIGATION MEASURE. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 97.82%; THERE IS CURRENTLY NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

THIS DATA MEASURE IS ONE THE COUNTY STRIVES TO HAVE AT 100%, AS IT IS PART OF THE MISSION OF OUR AGENCY TO ENSURE THAT TIMELY INVESTIGATION OCCURS TO ENSURE SAFETY OF CHILDREN. THERE ARE SEVERAL CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING THIS SERVICE. OCCASIONALLY, DUE TO THE TRANSIENT NATURE OF OUR POPULATION, IS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE AND FIND FAMILIES THAT WE RECEIVE REFERRAL ON. IN THIS TIME FRAME, THE COUNTY HAD 100% COMPLIANCE FROM JULY 1, 2010 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012, AND THE, IN THE FINAL YEAR OF THE TIME BEING EXAMINED, THERE WAS A SINGLE CASE THAT COULD NOT BE LOCATED WITHIN THE 24 HOUR PERIOD THAT DROPPED THE COUNTY PERFORMANCE FOR THAT YEAR TO 87.5%, WHICH SKEWED THE DATE FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD. WE ARE LOOKING AT A SMALL SAMPLE, 1 CASE OUT OF 22 DURING A FOUR QUARTER DATA EXTRACT. THIS LOW NUMBER EVENT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO EXTRACT MEANINGFUL DATA FOR THIS MEASURE, OTHER THAN LOOKING AT THIS SINGLE CASE STUDY.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC OR RACIAL ISSUES WITH THIS MEASURE, THOUGH THE REMOTE, MOUNTAINOUS, FRONTIER GEOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTY MAKE IT CHALLENGING TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE INDIVIDUALS IN SOME REFERRALS. THIS FORCES STAFF TO BUILD CLOSE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE PUBLIC, SCHOOLS, AND RESIDENTS TO HELP US LOCATE AT RISK FAMILIES.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

FROM APRIL 2010 TO JUNE 2013, USING THAT QUARTER AS THE DATA EXTRACT PERIOD FOR EACH YEAR, TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD A THREE YEAR AVERAGE OF 98.45% OF ITS 10-DAY RESPONSE REFERRALS MEET THE TIMELY INVESTIGATION MEASURE. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 94.32%; THERE IS CURRENTLY NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

AGAIN, LIKE THE PREVIOUS MEASURE, THERE WERE FOUR QUARTER IN THE DATA EXTRACT AND THERE WAS 100% PERFORMANCE IN ALL BUT ONE QUARTER, WHERE THERE WERE 2 LATE REFERRALS IN THE QUARTER. THIS WAS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 93 FOR THE EXTRACT TIME. IN LOOKING AT THE REASON FOR THESE TWO CASES BEING LATE, BOTH WERE DUE TO A SINGLE STAFF MEMBER OF THE STAFF WAS LATE IN ENTERING THE REFERRALS DUE TO STAFFING ISSUES WITHIN THE OFFICE. THIS HAS BEEN A WORKLOAD FACTOR IN THE PAST, EXPERIENCING CHALLENGES IN RECRUITING AND MAINTAINING EXPERIENCED STAFF WHO ARE ABLE TO WORK THE INVESTIGATIONS AND MEET ALL TIMELINES FOR THE UNIT. WITH A STAFF OF ONLY 5 SOCIAL WORKERS, A SINGLE WORKERS ILLNESS OR FAMILY EMERGENCY CAN HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CASELOADS AND STAFF ABILITY TO MEET DEADLINES.

THOUGH THERE ARE NO ETHNIC OR RACIAL ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE, AGAIN, THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND ISOLATED NATURE OF THE COUNTY CAN ATTRIBUTE TO BOTH STAFF ISSUES AROUND RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF EXPERIENCED STAFF AND THE CHALLENGES STAFF FACE IN LOCATING AND CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS. IT CAN TAKE HOURS TO GET FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, AND THERE ARE LIMITED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, SO IT CAN TAKE HOURS TO COORDINATE WITH OFFICERS FOR ASSISTANCE IN HOSTILE SITUATIONS OR IN SERVING A PROTECTIVE CUSTODY WARRANT OR DETAINING A CHILD.

2C TIMELY CASEWORKER VISITS WITH CHILDREN (REPLACED BY 2F, WHICH IS THE DATA REFLECTED HERE)

FROM JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2013, TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD A THREE YEAR AVERAGE OF 97.53% OF ITS CASE WORKER VISITS FOR CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT TIMELY. THE STATE AVERAGE FOR THIS DATA MEASURE WAS 92.23%; THERE IS CURRENTLY NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

THOUGH THERE IS NOT A CURRENT NATIONAL GOAL, THE STATE GOAL IS SET AT 77%, BUT TRINITY PERFORMS WELL ABOVE THAT GOAL OR THE STATES PERFORMANCE FOR THIS MEASURE. THOUGH THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, THERE IS EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN THIS MEASURE, WHERE A SINGLE VISIT IN A YEAR CAN BE THE CASE THAT IMPACTS DATA. ON AVERAGE, TRINITY COUNTY HAS 80 CHILDREN IN CARE EACH YEAR, OVER THE THREE YEAR AVERAGE, WITH A STEADY RISE FROM 70 YOUTH IN 2010 TO 93 IN THE MOST RECENT YEAR. EVEN WITH THE RISE IN THE NUMBERS OF YOUTH IN CARE, THE COUNTIES PERFORMANCE HAS ALSO IMPROVED FROM 95% TIMELY VISITS IN 2010 TO 98.9% TIMELY VISITS IN 2013. IT NEEDS TO BE NOTED THAT THAT IS APPROXIMATELY A 25% RISE IN CASELOADS OF YOUTH IN OUT OF HOME CARE WITH NO INCREASE IN STAFF TO SEE THESE YOUTH. THE COUNTIES PERFORMANCE HAS IMPROVED IN THE FACE OF SIGNIFICANT RISE IN WORKLOADS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE CLOSE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION THAT IS PROVIDED. STAFF WORK COOPERATIVELY TO ENSURE EACH CHILD IS SEEN TIMELY EVERY MONTH.

THOUGH THERE ARE NO ETHNIC OR RACIAL ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE, AGAIN, GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES ARE AN ISSUE. IT CAN TAKE HOURS TO GET TO A SINGLE PLACEMENT IN COUNTY, LET ALONE THAT OVER 65% OF CHILDREN IN CARE ARE PLACED OUT OF COUNTY. THIS REQUIRES EXTENSIVE TRAVEL TIME FOR SOCIAL WORKERS TO COMPLETE VISITS AS WELL AS COORDINATION TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE COVERAGE IN THE OFFICE WITH A LIMITED STAFF OF 5 SOCIAL WORKERS.

4A SIBLINGS PLACED TOGETHER IN FOSTER CARE

AS THIS IS A NEWER DATA MEASURE, THE TIME PERIOD WAS A SINGLE POINT IN TIME EXTRACT ON JULY 1, 2013. TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD 70% OF ITS CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT WITH SIBLINGS PLACED WITH ALL OR SOME OF THEIR SIBLINGS. THERE IS NO CURRENT STATE OR NATIONAL GOAL.

ANALYSIS

IN REVIEWING THE DATA, IT WAS INTERESTING TO EXAMINE THE CASES IN WHICH THE YOUTH WERE NOT MAINTAINED WITH SIBLINGS. AL CHILDREN IN THIS DATA SET HAD ONE OF SEVERAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN COMMON. ALL OF THESE CHILDREN WERE EITHER IN GROUP HOME, HAD A SPECIALIZED NEED THAT REQUIRED A DIFFERENT TYPE OF CARE OR WERE SEPARATED FROM THEIR SIBLINGS DUE TO A RISK BETWEEN SIBLINGS THAT MADE PLACEMENT TOGETHER UNSAFE. THOUGH THERE ARE LIMITED PLACEMENT RESOURCES FOR THE COUNTY AND IT DOES NOT LICENSE ITS OWN FOSTER HOMES, THE COUNTY

STRIVES TO PLACE CHILDREN TOGETHER WHENEVER POSSIBLE. SOMETIMES THIS MAY REQUIRE A TEMPORARY SOLUTION WHILE A LONG TERM HOME OPENS THAT CAN SUPPORT THE ENTIRE SIBLING SET, BUT THE DEPARTMENT WORKS TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER WHENEVER POSSIBLE. THIS MEANS THAT FOR THIS TIME PERIOD, 28 OF 40 CHILDREN WERE PLACED WITH THEIR SIBLINGS.

THERE WERE NO ETHNIC OR RACIAL ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE, THOUGH GEOGRAPHY PLAYS A PART IN PROVIDING SIBLING VISITS WHICH CAN HELP TO SUPPORT PLACEMENT OR BEING ABLE TO TRANSITION CHILDREN INTO THE SAME HOME. DUE TO HAVING TO PLACE YOUTH OUT OF COUNTY, IT CAN BE LOGISTICALLY DIFFICULT TO FACILITATE VISITATION FOR SOME SEPARATED SIBLINGS.

4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (ENTRIES FIST PLACEMENT)

FROM JULY 2010 THROUGH JUNE 2013, TRINITY COUNTY CPS HAD 90 CHILDREN ENTER INTO PLACEMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME, WITH AT LEAST DAYS IN CARE. CALIFORNIA'S COUNT FOR THAT TIME PERIOD WAS 66,895. THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL.

ANALYSIS

THIS AVERAGES OUT TO 30 FIRST ENTRIES INTO CARE EACH YEAR FOR THE COUNTY. THIS IS FAIRLY CONSISTENT WITH THE TRENDS THE COUNTY HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING IN THE RECENT YEARS. WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT THE STATE HAS THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF ENTRIES INTO CARE FOR YOUTH AGES 1-5, WITH FAIRLY SIMILAR %AGES. TRINITY COUNTY DIFFERS IN THAT ITS LARGEST POPULATION COMING INTO CARE IS ACTUALLY THE 3-10 YEAR OLDS. THIS MEANS THAT 30% IN THE 36-5 YEAR AND THE 6-10 YEAR CATEGORY ARE ENTERING CARE, WHEREAS 1-2 AND 11-15 YEAR OLDS ARE ENTERING AT A RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 16%. THE STATE HAS MUCH SMALLER MARGINS IN THEIR PERCENTAGES OF FIRST ENTRIES BETWEEN AGE GROUPS, WITH MOST REMAINING WITHIN 2-4% DIFFERENCES. WHEN LOOKING AT THIS TREND, IT COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE TYPES OF ABUSE/NEGLECT ALLEGATIONS AND LACK OF SAFETY INTERVENTIONS AVAILABLE TO PREVENT ENTRY INTO CARE.

THOUGH THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE, THE RURAL NATURE OF THE COUNTY COUPLED WITH THE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION DO ATTRIBUTE TO THE RISK FOR FAMILIES WITH LACK OF RESOURCES.

4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (POINT IN TIME)

For the Point In Time count on July 1 of each year, Trinity County CPS had an average of 54.66 youth in out of home care. The state had an average of 56,799 youth each year for this time period. There is not national goal for this measure, though a reduction in foster care rates is the overall goal for every county and state.

Analysis

Overwhelmingly, the highest numbers of children in care are ages 0-2, with just over 60% averages of children in care at the state level, and a 78% average for Trinity County. This data reflects the safety and risk for the most vulnerable children, who are ages 0-2, are the group that are most likely to experience abuse and need out of home care to support parents or caregivers successfully being able to reunify and address safety concerns.

There are no ethnic, racial or geographical issues for this measure.

4E ICWA & Multi-Ethnic Placement Status

For the Point In Time data pulls from July 2010 through July 2013, Trinity County CPS had a total of 27 youth who were eligible for ICWA. Of that group, 51.8% were placed with relatives, 22.2% were with non-relative, non-Indian substitute care providers, and 25.9% were in group homes. There is no national goals for this measure.

Analysis

One of the challenges in this data set is that the county has a large percentage of families with ICWA cases, but there are a lack of tribal services and tribal homes. The county strives to work cooperatively with the tribe on placement, but runs into frequent challenges in securing tribal homes. The department always tries to help the tribe work with family and approve relatives first, but in some circumstances there are no relatives that can care for the children that meet safety standards or if the children have behavioral challenges, sometimes the only appropriate level of care is a group home, which limits the department's ability to find tribal placement.

The issue here is ethic in nature, but specifically in the access to culturally relevant placements and services in conjunction with the tribe, which may or may not have services or offices within the county or surrounding areas. A network of tribally approved services or placements would be of great benefit, but as sovereign entities, not all tribes are in agreement for services

OR PLACEMENT. THE DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED TO DEVELOP WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES FOR THESE CASES. THERE ARE NO RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE.

5B (1) RATE OF TIMELY HEALTH EXAMS

FROM APRIL 2010- JUNE2013, THERE WERE FOUR QUARTERLY DATA EXTRACTS FOR THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED TIMELY MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS. TRINITY COUNTY AVERAGED 97.15% OF ITS MEDICAL EXAMS BEING TIMELY, WHEREAS THE STATE AVERAGES AT 89.8% BEING TIMELY. THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

THOUGH THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL, TRINITY COUNTIES PERFORMANCE HAS HAD A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT, FROM 97% IN THE LAST SIP FROM 2007-2009, COMPARED TO 97.15 CURRENTLY. THIS IS A SMALL IMPROVEMENT, BUT THE RISE IN CASELOAD AVERAGES DURING THIS TIME MAKES ANY IMPROVEMENT WORTH MENTIONING. AGAIN, THERE IS NO ADDITION OF STAFF TO ATTRIBUTE TO THIS IMPROVEMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SUCCESS IS THOUGHT TO BE DIRECTLY TIED TO THE APPROACH OF HAVING A CO-LOCATED FOSTER CARE NURSE INTEGRATED INTO THE STAFF. THIS POSITION TRACKS ALL MEDICAL NEEDS AND COORDINATED CARE FOR ALL OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS, AS WELL AS HELPS TO OVERSEE ALL PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION COORDINATION.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC OR RACIAL ISSUE FOR THIS MEASURE, THOUGH GEOGRAPHY AND PLACEMENTS OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY CONTRIBUTE TO CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING TIMELY SERVICES. YOUTH PLACES OUT OF COUNTY SOMETIMES EXPERIENCE A DELAY IN THEIR MEDI-CAL PATCH IN THE HOST COUNTY AND THIS CAN DELAY ACCESS TO SCHEDULED MEDICAL, VISION AND DENTAL APPOINTMENT, OR REQUIRE THAT STAFF HAVE YOUTH TRANSPORTED BACK TO TRINITY COUNTY TO RECEIVE SERVICES.

5B (2) RATE OF TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS

FROM APRIL 2010- JUNE2013, THERE WERE FOUR QUARTERLY DATA EXTRACTS FOR THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED TIMELY MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS. TRINITY COUNTY AVERAGED 90.52% OF ITS DENTAL EXAMS BEING TIMELY, WHEREAS THE STATE AVERAGES AT 71.65% BEING TIMELY. THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

IN COMPARING TO THE LAST SIP, THE COUNTY IMPROVED ON TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS FROM AN AVERAGE OF 88.7 % TO 90.52%. THE STATE IMPROVED FROM 63.96% TO 71.65%. BOTH ARE TRENDING UPWARD, SHOWING THE OVERALL FOCUS ON ENSURING

TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS ARE PROVIDED. TRINITY COUNTY ATTRIBUTES THIS, LIKE ITS MEDICAL EXAMS, TO THE ROLE OF THE FOSTER CARE NURSE, WHO IS CO-LOCATED. THIS NURSE COORDINATES CARE AND ENSURES THAT NECESSARY ORDER AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE TO GET CHILDREN INTO SERVICES. ADDITIONALLY, THE FCN AND THE DEPARTMENTS EDUCATION LIAISON TEAM UP TO HELP GET KIDS WITH EXTREME DENTAL NEEDS TO A DENTAL SURGERY CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WHEN NECESSARY. THIS REQUIRES COOPERATION WITH THE FOSTER PARENTS, PARENTS, DENTAL CENTERS, DEPARTMENT AND SOCIAL WORKER TO ENSURE THAT THESE KIDS ARE ABLE TO ACCESS SERVICES, WHICH ARE OVER 6 HOURS AWAY ONE WAY.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE, OUTSIDE OF THE DISTANCE TO ACCESS SERVICES, WHICH ARE OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY BOARDERS.

5F PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

FROM APRIL 2010- JUNE2013, THERE WERE FOUR QUARTERLY DATA EXTRACTS FOR THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WERE ELIGIBLE FOR PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS. TRINITY COUNTY AVERAGED 9.32% OF CHILDREN WHO WERE ELIGIBLE, WHEREAS THE STATE AVERAGES AT 12.93% BEING ELIGIBLE. THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

IN COMPARING THE PERFORMANCE FROM THE LAST SIP, TRINITY COUNTY HAD A SLIGHT DROP IN YOUTH WHO WERE ELIGIBLE FOR PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION, FROM 10.25 TO 9.32%. THE STATE AVERAGE ROSE FOR THIS TIME PERIOD, FROM 10.93% TO12.97%. AS THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL, WE CANNOT COMPARE PERFORMANCE TO A GOAL, BUT LIMITING SUCH SERIOUS MEDICATIONS TO ONLY YOUTH WHO NEED THEM WOULD ALWAYS BE THE COUNTIES GOAL. THIS SLIGHT DROP IN THE USE OF THESE MEDICATIONS WHILE CASELOADS ARE INCREASING IS DUE TWO FACTORS. FIRST, THERE ARE CHANGES IN TIME OVER THE YOUTH IN CARE AND THEIR NEEDS, AND THE PRACTICE CHANGES THAT SUPPORTS THIS REDUCTION IS BETTER ACCESS TO ASSESSMENTS AND SERVICES AND WORKING WITH PROVIDERS TO NOT OVERMEDICATE CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH BEHAVIORS. THROUGH A MORE COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO SERVICE DELIVERY WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO BETTER ADDRESS YOUTH NEEDS AND PUT SERVICES IN PLACE TO SUPPORT THEM.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE.

6B INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

FROM APRIL 2010- JUNE2013, THERE WERE FOUR QUARTERLY DATA EXTRACTS FOR THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE OR HAVE EVER HAD AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION

PLAN (IEP). TRINITY COUNTY AVERAGED 23.17% OF CHILDREN IN CARE WHO HAD OR HAD EVER HAD AN IEP, WHEREAS THE STATE AVERAGES AT 9.6%. THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

THERE IS A SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN THE STATE AND COUNTY AVERAGES, AND WITHOUT A LARGER STUDY OF PRACTICE WE CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR THIS, SO INSTEAD WE COMPARED THIS TO THE COUNTIES PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST SIP. PREVIOUSLY, THE COUNTY HAD 29.46% OF ITS YOUTH IN CARE WITH AND IEP OR WHO HAD FORMERLY HAD ONE. THIS SLIGHT DECREASE COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO MORE DIRECT INTERVENTION AND ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN BY THE CO-LOCATED EDUCATION LIAISON. THIS POSITION PROVIDES A FULL TIME EDUCATION LIAISON WHO ADVOCATES FOR AND WORKS ON THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF EVERY CHILD IN CARE. HE ENSURES THEY RECEIVE TIMELY ASSESSMENTS, IEP, ARE PROVIDED SERVICES, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO HELP, TUTORING, ETC. THIS LEVEL OF ADVOCACY ENSURES THAT EACH CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS ARE BEING MET AND THAT IF NEEDED, STUDENTS CAN ACCESS SERVICES AND ARE ABLE TO BE ACCURATELY ASSESSED FOR THEIR NEEDS. ANOTHER BENEFIT OF THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN A 100 % GRADUATION RATE FOR TRINITY COUNTY YOUTH OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS.

THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL OR GEOGRAPHIC ISSUES FOR THIS MEASURE.

8A COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL OR EQUIVALENCY

FOR THIS DATA MEASURE, WHICH IS FOR APRIL THROUGH JUNE OF 2013, THERE IS NO DATA RECORD AVAILABLE ON THE BERKELEY SITE. THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

IN REVIEWING THIS DATA, WE FOUND THAT THE INFORMATION WAS NOT BEING ENTERED INTO THE CWS/CMS SYSTEM CORRECTLY, SO THE DATA AVAILABLE DID NOT REFLECT THE SERVICES PROVIDED. THOUGH THE DEPARTMENT HAD COLLECTED MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION SEPARATELY, THE TRACKING TOOLS AND BACKUP FOR THIS INFORMATION IS INCOMPLETE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW IT CAN ENSURE ACCURATE DATA ENTRY AND REPORTING IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AS WELL AS HOW IT CAN STREAMLINE SERVICE OFFERINGS FOR ITS YOUTH. THIS WILL BE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH THE DEPARTMENTS EDUCATION LIAISON, ILP COORDINATOR, DATA COLLECTION TEAM AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT STAFF.

8A Obtained Employment

For this data measure, which is for April through June of 2013, there is no data record available on the Berkeley site. There is no national goal for this measure.

Analysis

In reviewing this data, we found that the information was not being entered into the CWS/CMS system correctly, so the data available did not reflect the services provided. Though the department had collected much of this information separately, the tracking tools and backup for this information is incomplete. The department will be looking at how it can ensure accurate data entry and reporting in the immediate future, as well as how it can streamline service offerings for its youth. This will be a cooperative effort with the departments education liaison, ILP coordinator, data collection team and program management staff.

8A Housing Arrangements

For this data measure, which is for April through June of 2013, there is no data record available on the Berkeley site. There is no national goal for this measure.

Analysis

In reviewing this data, we found that the information was not being entered into the CWS/CMS system correctly, so the data available did not reflect the services provided. Though the department had collected much of this information separately, the tracking tools and backup for this information is incomplete. The department will be looking at how it can ensure accurate data entry and reporting in the immediate future, as well as how it can streamline service offerings for its youth. This will be a cooperative effort with the departments education liaison, ILP coordinator, data collection team and program management staff.

8A Received ILP Services

For this data measure, which is for April through June of 2013, there is no data record available on the Berkeley site. There is no national goal for this measure.

Analysis

IN REVIEWING THIS DATA, WE FOUND THAT THE INFORMATION WAS NOT BEING ENTERED INTO THE CWS/CMS SYSTEM CORRECTLY, SO THE DATA AVAILABLE DID NOT REFLECT THE SERVICES PROVIDED. THOUGH THE DEPARTMENT HAD COLLECTED MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION SEPARATELY, THE TRACKING TOOLS AND BACKUP FOR THIS INFORMATION IS INCOMPLETE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW IT CAN ENSURE ACCURATE DATA ENTRY AND REPORTING IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AS WELL AS HOW IT CAN STREAMLINE SERVICE OFFERINGS FOR ITS YOUTH. THIS WILL BE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH THE DEPARTMENTS EDUCATION LIAISON, ILP COORDINATOR, DATA COLLECTION TEAM AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT STAFF.

8A PERMANENCY CONNECTION WITH AN ADULT

FOR THIS DATA MEASURE, WHICH IS FOR APRIL THROUGH JUNE OF 2013, THERE IS NO DATA RECORD AVAILABLE ON THE BERKELEY SITE. THERE IS NO NATIONAL GOAL FOR THIS MEASURE.

ANALYSIS

IN REVIEWING THIS DATA, WE FOUND THAT THE INFORMATION WAS NOT BEING ENTERED INTO THE CWS/CMS SYSTEM CORRECTLY, SO THE DATA AVAILABLE DID NOT REFLECT THE SERVICES PROVIDED. THOUGH THE DEPARTMENT HAD COLLECTED MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION SEPARATELY, THE TRACKING TOOLS AND BACKUP FOR THIS INFORMATION IS INCOMPLETE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW IT CAN ENSURE ACCURATE DATA ENTRY AND REPORTING IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AS WELL AS HOW IT CAN STREAMLINE SERVICE OFFERINGS FOR ITS YOUTH. THIS WILL BE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH THE DEPARTMENTS EDUCATION LIAISON, ILP COORDINATOR, DATA COLLECTION TEAM AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT STAFF.

PROBATION:

DUE TO TRAINING AND DATA ENTRY ISSUES, THERE IS LIMITED DATA ENTERED FOR MOST OF THE PROBATION OUTCOME MEASURES FROM CWS/CMS. THE TIME PERIOD IN QUESTION FOR THIS REPORT COVER FROM JULY 2010 THROUGH DECEMBER 2012, BUT THERE WAS NO DATA ON THE BERKELEY SITE, HOWEVER, PROBATION DID A QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECK AND DATA WAS BEING ENTERED INTO THE CWS/CMS SYSTEM. THESE WERE ONLY 4 YOUTH IN CARE THROUGH THIS WHOLE TIME PERIOD, NEVER MORE THAN 2 AT A TIME, AND THIS LOW NUMBER EVENT MAY HAVE TO DO WITH THE DATA ISSUES. THE COUNTY IS CURRENTLY LOOKING AT WHAT IT CAN DO TO ADDRESS THESE DATA ENTRY ISSUES AND WILL ADDRESS THEM IN THE FORTHCOMING SIP.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE ONLY OUTCOME MEASURE FOR DATA IN THIS PERIOD.

S2.1 No Maltreatment in Foster Care

From July 2010-June 2013, Trinity County Probation has had no maltreatment in foster care, 0% rate, versus the California average of .04% for the same time period. In fact, there has not been a maltreatment in care finding in the last 5 years. County performance surpasses the national average at 99.68% in this area.[25]

Analysis

With only two youth in care for this measure, there is limited data to extrapolate from. What can be said is that only youth with extreme behavioral issues or needs tend to be removed from their homes, and due these higher needs, youth are placed into higher levels of care that are appropriate to meet their needs. By looking for the best possible placements for their needs, there is a lower risk of maltreatment in care. Also, the facilities used are often regulated by higher safety standards, which also decreases the risk of maltreatment.

There are no racial/geographical issues to report or ties to OCAP funded programs for this measure.

Board of Supervisors Minute Order/Resolution

The final resolution/minute for the Trinity County Board of Supervisors for the joint CSA/Peer Review will be included with the counties final System Improvement Plan, due in November of 2014, as per CDSS.

[25] 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., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). *CCWIP reports.* Retrieved 9/15/2013, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>