

California - Child and Family Services Review

Colusa County Self-Assessment



June 2014 – June 2019



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Introduction

The purpose of this County Self-Assessment (CSA) is for each county, in collaboration with their community partners, to perform an in-depth assessment of Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation programs. This analysis includes both qualitative and quantitative data and guides the county in planning for program enhancements and continuous quality improvement.

The Colusa County Self-Assessment is one piece of a larger continuous quality improvement process which relies on both qualitative and quantitative data to guide Colusa County child welfare and probation departments in planning for program enhancements. The California Children's and Families Services Review (C-CFSR) was established by the California's Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (AB 636) As required by AB 636, Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services must regularly analyze, in collaboration with key community stakeholders (e.g., parents, youth in foster care, public agency personnel, staff from community based organizations, foster parents and relatives caring for youth in foster care) through a structured format its performance on specific child welfare and probation outcomes. These outcomes are measured, for both probation and child welfare, using data collected by the statewide child welfare database (CWS/CMS). In addition to analyzing the outcome indicators child welfare and probation must review systematic and community factors that correspond to the federal review. Areas needing improvement are incorporated into a multi- year (5) System Improvement Plan (SIP), which is also developed in partnership with community stakeholders and partners. The SIP must both be approved by the Colusa County Board of Supervisors and submitted to the State.

In addition, the Colusa County Self-Assessment includes plans for the expenditure of federal and state funds for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP).

Colusa County's most recent County Self-Assessment was completed in June, 2010 and the most recent SIP goals and strategies were identified and developed based on the findings in our CSA. Our planning for the current CSA was built upon the progress that was made during this period related to the SIP to improve collaboration and increase resources for families in our County despite limited resources and the challenges that face Northern California small rural counties. The commitment of staff in both child welfare and probation and the support of our community partners has been vital to our progress and will continue to be the foundation of our capacity to protect children from abuse in Colusa County and strengthen families.

C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

C-CFSR TEAM

Colusa County implemented a work plan to conduct a self-assessment beginning in January, 2014. First steps included the identification and engagement of our core C-CFSR Team. Given the small size of Colusa County government and the relative stability within our County in general, most members had participated in the prior CSA and were aware of the linkage between the CSA process and the SIP. Members of the team participated in various in-person meetings and conference calls to schedule the County's Stakeholders Meeting, Peer Review and Focus Groups and to determine the tools to be utilized to inform each group about the county's child welfare and probation systems. Next steps included conducting the meetings to gather the necessary data. Team members then worked on analyzing the data and organizing the information into the county self-assessment document to be shared publicly.

The Colusa County C-CFSR Team is led by representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, Probation Department, CDSS and the UC Davis Northern California Training Academy. Core representatives included:

- Elizabeth Kelly, Director, Colusa County DHHS
- Donna Dennis, Program Manager II, Colusa County DHHS
- William Fenton, Chief, Colusa County Probation

- Gerry Munoz, Deputy Chief, Colusa County Probation
- Jamie Sachs, Supervising Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation
- Anthony Bennett, OCAP
- Henry Franklin, CDSS
- Katie Sommerdorf, CDSS
- Nancy Hafer, UC Davis
- Lisa Tadlock, UC Davis
- Joanne Brown, UC Davis
- Jessica Iford, UC Davis

Stakeholder Feedback

During preparation for our stakeholders meeting, approximately 85 individuals who participate in providing services to children and families were identified and subsequently invited to attend the meeting on August 8, 2014. In attendance:

- Elizabeth Kelly, Colusa County DHHS Director
- Donna Dennis, Program Manager II, Colusa County DHHS; Colusa CAPC, Colusa LPC
- Bonnie Davies, Director of Nursing, Colusa County DHHS; First 5 Commissioner
- Danielle Padilla, Social Worker Supervisor, Colusa County DHHS
- Deidra Young, Social Worker, Colusa County DHHS
- Eb Mendenhall, Social Worker, Colusa County DHHS
- Carmen Santana, Social Worker Aide, Colusa County DHHS
- MaryAnn LaGrande, Public Health Nurse, Colusa County DHHS
- Leslie Culp, Program Manager Eligibility, Colusa County DHHS
- Renea Garcia, Welfare Fraud Investigator, Colusa County DHHS
- William Fenton, Chief, Colusa County Probation
- Jamie Sachs, Supervising Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation
- Hon. Elizabeth Ufkes Olivera, Colusa County Superior Court
- Craig Cassetta, CDSS Adoptions, Chico District Office
- Michelle Burdette, CDSS Adoptions, Chico District Office
- Dr. Terry Rooney, Director, Colusa County Behavioral Health
- Jan Morgan, Deputy Director, Colusa County Behavioral Health
- Sue Bowen, LPT Case Manager, Colusa County Behavioral Health
- Erica Melchor, Alta Regional Center Services
- Ginger Harlow, First 5 Colusa
- Lora Ceccon, Colusa County One Stop Economic Development Agency/WIA
- Rosa Meza-Villasenor, Vice-Principal, Williams Jr./Sr. High School
- Dr. Rich Rhodes, Superintendent, Maxwell Unified School District

- Lt. Neil Pearson, Colusa County Sheriff's Office
- Sgt. Michael Bradwell, Colusa County Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Leann Knutson, Colusa County Sheriff's Office, D.A.R.E. Program
- Sgt. Josh Fitch, Colusa Police Department
- Det. Sara Martin, Colusa Police Department
- Officer Ivan Maldonado, Williams Police Department

Due to the size and organizational structure of many of our county agencies, individuals often represent more than one recognized stakeholder category. All of the required stakeholder agencies were represented with the exception of our Native American Tribal partners. Our Native American Tribal partners received individual invitations and follow-up. Although tribal representatives were not able to attend the meeting which was held at the tribal center, our social workers have well established working relationships with tribal social workers. Also attending were consultants from CDSS and OCAP (Office of Child Abuse Prevention). The daylong meeting was facilitated by our CSA consultants from the Northern Training Academy, University of California, Davis. The meeting began with an orientation about the CSA and sharing outcome data followed by discussion about the role of stakeholder in the CSA. Round table discussions on systemic topics and smaller group structured discussions around specific topics related to how well child welfare and probation are meeting the needs of children and families in Colusa County followed. The day concluded with a group session.

A summary of the stakeholders' discussions on these topics follows:

- Stakeholders describe Colusa County as having a **strong culture of collaboration** among public agencies and private service providers working with families.
- Practice models such as SOP, MDT combined with resources available through Katie A have reinforced the expectation that agencies will work together to compensate for a limited service network. In placement planning efforts, coordinated case planning occurs through the 0-5 Health Collaborative, First 5 Prevention Coalition, WRAP, and Family Soup. Data sharing occurs among agencies through specific MOUs, and use of SOP and Safe Measures by child welfare. **Over the past five years, regarding the child welfare system, stakeholders identified improvements** including better coordination

between child welfare and behavioral health through co-locating staff, more timely and consistent dental and health care services for children in care, and more timely caseworker visits and shortened response times.

- Stakeholders acknowledged that services were missing in the County despite the efforts of agencies and community service providers to fill in the gaps through collaboration, sharing resources, and planning. Broad challenges facing Colusa County identified by stakeholders are high rates of poverty, geographic isolation, high unemployment rates, and untreated mental illness. Services needed in the County range from recreation for children and youth (Boys and Girls clubs, after school), to basic nutritional support for families. For individuals with disabilities, some services are available but only in Colusa, e.g., AA/NA, WRAP, Medi-Cal providers, parenting classes.
- Regarding probation, prevention services include Boys Counsel, Girls Circle, Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT), school Truancy Programs, and risk and need assessment services. For youth preparing for adulthood, probation offers independent living classes, transitional counseling. Youth are challenged by drug and alcohol abuse and histories, lack of employment opportunity and living in a “non-changing environment”. Essential to successful transition is the engagement of parents which is often challenging due to unwillingness to engage, absence, and instability. Probation officers play a parental/mentoring role, structure and guidance and linkages to the AB 12 program to help youth transition.
- **Stakeholders agreed that placement stability** for youth in foster care was directly impacted by limits in the County system of care, including children/youth being placed outside of Colusa County which both offers new resources as well as attenuates linkages with parents and extended family members. One Stop staff are limited in their ability to provide services where the youth is placed out of County and accessing other County services can be complicated.
- If children have to change placement and school, more support should be provided in the transition including providing information to the schools, meeting with the teachers, and mitigating change through considering scheduling and alternatives. Accessing

mental health services is often impacted by the stigma of treatment according to stakeholders.

- **Regarding the overall wellbeing of families in Colusa County**, stakeholders identified the following initiatives as consistently working well: increased Vaccines for Children Program availability, the First Five program providing increased dental care, Behavioral Health offering transport to medical services and dental programs, school mental health services, tutoring and mentoring through After School Education and Safety program, and Family Action Center. Barriers for families are transportation, lack of appropriate health insurance coverage, specialty providers, and no community based organizations.
- The stakeholders identified the top needs (5) to promote wellbeing in Colusa County as affordable/appropriate housing, health care, nutrition, transportation, and education. For youth transitioning to adulthood and emancipating, resources are available through the AB 12 program for non-minor dependents and the Foster Care Independence Act (Chaffe Act) for education and transitional housing and support; the County One Stop Center and the AB 109 day reporting center also provide specific resources for these youth e.g., job search, referrals for public assistance, and counseling referrals. Lack of a health support network is often the biggest challenge to successful transition according to stakeholders, e.g., youth focused recovery services are limited. Stakeholders recommended improved drug and alcohol services specifically for youth, affordable and supported housing, additional work experience opportunities such as AmeriCorps, ROP, and more transportation resources.

Separate from the day long stakeholders meeting, focus groups were held on September 10 and 11, 2014 with service providers (resource families, relatives, and biological families) and current foster and probation youth were met with in order to provide important context for the Assessment. All participants (youth and adult) were vocal and openly shared their experience and perspectives on a range of questions related to placement stability. Participants shared common views about a number of topics. Participants agreed that social workers were very engaged with them, that they felt supported, acknowledged, and that social workers, probation officers, and caregivers were acting in their best interests. Biological parents

described their social workers as giving them positive reinforcement, “pushing” the parent to succeed, and giving parents a chance to “step up” to show that they could care for their children. One parent objected to what she considered excessive testing between child welfare and the courts (Prop. 36) but felt that her social worker believed in her and that she could reunify.

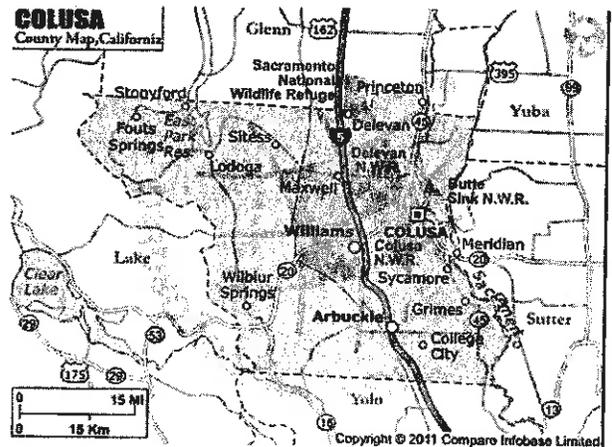
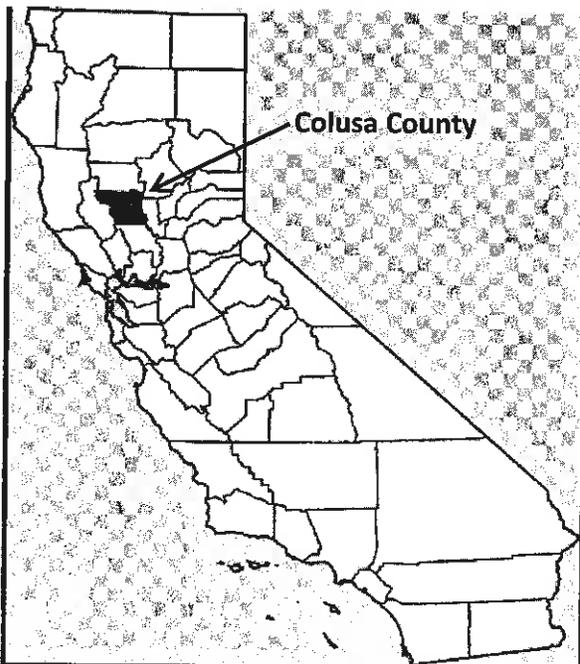
Parents were asked about how they maintained connection with their children while they were in placement. In one case, the children had been in several placements and the extended family was limited access after removal and attempts to arrange placement with a relative were unsuccessful and the children had to be separated in placement. Connections with extended family members took time to arrange. Another parent described participation in the SOP meetings as helping to create a case plan that was realistic and built a good foundation for taking his son into his care. Parents reported that they had followed the case plan and have had their children returned. Parents had recommendations on how to help other parents including more visitation in a “friendly normal” environment, case plans should include names and addresses of specific providers, and screening should be examined to make sure that children aren’t removed from ‘borderline’ situations. Additional services were also recommended, e.g., more low income and short term housing, help finding employment, and an expanded list of preapproved respite care providers.

Children and youth in the group had experienced several placements including foster home, relative placement and group homes. All described their social workers as providing important continuity and having candid conversations that helped them talk through their feelings and understand what was happening. Conversations occurred in informal settings including at parks, at school and Starbucks at least monthly. Each had only been assigned one social worker. A tutor and a counselor were identified as being important figures in their lives and who had helped them while they were away from their family. Children in foster homes maintained contact with their family through visits with younger siblings, occasional telephone calls, and monthly visits with parent(s).

Demographic Profile

GENERAL COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Colusa County is located in California's Central Valley, approximately 70 miles north of Sacramento. The county covers approximately 1,200 square miles along the west side of the Sacramento River. Colusa County is an agricultural community with an estimated population of 21,358 in 2013.¹ The county seat is Colusa, one of the two incorporated cities within the county.



The second incorporated city is Williams. The other unincorporated towns, such as Arbuckle, Maxwell, and Grimes, etc. are under county jurisdiction. The maps below show where in California Colusa County is located, as well as the layout of the county itself.

¹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06011.html>

Ethnicities of Colusa County

Table 1. shows the ethnic composition Colusa County residents. While 91.6% of the population identified as White alone in 2013, 37.4% identified as White alone, not Hispanic or Latino. The Hispanic or Latino residents comprise 57.5% of the population; Black or African Americans, American Indian and Alaska Natives, Asians, and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders combined are only approximately 6% of the entire population.

Table 1. Ethnicities of Colusa County 2013¹

	Colusa County Total # of Residents	Colusa County % of Population	Califor nia
White alone	13,854	91.6%	73.5%
Black or African American alone	195	1.2%	6.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	419	2.7%	1.7%
Asian alone	281	1.8%	14.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	68	0.6%	0.5%
Two or More Races	764	2.1%	3.7%
Hispanic or Latino	11,804	57.5%	38.4%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	8,524	37.4%	39.0%

Table 2. Child Population 2013³

AGE	POPULATION Total
0-2 Years	953
3-5 Years	1,050
6-10 Years	1,758
11-13 Years	1,033
14-17 Years	1,312
Total 0-17 Years	6,106

Age distribution

According to the 2013 estimated census data, 7.5% of the population is under the age of 5 years old and 28.2% are under the age of 18 in Colusa County. The median age of county residents is 33.5 years and only 14% are over the age of 62. Table 2 provides a closer look at the child population of the county.

Languages spoken

Although English is the primary language of Colusa County, 46.2% of residents speak languages other than English at home. The second language primarily spoken within the county is Spanish, followed by Hindi, Panjabi, and Italian.²

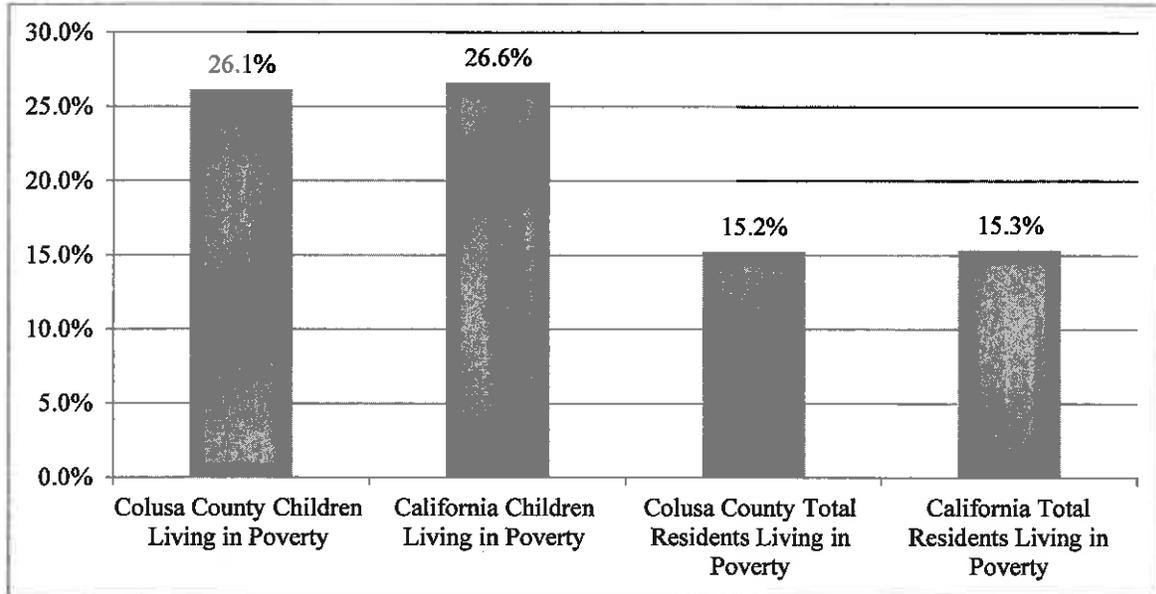
Median household income 2008-2012

The median household income from 2008 to 2012 in Colusa was \$52,165 per year. This is slightly lower than the median income for the State of California, which was \$61,400. 15.2% of the residents in Colusa County are residing below the poverty level, similar to the 15.3% rate of residents living in poverty throughout the state. 26.1% of children within Colusa County were living below the poverty level from 2010 to 2012.³ As shown in figure 1, the rate that children and the general population of Colusa County live in poverty is comparable to the statewide rate.

² <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/snaps/data/06/06011.htm>

³ <http://www.kidsdata.org/region/336/colusa-county/results#ind=&say=&cat=6,37>

Figure 1. Residents Living Below the Poverty Level



Unemployment data

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in Colusa County was 25.8%, as of January 2014, but in June 2014 the rate had fallen to 19.8%. The unemployment rate has continued to rise and fall each year with more residents being unemployed in winter months, and dropping dramatically throughout summer months. This pattern is likely the result of having an economy based on agriculture, which tends to be more active in summer and fall.

Average housing costs

The median value of owner-occupied housing units within the county 2008-2012 was \$210,300. This is lower than the average value statewide, which was \$383,900 within the same timeframe. 61.3% (4,216) of the homes in Colusa County are owner-occupied, whereas the other 38.7% (2,666) are renter-occupied.

The fair market prices for rent between 2010 and 2014 have fluctuated, decreasing in 2012 and rising steadily since that time. The estimated costs below in Table 3 include utilities, except for telephone services.⁴

⁴ kidsdata.org

Table 3. Fair Market Prices for Rent 2010-2014

Colusa County	Fair Market Prices for Rent 2010-2014				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Unit Size					
Studio - 0 Bedrooms	\$644	\$660	\$579	\$562	\$596
1 Bedroom	\$647	\$663	\$581	\$566	\$600
2 Bedrooms	\$841	\$862	\$756	\$766	\$812
3 Bedrooms	\$1,086	\$1,113	\$976	\$1,129	\$1,197
4 Bedrooms	\$1,476	\$1,513	\$1,327	\$1,357	\$1,438

Homelessness data

There are services available to the homeless population in Colusa County, including the Department of Health and Human Services and various non-profit and religious organizations. The Department of Health and Human Services is the lead agency for the County's participation in Dos Rios Continuum of Care, a three county collaboration. This Continuum acts as the vehicle required by HUD to apply for and administer federal funding to address homelessness in Colusa County. Funding received has been used to provide hotel/motel vouchers for homeless individuals and rental assistance to mediate evictions and secure permanent housing.

Additionally, the Colusa County Independent Transitional Housing Project provides temporary housing to homeless individuals and families while implementing a plan for permanent housing. This funding requires that Colusa County complete an annual homeless count. On alternating years, the count is either specific to a shelter bed count or a homeless count. Typically this count is done in January. With the limited number of shelter beds available and the cold weather in January, our numbers are typically low. Our last homeless count was done in January, 2014 and identified 12 homeless individuals in Colusa County.

Federally recognized active tribes

There are two active federally recognized tribes within Colusa County: the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians and the Cortina Rancheria Band. The Cachil Dehe Band of the Wintun Tribe has a reservation and casino located in Colusa. The Cortina tribal headquarters is located in the City of Williams.

Analysis of General Demographics

The general population of Colusa County has not changed dramatically since the time of the previous CSA completed in 2010. There have been some changes in the ethnic composition of the general population, with the county seeing an increase in Asian and Hispanic or Latino residents. In fact, the number of Hispanic or Latino residents is almost 20% greater than the statewide percentage of that population. The unemployment rate now, compared to the unemployment rate in 2010 is slightly higher in the summer/fall months, and significantly higher throughout the winter months when it reached rates of over 25% this past year.

Of particular interest to the child welfare and probation agencies is the number of homes in which there is a language other than English being spoken. As noted above, approximately 46% of residents speak a language other than English, thus it is imperative Colusa County maintains staff members that can effectively communicate with the residents they work with.

CHILD MALTREATMENT INDICATORS

Number and proportion of low-birth weight newborns

According to the University of California San Francisco, low birth weight is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (or approximately 5 pounds, 18 ounces) at the time of birth. Causes for low birth weight can include premature birth at less than 37 weeks gestation, intrauterine growth restriction due to issues with the placenta, maternal health, or birth defects. Some risk factors for low birth weight are race, age, multiple births, lack of prenatal care, and maternal health. Infants with a low birth weight have a greater risk for complications such as hypothermia, perinatal asphyxia, respiratory problems, anemia, feeding difficulties, infection, hearing deficits, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and other complications.⁵

In 2012, 6.4% (20) of infants born in Colusa County were low-birth weight. It should be noted that the number of infants born with low-birth weight has steadily decreased from 8.2%

⁵ http://www.ucsfchildrenshospital.org/pdf/manuals/20_VLBW_ELBW.pdf

in 2008. The statewide rate of low-birth weight newborns was 6.7% in 2012.⁶ Of additional importance, only 70.5% of all mothers who gave birth in 2012 received prenatal care within the first trimester, whereas 83.8% of mothers throughout California received care in the first trimester. According to the Colusa County Health Status Profile for 2014, between 2010-2012, 79.1% of mothers received adequate prenatal care, a rate higher than the national objective (77.6%).⁷

Number and proportion of children born to teen parents

Prevention of teenage pregnancy is important for several reasons, both socially and economically. Teenage mothers tend to have lower education levels and decreased income, increasing the cost to taxpayers for health care and sometimes foster care of the children. Further, children of teenage mothers are less likely to graduate high school, have more health issues, more likely to be incarcerated during adolescence, and become teenage parents themselves.⁸

In 2012, 34.4 per 1,000 infants born in Colusa County were born to teenage girls between the ages of 15-19 years old. This was a total of 28 newborns. The rate in Colusa County is quite a bit higher than the overall rate in California, which was 25.7 per 1,000 live births for women of the same age group within the same year. However, the rate in 2012 was lower than the rate at the time of the previous report in 2010, at which time the rate was 40.6 per 1,000 births.⁹

Family Structure

The average household size in Colusa County was 3.03 from 2008 to 2012. 57.2% of the households include married-couple families, 28.9% are married-couple families with children under age 18. There were 25.3% of households with one or more people over the age of 65,

⁶ <http://www.kidsdata.org/>

⁷ <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohir/Pages/CHSPCountySheets.aspx#d>

⁸ <http://www.cdc.gov/TeenPregnancy/AboutTeenPreg.htm>

⁹ <http://www.kidsdata.org/>

and 43% with one or more people under age 18.¹⁰ 2.7% of children were in the care of grandparents from 2008 to 2012.¹¹

The following was derived from the 2010 Census results.¹²

Table 4. Household Types in Colusa County

<i>Household Type</i>	<i>Colusa Residents</i>	<i>Colusa County % of Residents</i>
<i>All Households</i>	7,056	100%
<i>With own children under 18 years</i>	2,039	38.9%
<i>Married Couples without Children</i>	1,994	28.3%
<i>Single Parents with Children</i>	707	10%
<i>Nonfamily households</i>	1,770	25.1%
<i>One Person</i>	1,475	20.9%

Housing costs and availability

As previously indicated, the average home in Colusa County cost approximately \$210,300 from 2008 to 2012. In 2014, the price of a rental, ranging from a studio to a four-bedroom unit, is estimated at \$596-\$1,438. In 2010, 10.5% of the housing units through the county were vacant, including 87 available for rent, 96 for sale, and 237 for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.¹²

2-1-1 calls: monthly averages by assistance requests

Many counties throughout the state have a 2-1-1 service through the California Alliance of Information & Referral Services. The service allows members of the community and service providers to access information about government and non-profit community health and social services in their area. Currently, Colusa County is not a member of the 2-1-1 service.

Substance abuse data

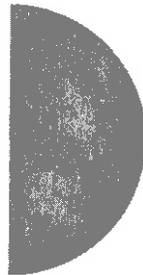
¹⁰ http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_DP_DPDP1

¹¹ <http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/541/grandparentcare10/table#fmt=725&loc=2,336&tf=80&sortType=asc>

¹² http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_DP_DPDP1

In the most recent report published by the Center for Applied Research, in 2008 the rate of admission to Alcohol and other Drug Treatment was 385.46 per 100,000 residents between Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity Counties. This was significantly lower than the average rate for the entire state, 591.63 per 100,000 residents. Chart 2 reflects the primary substance used upon admission to Alcohol and other Drug Treatment within the three counties.¹³ It was estimated in 2012, there would be 1,914 (7.69%) individuals with alcohol or drug diagnosis throughout Colusa County. 1,600 of the cases were predicted to include an alcohol diagnosis, while 383 would include a drug diagnosis.¹⁴

Chart 2. Primary Substance Used



Mental health data

In 2012, there were 1,284 individuals estimated as needing mental health services in Colusa County. Of those identified, 525 were youth diagnosed with a serious mental illness, defined by causing substantial impairment to major life activities.¹⁵

For youth between 5-14 years old in Colusa, Glenn, and Lake Counties combined, 1.5 per 1,000 were hospitalized for mental health issues in 2012. Youth between the ages of 15-19 were hospitalized at a rate of 6.8 per 1,000 in the same year. While this is lower than the rate statewide, it remains higher than nearby counties. For example, for youth between 15-19 years

¹³ http://www.ca-cpi.org/docs/County_Data_Files/Colusa_10.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/CaliforniaPrevalenceEstimates.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/CaliforniaPrevalenceEstimates.pdf>

in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties combined, 4.2 per 1,000 were hospitalized for mental health issues in 2012 and the number of children below age 15, who were hospitalized between the identified counties, was fewer than 20.¹⁶

Child fatalities and near fatalities

In 2012, there were two child fatalities in Colusa County. According to the data, one child between 10-14 years died of assault/homicide-firearm. The second was between 15-19 years old and died of unintentional injuries.¹⁷ Additionally, the number of infant mortalities between 2009-2011 was 2 per year.¹⁸ None had an open child welfare case.

Children with disabilities

Between 2010-2012, 166 (2.6%) of the children under age 18 in Colusa County were deemed to have one or more major disabilities. The disabilities include having serious difficulties in one or more of the following areas: hearing, vision, cognitive ability, ambulatory ability, self-care (ages 5-17), or independent living (ages 15-17). Only 1.2% of those children with one or more disabilities were uninsured.¹⁹

In 2012, there were 60 youth between the ages of 1-21 years enrolled and active in California Children's Services (CCS) which services disabled youth. Furthermore, in 2013, there were 476 children in Colusa County enrolled in Special Education. This includes children attending public school in grades K-12.²⁰

Rates of law enforcement calls for domestic violence

In 2012, there were a total of 95 domestic violence related calls to law enforcement for assistance. In 13 of the calls, a weapon was involved, primarily a personal weapon not firearms or knives. 33 of the calls were taken by the Colusa County Sheriff's Department in

¹⁶ kidsdata.org

¹⁷ <http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov/ReportMenus/CustomTables.aspx>

¹⁸ <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohir/Pages/CHSPCountySheets.aspx#d>

¹⁹ kidsdata.org

²⁰ kidsdata.org

unincorporated areas of the county. Colusa Police Department received 43 calls and the City of Williams police handled the remaining 19 calls.²¹

The rate of law enforcement calls for domestic violence was 6.9 per 1,000 adults between the ages of 18-69. This rate is slightly lower than years past. In 2009, the rate of calls was 9.8 per 1,000 (129 calls) and in 2011 the rate had decreased to 7.4 (100 calls).²²

Rates of emergency room visits for child victims of avoidable injuries (as applicable)

In 2012, there were 531 children between the ages of 0-17 years old who were treated for non-fatal injuries at the emergency room. The following table provides details about the injuries sustained by the children resulting in the emergency room visit.

Table 5. Injuries of children resulting in emergency room visits²³

Cause of Injury	N	Cause of Injury	N
Unintentional - Burn, Fire/Flame	1	Unintentional - Natural/Environmental	28
Unintentional - Burn, Hot Object/Substance	8	Unintentional - Overexertion	41
Unintentional - Cut/Pierce	21	Unintentional - Poisoning	6
Unintentional - Fall	160	Unintentional - Struck by Object	154
Unintentional - Firearm	2	Unintentional - Other	68
Unintentional - MVT, Occupant	8	Self-Inflicted/Suicide - Poisoning	4
Unintentional - MVT, Pedestrian	4	Assault/Homicide - Fight, Unarmed	3
Unintentional - Bicyclist, Other	9	Assault/Homicide - Other	2
Unintentional - Pedestrian, Other	1	Other - Undetermined Intent	1
Unintentional - Transport, Other	8	Other - Late Effects	2
Total			531

²¹ http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cjsc/prof12/domestic_violence_2012.pdf?

²² <http://www.kidsdata.org/>

²³

<http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov/ReportMenus/CallReportingServicesCustomDataTable.ashx?reportID=44&minYear=2012&maxYear=2012&minAge=0&maxAge=17&countyList=6&dd1=14&dd2=0&dd3=0&dd4=0&OutputFormat=1&causes=200&icdCauses=%20&raceEthList=101&reportDataID=3&populationFlag=False>

Analysis of Child Maltreatment Indicators

There has been a decrease in the number of children born to teenage mothers since the time of the previous CSA. Since 2010, Colusa County has implemented the California Personal Responsibility Education Program, CA PREP, to continue to attempt to decrease the rate of teenage pregnancies. CA PREP's purpose is to educate California's most high-risk and vulnerable adolescents on both abstinence and contraception by replicating evidence-based program models that have been proven to change behavior or reduce pregnancy among youth.

There has also been a decrease in the number of calls for domestic violence over the past several years. In 2007, there were 119 calls to law enforcement, whereas in 2012 there were only 95. The Colusa County Sheriff's and Colusa Police Department receive the majority of the calls, with only a small portion (20%) being received by Williams Police Department. Since the previous CSA, the County has expanded the role of the County Drug Task Force in drug enforcement which may be contributing to the decrease in calls to law enforcement related to domestic violence. The areas with the most concentrated number of allegations of child abuse/neglect, also fall under the jurisdiction of the Colusa County Sheriff's Department. This area includes the town of Arbuckle and the unincorporated areas of Colusa, with the majority of the allegations being general neglect. Colusa County child welfare works closely with the Sheriff's Office, conducting joint investigation when warranted and maintaining a close working relationship with the department. All Colusa County law enforcement agencies can provide stand-by when accessing rural areas in cases where worker safety is a concern. The size of our county allows for resident deputies to have established relationships with the community they are assigned. In many instances, they can provide collateral information regarding our families

It is additionally noted that the areas with the most concentrated number of allegations of child abuse/neglect, also fall under the jurisdiction of the Colusa County Sheriff's Department.

CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION POPULATION

All of the information provided within this section is derived from the UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project unless cited otherwise.²⁴

Child Welfare: Number of children with allegations stratified by age and ethnicity for the time period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

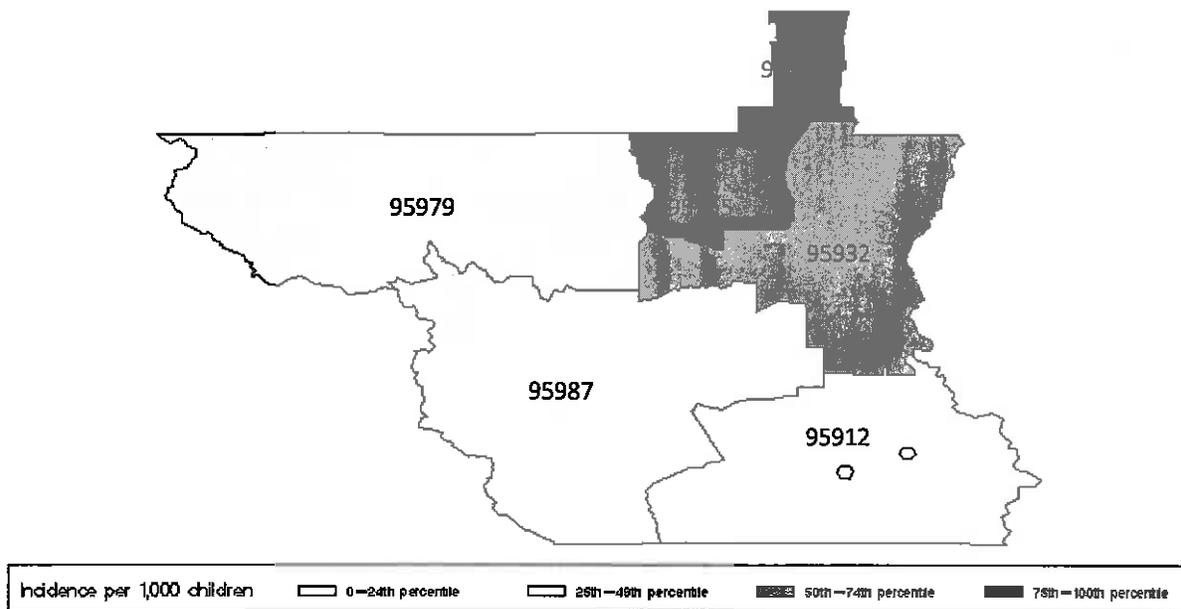
Age Group	Colusa County: Children with Allegations by Age			California
	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Under 1 year	313	17	54.4	64.4
1-2 years	641	32	49.9	49.9
3-5 years	1,050	55	52.4	57.5
6-10 years	1,758	69	39.3	56.0
11-15 years	1,706	69	40.5	49.6
16-17 years	640	23	35.9	42.9
Total	6,106	265	43.4	52.7

Ethnic Group	Colusa County: Children with Allegations by Ethnicity			California
	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Black	38	1	26.4	129.2
White	1,448	79	54.6	45.4
Latino	4,362	103	23.6	17.0
Asian/ P.I.	52	0	39.3	56.0
Native American	110	7	63.8	102.9
Multi-Race	98	0	0	0
Missing	-	78	43.4	-
Total	6,106	265	43.4	52.7

²⁴ Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Sandoval, A., Yee, H., Mason, F., Benton, C., Pixton, E., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2014). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 7/22/2014, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

Colusa County: Children with Allegations by Ethnicity and Age							
	Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-17 Years	Total
Black	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
White	3	11	17	18	22	8	79
Latino	7	12	19	27	28	10	103
Asian/ P.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native American	0	0	0	3	3	1	7
Multi-Race	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing	7	9	19	20	16	4	75
Total	17	32	55	69	69	23	265

The map below reflects the zip codes where the allegations throughout Colusa County are made. The data includes children between 0-17, with an allegation of maltreatment, at an incidence rate per 1,000, between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.



Child welfare: Number of children with substantiated allegations stratified by age and ethnicity for the time period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Colusa County: Substantiated Allegations by Age				California
Age Group	Children with Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allegations	% of Allegations
Under 1 year	8	25.6	47.1	34.5
1-2 years	12	18.7	37.5	22.6
3-5 years	16	15.2	29.1	18.3
6-10 years	20	11.4	29.0	15.5
11-15 years	13	7.6	18.8	13.9
16-17 years	3	4.7	13.0	11.8
Total	72	11.8	27.2	17.3

Colusa County: Substantiated Allegations by Ethnicity				California
Ethnic Group	Children with Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allegations	% of Allegations
Black	0	0	0	19.2
White	29	20	36.7	17.4
Latino	30	6.9	29.1	18.9
Asian/ P.I.	0	0.0	-	15.5
Native American	4	36.5	57.1	19.2
Multi-Race	0	0	-	-
Missing	9	-	12.0	6.8
Total	72	11.8	27.2	17.3

Colusa County: Substantiated Allegations by Ethnicity and Age							
	Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-17 Years	Total
Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	2	6	7	7	6	1	29
Latino	4	4	6	10	5	1	30
Asian/ P.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native American	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Multi-Race	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing	2	2	3	2	-	-	9
Total	8	12	16	20	13	3	72

Child welfare: Number of children with allegations by type for the time period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Allegation Type	Disposition Type				
	Substantiated	Inconclusive	Unfounded	Assessment/ Eval. Out	Total
Sexual Abuse	3	1	3	9	16 (6%)
Physical Abuse	2	3	17	10	32 (12.1%)
Severe Neglect	1	-	-	-	1 (0.4%)
General Neglect	35	23	59	21	138 (52.1%)
Exploitation	-	-	-	-	-
Emotional Abuse	22	10	16	6	54 (20.4%)
Caretaker Absence/ Incapacity	9	4	5	6	24 (9.1%)
At Risk, Sibling Abused	-	-	-	-	-
Substantial Risk	-	-	-	-	-
Missing	-	-	-	-	-
Total	72	41	100	52	265

Child welfare: Number of children with first entries stratified by age and ethnicity for the time period January 1, 2013-December 31, 2013.

Colusa County: Children with First Entries by Age				California
Age Group	Total Child Population	Children with First Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Under 1 year	313	3	9.6	11.6
1-2 years	641	4	6.2	4.2
3-5 years	1,050	10	9.5	3.2
6-10 years	1,758	12	6.8	2.1
11-15 years	1,706	7	4.1	1.6
16-17 years	640	3	4.7	1.3
Total	6,106	39	6.4	2.9

Colusa County: Children with First Entries by Ethnicity				California
Ethnic Group	Total Child Population	Children with First Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Black	38	0	0	9.2
White	1,448	16	11.1	2.7
Latino	4,362	23	5.3	2.9
Asian/ P.I.	52	0	0	0.7
Native American	110	0	0	8.1

Multi-Race	98	0	0	0
Missing	-	-	-	-
Total	6,106	39	6.4	2.9

Probation: Number of youth with first entries stratified by age and ethnicity between January 1, 2013-December 31, 2013.

Colusa: Youth with First Entries by Age		
Age Group	Total Child Population	Youth with First Entries
6-10 years	1,758	-
11-15 years	1,706	2
16-17 years	640	7
18-20	-	-
Total	6,106	9

Colusa: Youth with First Entries by Race		
Ethnic Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries
Black	38	-
White	1,448	1
Latino	4,362	6
Asian/ P.I.	52	-
Native American	110	-
Multi-Race	98	-
Missing	-	2
Total	6,106	9

Child welfare: Number of children with subsequent entries between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

Age Group	Colusa County: Children with Subsequent Entries by Age			California
	Total Child Population	Children with Subsequent Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Under 1 year	313	0	0	.1
1-2 years	641	1	1.6	0.5
3-5 years	1,050	2	1.9	0.7
6-10 years	1,758	1	0.6	0.7
11-15 years	1,706	1	0.6	0.7
16-17 years	640	0	0	0.7
Total	6,106	5	0.8	0.6

Colusa County: Children with Subsequent Entries by Ethnicity				California
Ethnic Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Black	38	0	0	2.6
White	1,448	3	2.1	0.6
Latino	4,362	2	0.5	0.6
Asian/ P.I.	52	0	0	0.1
Native American	110	0	0	2.9
Multi-Race	98	0	0	0
Missing	-	-	-	-
Total	6,106	5	0.8	0.6

Probation: Number of probation youth with subsequent entries between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

Colusa: Youth with Subsequent Entries by Age and Ethnicity						
Age Group	Black	White	Latino	Asian/P.I.	Nat. American	Total
6-10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
16-17 years	-	-	1	-	-	1
18-20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	1	-	-	1

Child welfare: Number of children in care as of January 1, 2014.

Colusa County: Children in Care								
	Under 1 Year	1-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	11-15 Years	16-17 Years	18-20 years	Total
Black	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
White	0	2	5	5	0	1	2	15
Latino	0	3	5	6	8	3	2	27
Asian/ P.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Race	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	5	10	11	8	4	4	42

Probation: Number of youth in care as of January 1, 2014.

Colusa: Youth In Care							
Age Group	Black	White	Latino	Asian/P.I.	Nat. American	Missing	Total
6-10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-15 years	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
16-17 years	-	-	3	-	-	2	5
18-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	5	-	-	2	7

Child welfare: Children in care with open cases by service component as of January 1, 2014.

Service Component	Children in Care
Emergency Response	7
No Placement FM	3
Post-Placement FM	7
Family Reunification	18
Permanent Placement	22
Supportive Transition	3
Total	60

Number of children in care with tribal affiliations/ number of ICWA eligible children

For child welfare, as of April 1, 2014, there were 2 ICWA eligible children placed with relatives and 1 placed with a non-relative, non-Indian substitute care provider. There were 2 additional children whose primary ethnicity of American Indian. Both of these children were placed with a non-relative, non-Indian substitute care provider due to the lack of available tribal homes.

Probation did not have any documented ICWA eligible or American Indian youth in care as of April 1, 2014.

Analysis

In Colusa County, children between the ages of 6-10 years appear to have the highest rate of allegations (along with children ages 11-15 years), substantiations, entries, and are over represented when considering the total number of children in care. Mental health, substance abuse, developmental and special education services through the schools and Behavioral Health are available both these age groups in Colusa County.

Since the previous CSA, Colusa County has also seen an increase in the rate of first entries. In 2009, the rate was 4.7 per 1,000, whereas in 2013, the rate was 6.4. The rate of first entries is higher in every age group, with the exception of children under the age of 1, compared to the State of California as a whole. Further, there are some racial discrepancies that may require further analysis. For example, although there are more Hispanic or Latino children in the

county, Latino children have a higher incidence of allegations, substantiations, first entries, and representation in care. (See p.26, 27 & 28)

The percent of substantiations is remarkably high when compared to the state. In Colusa County, 27.2% of allegations were substantiated in 2013, but only 17.3% were substantiated throughout the state. There has been an increase in allegations of general neglect throughout the county, as well as an increase in allegations of physical and emotional abuse since 2008. Potential influences on these increases in rates of allegations may be related to changes in the economy, such as the increased unemployment rate, and the rates of substance abuse, primarily methamphetamine and alcohol.

Probation has a very small number of youth in placement, making the data mostly unremarkable.

Public Agency Characteristics

POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS

The County Board of Supervisors is comprised of 5 Board Members. The Board of Supervisors oversees all Department of Health and Human Services and Probation Department budgets, expenditures, personnel matters, and approves our System Improvement Plans. The Department of Health and Human Services and Probation each have a Supervisor appointed as their department liaison.

The Cachil Dehe Wintun Band of Indians is located in Colusa County. They do not currently have an established Tribal Court. The Tribe provides many services to their members and the community. They have a day care, preschool, Wellness Center, Medical Clinic and Dialysis Clinic. They provide tutoring support and counseling services. The Department of Health and Human Services and Probation Department uphold the ICWA and provide notice to any tribes identified by the family.

Colusa County is home to Colusa County Office of Education, Pierce Unified School District, Williams Unified School District, Maxwell Unified School District, and Colusa Unified School District. Colusa County Office of Education provides Community School, Head Start Services and Special Education Services. The Colusa County Office of Education staffs a Prevention Coordinator assigned to work with homeless and foster youth.

Colusa County has three law enforcement agencies: Colusa County Sheriff's Office, Williams Police Department, and Colusa Police Department. The District Attorney's Office has investigators and victim witness services. All of these agencies collaborate with Child Welfare, Probation and Behavioral Health in our county's Multi-disciplinary Interview Center. County social workers are not deputized and coordinate with law enforcement on child detentions. Child Welfare works with the Sheriffs Office's Drug Task Force to address substance abuse issues with our families.

Colusa County Public Health is under the Department of Health and Human Services. The Director of Nursing is an active participant with First 5 Colusa and Colusa County CAPC. The department provides a foster care nurse to work with both Child Welfare and Probation youth in out of home care.

COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Child Welfare maintains the following staff positions: one Program Manager, one Supervisor, four Social Workers and one Social Worker Aide. Due to staffing size Child Welfare utilizes vertical caseload assignment. It is important that the workers be knowledgeable in all service components of child welfare services. All social workers provide after-hours emergency response services.

Any staffing issues presents a workload issue whether it is due to retirements, dismissals, resignations and extended medical leaves. Whenever possible, succession planning is done. Child Welfare attempts to bring in the successor for on the job training to ease the transition.

Due to the staff size, social workers are responsible for all data entry in CWS/CMS. The foster care nurse ensures that all medical information is entered in the system for both child

welfare and probation youth. Given work demands, data entry is easily overlooked. The Social Worker Supervisor and Program Manager utilized CWS/CMS and SafeMeasures reports to ensure accurate and timely data entry.

Child Welfare utilizes Merit System Services to recruit and select appropriate social worker candidates. Merit System Services provides job specifications, minimum job requirements, testing and oral examinations for all social worker classifications. Entry level social worker positions require a minimum of 30 college semester units in social services or a related field. The Social Worker IV position requires a Masters in Social Work.

Child Welfare currently staffs 3 employees holding a Title IV-E supported Master of Social Work degree and 3 employees holding a Bachelor's Degree in a related field of study. The average years of experience for child welfare workers are 9 years.

Child Welfare struggles in recruiting bi-lingual social worker staff. One of the issues is the county's salary structure. All Child Welfare staff receive training in Cultural Competency. Social worker salaries are consistently among the lowest offered in Northern California. This creates an environment where new staff leave the county to work in higher paying counties after receiving job training and experience from Colusa County.

Probation is comprised of one Chief Deputy Probation Officer, one Senior Probation Officer, two Probation Officers and one Probation Aide. Given the size of the juvenile probation unit, cases are split equally between the two case carrying probation officers. Current staffing levels have been stable for two years. Increasing requirements regarding the out of home placement of minors and documentation has an impact on staff. The Probation Department struggles with data entry into the CWS/CMS system as it is unfamiliar and duplicative, as they also utilize Correction Software Solutions (CSS) system for case management.

Recruitment of probation officers is done through the Colusa County Personnel Department. The entry level probation officer classification requires a four-year college degree. Probation currently staffs two probation officers with Master's Degrees and two probation officers with Bachelor's Degrees. The average years of experience for probation officers are 11. Cultural Competency education is part of the probation officers' required 40 hours of annual

training. Juvenile and Adult Probation Officers provide after-hours emergency response services on a rotation.

During the past five years, Colusa County did not have any issues with employee bargaining units.

FINANCIAL/MATERIAL RESOURCES

Colusa County 1 Stop provides employment services. They provide job club training for our CalWORKS clients and Independent Living Skills classes to our foster youth. 1 Stop manages our transitional housing facility. They provide pay-rolling services to Colusa County CAPC. Colusa County 1 Stop provides employment services to the Probation Department's AB109, Day Reporting Center clients.

First 5 Colusa collaborates with the Department of Health and Human Services' Public Health Department and Colusa County CAPC on various activities such as car seat trainings, breastfeeding programs, and new parent outreach programs. First 5 Colusa operates two family action centers in the county. They have been working with State Adoptions, the Department of Health and Human Services and local foster family agencies to recruit foster and adoptive family homes in the county. First 5 Colusa is coordinating trainings in the county with Yuba Community College District, through its Foster Kinship Care Education Program.

Impact Colusa provides food bank, sheiter, and consignment services to the county. They work with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide families with appropriate work attire to help with job retention. They are recipients of grant funding from the Salvation Army and United Way. They also receive private donations and fundraising support.

A Hand Up is a non-profit, faith-based organization that provides support to our county's homeless population. They offer meals, motel vouchers, and housing support when possible.

Colusa County Community Advocates for Parents and Children (CAPC) provides outreach and education services to the county through the use of Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) and Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) funding.

The population targeted is families with minor children in the home. Colusa County CAPC supports such programs as Nurturing Parent, 40 Developmental Assets, Bullying Prevention, and Fatherhood Initiatives. They provide Foster Care Recruitment and Retention services, are a partner with the Colusa County Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center, hold a board member position with the Local Child Care Planning Commission, works on the Colusa County Literacy Council and is a partner with First 5 Colusa.

CHILD WELFARE/PROBATION OPERATED SERVICES

Colusa County does not have an in-county juvenile hall facility. Colusa County Probation has partnered with Yuba and Sutter Counties to expand the Bi-County Juvenile Hall Facility into the Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility. All Colusa County youth requiring a lockdown placement and rehabilitation (camp) services are sent to this facility.

Colusa County does not operate a shelter. There are no community based shelters operated in Colusa County. Foster homes are used for emergency shelter.

Colusa County Child Welfare does not license foster family homes. They do conduct relative and non-relative extended family member assessments for placement. Colusa County has a Memorandum of Understanding with California Department of Health and Human Services Adoptions, Chico District Office for direct adoption services.

OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS

The CalWORKS program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Eligibility Unit. This allows for coordination between Child Welfare and the eligibility unit in case planning for our families. Additionally, the eligibility unit administers the foster care eligibility cases.

The Department of Public Health is under the umbrella of the Department of Health and Human Services. This structure allows for a true partnership between public health and Child Welfare. A public health nurse is assigned to Child Welfare. The nurse tracks medical and dental treatment for our youth. Additionally, the nurse is available to work with investigating social workers in cases involving youth with medical conditions and allegations of medical neglect.

The Department of Environmental Health is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Environmental Health specialists are available to Child Welfare staff to aid in investigations regarding hazardous living situations.

Alcohol and drug treatment programs are provided by the Colusa County Department of Behavioral Health. There are no rehabilitation facilities available in the county. Behavioral Health also provided mental health services including counseling; WrapAround Services; psychotropic medication evaluation and monitoring; crisis stabilization; In Home Based Services (IHBS) and Intensive Case Coordination (ICC) services in accordance with Katie A.; and case management services. These services are funded by MediCal, MHSA and SB163.

The Department of Health and Human Services staffs a part-time mental health therapist to work with our families. If applicable, the therapist will coordinate services with other mental health staff to best serve the family.

State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

Katie A. v Bonta

The Department of Health and Human Services Program Manager and the Department of Behavioral Health Services Deputy Director created and implemented the county's Katie A. Procedure. This process requires that all youth with an open Child Welfare case receive a mental health screening to determine if they are in need of an assessment for mental health services. If the screening indicates a need for further assessment, a referral is made to Behavioral Health for a full assessment. The two departments continue to meet monthly to ensure compliance with the procedure, that appropriate services are being delivered to the youth, and that all required reports are submitted to the State.

The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to the successful achievement of California's goals for outcomes for children and families. All Child Welfare staff utilize the CWS/CMS and SafeMeasures systems to monitor case compliance with outcome measures and work to ensure timely data entry. As important as this is, our primary goal is to provide our families with the skills they need to provide a safe and healthy home for youth.

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

BOS – DESIGNATED PUBLIC AGENCY

The Colusa County Board of Supervisors has designated the Department of Health and Human Services as the public agency to administer Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention funds (CBCAP).

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (CAPC)

The Colusa County Board of Supervisors has designated the Colusa County Community Advocates for Parents and Children as the county's child abuse prevention council. Colusa County CAPC is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation. Colusa County CAPC collaborates throughout the county to provide prevention and intervention efforts through community grants, family grants, and outreach. Colusa County CAPC provides foster family recruitment and retention activities.

COUNTY CHILDREN’S TRUST FUND COMMISSION, BOARD OR COUNCIL

The Colusa County Board of Supervisors has designated the Colusa County Community Advocates for Parents and Children as the county's Children’s Trust Fund (CCTF) Commission. Information regarding programs, services and/or activities funded with the CCTF is published on the Colusa County CAPC website. The county's CBCAP allocation is not deposited into the CCTF.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE

The Colusa County Board of Supervisors has designated the Department of Health and Human Services as the public agency to lead the PSSF Collaborative which includes the CFFT and CAPC.

Systemic Factors

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

CWS/CMS is the primary information system used by Child Welfare staff to support daily case management activities and referral monitoring. All managers, supervisor, case managers and key clerical staff have their own desk top workstations. Formal policies and procedures exist for data input, monitoring and approval and staff have been trained in the use of the system. The CWS/CMS data is available to management and staff through a variety of monthly, quarterly and semi-annual reports. Support for hardware, software and application issues is currently managed by internal IT staff.

In addition to CWS/CMS, the Department of Health and Human Services has utilized SafeMeasures® to produce supervisory and management reports for performance improvement as well as to provide a tool to assist with the day-to-day administration of the program. All data displayed in the SafeMeasures® application is extracted from the CWS/CMS system and updated regularly by the Children's Research Center. Supervisory focus is placed on key safety, permanency and well-being outcome areas and ensuring the timely entry of data. Management reports are used for strategic planning and quality assurance purposes.

The Structured Decision-Making web based application is utilized by social workers to assist in assessing the safety and risk factors when investigating referrals and provides an assessment process for the development of case plans and the ongoing assessment of risk and safety in the family home. The Department of Health and Human Services provides CAPIT/CBACAP/PSSF contractors with a report template for the quarterly activity report and bi-

annual narrative reports. The reports are gathered and stored electronically. A tracking system is in place to monitor report and invoice due dates.

The addition of SafeMeasures® and the web based Structured Decision-Making application enhance Child Welfare’s case management and performance of critical case decision-making and planning activities. The use of SafeMeasures® as a case management and supervision tool has replaced cumbersome manual systems for data tracking and ensuring the key investigation, service and case planning activities are occurring in a timely and thorough manner.

The Colusa County Probation Department utilizes Correction Software Solutions (CSS) system for data collection and tracking of juvenile cases. Additionally, Juvenile Probation Officers are required to enter juvenile wards in out-of-home placement into the CWS/CMS system. Probation Officers recently began using SafeMeasures® to monitor data entry and manage compliance with outcome measures.

Data quality has improved in Child Welfare as a result of staffing stability in recent years. Social work positions are full which has made it possible to improve the quality and consistency of data entry. The importance of accurate and timely entry of data in the CWS/CMS application is consistently emphasized at the management and supervisory levels and monthly monitoring of data entry activity is monitored closely. Staff utilizing CWS/CMS receive CWS/CMS and SafeMeasures® training provided by the Northern California Training Academy upon initial hire and periodically thereafter as needed to improve skills and/or learn application updates.

To address timely and accurate data quality challenges, Probation has participated in CWS/CMS training provided by the Northern California Training Academy and recently began utilizing SafeMeasures® to improve data entry activities.

COUNTY CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

COURT STRUCTURE

Colusa County has two Superior Court judges, one that primarily hears juvenile cases. Typically, the juvenile calendar which includes both CPS and Probation cases, is heard on

Mondays. Two years ago, CPS in collaboration with the Courts, began scheduling CPS cases on alternate Mondays due to the length of the joint court calendar. This was done in an effort to consolidate our court calendar, thereby reducing the staff and attorney time for Court hearings. Contract attorneys provide representation to the minors and two public defenders are assigned to represent the parents involved. If necessary, the Court can appoint other local attorneys to represent the parties.

The Department of Health and Human Services contracts with outside legal counsel to represent CPS in court proceedings. Counsel provides legal representation to the Department of Health and Human Services which includes reviewing court reports, legal interpretation, training on identified child welfare legal points and consultation to ensure that cases meet necessary legal requirements. The District Attorney's office prosecutes juvenile defendants designated by the Probation Officer.

The social worker and Probation officers' role in the case review system is threefold. First, they ensure that detention hearings are routinely scheduled within legally required time frames and the respective investigations are completed within those time frames. Second, they perform investigative and service related duties in accordance with the Welfare and Institutions Code. Finally, they write and present reports to the Court in accordance with the established legal review time frames.

Currently an informal collaborative effort exists in the Court System. Social workers, Supervisor, child welfare attorneys, public defenders and bench officers attend Beyond the Bench training. Moreover, Probation participates in continued education which supports these collaborative efforts.

Finally, Colusa County plans to utilize strategies given in a recent review by the Administrative Office of the Courts:

"Summary of findings from the Administrative Office of the Courts Administrative Review: The Administrative Office of the Courts conducted a Title IV-E Site Visit on June 17, 2013. In a memorandum dated October 11, 2013, the AOC reported that 22 of the 25 cases reviewed had hearing set timely and that the one Non minor Dependent case reviewed contained the

correct findings and orders. Their specific recommendations included: ensuring Court findings regarding the development of the case plan are consistently made and that the case plans are signed; ensure that the findings and orders document signed by the Court is attached to the minute order prepared by the clerk; ensure paternity findings and document; social worker reports should include detailed information on sibling relationships, placement and efforts made to identify, find and engage relatives; and ensure that the D3 and D4 findings are made at the dispositional hearing and properly documented on the minute order.”

Strengthening the Juvenile Court/CWS agency working relationship has improved the efficiency and reliability of our case review system.

Continuances are an exception in Colusa County. In practice, continuances are only given upon a showing of good cause provided it is not contrary to the interest of the minor. It is a goal of the Court and County agencies to minimize the number of continuances so that key placement and service planning decisions can be made timely for the child and family.

Recommendations for parental rights are initiated by Child Welfare staff when a thorough assessment has been made that parents are not available or capable of providing for the safety and well-being of their child. These recommendations are frequently contested and the Colusa County Dept. of Health and Human Services ensures that the documentation and legal requirements to support the recommendation are in place to facilitate timely court review and decision-making. Probation Officers do not facilitate the termination of parental rights for youth under their supervision.

Facilities for parents and children as they await Court hearings are provided in the Court building.

Although there are pre-court conference discussions in effort for parties to reach case resolution, Colusa County does not have a formal mediation program for Child Welfare and Probation matters.

Child Welfare and Probation each have a system in place that assures parents, youth, foster parents, tribes, pre-adoptive parents and relative caregivers of children and youth in placement are provided timely notification of Court hearings.

Child Welfare case managers have the primary responsibility for ensuring court noticing occurs timely. They are able to utilize the CWS/CMS system to access and monitor notice due dates. The Child Welfare supervisor also tracks notice due dates and provides reminders to Child Welfare staff that notices are due. Probation youth and families are noticed 15 days in advance of Court hearings by the Colusa County Probation Office.

In rare instances that notification cannot be done in a timely manner, there is a mechanism in place to reschedule a hearing provided that a stipulation to continue the hearing is filed with the Court.

Colusa County social workers encourage parent-child-youth participation in case planning throughout all stages of the case planning process. The initial case plan is developed within 30 days of the child or youth's referral or detention. Child Welfare has implemented the use of Safety Organized Practice (SOP) to facilitate family meetings, designed to give parents, youth and other key stakeholders a voice in the creation of effective working relationships, a shared focus to guide casework and establish case goals to ensure safety. SOP meetings can be held to develop safety plans, conduct placement planning, serve as the child-family-team meeting for Katie A. youth, and to establish natural supports for the family.

The needs of caregivers are identified in the course of the social worker's assessment prior to completing the case plan. Any needs are addressed in the case plan. Child Welfare staff also work closely with foster family agency (FFA) staff to ensure that caregivers have the tools they need to provide quality care for the children and youth placed in their home.

Currently, the engagement of the parent in the case planning process is documented through the parent's signature on the case plan and case plan update documents by both Child Welfare and Probation staff. Child Welfare documents participation in SOP meetings in court reports.

The engagement of the child and youth in the case planning process occurs throughout all phases of the case plan process through efforts of the case social worker. The youth's engagement in case planning is formally documented through the process of Emancipation Conferencing and planning. The Juvenile Court also takes an active role in encouraging and

supporting the engagement of children and youth in case planning by requiring that all children and youth age 10 and older, be present for their court hearings.

The initial Child Welfare case plan is developed by the Child Welfare social worker within 30 days of referral or the child or youth's detention by the Juvenile Court. Case plans are updated at a minimum of every six months. Ongoing assessments of child safety, well-being and the family's progress on addressing issues of abuse or neglect that brought the child or youth to the attention of the agency, occur throughout all phases of case planning and service delivery. If the needs of the child/youth or family change, the case plan can be updated prior to the six month review. Child Welfare utilizes their established SOP meeting when appropriate to provide direction for the case.

Colusa County implemented Structured Decision-Making (SDM) in 2009. This evidenced based risk and safety assessment tool has proven to be exceptionally valuable to social workers as they make critical case decisions throughout key points in all phases of case planning and care.

CWS/CMS generates a case plan the case plan template that is used by Child Welfare social workers. The system also generates an update reminder for all case plans. The initial case plan is typically filed with the Disposition report. At the Disposition Hearing, the Court will issue an order for the parents and youth to participate in the case plan. The Court issues a similar order for case plan participation at all subsequent hearings. Case plan updates are filed with the corresponding court report. Case plans are reviewed, approved and signed by the unit supervisor.

Concurrent planning is a vital part of Child Welfare case planning. Typically at the point of detention, the case can be staffed with the unit supervisor and other social workers. The family's history and the current detention issues are taken into account. This staffing will address a preliminary identification as to the likelihood of reunification. An alternative to reunification can also be identified and taken into account when planning placement of the child or youth.

Concurrent planning requirements are explained to families so that when they read court reports that address the concurrent plan for the minor they understand an alternate permanency plan is developed in the event neither parent is able to successfully reunify. Concurrent planning begins at the Detention Hearing, when inquiries are made into available family members, non-custodial parents, and non-relative relations who may be willing to have the child/youth placed with them. If there is a known tribal affiliation, that tribe will be contacted in an attempt to identify any possible Indian home placements. Child Welfare has a joint monthly case management meeting with California State Adoption, Chico District office staff to address concurrently planning.

The structure of the Child Welfare unit requires that all social workers are generic in job duty. This means that a case does not change workers as the needs of the case move from family reunification, family maintenance, and permanent plan. This allows the case-carrying social worker to be familiar with the needs of a particular family which allows for better, more appropriate long-term planning and relationship building with the family. All social workers are required to attend the Core Social Worker training offered by the regional training academy and must attend 40 hours of continuing training every 24 months as required by regulation.

The Probation Department has two case-carrying juvenile Probation Officers and a Supervising Probation Officer. Probation Officers are required to participate in 40 hours of continued education each year through the Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) regulated by the Corrections Standards Authority.

When a case has reached a point that termination of parental rights is necessary, the case carrying worker writes the 366.26 report, represents the department at the hearing, and assures that proper notice including publication requirements are met. Typically, identification of a potential adoptive home is done in conjunction with State Adoptions. In the event that the child involved is an infant, foster-adopt homes are used as placement resources to help speed the time to adoption and help facilitate creation of familial bonds.

If termination of parental rights is not in the child/youth's best interests, social workers must adhere to the requirements of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 366.26 (c)(1) and state for the court record the compelling reason why termination is not recommended.

Colusa County Child Welfare and Probation staff participate in a number of multi-disciplinary activities that are useful in the assessment and case planning process, which is part of the strong culture of collaboration which small rural counties such as Colusa rely upon to supplement limited resources. A county-wide Multi-disciplinary Team Meeting (MDT) is attended by key community provider agencies, including Child Welfare, Probation, law enforcement, education, mental health, alcohol and drugs services, clergy, etc., is held monthly to coordinate service planning for shared cases. Additionally, Wraparound Child and Family Team meetings are held in which the child, youth and family, along with key service providers meet to participate in key planning and decision-making. A monthly meeting is also facilitated by Child Welfare with CDSS Adoption for the purpose of staffing and adoption planning on cases that have been Court ordered to Adoptions.

FOSTER / ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

GENERAL LICENSING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Colusa County does not license its own foster homes or certify adoptive family homes. Families interested in becoming foster homes can obtain certification through a foster family agency or licensure through Community Care Licensing. FFAs provide support services to their foster parents as part of their management function. Adoptive home approvals are performed by the California State Department of Social Services. Colusa County does conduct relative home assessment for placement.

Yuba Community College District, through its Foster Kinship Care Education Program provides training for foster parents and relative placement families.

There are currently a limited number of certified foster homes in Colusa County, but no County licensed homes, which presents placement resource challenges. A recruitment effort for local home is underway and facilitated by the Colusa County Community Advocates for Parents and Children (CAPC). CAPC acts as a clearing house for those interested in becoming foster parents, referring them to

foster family agencies or Community Care Licensing. CAPC provides outreach throughout the county and hosts informational meeting event in conjunction with local foster family agencies and State Adoptions. Pending the addition of more licensed foster homes in county, the County utilizes foster family agency homes as the primary placement resource.

Local foster family agencies provide certified foster homes for placement. Currently, Colusa County has limited available certified homes in county. Colusa County adoptions are handled by the California Department of Social Services, Chico District Office. Child Welfare utilizes SOP meetings and Family Finding searches to identify possible placements.

The majority of Probation placements are in a group home setting. Probation officers are aware and familiar with the relative home assessment standards as set by AB1695 and make relative placements when appropriate. Probation may also make placement in a foster family placement certified through an FFA. There are no group homes located in Colusa County.

Relative home assessments are done for all family and non-family individuals who have expressed an interest in having the child/youth placed in their home. All social workers are aware and familiar with the current assessment standards as set by AB1695. Workers have been trained by the social worker supervisor, in accordance with the Welfare and Institutions Code and CDSS regulations, as to how to access and complete the required forms, SOC 815, SOC 817, and the SOC 818. Criminal record clearances are done through the Colusa County Sheriff's Office, which provide CLETS criminal records and do all our Live Scan fingerprinting. Background checks through CACI and DOJ are also done.

Colusa County racial diversity is divided primarily between Hispanic and Caucasian ethnicities. This can provide placement challenges for non-English speaking children. On a case by case basis both child welfare and probation work with tribal social services to find the appropriate placement for tribal youth. (Colusa County has one approved tribal foster home available to it in Glenn County. We have not yet found it necessary to use this placement and rely on our good relationship with tribal social workers to locate approved tribal homes.) Placement of older children, particularly males, is also difficult given the scarce number of foster homes that take in children over 14 years of age.

One of the hardest placements to make involves children who are victims of sexual abuse. Very few homes or treatment facilities are available to serve this population.

The lack of available in-county placement resources presents challenges to meeting the specialized placement needs of children and youth served by both the Child Welfare and Probation Departments and finding homes for older youth served in both systems. The absence of in-county placements requires that additional resources be utilized to ensure that children and youth are able to visit with their parents and siblings on a regular basis and creates geographic obstacles to reunification, particularly as the child or youth is preparing to transition home.

STAFF, CAREGIVER AND SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING

Training regulations that outline requirements for the training of Child Welfare staff were developed by the California Department of Social Services in July 2008. Per regulations, county Child Welfare departments are required to provide a standardized core training program to all social workers within 12 months of hire, with additional core trainings to be completed within 24 months of hire. All Child Welfare social workers and supervisor are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing training every 24 months following core training completion. Due to the smallness of our staff, our sole supervisor is able to routinely discuss training needs and professional interests with social workers and agency policy is to make as many training opportunities available to our staff as possible, giving their responsibilities. Fortunately, our small size allows the supervisor to be knowledgeable about the families being supervised and current issues.

The Department of Health and Human Services contracts with the Northern California Training Academy (NCTA) to provide trainings and works with NCTA to update, tailor and improve training curriculum. Examples of trainings include, but are not limited to: Supervisor Core Training, Manager and Supervisor Excellence Training, Child Maltreatment, Child and Youth Development, Strength Based Practice, Case Planning and Case Management, Multiethnic Placement Act, Independent Living Plan Development and Services, and Juvenile Court training and ICWA. The Child Welfare manager, supervisor and all social workers have

received Structured Decision-Making, Safe Measures and CWS/CMS training. All Child Welfare staff have received trainings that address Cultural Diversity and Disproportionality and will receive ongoing training as available.

The Department of Health and Human Services provides employees with ongoing education and training throughout their hire with the agency to promote ongoing skill and knowledge development. The program manager tracks and monitors training for all social work staff.

Probation training is provided by the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, Corrections Standard Authority. The Core Training is 300 hours, with an annual training requirement of 40 hours for professional education.

Although resources are limited, efforts are made by both the Child Welfare and Probation agencies to provide technical assistance and training to consumers, contractors and community service providers in a variety of ways. Yuba Community College District through its Foster Kinship Care Education program provides foster parent, adoptive parent, and relative placement training for Colusa County providers. These trainings are provided free of charge and financial support can be arranged to reimburse providers for gas and/or daycare costs.

Additional training support is provided by CAPC that creates the opportunity for staff, collateral agency staff and consumers to attend professional development conferences. Colusa County makes every effort to share training opportunities with our community partners including FFAs and tribal to ensure that our families receive services of the highest professional quality.

Agency Collaboration

Collaboration with public and private agencies

As addressed in previous sections of this report, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Probation Department strive to work collaboratively with both public and private agencies within the County and depend on the internal and external public and private relationships to fulfill the protection and service duties of the respective agencies. The size of the County enhances the ability to work together in a cooperative and effective manner.

Child Welfare and Probation have a strong collaborative and partnership with Colusa County Substance Abuse Services and Colusa County Mental Health through the multi-disciplinary team process, the SB163 Wrap Around program, joint case planning and Katie A.

Child Welfare has a well-established partnership with CalWORKS and works collaboratively with that department to ensure that families who are shared clients receive coordinated Child Welfare and Welfare to Work services to create a network of support to families and children/youth that are dually served.

The Health and Human Services and Probation departments collaborate jointly on a number of projects and programs to ensure a continuum of care for youth and families, including the Wraparound Program, dual-jurisdiction cases, the CSA and CSA peer review, SIP, and the County MDT.

The County-wide Multi-disciplinary Team is a key formal collaborative partnership that meets monthly. The MDT is open to all public and private community stakeholders as a forum to address community services needs and coordination. MDT partners include, but are not limited to, CAPC, education, law enforcement, Child Welfare, Probation, AOD, Mental Health, faith based organizations, Alta Regional Center and housing.

Law Enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, Behavioral Health and Child Welfare collaborate in the operation of the Multi-disciplinary Interview Center to ensure thorough and supportive investigations of children and youth who have experienced sexual and severe physical abuse.

Colusa County Behavior Health Department provides Wraparound Services. The program provides service alternatives to group home care through extended family-based service for children and youth referred by Child Welfare and Probation. All three departments participate in quarterly steering committee meetings.

A collaborative relationship exists between Colusa County and the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians. Regularly scheduled meetings are not held, however, the close proximity of the Colusa Indian Community allows for collaboration and joint planning for Indian children and families.

SERVICE ARRAY

Colusa County is a small rural county and the availability of key services such as comprehensive drug and alcohol assessment and treatment, affordable and available housing, transportation, aftercare, employment, youth activities and post adoptive services, are very limited or not available in county for children/youth and families. As a result, it is often difficult for families to receive the very services that are needed to support their progress and stability.

Although community-based resources are limited, there are a few agencies that provide critical prevention support. The Trinity is a faith-based coalition that provides crisis intervention services for families in need. A Hand Up is a new non-profit that provides outreach to homeless families and strengthens Colusa County's network of prevention services. First 5 Colusa funds two family action centers in the towns of Arbuckle and Williams that provide family centered services to the community.

Given the lack of community based organizations that provide child prevention activities, the majority of CAPIT and all CBCAP funds are used to support the CAPC. One of the goals listed for the CAPC and its program manager is to seek grant money to help make the CAPC more self-sufficient and less reliant on the CAPIT and CBCAP funds. The CAPIT and CBCAP funds could then be used to support other child abuse prevention activities. This has been the long term goal for CAPC for a number of years, however, frequent staffing changes have made it difficult to achieve. The current manager has been in place for approximately one year. If available CAPIT funding is utilized by the Public Health Department to support outreach to new parents and breastfeeding awareness programs.

When a child or youth comes to the attention of Child Welfare or Probation, an initial assessment is completed to determine if the child/youth and family have special cultural or language needs. When identified, the cultural and language needs are documented in the case file and electronically in CWS/CMS for Child Welfare cases. Bi-lingual and interpretation services are available, but limited. Reasonable efforts are made to accommodate those needs and documented in the case record. MEPA and ICWA guidelines are used to guide case planning and decision-making processes.

When a child/youth being served by Child Welfare or Probation is identified as an Indian Child, every effort is made to notify the child's tribe. The Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians which has its reservation and casino located in our county, is a valuable resource when addressing the needs and planning for their tribal children. The Colusa Indian Community provides an array of services which include medical, counseling and financial supportive services to their eligible children. They work closely with Child Welfare and Probation to discuss recurring Child Welfare issues and juvenile justice issues and specific family needs.

Services for Children with Disabilities

Core services in this area include ongoing contact, assessment service referral and case planning. Additional services include:

Alta Regional Center provides diagnosis and evaluation for children with disabilities.

Services and supports include, but are not limited to:

- Physical, occupational and speech therapy
- Mental health services
- Counseling of the individual with a disability and his or her family
- Behavioral services
- Behavior modification services
- Community integration services
- Infant stimulation
- Respite
- Training for parents with disabilities
- Supplemental Security Income is a Federal income supplement program to help aged, blind and disabled people who have little or no income and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter. Social workers are responsible for referring potentially eligible children /youth within one year of the child aging out of the foster care system.

Probation can also refer youth with disabilities to Alta Regional Center and SSI. Probation youth are generally placed in treatment centers that provide specialized services and meet their needs. California Children's Services is also available to meet the specialized needs of children and youth in the community.

Services Available for At Risk Children

Assessment related services include social worker and Probation officer engagement with the child/youth and family throughout all phases of services.

Child Welfare utilizes Structured Decision-Making tools for case decision and case planning purposes. The tools provide a step by step assessment of the strengths and needs of the child/youth and their family. This information is used to develop a Child Welfare case plan that takes into consideration the individualized needs of all family members. A reassessment of strengths and needs is completed at least every six months or earlier, if significant changes in the child/youth's or family's situation occur.

As mentioned previously, Child Welfare has implemented the use of Safety organized Practice (SOP) to facilitate family meetings, designed to give parents, youth and other key stakeholders a voice in the creation of effective working relationships, a shared focus to guide casework and establish case goals to ensure safety. SOP meetings can be held to develop safety plans, conduct placement planning, serve as the child-family-team meeting for Katie A. youth, and to establish natural supports for the family.

Probation utilizes Noble Software's assessment tools that provide research-based risk level scores across multiple life domains to assess risk, protective measures and the needs of youth receiving probation services.

Behavioral Health assessments are provided to children ages 0-18 years old who begin to exhibit behaviors that interfere with their daily functioning. Individual counseling and Wraparound Services are also available through Behavioral Health for youth on probation and their families.

The Probation Department oversees the Girl's Circle and Boy's Council which are made available in each school district in the county. These are mentoring programs for minors placed within Colusa County, those returning home from placement, and any other interested youth. The Girl's Circle is recognized as a "promising approach" in the Model Programs Guide of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Outcomes for youth participating in both these program show significant increases in self-efficacy, body image and social

connections. The youth participating in the Boy's Council have demonstrated a significant increase in school engagement, educational achievement, self-efficacy, ethnic pride and conflict resolution skills. ILP is offered for youth in placement with groups such as Anger Management, Alcohol and Drug counseling. One of the placements frequently used for youth from Colusa County (Rites of Passage) provides skill based training and classes such as culinary arts, landscape design, and computer technology.

Prevention and safety services

The services that assist in providing a safe home environment for children who are at risk of abuse and neglect (including 0-5) include:

- Investigative services are provided by Child Welfare when a child abuse report has been received or a child or youth has been taken into protective custody. SDM tools guide the safety and risk assessment.
- Use of SOP to develop safety plans.
- Voluntary services, including the availability of voluntary placement, may be offered to provide services to children and youth who can safely remain at home to support ongoing safety and family stability.
- Court ordered reunification services, that include out-of-home placement, are provided to high risk families.
- Court ordered Family Maintenance to provide families an opportunity to utilize services and mitigate the risk factors that required protective services intervention while their child/youth remain in the home under Court supervision.
- The Dept. of Health and Human Services provides an array of services to assist families in lowering safety and risk factors that include case supervision, assessment, service referral, case planning and ICWA services, public health nurses, substance abuse counselors and mental health counselors to provide home-based, family-centered services.
- Community-based services and supports that assist families in creating a safe home environment include (if needed, PSSF Funding is utilized to fund the service):
 - Parenting education-Behavioral Health and Colusa County CAPC
 - Mental Health services-Behavioral Health and DHHS
 - Psychological evaluations- various contracted vendors
 - Drug and alcohol testing-DHHS and Probation
 - Wrap around services-Behavioral Health
 - Drug and alcohol treatment- Behavioral Health and contracted vendors
 - Homeless prevention services- DHHS, Behavioral Health, Colusa 1 Stop and A Hand Up
 - Crisis intervention services- Behavioral Health and DHHS

The Colusa County Office of Education hosts a 0-5 Collaborative Meeting for community agencies providing services to the 0-5 population, including schools, doctors, dentists, and other county agencies. This meeting serves to provide resource information and address systemic issues.

Permanency Services

Reunification is the preferred permanency option for children and youth in Colusa County. When a child or youth is unable to return home safely, a set of core permanency services are provided that include:

- Case supervision and contact
- assessment; services referral
- case planning concurrent planning
- Kinship Guardian Assistance Program
- Adoption Assistance Program
- ICWA services
- Placement services

Behavioral Health services, Adoption Support and Adoption Therapy are also services that are provided to achieve an alternate permanent plan

Child abuse prevention education and family health and well-being resources

CAPC provides education and outreach to the community such as providing presentations relating to child abuse prevention, homelessness, DV, the challenges of living with disabilities at various county meetings and community outreach events.

Child Welfare staff provides mandated reporter training to school personnel, child care providers, Probation officers, medical professionals, etc., throughout the county. Behavioral Health provides parenting classes to the community. Family Soup offers a variety of classes for families with children with special needs.

As a small rural county, Colusa County has been able to build a strong, close network of community services as part of a larger strategy to reduce as much as possible service gaps in the County. The Director and various staff at the management, supervisor and line-level, participate as members of the following interagency service collaborative groups:

- The Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC)
- The Community Advocates for Parents and Children (CAPC)
- The 0-5 Collaborative
- The Tobacco Education Coalition
- The First 5 Colusa Children and Families Commission (Prop 10)
- The Mental Health Services Act
- Child Death Review Team
- Prevention Coalition
- Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center
- Community Action Partnership
- Colusa County Local Continuum of Care
- Task Force Steering Committee

The Prevention Coalition is a gathering of county prevention programs, agencies and other interest parties encompassing all prevention focus areas. The role of the Prevention Coalition is to develop a county-wide strategic plan for prevention to strengthen our community's families and children. Agencies currently participating with the coalition include: Colusa County DHHS; First Five Colusa; CAPC; Colusa County Office of Education; Colusa County Probation Department; Colusa Unified School District; Maxwell Unified School District; Williams Unified School District; Colusa County Library; and Colusa County Behavioral Health Department.

The Child Protection Service Unit of the Department of Health and Human Services coordinates the local CPS Multi-disciplinary Team that includes representatives from Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health, Probation, Substance Abuse services, the Sheriff's Office and Police Department, Education and the Alta Regional Center. The MDT meets monthly to staff shared case issues. The MDT provides an opportunity for all service agencies to share knowledge and resources that are key to providing a continuum of care of the right services at the right time for children/youth and families.

The Public Health division of Health and Human Services provides an array of health related services to support community safety and well-being that include: Home visiting, Immunizations, California Children's Services (CCS), school-based outreach and Tobacco Education Curriculum

CBCAP/CAPIT/PSSF Funded Services

The CBCAP grant is under the direction of the Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services. The CAPIT grant is administered jointly by the Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services and the local child abuse prevention council, Community Advocates for Parents and Children (CAPC). Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services is the fiscal and administrative intermediary and contracts with a program manager to facilitate the CAPC and provide services. Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services is the administrative agency for PSSF.

The CAPIT key requirement of prioritizing nonprofit agencies' prevention services is considered in determining service providers. However there are currently no private nonprofit agencies located in the county providing child abuse prevention services other than the Community Advocates for Parents and Children. The CAPC does not provide home-based child abuse prevention services at the present time. The Colusa County Board of Supervisors has designated the Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services to administer the CAPIT program. The Department subcontracts a portion of the funding to the Community Advocates for Parents and Children and the remainder to the Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Division for the Home Visiting Program. Contracts are executed for a term of a fiscal year. The CAPC, with CAPIT, CBCAP and Small County Initiative Support, funds a part-time Program Manager. The CAPC Program Manager coordinates the CAPC by developing an operating budget, providing membership recruitment, data analysis, meeting support and organizational record keeping. The Program Manager leads the council in developing a strategic plan and long term goals and objectives that support county needs.

The CAPC has been involved in the following activities:

- Coordination of Angel Tree gifts
- Colusa Scholarship Foundation
- Omega Nu Scholarship Foundation
- Lactation Consultant Training
- Creating Bully Resistant Schools Training/LPC grant
- Sponsorship for youth programs
- MDIC

- Conference for CAPC Members
- Williams FAC/Pioneer Day
- Colusa County 4th of July Extravaganza
- Family Fair participation
- Caring Youth Count Awards
- Social Worker Appreciation Luncheon
- CAP Month
- Month of the Young Child
- Foster Care recruitment events
- Prevention Coalition
- Family Grants
- Community Grants
- CAPC board meetings
- North Eastern Regional CAPC meetings
- W.H.A.L.E. Program

Colusa County DHHS social workers utilize its PSSF funding to provide clients, both court-ordered and voluntary, with direct intervention services to help families become stable, safe and healthy. Such services include but are not limited to:

- Substance abuse testing
- Substance abuse counseling and treatment
- Individual and family counseling provided by Colusa County's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services departments as well as by private licensed therapists.
- Psychological evaluations performed by a private licensed therapist
- Transportation to counseling and other related services pertinent to treatment
- Housing expense assistance
- Crisis intervention services
- Youth/mentor programs
- Respite Care
- Visitation
- Child Care
- Concrete Supports

Services are available to families in need of crisis intervention, preventive services, transitional services and/or maintenance services. The quality of these services is assessed by direct social worker observation, through collaborative assessments done by the service provider, social worker and client, and through the use of the county's Multi-Disciplinary Team. When a problem is identified, it is addressed at a Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting and/or a

family conference meeting. For court involved cases needs and planned services are outlined in the case plan for the family and ordered by the court. Use of these frontend services have aided in reducing the number of minors in out-of-home care.

Evidenced Based-Practice implementation and evidence-informed prevention programs and practices

Colusa County is committed to utilizing promising and evidenced based and evidence informed practice as resources allow. The Child Welfare assessment and case planning process, Structured Decision-Making, (SDM) is an evidenced informed practice that is fully implemented and serves to support strength based, individualized case planning for children/youth and families.

The Probation Department is utilizing assessment instruments that are a research validated tool to measure a juvenile's risk of reoffending.

The Department of Health and Human Services also emphasizes to CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF and other contractors the need for adopting evidence based practice models to ensure that services available to families are well tested and supported by research. Although resources are limited, it is recognized that the use of evidenced based and evidence informed practices will maximize effectiveness of resources to achieve outcomes that contributed to improved safety, permanency and well-being.

Child Welfare and Probation seek opportunities to train staff in promising and research based practice. Probation receives training primarily through the California Corrections Standard Authority. Child Welfare receives core and best practice training through the Northern California Training Academy. Both agencies also seek training from other providers to enhance the skills and knowledge of their staff.

Although the limited funding resources in Colusa County often prevent the ability to participate in evidenced based initiatives, Colusa County does participate in a Communities of Practice collaborative with other northern rural counties, that is facilitated by the Northern California Training Academy, to share and learn about promising practices that can be implemented from county to county to improve outcome performance.

Participation in the needs assessment process

Both Child Welfare and Probation strive to improve and increase parent participation in decision-making and the case planning process. This effort can be a challenge because of the lack of community resources and travel distances in a rural environment that impede engagement activities. General efforts being made to maximize the participation of parents in general and specific racial and ethnic populations, children and adults with disabilities, and members of other underserved or underrepresented groups include:

- Vertical case management in which one social worker and Probation officer carry a case through the service delivery period
- The establishment of SOP meetings to provide an opportunity for children/youth and parents to be part of the decision-making and case planning process
- Bi-lingual and interpretation services
- Indian Expert consultation, testimony and case review

In the broader needs assessment of the Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation systems, both agencies utilize the CSA and peer review processes of the C-CFSR to determine service progress and gaps. Invitations to participate in focus groups to assess the system's strengths and challenges are extended key stakeholders and service providers throughout the community.

A collaborative relationship exists between Colusa County and the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians. Regularly scheduled meetings are not held, however, the close proximity of the Colusa Indian Community allows for collaboration and joint planning for Indian children and families.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF

The Department of Health and Human Services has established policies and procedures for maintaining programmatic and fiscal oversight of all contract activity, including the CAPIT/CBCAP/ PSSF funded programs. Contractors are monitored monthly by the Program Manager. The monitoring activities include review of the required annual reports and onsite monitoring of appropriate program and financial documentation. The document is reviewed

for the purpose of determining compliance with contract terms and conditions as well as applicable laws and regulations.

The Child Welfare program manager provides technical assistance as needed to the contractors to ensure effective program operation and tracking. If corrective action is required, the program manager oversees a process that includes formally identifying the compliance issues and providing timelines and review of corrected action.

Fiscal accountability of CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF and trust funds are managed within the Department of Health and Human Services fiscal unit.

Probation

Legal oversight and direct supervision by the Probation Supervisor are the primary systems and practices that are utilized to evaluate and ensure the quality of care and services for Probation youth and their families. Each case is reviewed closely, first by the Probation Supervisor and subsequently by the Juvenile Court to determine if a youth is appropriate for out-of-home placement and to ensure that educational needs, mental health issues, delinquent behavior, and family issues are addressed satisfactorily in the assessment and recommendation of the youth's needs.

The Juvenile Placement Probation Officer is responsible for conducting monthly placement site visits to determine the youth's progress and identify any issues of ongoing emerging concern. Steps to address the identified issues are taken by the Probation Officer. Colusa County Probation utilizes Noble Software's research based risk classification and need assessment tools a research based tool that measures risk and protective factors, ensures that the Probation Officer is providing a comprehensive assessment of needs and strengths across the following domains: Criminal History, Education, Free Time, Employment, Relationships, Family, Living Arrangements, Alcohol and Drugs, Mental Health, Attitudes and Behavior, Aggression and Skills.

The Juvenile Court continues to review the youth's progress in accordance with State and Federal mandates throughout the youth's placement and wardship status.

Child Welfare

Child Welfare utilizes the following systems and practices to evaluate and ensure quality services to children/youth and their families:

- The Program Manager and Supervisor monitor key service activity through the SafeMeasures® data system to ensure timely response and contacts.
- Case reviews are held on 100% of the Child Welfare cases at case opening, 6-month reviews and case closures to determine adequacy of service and case planning.
- Monthly case conferences are held between the Child Welfare Supervisor and the case carrying social worker to monitor compliance and address service delivery.
- The Program Manager utilizes Outcome and Accountability data reports to guide program and practice change in key safety, permanency and outcome performance measures.
- The CWS/CMS system provides reports and reminders for each referral/case and is utilized by the Supervisor and case social workers to manage critical case activity. Additionally, the system offers an AFCARS tool to help staff ensure completion of required data fields.
- The C-CSFR review and planning process, comprised of the SIP, Peer Review and CSA provides the structure for ongoing quality assessment and planning with the benefit of input from key system stakeholders.
- The Program Manager, Supervisor and Social Workers receive continuous Child Welfare training through the Northern California Training Academy, CATA and CalSWEC, to ensure they have the practice and skill knowledge that supports quality program management and services.

Child Welfare works closely with the Juvenile Court to assure that case work and court proceedings occur in accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. Social workers consistently inquire whether children and youth who are at risk of entering foster care are a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or may be an eligible member of a tribe. The same inquiry is made by the Juvenile Court Judge if the child/youth comes before the Juvenile Court. In accordance with the W&I Code, parents at the first appearance, are required to complete the JV-130 which specifically asks if the child/youth may be Indian or have Indian ancestors. If the response is yes, a second form, the JV-135 is completed by social worker and sent to the noted tribe or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, if no tribe is named, to confirm membership or membership eligibility. The response from the respective agencies will be used to determine

ICWA applicability throughout the time the child/youth receives services and supervision under the order of the Juvenile Court.

If the Court determines that ICWA applies, the social worker will maintain the ICWA documentation in the case file and work collaboratively with the child/youth's tribe regarding placement services and permanency planning implementation. ICWA and MEPA laws are strictly adhered to in order to ensure the preservation of the child/youth's culture by working directly with the family and/or tribe to determine appropriate placement and services. Colusa County contracts with an ICWA Expert to meet these requirements.

The Wrap Around Team utilizes the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale, CAFAS, to assess mental health services. The County's Behavioral Health Department is not using any type of satisfaction survey to assess mental health services. They are looking to implement an evaluation tool to measure progress and effectiveness of the services provided. The county-wide MDT reviews and assesses progress of youth and families in services. Social Workers and the Probation Officer also assess the quality of services in their initial and ongoing assessment of a child/youth and family's progress.

Child Welfare utilizes Structured Decision-Making (SDM) as a tool to assist in the identification of a child/youth's needs. All needs, including the specialized needs of youth are documented in the case plan which includes a plan of how those needs will be met. The case plan is updated no later than every six months or when there are significant changes in a child or youth progress.

The Child Welfare and Probation supervisors are responsible for case reviews that determine compliance with child and family involvement in the case planning process. Case reviews are conducted in accordance with State regulatory and legal requirements. Court reports, case plan documents, including the Transitional Independent Living Plan are reviewed to determine the extent of engagement and involvement efforts.

Colusa County is not a Family to Family County and is not participating in the Self-Evaluation component of that initiative. However, the county does value the process of self-evaluation and fully utilizes the structure and opportunity provided by the peer review and CSA

processes to assess Child Welfare’s performance in the key outcome areas of safety, permanency and well-being. The information and data obtained from those processes are used to guide program and practice improvements.

Over the course of the past year, Child Welfare and Behavioral Health have collaborated in development of the county’s Katie A. program. A Katie A. procedure put in place that ensures foster youth receive a screening for mental health needs and a mental health evaluation if warranted. Should a youth have an identified need, appropriate services are provided.

Critical Incident Review Process

The Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services has a Critical Incident Policy and Procedure that outlines the response required. This policy encompasses incidents involving clients and employees alike. The guideline emphasizes the importance of treating a critical incident as an emergency requiring immediate action and establishing notification responsibilities.

As required by California Senate Bill 39 and federal law known as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), all child fatality and near fatality information determined to be the result of abuse and/or neglect is reported to the California Department of Social Services. A quarterly report is provided to counties by the California Department of Social Services for reconciliation of the data provided to ensure accurate reporting.

The Colusa County CAPC is currently exploring the re-establishment of the Colusa County Child Death Review Team to aid in identifying any systemic issues or areas in need of public awareness and/or outreach to prevent child fatalities and near fatalities.

National Resource Center (NRC) Training and Technical Assistance

Colusa County has not as of yet utilized the resources of the National Resource Centers. Probation and Child welfare rely on training provided through CDSS and CDCR and the Northern CA Training Academy for core and specialized training.

Peer Review Results

Focus Area

As part of the County Self-Assessment process and the development of the System Improvement Plan, a Peer Review was conducted in Colusa County (Williams, CA) September 10-11, 2014. Staff and supervisors from five (5) Counties selected in consultation with CDSS Consultant, were invited to participate. For Child Welfare, staff from Butte, Yuba, Sutter and Tehama Counties attended and for Probation, a Juvenile Probation supervisor from Yuba County attended. One peer was unable to attend due to last minute emergency. In consultation with the CDSS consultant, the County decided to proceed. Support for note taking was provided with the team with only 2 members to facilitate their participation.

Both Child Welfare and probation focused on placement stability. Although the numbers are very small for Colusa County and over the past 5 years, the County has met or exceeded the national standard in these outcomes, small numbers have tremendous impact on data reports. Child Welfare is committed to maintaining their recent progress and chose outcomes related to placement stability (C 4.2 – for youth 12-24 months in care and C 4.3 –placement stability for youth in care for 24 months or longer) which are at the foundation of working with families, recognizing the likely impact on other outcomes of social workers' practice in these areas. Probation has even smaller numbers and elected to focus on placement stability (C 4.1-for

children in care 8 days- 12 months) to emphasize their commitment to working with the youth and his/her family as a way to reduce juvenile delinquency and improve public safety.

Methodology

Preparation for the Peer Review began with conference calls among lead team members from child welfare and probation to insure that both agencies and staff understood the role of the Peer Review and their agency roles followed by orientation of the staff within each agency to prepare them for the Peer Review, answer questions and explain what would happen if their cases were reviewed. The Peer Review opened on the morning of September 10, 2014 with introductions and a training which included an overview of the C-CFSR, a description of Colusa County, identification of the outcomes which would be the focus of the review, and a discussion of County performance and progress on these outcomes. Participating were California Department of Social Services consultants, Northern Training Academy Staff (facilitators for the review), and child welfare and probation staff and administrators. The presentation was followed by training on the interview process and tools. During the two-day review, four (4) interview sessions were conducted with debriefing following each interview. During break, the two peer teams reconvened to discuss any questions and to correct any logistical issues. Our CDSS facilitators reviewed the debrief forms from the first set of interviews to ensure that the forms were being used correctly and that appropriate information was being collected. They were available throughout the peer review. Due to case criteria, vertical case management in child welfare, and the small number of youth in placement through probation, only 2-3 social workers and two probation officers were interviewed. After the interviews were completed, a group debriefing was conducted and a report summarizing the findings, promising practices, and recommendations was compiled.

Summary of Findings

In the course of their individual case review and debrief, peer reviewers were asked to identify and assess promising practices, barriers/challenges and to make recommendations for improvement and share promising practices from their own counties.

During the case review, the Peer Reviewers identified specific themes that impact the capacity of both child welfare and probation to place and maintain children and youth in stable placements.

For child welfare, the following themes were identified:

- Agency uses SDM tool in each case and at different phases which “keeps everyone on the same page”
- SOP model is used throughout cases with a qualified facilitator
- Strong family engagement was evident, from detention
- Family is involved in placement decisions and seeking permanent connections
- Children are assessed for Victim Witness and Katie A services
- Concurrent planning was initiated at detention
- Strong efforts are made to place siblings together or as close as possible
- Foster parents cooperated with SOP meetings and support networks
- Social workers regularly communicated with foster parents and had good relationships with foster parents
- The impact of placement change on school stability is a major consideration and changing schools was avoided if possible and if not, alternatives that would minimize the impact of changing schools were employed.
- Social workers are very engaged with youth and their families and invested in reunification wherever possible
- Social workers have “strong knowledge” of the child’s strengths and needs
- In all cases reviewed, the children were permanently planned for adoption, guardianship or placed with relatives.
- Social workers acknowledge that they have to be creative to fill in gaps in services for children and families.
- Families can be transient or not able to qualify for placement due to criminal history, drug or alcohol abuse, or being incarcerated.
- Very large sibling groups can cause multiple placement changes and delay concurrent permanency planning.
- Services are very difficult to access due to inadequate public transportation
- Foster parents don’t understand or are unprepared for the trauma experienced by some children.
- Placement in FFA homes out of county makes maintaining family connections difficult in many cases.
- Patching together limited resources is an ongoing challenge for child welfare and probation.

Reviewing probation cases, Peer Reviewers found many of the same themes.

- Probation uses an assessment tool in each case (PCAT) to assess 12 dimensions of risk and need and guides placement.
- The PO has a high level of engagement with family members and to support maintaining connections with youth while in placement.
- Psychological services were provided early and on a regular schedule.
- Youth were placed far from home because no group homes in Colusa County.
- PO has good relationship with experienced service provider.
- Good coordination was maintained among service providers including schools.
- Strong positive relationships existed between youth and POs which helped motivate youth to achieve goals and return home.
- Case documentation was thorough.
- POs were not required to assess for family placement; standard practice is to place in group home rather than with a family.
- Parents and relatives are often unknown or inaccessible, e.g., incarcerated, in rehab program, no systematic search tools for relatives.

Peer Reviewers were asked to identify and assess promising practices and challenges.

The Peer Reviewers rated vertical case management implemented by DHHS as central to the social workers' being able to develop and maintain strong working relationships with parents and being in frequent contact with children and youth on their caseload. Colusa County social workers have face to face contact with children and youth on their caseload frequently more than once a month. Social workers routinely use their own personal devices to text and telephone to communicate with children and youth. Another strength was that vertical case management has made it possible to assign only one social worker to each family in the vast majority of cases. Low staff turnover in recent years has also helped continuity. Having good relationships with mental health, using strong FEE with families, using an adoptions worker at the front end in concurrent planning, using SOP to engage families and help make difficult decisions was recognized as contributing to placement stability and strong permanency planning. Social workers were acknowledged for working well with each other and assuming that cases would be covered when one is unavailable. Another strength was the capacity of the agency to provide clinical supervision to recent MSW graduates.

Peer Reviewers identified specific challenges as well, including communication with the FFA agency over the movement of youth, inadequate transportation services within the County

and from Colusa County to other counties to access services, and the inadequacy of services for children and youth at risk within Colusa County. Providing more and specialized training for social workers was recognized as a challenge for an agency such as Colusa County with a small staff and without immediate access to training without overnight travel. For Probation, lack of group home placements within Colusa County, delays in getting information from schools and IEPs, and obtaining access to services which accept MediCal payment impacted placements and placement stability. Providing training to new POS before assigning cases is a challenge for the probation department.

Peer Reviewers were also asked to make recommendations to improve outcomes for child welfare and probation and specifically regarding placement stability. For child welfare, specialized training for caregivers was recommended as an important tool for improving placement stability, including training on grief, loss and attachment, and concurrent planning. Peer Reviewers recommended that new probation officers receive placement core before being assigned cases. Policies for emergency placement and relatives were recommended for child welfare and adopting policies that recommend greater involvement of the juvenile court in reinforcing the importance of parent participation in services to prepare for their son or daughter's return from placement. The weak service array in Colusa County was recognized as an obstacle for both child welfare and probation in placement stability and working with families overall. The absence of inpatient treatment for both children and adults with mental health and addiction issues within Colusa County is a major challenge in working with families living in this County. Colusa County does not have foster homes or group homes. The support infrastructure for parents working to improve their parenting misses some basic resources, e.g., accessible parenting classes, support groups for parents and care providers, and visitation support. The services that families and parents rely on in many California counties is not available in Colusa and the lack of public transportation makes it even more difficult for parents to access resources which are available.

Outcome Data Measures

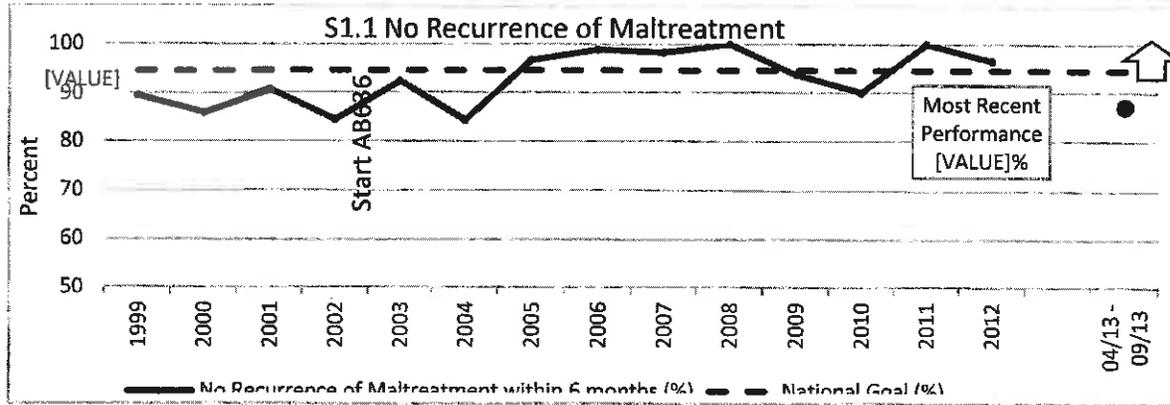
Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. (It should be noted that annual data should not imply compliance/non-compliance for all four quarters of any given year, but rather as a composite of all cases during that year). All data reported was collected from the Child Welfare Indicator’s Projects, University of California, Berkeley website; <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/methodologies/default.aspx> using the quarter one, 2014 data extract.

Given the small size of child welfare population in Colusa County the data is not considered scientifically significant, which indicates general references are not to be made concerning the data. Data represented in the graphs are in percentages but translated to actual counts in the analysis of each outcome measure. It is imperative that while analyzing the data of Colusa County Child Welfare and Probation each case is considered on a qualitative basis as the quantitative data does not yield significant results.

S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT (FEDERAL STANDARD ≥ 94.6%)

Measure: Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation within a specified six-month period, what percentage were not victims of another substantiated allegation within the next six-month period?

Methodology: Only allegations with a disposition are included. Follow-up substantiated allegations must be at least two days after the first one to be counted. Allegations of “at risk, sibling abused” and “substantial risk” are excluded.



Analysis

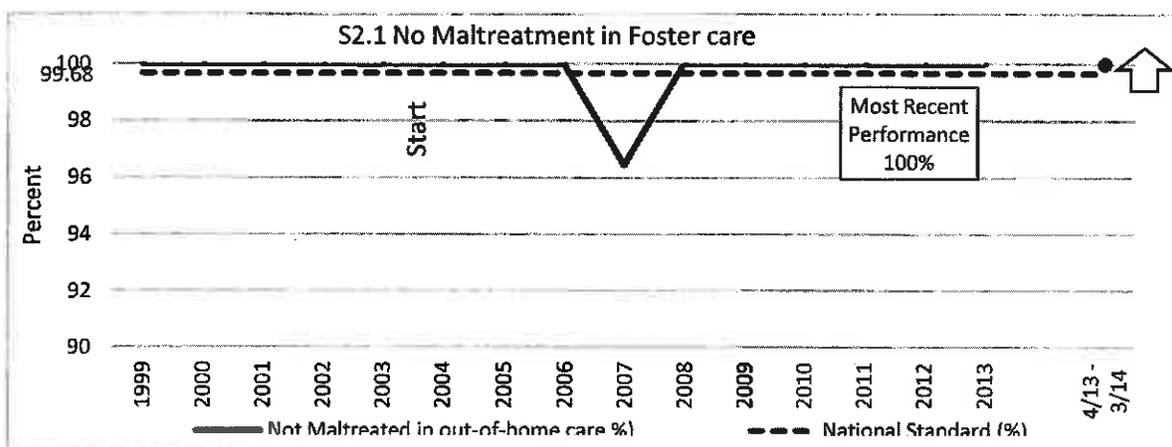
The data reflects that Colusa County has consistently performed at, above, or very near the CFRS-2 Standard which is less than or equal to 94.6%. The most recent data available (for the time period April 1, 2013 to September 1, 2013) indicates that Colusa County is below the National Goal. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure; recurrence episodes with larger families can skew the data set. For example, the most recent data indicates that, of 39 children who had substantiated allegations of maltreatment during that timeframe (April 1, 2013- September 1, 2013) only five (5) children had a substantiated allegation of maltreatment in the most recent six-month period; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of two (2) episodes of recurrent maltreatment.

Child welfare reentry rates are impacted by the scarcity of services in Colusa County including basic community resources such as NA and AA and the absence of a public transportation system to help parents and children access services. In addition, some parents struggle with maintaining recovery because of the lack of anonymity in a small community which can cause some parents to avoid groups associated with drug and/or alcohol abuse e.g., NA and AA. Without personal transportation, parents often cannot travel outside Colusa County for services. Colusa County has no ALANON program which could be an asset for family members working with parents who are working on their recovery. Stakeholders identified the lack of resources that are routinely available in other counties as a persistent obstacle in helping families maintain stability and meet their needs.

S2.1 NO MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE (FEDERAL STANDARD $\geq 99.68\%$)

Measure: Of all the children served in foster during a specified year, what percent were not victims of substantiated maltreatment allegation by a foster parent or facility while in out-of-home care?

Methodology: Inconclusive and Substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect that occur in a foster care setting are counted.



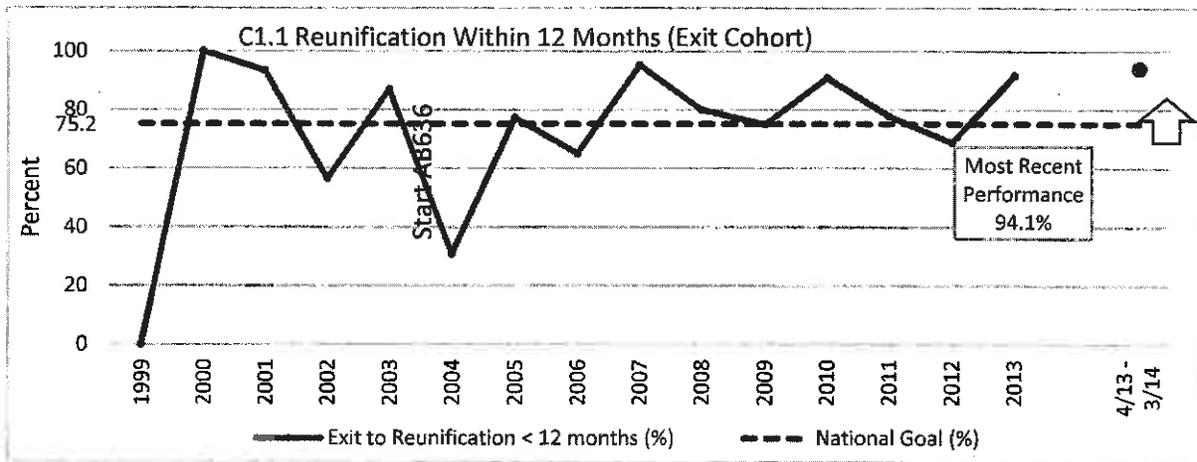
Analysis

The chart above presents historical information from calendar years 1999-2013; during this fourteen (14) year period, there has only been one documented incident of abuse occurring in foster care involving a Colusa County child. The County is currently in compliance with this measure (as of March 31, 2014). Due to the relatively small numbers in the data set and the high standard threshold of the measure, any single occurrence of abuse in a foster setting will cause the County to be non-compliant with this Measure. Child welfare works very closely with foster parents and relative caregivers to make sure that social workers are accessible to provide counsel and support when stressful situations arise; working relationships with FFAs are well established which strengthens foster homes.

C1.1 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≥ 75.2%)

Measure: Of the number of children that exited foster care in a specific year, what percentage of children were discharged to reunification within 12 months of latest removal?

Methodology: The 12 month cutoff to reunification is based on the latest date of removal from the home with children in care for less than 8 days excluded. Children with a current placement of “trial home” visit could be included if the visit lasted longer than 30 days. Discharged to reunification is defined as an “exit from foster care to parent or primary caretaker.” If a child is discharged to reunification more than once during the specified year, the latest date is considered.



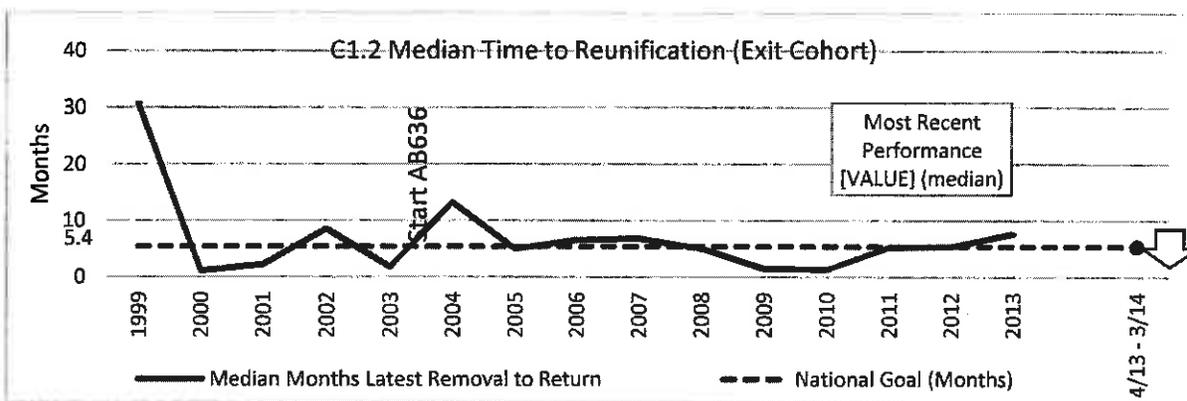
Analysis

Colusa County is currently in compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has performed at or above the Standard for five of the past six years and the most recent four quarters. Our vertical case management strengthens the rapport that is necessary to support reunification. The close interaction between supervisor and child welfare worker on each case reinforces the social worker’s capacity for good problem solving and the accessibility of both a social worker and supervisor helps develop trusting relationships between the agency overall and extended family members. The peers cited vertical case management as a strength in multiple areas of the case review.

C1.2 MEDIAN TIME OF REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≤ 5.4%)

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

Methodology: This measure computes the median length of stay in foster care for children, at point of discharge.



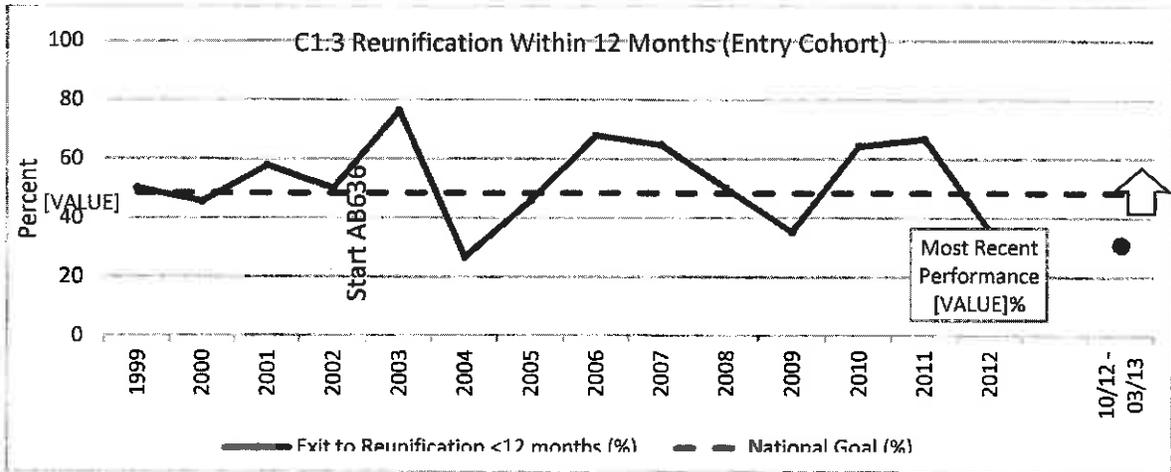
Analysis

Colusa County is currently in compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has performed at or above the Standard for five of the past six years and three of the past four quarters. Child Welfare will continue our good work with families, apply best practices to all our decision making and interventions and maintain low caseloads. Vertical case management will continue to be our practice model for all cases.

C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (ENTRY COHORT) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≥ 48.4%)

Measure: Of all the children discharged from foster care for the first time in a specified six month time period, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than twelve months from the date of the removal. This is an entry cohort.

Methodology: The twelve-month cutoff to reunification is based on the first date of removal from the home. Children in care for less than eight (8) days are excluded in this measure. Children with a current placement of “trial home” visit could be included if the visit lasted longer than thirty (30) days. Discharged to reunification is defined as an “exit from foster care to a parent or primary caretaker”.



Analysis

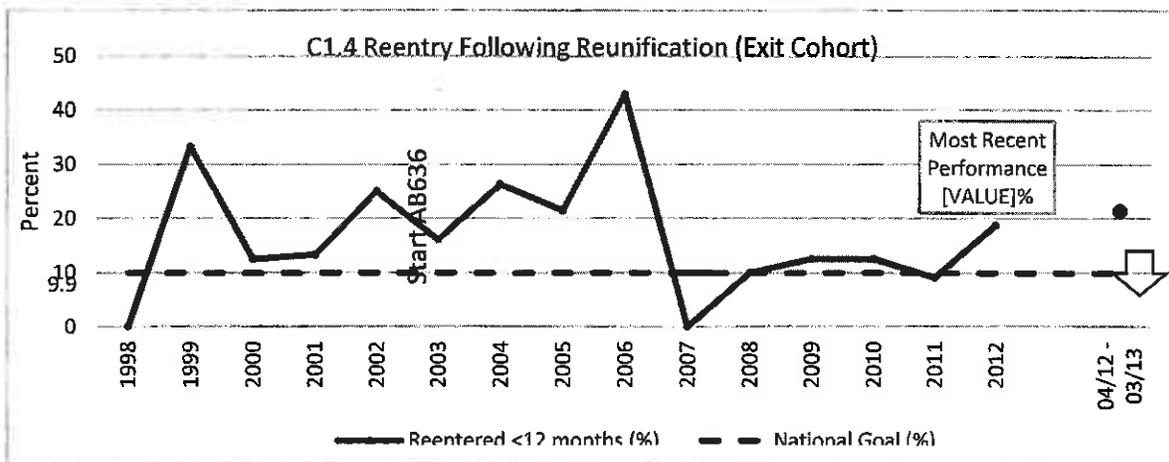
Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has performed at or above the Standard for two of the past three years, but has been out of compliance for the past four quarters. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that, of thirteen (13) children who had first entries to care during the period representing October 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, only four (4) children successfully reunified within twelve (12) months; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of two (2) children who did not reunify within the specified timeframes. Aside from the inherent problems created by large families in data sets with small populations, there tend to be systemic problems, such as local court practices (for example, scheduling issues or allowing multiple continuances at Review Hearings, that extend placement beyond the 12-month mark), that can affect this Measure. Colusa County has been in compliance for two

of the past three years. This measure does not take into effect that California statute allows parents 18 months to reunify and social workers are always focused on the best interests of the child. These conflicting professional duties and statutory authority impacts the ability of data to reflect the quality of practice. For example, during 2013, in one family, three children were ready to be reunified but the decision was made to delay reunification until the school year was completed which was less than 6 weeks away. All parties and the court agreed that doing so would be in the best interests of these children and promote their successful transition home. However, for measurement purposes, the County failed to meet this standard.

C1.4 REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION (FEDERAL STANDARD ≤ 9.9%)

Measure: Of the children who reunified with their parent or guardian after being in foster care, what percentage of the children reentered foster care in less than twelve months from the date of reunification?

Methodology: This measure computes the percentage of children reentering foster care within twelve months of a reunification. If the child is discharged to reunification more than once during the specified year, the first discharge is considered.



Analysis

Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been out of compliance with this

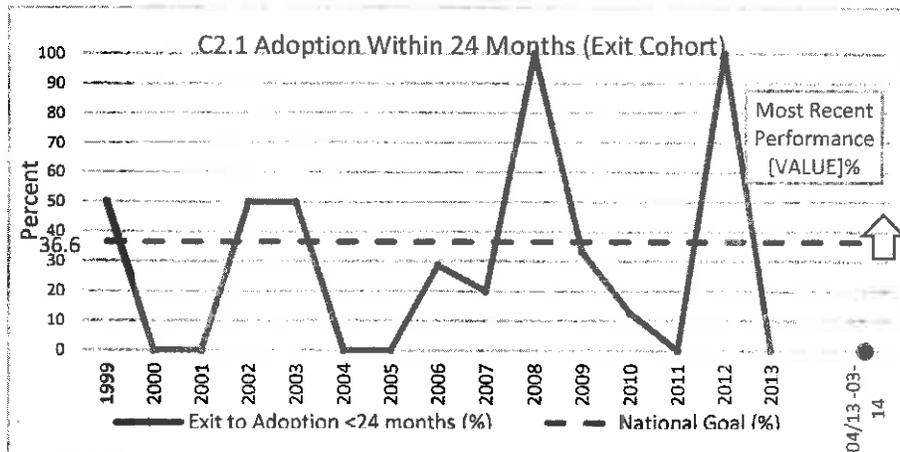
Measure for the past four quarters. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that, of fourteen (14) children who successfully reunified during the period representing April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, three (3) children subsequently returned to foster care within twelve (12) months of reunification; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of two (2) children who reentered foster care within twelve months of reunification. Efforts to achieve the Standard for Measure 1.3 (Timely Reunification) can have an unintended negative effect on this Measure (families may reunify prematurely).

This is a persistent challenge for our County. Drug relapse and large sibling sets have direct consequences on this data. Due to drug and alcohol abuse, social workers frequently have to return to homes after reunification and remove the children despite efforts to prepare for reunification. When cases are closed, an SOP meeting is routinely convened with parents, natural supports, and other service providers to craft a detailed safety plan with natural supports outside of child welfare. The strong culture of collaboration in Colusa County reinforces our capacity to meet the needs of families even in the absence of a broad service network.

C2.1 ADOPTION WITHIN 24 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≥ 36.6%)

Measure: Of the children who exited foster care into adoption within a specific year, what percentage of children were adopted within twenty-four months of initial removal from the home?

Methodology: The twenty-four month cutoff to adoption is based on the latest date of removal from the home. Only placement episodes ending in adoption are included.



Analysis

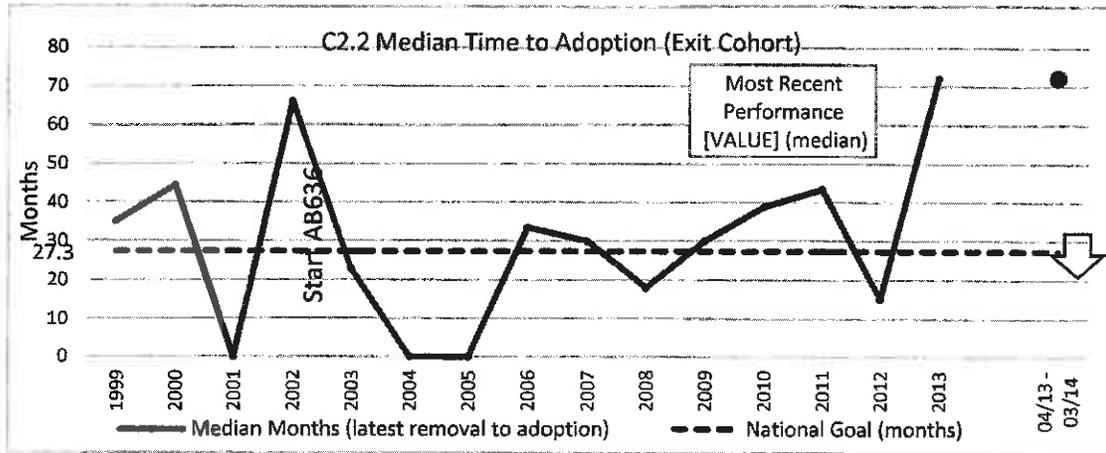
Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been out of compliance with this Measure for the past two quarters. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that only one (1) child exited to adoption during the period representing April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014, and that the timeframe for the exit to adoption exceeded twenty-four (24) months; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of one (1) child whose exit to adoption exceeded the timeframe for the Measure. The lack of stability on this Measure is clearly influenced by the size of the population that is being measured. Systemic problems, such as local court practices (for example, scheduling issues or allowing multiple continuances), can affect this Measure. Colusa County continues to work on this outcome. Obstacles continue which are systematic, e.g., if a parent appeals, essential steps to completing the adoption are put on hold awaiting the decision by the Appellate Court.

Colusa County does not have the capability to bring adoptions in house. In order to facilitate timely adoptions and identify potential obstacles as soon as possible, social workers have a monthly staffing with state adoptions, County Counsel, and the social work supervisor. Recently, Colusa County instituted an agreement with State adoptions to conduct a joint assessment with social workers when relatives are being screened for possible placement. Coordinating requirements between CDSS adoptions district offices and multiple counties is often a challenge for social workers who are working with families who frequently move between neighboring counties for work and have connections in multiple counties. Such circumstances also delay adoptions.

C2.2 MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION (EXIT COHORT) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≤ 27.3 MONTHS)

Measure: Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during a specific year, what was the median length of stay in foster care?

Methodology: Length of stay is calculated as the date of discharge from foster care minus the latest date of removal from the home. Only placement episodes ending in adoption are included.



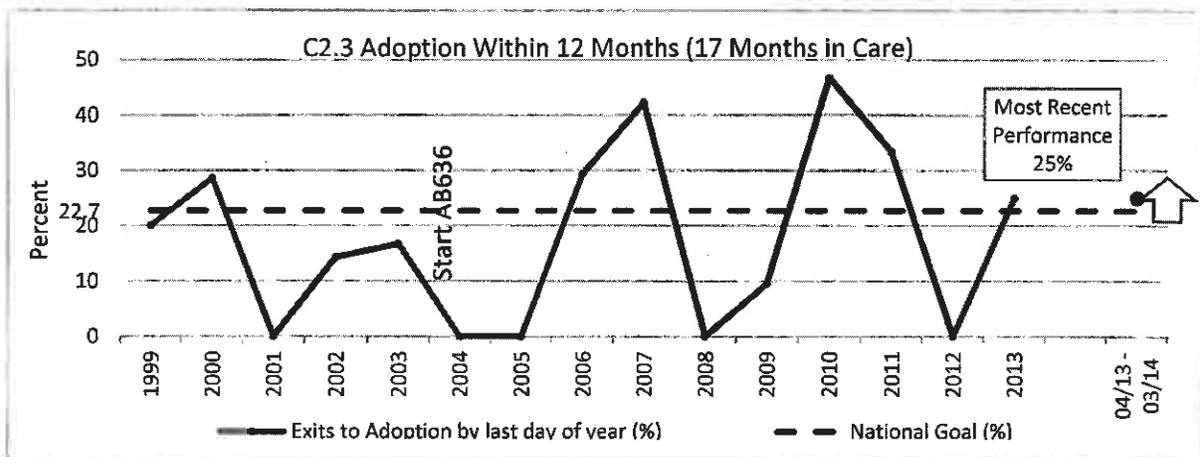
Analysis

Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has performed at or above the Standard for four of the past six quarters, but has been out of compliance during the two most recent quarters. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that only one (1) child exited to adoption during the period representing April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014, and that the timeframe for the exit to adoption exceeded the specified timeframe (27.3 months). This is the same child that is discussed in Measure C2.1. Because there is only one child in this population, the data for that child establishes the median value; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of one (1) child whose exit to adoption exceeded the timeframe for the Measure. The other dimensions of the challenge to timely adoptions described above in C 2.1 apply here as well.

C2.3 ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (17 MONTHS IN CARE) (FEDERAL STANDARD $\geq 22.7\%$)

Measure: Of the children in foster care for seventeen continuous months or longer on the first day of a specific year, what percent were discharged to a finalized adoption by the last day of that specific year?

Methodology: All children in foster care for seventeen continuous months during a specific year are part of the cohort except for those children who exited foster care during the year to be reunified with parents or caregiver.



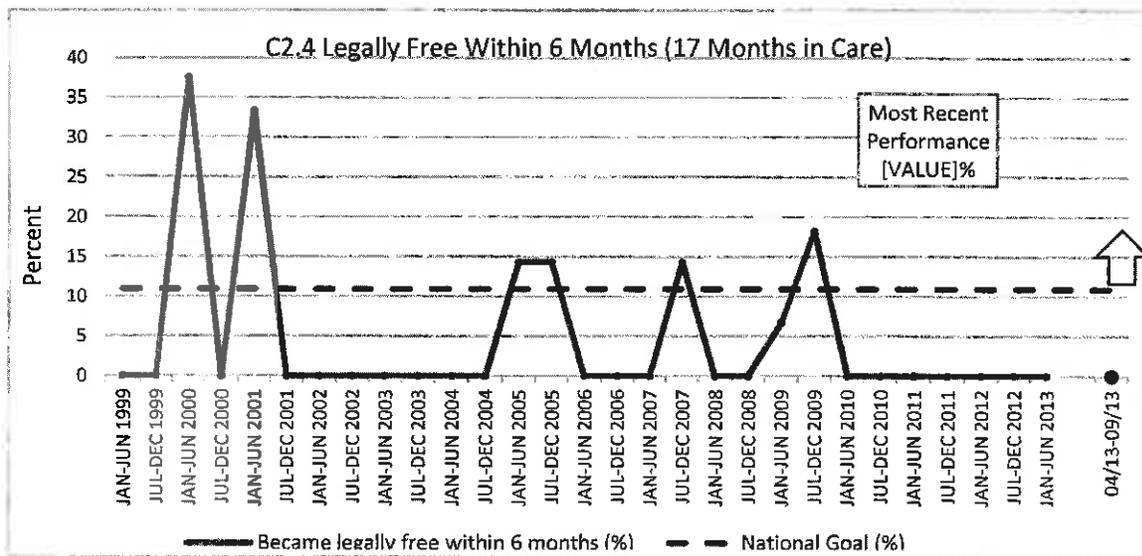
Analysis

Colusa County is currently in compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance with this Measure for three (3) of the past four (4) years and thirteen (13) of the past fifteen (15) quarters. Continued emphasis on working closely with our partners in the community and use of evidence based social work skills and a commitment to the active engagement of families have been essential to this progress and will continue to be a priority for DHHS.

C2.4 LEGALLY FREE WITHIN 6 MONTHS (17 MONTHS IN CARE) (FEDERAL STANDARD $\geq 10.9\%$)

Measure: Of the children who were in foster care for seventeen months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the specified period of time, what percentage then became legally free for adoption within the next six months?

Methodology: All children who are legally freed are counted in this measure. A child is considered legally free for adoption if the parental rights of a child have been terminated for all parents with legal standing.



Analysis

It should be noted that the chart above presents the available data in six-month segments for clarity, even though data is available in overlapping “rolling quarters.” Due to the manner in which data is reported/collected on this measure, it is not currently possible to present calendar year data. Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been out of compliance with this Measure since the quarter beginning January 1, 2010. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that only two (2) children who had been in foster care for at least seventeen months became free for adoption during the most recent six-month reporting period (April 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013), and that neither child had been freed for adoption

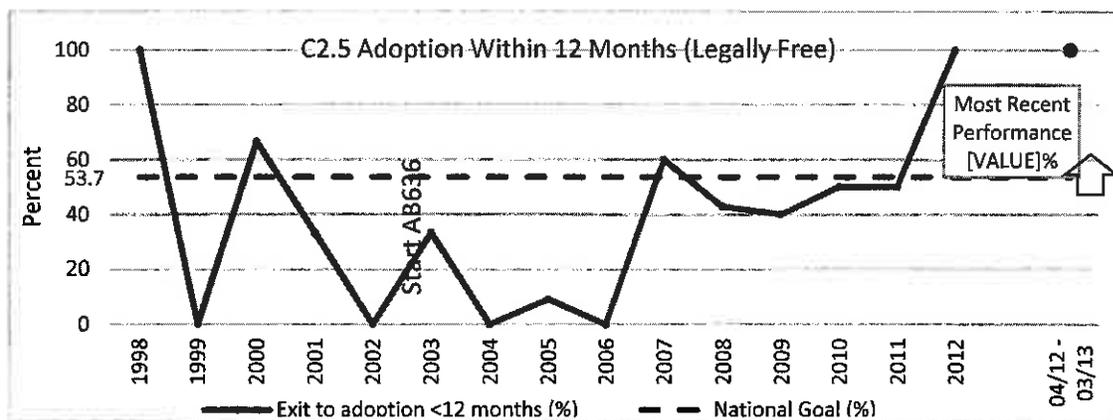
within seventeen months; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of one (1) child who was not freed for adoption within the specified timeframe.

This Measure is a continuing challenge for Colusa County and other small rural counties. This Measure reflects a sibling group of three children, all of whom were older at time of entry into foster care and opposed parental rights being terminated. They lived with their adult sister, and have a relationship with their biological parents. Another case involved a teenager who does not want to have her remaining parent’s rights terminated who is in a stable placement and doing well. Confronted with statutory authority and the mandate to work in the best interests of the children, Colusa County will continue to work hard to locate permanent homes and engage to children/youth in care about their rights and help them plan for their futures.

C2.5 ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (LEGALLY FREE) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≥ 53.7%)

Measure: Of the children in foster care that became legally free for adoption during a specific year, what percentage of children were then discharged to adoption during that year.

Methodology: This measure computes the percentage of children discharged from foster care to adoption within twelve months of turning legally free. A child is considered legally free for adoption if the parental rights of a child have been terminated for all parents with legal standing.



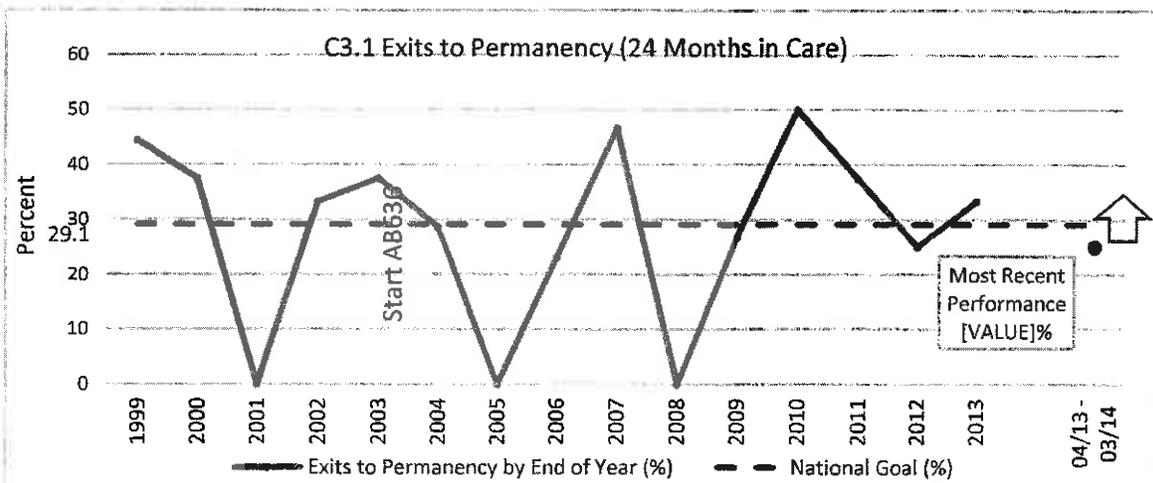
Analysis

No complete data is yet available for calendar years 2012 or 2013. Colusa County is currently in compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance with this Measure for the past three (3) quarters. Current practice will continue to be reviewed, updated, and strengthened as required to insure that this Measure continues to be met.

C3.1 EXIT TO PERMANENCY (24 MONTHS IN CARE) (FEDERAL STANDARD $\geq 29.1\%$)

Measures: Of the children in foster care for twenty-four months or longer during a specified year, which children were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of that year and prior to turning eighteen?

Methodology: All children in foster care for twenty-four months or longer, during the specific year, were counted in this measure, except for children who exited during the year and reentered care.



Analysis

Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance with this Measure for three (3) of the past four (4) years, and three (3) of the past four (4) quarters. Due

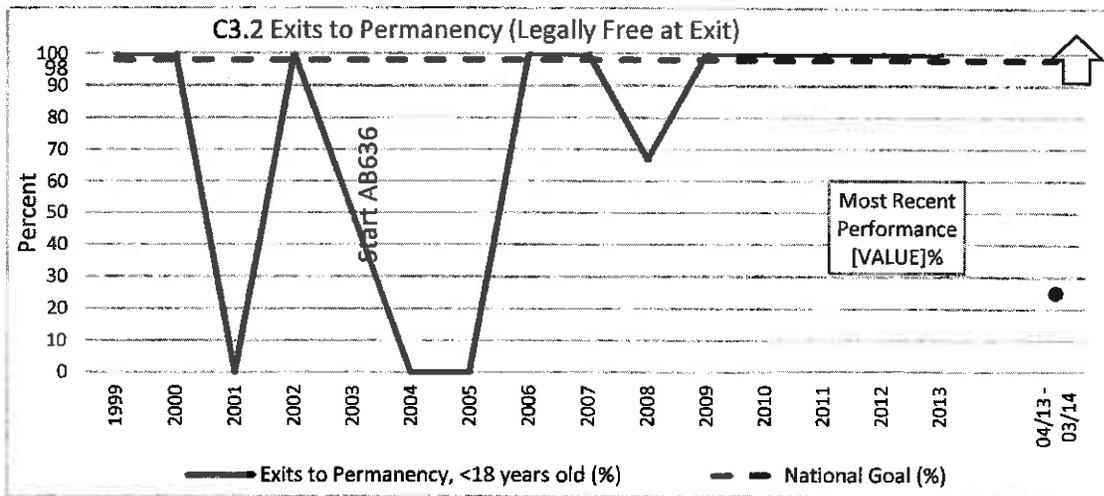
to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that only four (4) children had been in foster care during the most recent twelve-month reporting period (April 1, 2013 to March 30, 2014), and that only one of these children exited to a permanent home prior to becoming an adult; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of one (1) child who did not exit to a permanent home prior to becoming an adult during the specified timeframe.

Of the four youth who were the subject of these measures, three of the four were part of a sibling set. A fourth sibling was not included in the appeal but adoption was delayed due to the appeal. At the time the quarter data was entered, the Appellate Court had not decided on the parents' appeal. One week after the order denying the appeal was received by County Counsel the matter was calendared and all children were adopted in July.

C3.2 EXITS TO PERMANENCY (LEGALLY FREE AT EXIT) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≥ 98%)

Measure: Of the number of children in foster care during a specific year, what was the percentage of legally free children who were discharged to a permanent home prior to turning eighteen?

Methodology: This measure includes children who have a discharge date that is prior to their eighteenth birthday and the reason for discharge included reunification with a guardian or discharge to adoption.



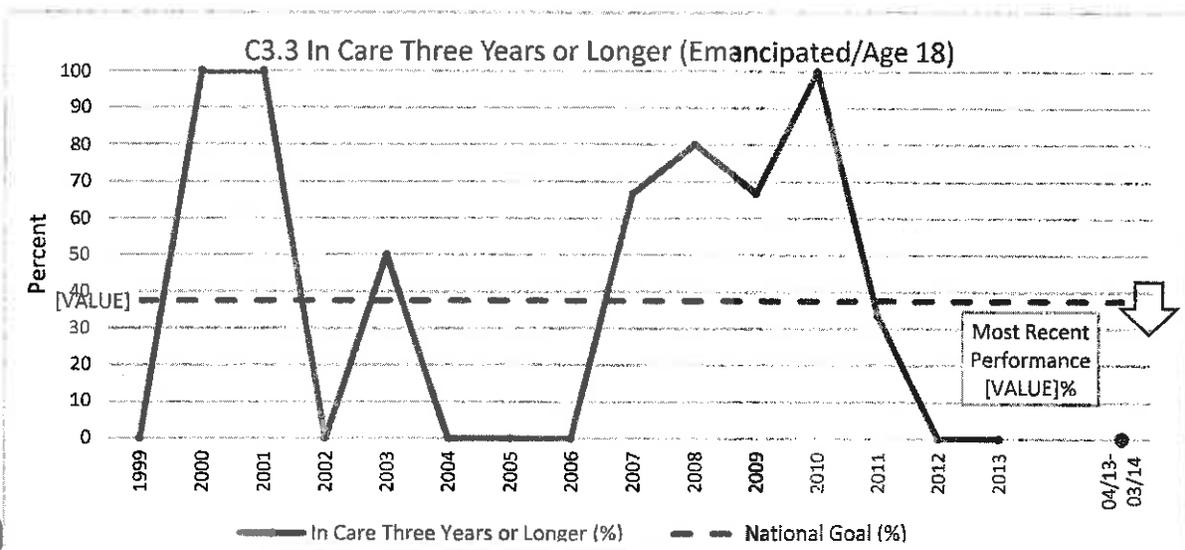
Analysis

Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance with this Measure for the past five (5) years (from 2009 to 2013), and eighteen (18) of the prior nineteen (19) quarters. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that, of only four (4) children who were legally free during the most recent twelve-month reporting period (April 1, 2013 to March 30, 2014), only one child discharged to a permanent home prior to becoming an adult; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of three (3) children who did not discharge to a permanent home during the specified timeframe. Due to the relatively small numbers in the data set and the high standard threshold of the measure, any single incident of non-compliance will cause the County to be non-compliant with this Measure for the quarter in which the event occurs. This Measure was impacted by the same four children described in the Measure above.

C3.3 IN CARE 3 YEARS OR LONGER (EMANCIPATION/AGE 18) (FEDERAL STANDARD $\geq 37.5\%$)

Measure: Of all the children in foster care during a specific year who were either discharged to emancipation, or turned eighteen while still in care, what percentage of children had been in foster care for three years or longer?

Methodology: During a specific year time period, all children who turned eighteen or who emancipated are counted in this measure.



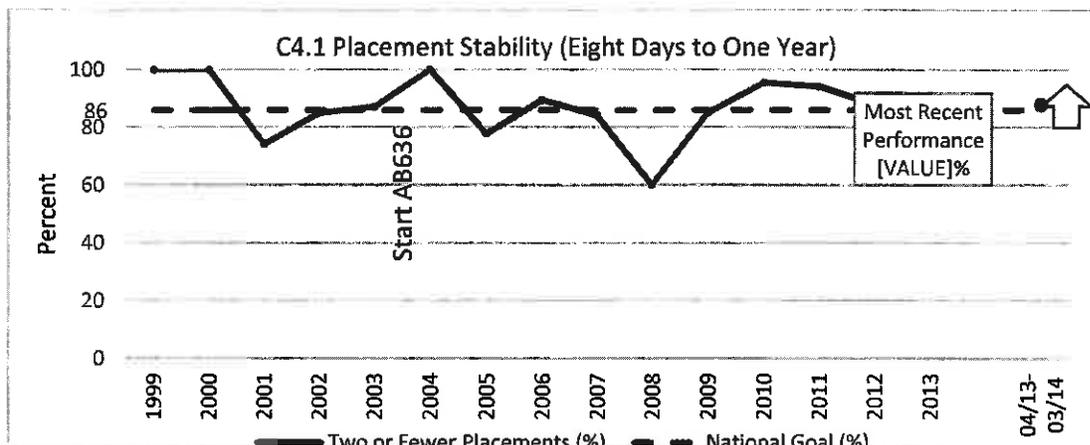
Analysis

Colusa County is currently in compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance with this Measure since the quarter beginning October 1, 2011. This is due to reduced turnover, vertical case management, and the social worker to case ratio has been maintained at a manageable level.

C4.1 PLACEMENT STABILITY (8 DAYS TO 12 MONTHS IN CARE) (FEDERAL STANDARD \geq 86%)

Measure: Of the children in foster care during a specific year, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

Methodology: All children in care between eight days and twelve months are counted in this measure. Age is calculated at the beginning of the specified time period.



Analysis

Colusa County is currently in compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance with this Measure for the past four (4) years, and eighteen (18) of the prior nineteen (19) quarters.

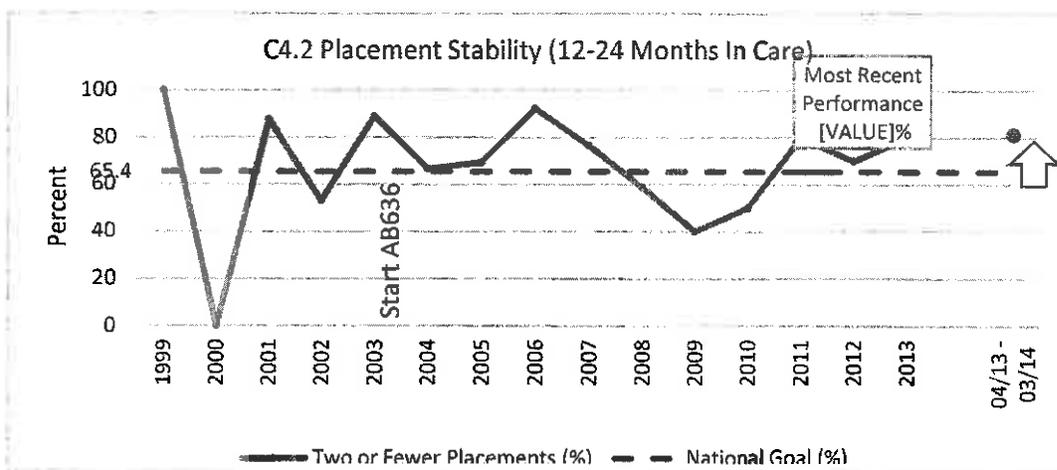
Regarding outcomes C 4.1, C 4.2 and C4.3, placement stability continues to be a challenge to Colusa County. Limited community resources, the absence of public transportation, poverty, isolation and no County foster homes, impacts placement stability. Child welfare made placement stability the focus of the peer review and will continue to focus on placement

stability in the SIP. In examining the data reported here, the data involved youth who were all over 10 at the time of detention which raises the possibility that many of the presenting issues which resulted in placement disruption and instability may not have been addressed yet or at a significant age. Also, multiple moves among family members are common, often due to instability within the family, the youth's behavioral problems, and the limited resources in Colusa County. Both stakeholders and focus group participants recognized the commitment of social workers to finding the best and most appropriate placement for each child without causing any more emotional trauma to the child. Peers studying child welfare practice in Colusa County commended the social workers for their diligence in working with family members to maintain connections with children while they were out of home and to link family members with the foster family to promote placement stability.

C4.2 PLACEMENT STABILITY (12 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS IN CARE) (FEDERAL STANDARD ≥ 81.3%)

Measure: Of the children in foster care during a specific year, who had been in foster care between twelve and twenty-four months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

Methodology: All children in care during a specific twelve to twenty-four month time period, were included in this measure. Age is calculated at the beginning of the specified time period.



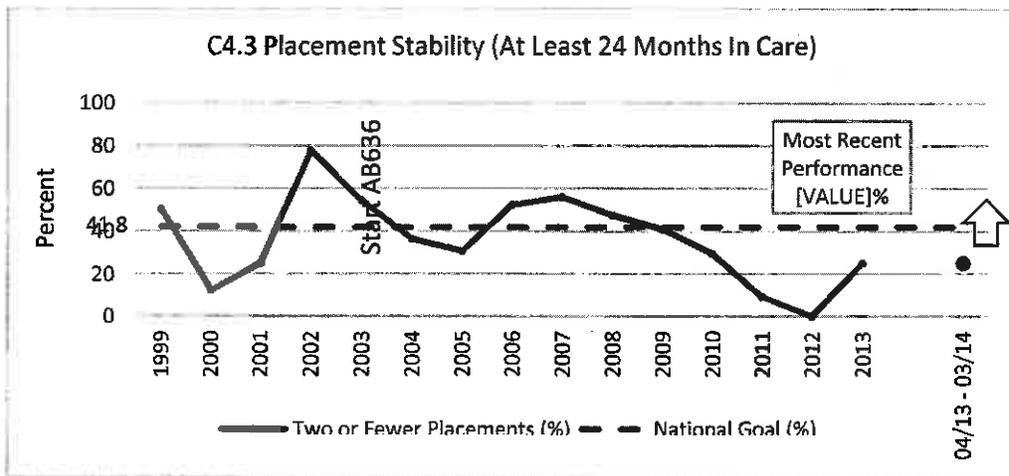
Analysis

Colusa County is currently in compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance with this Measure for the past three (3) years, and three (3) of the prior (4) quarters.

C4.3 PLACEMENT STABILITY (AT LEAST 24 MONTHS IN CARE) (FEDERAL STANDARD \geq 41.8%)

Measure: Of the children in foster care during a specific year that were in foster care for at least twenty-four months, what percentage of children had two or fewer placement settings?

Methodology: All children in care for twenty-four month or longer during a specific twelve-month time period were counted in this measure. Age is calculated at the beginning of the specified time period.



Analysis

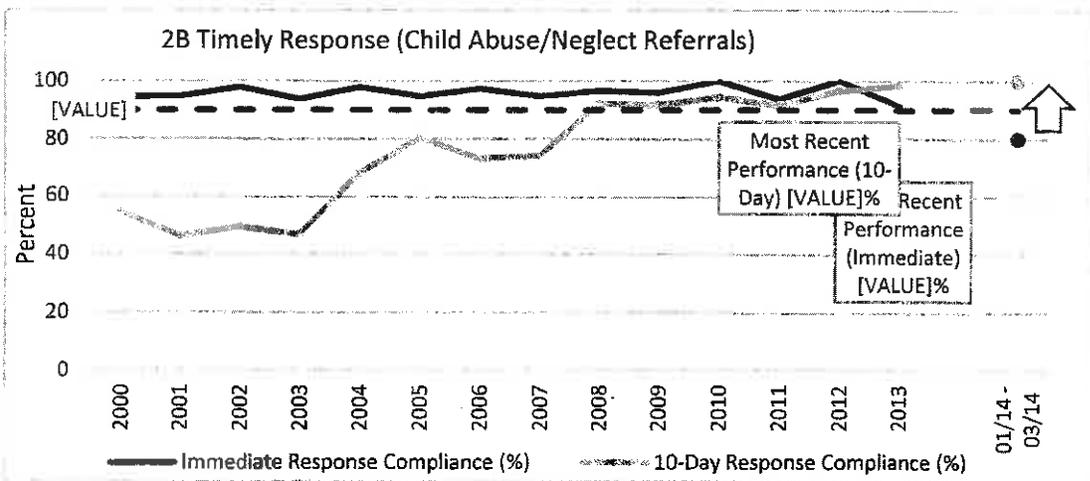
Colusa County is currently out of compliance with this Measure. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been out of compliance with this Measure since the quarter beginning October 1, 2008. Due to the relatively small data set, minor deviations can affect this Measure. For example, the most recent data indicates that, of the four (4) children who had been in foster care for more than two years during the most recent twelve-month reporting period (April 1, 2013 to March 30, 2014), only one of those

children had been in two or fewer placements; the County was out of compliance on this measure by a count of one (1) child who had experienced multiple placements during the specified timeframe. What this Measure fails to consider are beneficial moves, such as step downs to a lesser restrictive environment (for example, from group home to foster placement). Because of the small data set, children who are in long-term care who have already exceeded two placements can have a negative effect on performance for an extended length of time. Colusa County does not have a shelter and appropriate family members are not always available or accessible necessitating more information gathering which may result in a next day move to an appropriate placement.

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

Measure: Of the referrals received during a specific period of time requiring immediate or ten-day responses, what percentage of referrals were responded to timely?

Methodology: For this measure, in order for a referral which has been assigned as an immediate response to be investigated timely, documentation of the visit or attempted visit must occur within twenty-four hours of receipt of referral; in order for a referral which has been assigned as a ten-day response to be investigated timely, documentation of the visit or attempted visit must occur within 10 days of receipt of referral.



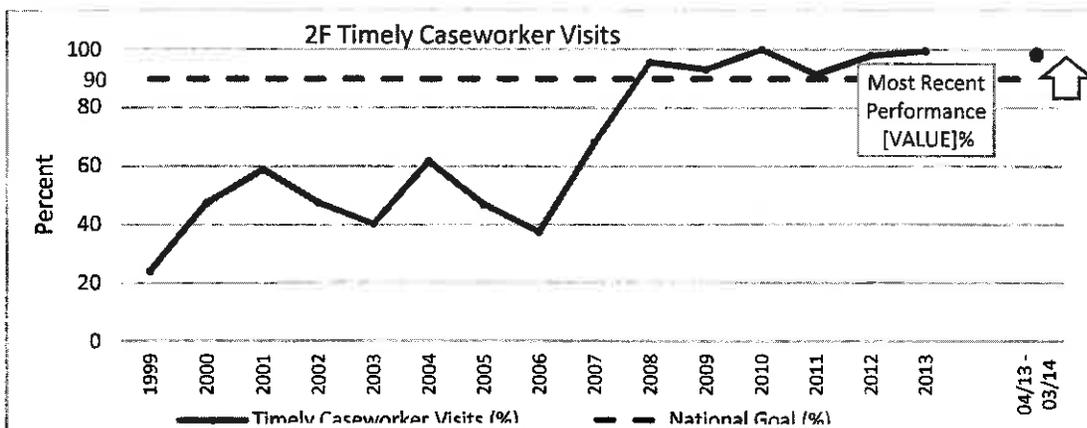
Analysis

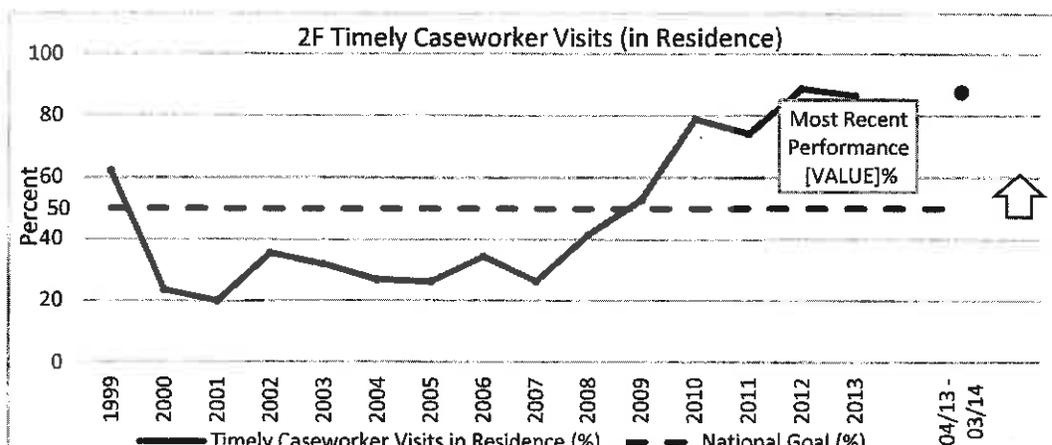
Colusa County is currently out of compliance with immediate investigations. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County had been in compliance (annually) with immediate investigations for the past fourteen (14) years, but has been out of compliance during the past two quarters. Colusa County is currently in compliance with ten-day investigations. Recognizing our core responsibility to children and families, Colusa County has worked very hard to insure immediate investigations. However, with only three social workers (and one supervisor), absences (even brief absences) or vacancies make consistent compliance extremely difficult. Having a supervisor knowledgeable about the circumstances of each family and their service needs helps to some extent but does not alleviate the social worker's responsibility to respond to and investigate calls about possible child abuse or neglect.

2F TIMELY CASEWORKER VISITS WITH CHILDREN

Measure: Of the children in foster care for an entire specific month, what percentage of children received an in-person visit from a child welfare worker during that month? What percentage of these in-person visits occurred at the child's residence?

Methodology: All children under age eighteen, who are in care for the entire calendar month are counted in this measure. Age is calculated at the beginning of the specified time period. Children who are not court dependents who are placed with non-relative legal guardians are not included.





Analysis

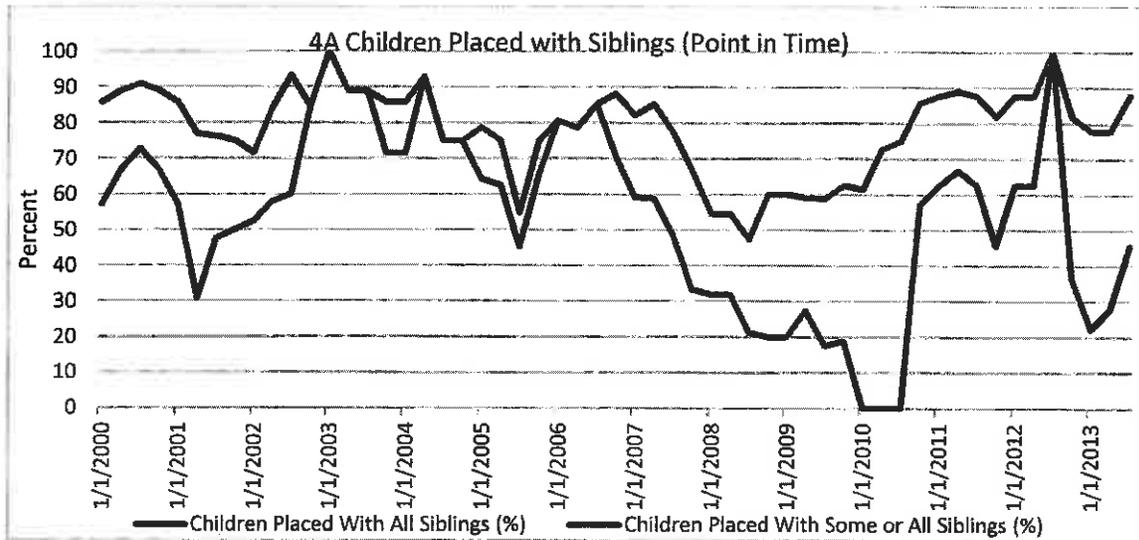
Colusa County is currently in full compliance with this Measure (both sub-measures). The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance (annually) with timely caseworker visits for the past six (6) years, and the past twenty-four (24) quarters. The most recent available data on this Measure shows that Colusa County has been in compliance (annually) with timely caseworker visits in the child’s residence for the past five (5) years, and the past nineteen (19) quarters. Colusa County has made proper documentation a priority; social workers meet, speak, or interact with these children and youth much more frequently than required by this Measure. Social workers meet with their supervisor weekly to discuss all their cases which includes updates on most recent contact with the children and youth on their caseload.

4A SIBLINGS PLACED TOGETHER IN FOSTER CARE

Measure: Of the children placed in care during a specific “point in time”, what percentage of children were placed with all of their siblings? (There is no federal or state standard at this time for this measure)

Methodology: This measure reports on a “point of time” instead of a period of time. Sibling groups are identified at the County level, not the state level. A sibling group size of “one” is used to signify a single child with no known siblings. When children are not in an active out of

home placement, the last known placement home is used to determine whether siblings were placed together.



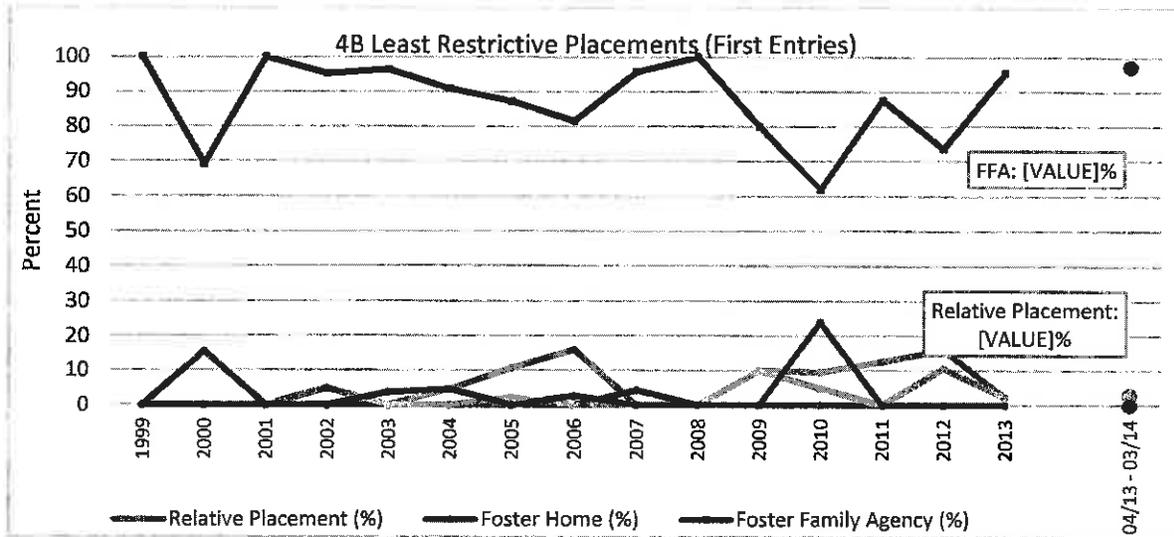
Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. There is no available data set that provides information about children that are only placed with “some siblings” (the data sets identify either “all” or “some or all,” but not “some”). Social workers make every effort to place large sibling groups if not in the same home, nearby. Siblings often come into care with different biological parents and sometimes there is a no offending parent available, which can result in siblings not being placed together. The children are still in contact.

4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (ENTRIES FIRST PLACEMENT)

Measure: Of the children placed in care during a specific “point in time”, what percentage of children are placed in the least restrictive settings? (There is no federal or state standard at this time for this measure)

Methodology: These reports are derived from a longitudinal database and provide information on all entries to out-of-home care during the time period specified.



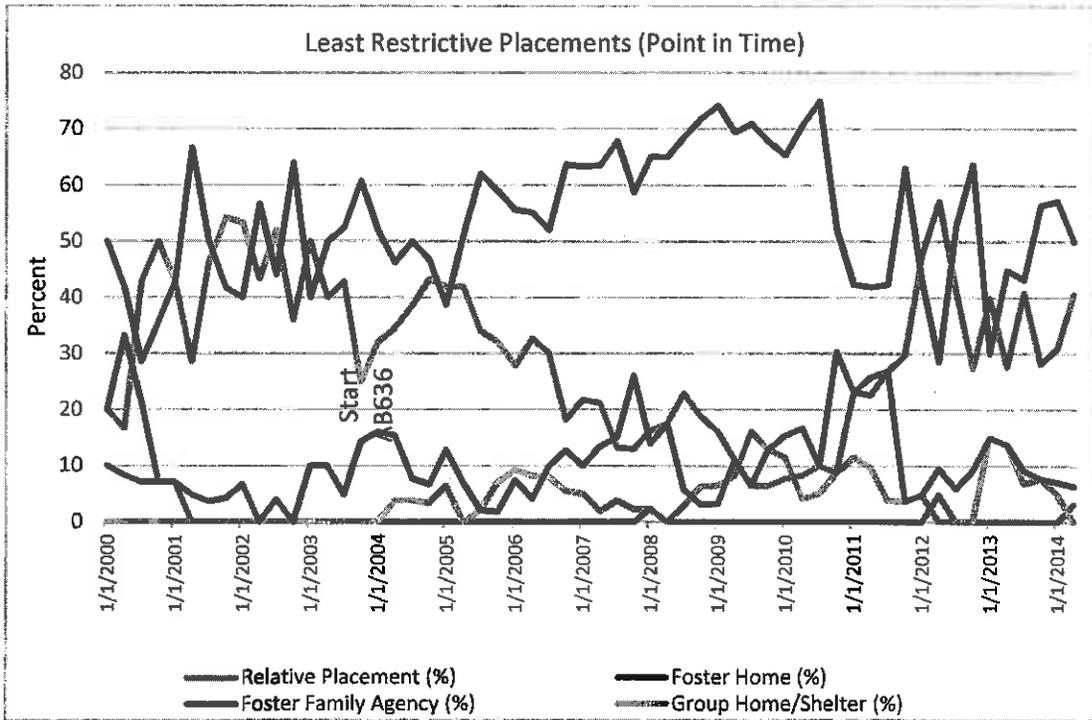
Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data clearly indicates that the overwhelming majority of children who make a first entry are placed into foster family agency care. DHHS adopted an Emergency Relative Placement Policy to allow emergency placement in specific with a relative while a screening is being conducted. This policy insures that the child is placed with an adult known to him or her who is under the supervision of the social worker while screening continues to determine if the placement is appropriate in the long term and that the child is not negatively impacted by multiple transitions.

4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (POINT IN TIME)

Measure: Of the children placed in foster care during a “point in time”, what percentage of children were placed in least restrictive environment?

Methodology: Includes all children who have an open placement episode in the CWS/CMS system (excluding children who have an agency type of “Mental Health,” “Private Adoption,” or “KinGAP” on a user-specified count day (e.g., January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1) and year.



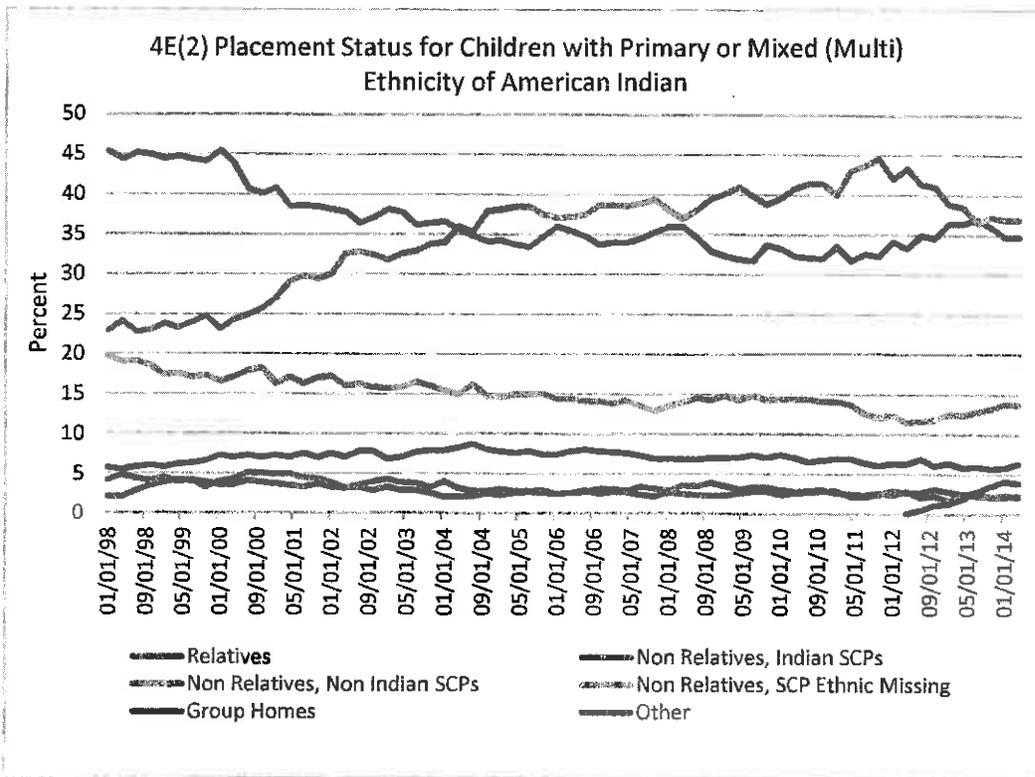
Analysis

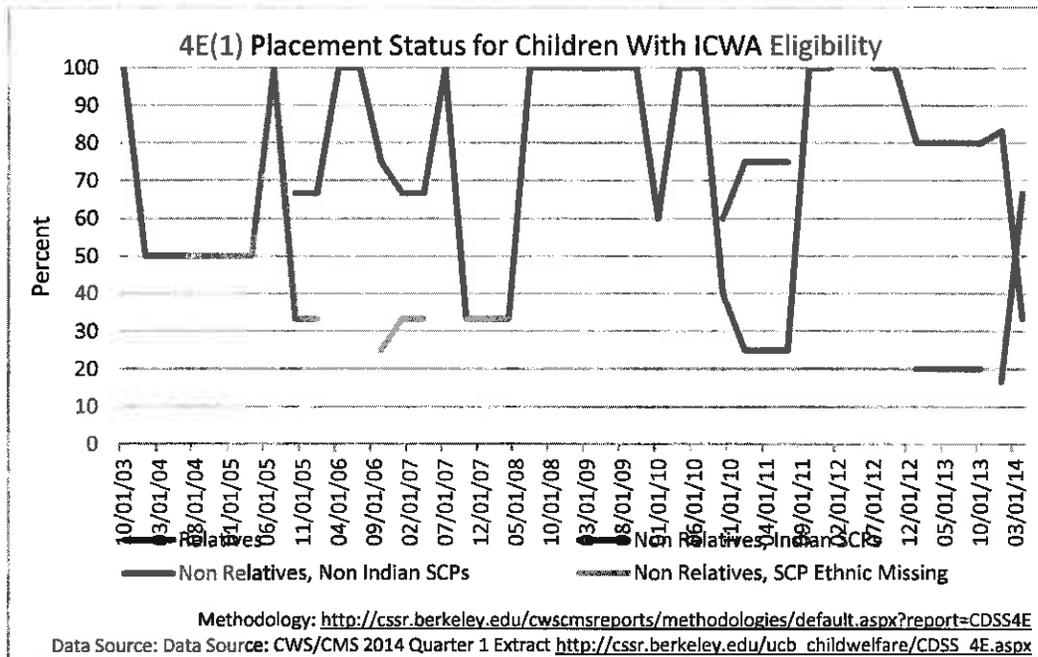
Each point on the set represents a specific point in time that is referenced on the horizontal (x) axis (it should be noted that there are more data points than can be accounted for on the x-axis due to space limitations). There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data, combined with analysis of the other 4B sub-measure, suggests that while most children are likely to have a first placement in a foster family agency setting, some children transition to other settings, especially relative placement.

4E ICWA & MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT STATUS

Measure: Of the children whom are ICWA eligible, during a “point in time” in placement, how many children were placed with relatives, non-relative American Indian substitute care providers (SCP’s), non-relative and non-American Indian SCP’s, and group homes.

Methodology: Placement status takes placement type, child relationship to substitute care provider and substitute care provider ethnicity into account.





Analysis

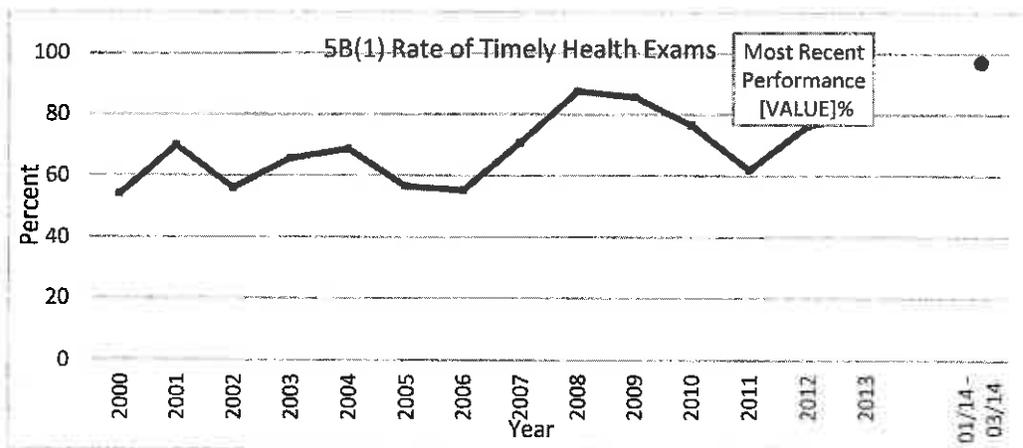
Each point on the set represents a specific point in time that is referenced on the horizontal (x) axis (it should be noted that there are more data points than can be accounted for on the x-axis due to space limitations). There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data suggests that placement of Indian children with relatives is declining. It should be noted that there are only three (3) children who are eligible for ICWA, as of the most recent quarter (January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014).

Colusa County has no ICWA certified homes within the County; one FFA under contract to the County has an ICWA certified home in Glen County. Social workers continue to work with tribes on a case by case basis. Local tribes utilize an infrastructure of extended family members for placement that acts sometimes as a resource for County social workers as well.

5B (1) RATE OF TIMELY HEALTH EXAMS

Measure: Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percent has received a timely CHDP exam?

Methodology: Children in open out-of-home placements are counted in this measure. Children that are excluded are children in placement for less than thirty-one days, children residing outside of California and non-child welfare placements.



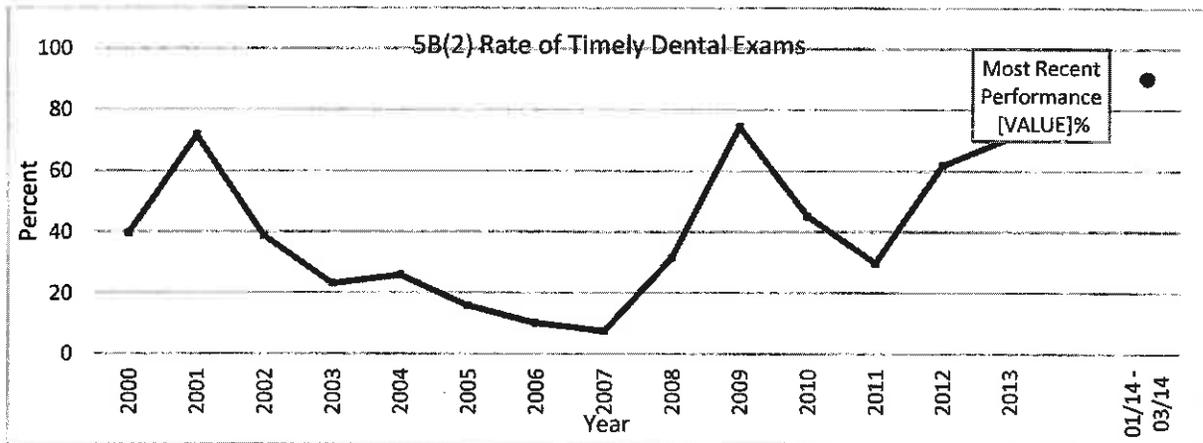
Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data demonstrates an upward trend, and that most children are receiving timely health examinations. Over the past year, Colusa County has been doing much better documenting and ensuring accurate and complete data entry by having the foster care nurse enter the data. Having this nurse available has helped social workers better communicate with relatives regarding the importance of such exams and the timeliness of such exams. The nurse has also improved communication with the medical community in terms of Medical and billing issues which reduce the possibility of care being denied or disrupted.

5B (2) RATE OF TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS

Measure: Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percentage of children have received a dental exam?

Methodology: All children in out-of-home placements are counted in this measure. Children that are excluded are children in placement for less than 31 days, children residing outside of California, and non-child welfare placements.



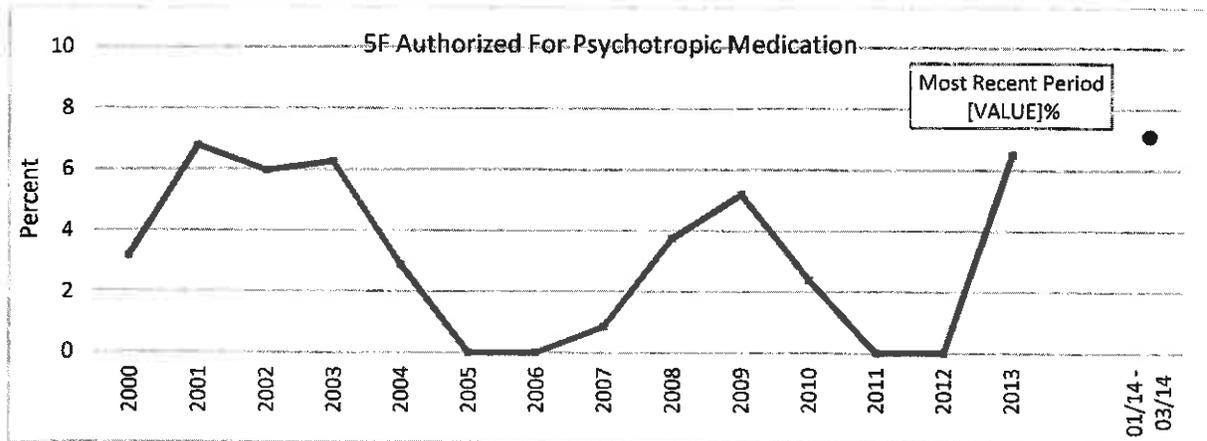
Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data demonstrates a recent upward trend, and that most children are receiving timely dental examinations. The foster care nurse enters data for dental exams as well and communicates with relative caregivers and providers.

5F PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

Measure: Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percentage of children have a court order or parental consent that authorizes the child to receive psychotropic medication?

Methodology: All children under age nineteen as of the last day of the quarter are counted in this measure, except for children that are non-child welfare placements, incoming ICPC placements, and non-dependent/legal guardians.



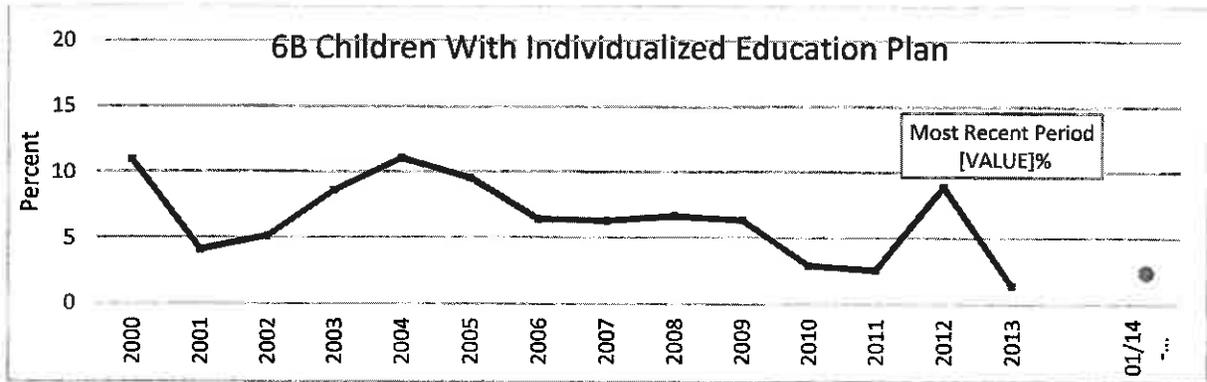
Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data demonstrates that only a small percentage of children in out of home care are currently authorized for psychotropic medication; the most recent data indicates that only three (3/35) children supervised by Colusa County were authorized for psychotropic medication during the most recent quarter (January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014). The foster care nurse works with social workers to use the JV220 to make sure that social workers are documenting need and submitting timely requests for orders to the court.

6B INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

Measure: Of the children in foster care during a specific time period, what percentage of children have ever had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

Methodology: This report provides the number of children under age nineteen in out-of-home placements who have ever had an IEP.



Analysis

Each point on the set represents a one-year period; data on this Measure is reported in “rolling quarters,” but is being presented as annual data for clarity. There are currently no federal or state data indicators for this Measure. The data demonstrates that only a small percentage of children in out of home care have ever had an Individualized Education plan; the most recent data indicates that only one (1) child supervised by child welfare during the most recent quarter (January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014) has an IEP. This data raised some concerns and as of September, the child welfare supervisor began including in her weekly supervision meetings with the social workers specific questions about school performance and the supports if any each child might need or is receiving, e.g., IEP assessment, 504 review. Given the national data on the educational performance of children in foster care, the agency will consider this in drafting the SIP. In addition, the agency will partner with Office of Education Prevention coordinator (recently hired) who works with foster youth, homeless youth as a resource to screen children in care for possible educational disabilities.

8A COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY, OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS, RECEIVED ILP SERVICES, PERMANENCY CONNECTION WITH AN ADULT.

Analysis

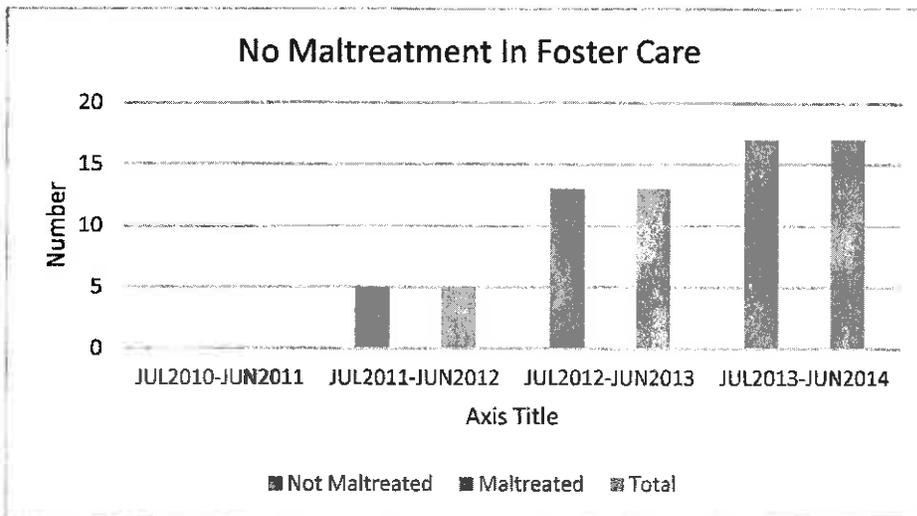
For 2013, Colusa County child welfare had no youth age out. Both child welfare and probation provide ILP resources to youth in permanency and for youth under child welfare supervision from 15.5 years through 20 years of age. In 2014, 85.7% under child welfare supervision

received ILP services from April - September including career training (3), education supports (5), consumer skills (5), interpersonal skills (2), and transportation support (1). Probation had seven youth in placement. ILP services were provided during that period as follows: education supports (7), housing (1), educational post-secondary (1), vocational training (1), health (1), and interpersonal (3).

PROBATION DEPARTMENT OUTCOME DATA Measures

Note: This data below is the most complete data available on these outcomes. Analysis is based on this data and probation department practice and is intended to present a picture of Colusa County youth who are in foster care placement (group homes and specialized programs) and the challenges going forward in meeting the needs of youth at risk in this County.

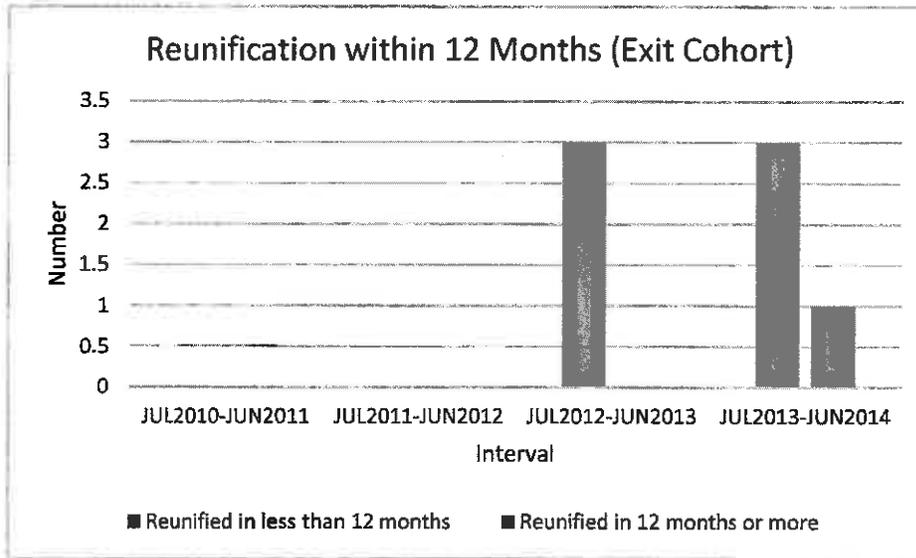
S2.1 No Maltreatment in Foster Care



Analysis

All youth are placed in group homes. Probation officers visit each youth at least monthly and require regular reports. The youth are in contact with their families and able to contact the probation officer directly. All group homes are also licensed by the state. Through all these means, probation maintains close supervision of the youth to ensure they are not subject of any maltreatment.

C1.1 Reunification within 12 Months (exit cohort)



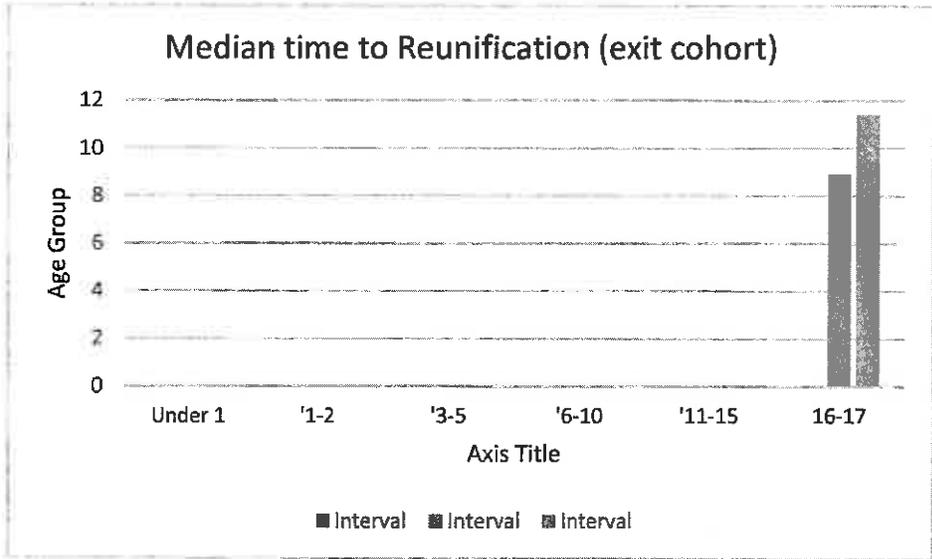
Analysis

The following applies to all outcomes C1.1, C1.2, C1.3 and C3.3.

Like all juvenile probation departments, Colusa County is limited by statute, court order, and the requirements of structure programs which are designed to meet the needs of youth with special risks and needs (e.g., for youthful sex offenders, drug abusers, developmentally delayed) consequently, many youth do not complete their program or satisfy the terms of probation within 12 months.

Delays in placement availability, placement disruptions, and probation violations can also extend time in placement. Probation is committed to recommending the best possible placement for those youth who have to be removed from their homes and ensuring that these programs meet their needs and prepare them to succeed when they return home and to our community.

C1.2 Median Time of Reunification (exit cohort)



C1.3 Reunification within 12 Months (Entry Cohort)

STATUS	JAN2011- JUN2011	JAN2012- JUN2012	JAN2013- JUN2013
	N	N	N
Reunified	0	4	0
Adopted	0	0	0
Guardianship	0	0	0
Emancipated	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1
Still in care	0	1	1
Total	0	5	2

C1.4 Reentry Following Reunification

STATUS	JUL2010- JUN2011	JUL2011- JUN2012	JUL2012- JUN2013
REENTERED IN LESS THAN 12 MONTHS	0	0	0
NO REENTRY WITHIN 12 MONTHS	0	0	3

C2.1 Adoption within 24 months (Exit Cohort)

STATUS	JUL2011- JUN2012	JUL2012- JUN2013	JUL2013- JUN2014
ADOPTED WITHIN 24 MONTHS	0	0	0
NOT ADOPTED WITHIN 24 MONTHS	1	1	0
TOTAL	1	1	0

Analysis

Probation works with youth to help them find permanent connections with other adults if their parents are not available, including adoption.

C2.2 Median Time to Adoption (Exit Cohort)

Not applicable, no data

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

Not applicable, no data

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

Not applicable, no data

C2.5 Adoption within 12 Months (Legally Free)

Not applicable, no data

C3.1 Exit to Permanency (24 Months in Care)

Not applicable, no data

C3.2 Exits to Permanency (Legally Free at Exit)

Not applicable, no data

C3.3 In Care 3 Years or Longer (Emancipation/Age 18)

STATUS	Jul 2010- Jun2011	Jul 2011 – Jun 2012	Jul 2012 – Jun 2013	Jul 2013 – Jun2014
<i>In care less than 3 years</i>		1	1	1
<i>In care 3 years or longer</i>				
<i>Total</i>		1	1	1

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

Placements	JUL2011- JUN2012	JUL2012- JUN2013	JUL2013- JUN2014
	n	n	n
<=2 placements	5	10	13
>2 placements	0	0	0

C4.2 Placement Stability (12 Months to 24 Months in Care)

PLACEMENTS	JUL2010- JUN2011	JUL2011- JUN2012	JUL2012- JUN2013	JUL2013- JUN2014
<=2 placements			1	4
>2 placements (prior)			0	0
>2 placements (recent)				0
Total			1	4

Analysis

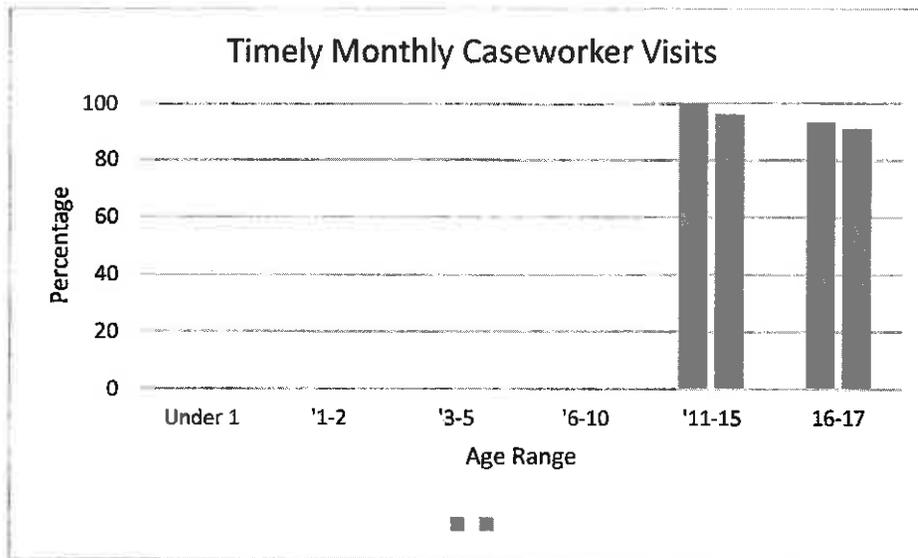
All placements used by Colusa County probation are group homes and highly structured programs outside of Colusa County. Colusa County does not have any group homes or foster homes for youth under probation supervision. Placement is used only have comprehensive

efforts have been made to supervise the youth in his/her home with services and supports linked to the youth's personal risk and needs assessment. Colusa County has limited resources which makes it especially difficult for youth who have serious behavioral or substance abuse problems. In addition, youth with placement orders are typically older (15-17) and finding the best available placement is especially challenging which often means placements have to be changed until a suitable placement can be made.

C4.3 Placement Stability (At Least 24 Months in Care)

Not applicable, no data to report

2F Timely Caseworker Visits with Children by Year



Analysis

All youth are placed in group homes or programs which require travel and often overnight travel; sometimes out of state travel, which can result in slight delays in the monthly visits; however, probation officers are in telephone contact with the youth and family members, and the programs to ensure that the placement is meeting the youths' needs.

4B Least Restrictive Placement (Entries First Placement)

AGE GROUP	JUL2009- JUN2010	JUL2010- JUN2011	JUL2011- JUN2012	JUL2012- JUN2013	JUL2013- JUN2014
	n	n	n	N	n
<1 MO					
1-11 MO					
1-2 YR					
3-5 YR					
6-10 YR					
11-15 YR			3		3
16-17 YR			2	7	5
18-20 YR					

4B Least Restrictive Placement (Point in Time)

TIME IN CARE	POINT IN TIME				
	1-Jul-10 N	1-Jul-11 n	1-Jul-12 n	1-Jul-13 n	1-Jul-14 n
< 12 MONTHS			5	6	8
12-23 MONTHS				1	1
24-35 MONTHS					
36-47 MONTHS					
48-59 MONTHS					
60+ MONTHS					
MISSING					
TOTAL			5	7	9

Analysis

Regarding both least restrictive placement outcomes, the number of youth in placement from Colusa County is very small due in part to our aggressive efforts to work with youth, their

families, and community partners to maintain the youth in the county. However, the needs of the youth and the capacity of the family and community to provide specific supports require placement in some cases. Colusa County has no foster homes or group homes for youth in probation. All placements are in group homes or programs out of county based on risk and needs assessments.

4E ICWA & Multi-Ethnic Placement Status

Not applicable

5F-8A: Colusa County has a very small number of children and youth in any of these categories and the County will look towards designing a strategy in the forthcoming SIP to monitor and collect data regarding each of these measures.

Summary of Findings

Colusa County is a small rural county, relatively isolated, with limited services and an economic base largely dependent on agriculture-business which continues to struggle from the national recession and the impact of the drought. Our strong culture of collaboration compensates to some extent. Stakeholders meeting in a daylong meeting recognized the progress that had been made in meeting the needs of children and families during the past five years. Serious and persistent service system gaps were also identified, e.g., drug and alcohol treatment, affordable housing, transportation that present significant obstacles to more systemic change. The peer review also found strengths in many areas in both systems including experienced social workers and probation officers who are committed to the best possible results for both children and families.

In attempting to measure progress, both child welfare and probation are confronted with the impact of small numbers of children in care and in placement. These small numbers skew outcome data making it difficult to accurately assess system wide strengths and weaknesses. Many of the variations reflected in the recent data comparison period, for example, for child welfare, are due to a single sibling set, or blended families, or the appellate process. In each of these cases, permanency was reached shortly thereafter.

Colusa County is dedicated to protecting children from abuse and strengthening families and public agencies and community members will continue to work together towards these goals and in developing the forthcoming System Improvement Plan.

California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

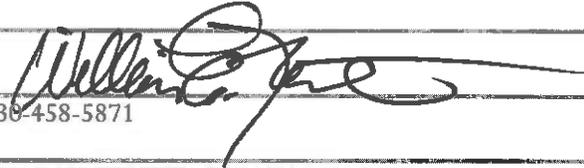
For submittal of: CSA SIP Progress Report

County	COLUSA
SIP Period Dates	JUNE 2014-JUNE 2019
Outcome Data Period	Q1 2014

County Child Welfare Agency Director

Name	ELIZABETH KELLY
Signature*	
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Mailing Address	251 E. WEBSTER STREET, COLUSA, CA 95932

County Chief Probation Officer

Name	WILLIAM FENTON
Signature*	
Phone Number	530-458-5871
Mailing Address	532 OAK STREET, COLUSA, CA 95932

Public Agency Designated to Administer CAPIT and CBCAP

Name	ELIZABETH KELLY, DIRECTOR
Signature*	
Phone Number	530-458-0280
Mailing Address	251 E WEBSTER STEET, COLUSA, CA 95932

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Signature

BOS Approval Date	
Name	
Signature*	

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 8-12-01
 Sacramento, CA 95814

*Signatures must be in blue ink

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Public Agency Administering CAPIT and CBCAP (if other than Child Welfare)	Name	
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