

# California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

For submittal of: CSA  SIP  Progress Report

County	Modoc
SIP Period Dates	2014 - 2019
Outcome Data Period	2011-2013
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Mail the original Signature Sheet to:

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# California - Child and Family Services Review

## Modoc County County Self-Assessment

FEBRUARY 2014



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## Introduction

The purpose of the CSA is to comprehensively assess the full array of child welfare and probation program, from prevention and protection through permanency and aftercare. The CSA is completed every five years by the county in coordination with their local community partners. The CSA enables counties to determine effectiveness of current practice, programs and resources across the continuum of child welfare and probation placement services and identify areas of targeted system improvement.

Assembly Bill 636 established the Child Welfare Services Outcomes and Accountability Act of 2001. The CSA is one of the major components of the California-Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) process which emphasizes continuous quality improvement. The C-CFSR process is a cyclical process which went from a 3-year to a 5-year cycle. Other major parts of this process are the Peer Review and System Improvement Plan (SIP). Modoc County's most recent CSA was completed in June 2009.

When the Modoc County CSA is complete the county will work together with the state to develop the upcoming SIP that will be effective 2014 through 2019. This SIP will act as an operational agreement between CDSS and the County, ensuring the collaboration with local community, prevention and early intervention partners and is approved by the county Board of Supervisor (BOS). It provides an outline for how the county will improve their system of care for children and families. The SIP will ensure that CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds will address priority needs within Modoc County. There is an Annual SIP Progress Report requirement that allows CDSS to monitor the outcome of the SIP.

## C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

### **C-CFSR TEAM**

The Modoc County 2014 C-CFSR Team Included:

Monica SeEVERS, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Modoc County Probation Department

Carole McCulley, Social Worker Supervisor II, Modoc Department of Social Services

Samantha Sabala, Program Manager, CDSS

Christina Hoerl, Social Services Consultant III, CDSS

Barbara Ricciuti-Colombo, Social Services Consultant III, CDSS

Patricia Harper, Social Services Consultant III, Office of Child Abuse Prevention

The team met via conference calls and in person in preparation for the Peer Review and completion of the CSA approximately five times between late November 2013 and February

2014. They reviewed and discussed the CSA Questionnaire and Peer Review documents provided by the State Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau (CSOAB) in preparation for the Stakeholders Meeting, the Peer Review and the completion of the CSA.

### **Core Representatives**

In collaboration with the C-CFSR team, service providers and community stakeholders within and surrounding Modoc County were included to provide input on the CSA.

Stakeholders:

Tara Shepard, Modoc County Behavioral Health, Co- Director

Judge Francis W. Barclay, Modoc Superior Court, Judge

Elias “Leo” Fernandez, Jr., Modoc County Probation Department, Chief Probation Officer

Jessica Fredrick, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., CASA and Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator

Carol Callaghan, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., Parents Plus, Crisis Center and ILP Services

Michael Traverso, Modoc County Behavioral Health, Clinical Supervisor

Karen Stockton, Director of Modoc County Behavioral Health

Elizabeth Varney, Modoc Superior Court, Drug Court Coordinator

Several attempts were made to engage previous child welfare foster care youth who had successfully transitioned out of the foster care system in the 2013 in the CSA process but they declined to participate. Two former youth that would participate have moved out of the area. The Stakeholders who were not present at the meeting were identified and asked questions on an individual basis included:

Nicki Munholand, ICWA Representative for the Cedarville Rancheria

Misti Norby, Modoc County Office of Education, FYS

Parent of In-Care Youth

In-Care Youth

Donna Haney, Foster Parent

The C-CFSR team determined the areas of focus for Child Welfare and Probation based on the most current data extract report provided by UC Berkeley, Q2 2013 (<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb/childwelfare>). The team identified C1 Reunification Composite as an outcomes and accountability focus area for both Child Welfare and Probation. Child Welfare’s focus area was determined to be C1.4 Reentry Following Reunification. Probation’s focus area was determined to be C1.1 Reunification within 12 months. The baseline data period

for the CSA would be CWS Outcomes System summary for Modoc County, data extract Q3 2013.

### **THE CSA PLANNING PROCESS**

The C-CFSR team met four times as a group via conference call to plan to identify Modoc County's focus area as well as plan for the Peer Review that occurred on January 22, 2014 and January 23, 2014. Besides the conference calls, there were extensive conversations via email or phone that occurred between Christina Hoerl, Monica Seevers, and Carole McCulley. Also, simultaneously Patricia Harper and Carole McCulley were completing the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) Annual Report that was not officially considered a planning process for the CSA but naturally occurred as a foundation of understanding the areas of strengths and weaknesses within the Modoc County Department of Social Services. The areas of weakness that were identified within the OCAP Annual Review were used to help the C-CFSR team identify the focus areas for Social Services and later create questions for the Stakeholder meeting.

There was limited time to hold multiple Stakeholders meetings therefore there was one Stakeholder meeting conducted on January 16, 2014. To utilize the time efficiently the group was asked specific questions that were created by the team and a questionnaire was presented to the group. This questionnaire encompassed the same questions but more in depth. Also, it allowed people who were not comfortable speaking in front of the group to respond honestly. The questionnaire addressed prevention, reunification services, teaming and collaboration and foster care reentry.

Monica Seevers, Carole McCulley and or staff met with the following mandated parties individually:

- ICWA
- Foster Parents
- Former and Current Foster Youth
- State Adoptions

### **PARTICIPATION OF CORE REPRESENTATIVES**

Per the California Child and Family Services Review Instruction Manual, Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation has included all required representatives and most stakeholders to participate in the Modoc County 2014 CSA. Everyone included in the CSA process was helpful and provided appropriate feedback that identified strengths and weaknesses within Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation.

These Stakeholders, will provide input and guidance throughout the CSA process as part of the C-CFSR Team and in implementing the SIP when Completed. Please note:

- The Modoc County BOS has designated the Modoc County Department of Social Services to oversee the County's Children's Trust Fund (CCTF)
- The Modoc County BOS has designated Public Agency Modoc County Department of Social Services to administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF programs

The ICWA coordinator for the Cedarville Rancheria was contacted and engaged in the initial process of the CSA and input was given by this Paiute tribe. Recently three members of their governing board as well as their tribal administrator were murdered. Also, two other members of the board were severely injured and multiple tribal members were witnesses. As a result of these recent events, the tribe is grieving while trying to manage regular business. This tragedy is within the tribe as well as our small community and Modoc Child Welfare. Both the Cedarville Rancheria and Modoc County Child Welfare are in a rebuilding time period and it is the goal that the tribe and Modoc Child Welfare build a relationship during their time of growth. It is the goal of Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation to not only work with the Cedarville Rancheria but also engage other local tribes and build a collaborative relationship in the future.

### **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

Child Welfare and Probation collaborated to identify their stakeholders within the community. The agencies identified the Modoc County Treatment Court Steering Committee as the best forum for engaging the majority of stakeholders within Modoc County. On January 16, 2014, the monthly committee meeting convened. Child Welfare and Probation solicited stakeholder input on prevention, reunification services, teaming and collaboration, and foster care reentry. The CDSS C-CFSR team attended the meeting via teleconference provided the Stakeholders a brief overview of the CSA and SIP.

During this meeting Stakeholders were provided an agenda and questionnaire to solicit their feedback. The questions that were provided to the Stakeholders included:

### **PREVENTION**

1. What are some of the issues facing the children/youth in Modoc County that bring them to the attention of Child Welfare or Juvenile Probation? (domestic violence, poverty, and neglect) What services in the community assist to prevent families from entering the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice System? What services are needed, but missing?

### **REUNIFICATION SERVICES**

2. What reunification services are working well for children/youth and families?  
 3. Discuss the barriers or challenges that children/youth and families have had in receiving services that meet their needs.

### **TEAMING AND COLLABORATION**

4. As service providers, how have we ensured multi-agency teaming and collaboration? What are the barriers to successfully working together? What are your suggestions for improving multi-agency collaboration?

### **FOSTER CARE REENTRY**

5. What services/supports are available to families after children/youth return home, to prevent re-entry into foster care/probation placement? Are there services gaps?

Can you provide an example, or examples, of situations in which at risk families were successful in avoiding re-entry? What were the major themes of these success stories?

Major Themes that emerged from discussions and the questionnaire:

- Modoc Child Welfare: improve their Department with utilizing Signs of Safety, Team Decision Making and Deferential Response.
- As a group: improve and utilize the referral forms to their agency such as Behavioral Health(Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug evaluations), TEACH Inc.(Parents Plus, CASA, ILP Services and Crisis Center), Public Health(Healthy Beginnings),
- The Modoc County Child Abuse Prevention Counsel was identified as a place that allowed agencies to collaborate about prevention services provided to clients. There needs to be improvements in the implementation and monitoring but the community benefitted from the counsel.
- There is a need for everyone to speak the same language to ensure the clients are not receiving false information. This includes each department understanding each other's timelines and programs.
- It has been determined a "warm handoff" followed with a referral, benefits the client and ensures more timely services.
- Improve communication between clinics, Public Health Nurses and Child Welfare in regards to the CHDP requirements.
- There is a high need for Probation Foster Care and Group Home placement options and Juvenile Hall housing.
- Services that are implemented need to continue after duration of the Probation or Child Welfare case.
- There is a high need for Foster Care placements in Modoc County.
- Finding and keeping qualified professionals to maintain programs is a challenge.

In summation there was one constant reoccurring theme identified as a strength and an area in need of improvement. The strength is that in the past Modoc County has had a strong collaborating network. This collaborative network included Family Wellness Court, Strengthening Families, Child Abuse Prevention Counsel, Healthy Beginnings, Community Collaborative and Maternal Child and Adolescent. These collaborative networks were eliminated during the last year and half, which was identified as an area in need of improvement. Many Stakeholders felt that if the collaborative network is rebuilt with programs that are mentioned

above this negative will quickly become a positive. Thus, allowing each agency to service their individual population at a higher level.

## Demographic Profile

### GENERAL COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Modoc County is located in the most north eastern corner of California. It is a high desert, mountainous region that shares state borders with Nevada to the east and Oregon to the north. In 1998, Modoc County was declared a “frontier county” by the state legislature due to the sparse population, which is just above two persons per square miles, coupled with the issues of providing services to this widely dispersed population. There are approximately 9,327 (according to the U.S. Census estimate for 2012) inhabitants within 39,177 square miles which is significantly lower than the 2010 census results of 9,686. Within two years, the population decreased by 359 which some may correlate this to the high percentage of unemployment and the low socioeconomic status of the county. The population percent change, April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2012, was -3.7% for Modoc County, as compared to 2.1% for the state as a whole.<sup>1</sup> Long distances separate small communities within the county.

#### Population reported at 2012 United States Census

<b>The County</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Modoc County	9,327
<b>Incorporated City</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Alturas	2,802
<b>Census Designated Place</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Adin	272
California Pines	520
Canby	315
Cedarville	514
Daphnedale Park	184
Eagleville	59
Fort Bidwell	173
Lake City	61
Likely	63

<sup>1</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/stats/06/06049.html>

Lookout	84
New Pine Creek	98
Newell	449
All other Census Designated Place's (combined)	4,067

Modoc County is the third least populated county in the state. There are no metropolitan areas in Modoc County and no lighted intersections with the exception of one flashing red light at the intersection of Highways 299 and 395 located in Alturas. The city of Alturas is the county seat, being the largest and only incorporated city in Modoc County with an estimated 2,748 permanent residents.<sup>2</sup> The rest are located throughout the county with concentrations in four geographical areas: Alturas/Likely, Cedarville/Surprise Valley, Tulelake/Newell and Adin/Big Valley. Each of these areas are a minimum of a twenty minute drive to over an hour from Alturas, which houses all of the county services as well as service normally associated with an incorporated city. Larger cities closest to Alturas include Klamath Falls, Oregon 100 miles to the north; Redding, California, 150 miles to the west and Reno, Nevada, 190 miles to the south.

Many families living in outlying areas are low income, often without telephones, vehicles or fuel for travel. Lack of transportation is the major barrier to utilization of health and social services in Modoc County.

The approximate ethnic breakdown of Modoc County's population in 2012:<sup>3</sup>

White, not Hispanic	Native American	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Multiracial
77.8%	5.1%	1.1%	1.4%	14.4%	3.5%

In addition to city and county services and schools, Alturas houses regional headquarters for:

- The U.S. Forest Service
- The U.S. National Resources Conservation Service
- The Bureau of Land Management
- The California Department of Forestry
- State Fish and Game Office
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Modoc National Wildlife Refuge
- The California Highway Patrol
- A California Conservation Camp
- Cal-Trans and two California Agricultural Inspection Stations

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.city-data.com>

<sup>3</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/stats/06>

<sup>4</sup> [www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html](http://www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html)

- The California Department of Motor Vehicles

The median household income between the years of 2008-2012 was \$37,482, while the per capita income in the county for that same time period was \$20,916.<sup>5</sup> In February 2014, 120 adults received CalWORKS. Approximately 3% of the 120 adults did not have CalFresh attached. In addition to those numbers there was a total caseload of 20 for CalFresh and General Assistance for the month of February. There is a total of 448 cases receiving CalFresh, of these cases approximately 30 to 40 percent are Public Assistance.

The schools in Modoc County are divided among four joint unified school districts and the Modoc County Office of Education (MCOE). The school districts coincide with the five geographical regions within the county: Alturas, Tulelake, Newell, Surprise Valley and Big Valley. The total number of students in the K-12 system in 2013 was approximately 1,530.<sup>6</sup> The Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA) is located in MCOE and covers the entire county. As of this writing, 136 students had Individualized Education Plans. MCOE also runs several alternative schools that serve approximately 26 students.

The majority of those clients in Modoc County speak English; however, there is a large Spanish speaking population in the Newell area within the Migrant camp.

Child Welfare has one Social Worker and Probation has one Officer both of whom are bilingual (Spanish/English) to serve those clients who do not speak English as their first language.

In Modoc County for the population of five years and speaking only the English Language is 86.7%; speaking a language other than English 13.3% and Spanish speaking only 11.8%.<sup>7</sup>

There are four recognized tribal nations in Modoc County and a number of non-recognized bands. Fort Bidwell is a reservation in the northeastern corner of the county. The tribal offices in Fort Bidwell house the tribal ICWA worker. The Cedarville Rancheria is located in Surprise Valley with tribal offices in Alturas. The Alturas Rancheria is just outside Alturas and operates a small casino and event center. The headquarters for the Pit River Nation is in Burney, California, in Shasta County, but they provide services to tribal members in Modoc County, including ICWA.

<sup>5</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/stats/06>

<sup>6</sup> [www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html](http://www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html)

<sup>7</sup> <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

## **CHILD MALTREATMENT INDICATORS**

Modoc County has a low population as compared to their geographical size. It has been determined that the population of Modoc County is represented by two and half people per square mile. This leaves Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation having challenges meeting the needs of families and children that reside in smaller remote surrounding towns. Often providing services to families and children who live in the remote towns surrounding Alturas is a challenge. This can prevent services provided to families. Which in return these small numbers

skew our county's outcome data reports. One child or family can result in outcome measure results lower or higher than Federal and State standards.

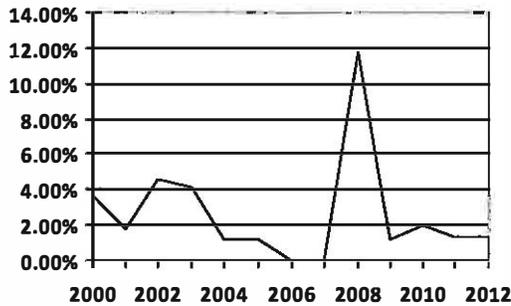
Modoc County is a medically underserved County which can be detrimental to populations that require medical intervention such as elderly and newborns. Modoc Medical Center has a skilled nursing facility and family practice medical clinic and the only emergency room in Modoc County. The emergency room is limited to what can be offered mainly due to the actual physical structure of the hospital. For example the hospital is not allowed to deliver babies unless the mother is in active labor and it is an emergency. Due to the low number of births at the Modoc Medical Center there is no Ob/GYN or doctor that specializes in pregnancy. Most pregnant mothers travel to Lakeview or Klamath Falls, Oregon, Fall River Mills, California, for their prenatal care and delivery. If a family is of low socioeconomic status they often do not have transportation to make their appointments. Also the State of Oregon does not take Medi-Cal so most people who are on Medi-Cal travel to Fall River Mills for the prenatal appointments. There is no public transportation; therefore families often have difficulty seeking prenatal care. This negatively affects the child as well as the mother and possibly leading to the child having high medical needs and or low birth rate.

Modoc County Birth Report for 2012

Births in Oregon	Births in California Hospitals (Not in Alturas)	Births at Modoc Medical Center
45	31	0
	Total Births from Modoc County residents: 76	

Out of the 76 births reviewed in 2012, 58 women entered prenatal care during their first trimester and 15 women had less than 8 prenatal visits. Also, five infants were born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces). In 2012, there is a total of four births, three of these were from mothers aged 18 to 19 years of age and one from a mother who was 17 years of age or younger.

The number of births for 18-19 year olds is similar to that of previous years. The number of births to ≤17year olds appears to be typical as well and still significantly lower than 2008. Comparing the number of teen births ≤17 years as a percent of total county births is as follows:



One does have to note that our birth numbers are small, and can vary considerably from year to year, so data obtained in one year can be misleading.

Entry into care in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester was **76%**. Entry into care has varied from a low of 67.5% in 2009 and a high of 82% in 2011. Comparison to other years is as follows:

The percentage of women receiving **7** prenatal appointments or less is **20%**. This number remains higher than we would like. There continues to be barriers to receiving adequate prenatal care for many women due to time off work, travel time, and travel expenses. This issue remains a priority for Public Health. The newborn complication rate this year was **12%**. Of the two complications specifically noted on the birth certificates involved assisted ventilation just after delivery and NICU admissions.

The above information was received from 2012 birth certificates, and was provided by Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Director at Modoc County Public Health.

Employment in Modoc County consists of government agencies, county, self-employment and the small amount of jobs that are supported by the local stores and restaurants.

Monthly Labor Force Data for Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP)  
December 2013- Preliminary  
Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Modoc County	3,670	3,280	390	10.6%
Alturas City	1,130	960	170	14.7%

State of California Employment and Development Department <http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county/modoc.htm>

Approximately 16.4% of families and 21.5% of the population are below the poverty line, including 29.7% of those under age 18 and 8.6% of the age 65 or over.

The overall culture in Modoc County is unique in regards to a strong drinking and drug culture. Modoc County has land that is vacant within the Modoc National Forest, providing an environment for marijuana cultivation. This environment attracts people that engage in drug use

and illegal behavior. Often when parents engage in substance abuse there is an increased risk that the child is at risk of adverse experiences and negative outcomes, both short and long term.

Families in which one or both parents have substance use disorders, and particularly families with an addicted parent, often experience a number of other problems that affect parenting, including mental illness, unemployment, high levels of stress, and impaired family functioning, all of which can put children at risk for maltreatment (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2005). A child's basic needs, including nutrition, supervision, and nurturing, may go unmet due to parental substance use, resulting in neglect. Depending on the extent of the substance use and lack of positive parenting skills, abuse can also include physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

There are many factors that lead to child maltreatment. The factors that are in Modoc County are also in other counties in California. The difference is that there are often not enough or appropriate services available to ensure that families are able to make changes within their life. Such as employment opportunities, alcohol and drug services, transportation, domestic violence services and transportation. Having limited services in these areas exacerbates family issues and creates a higher risk of children to be maltreated. Not all parents who live in poverty abuse their children or engage in substance abuse but there are indications that having a high percent of people living in poverty makes a higher possibility that a child is maltreated. Maltreatment of children occurs when there is trigger or stressor in the family's life. Sometimes these triggers or stressors are situational and are often difficult to overcome such as poverty or substance abuse.

## **CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION POPULATION**

When a child enters into Foster Care through the Child Welfare System he or she is a victim of physical, emotional, sexual or general neglect. A child who enters foster care through probation has to have violated the law and/or be the result of family dysfunction (out of control juvenile) that has come to the attention of law enforcement who in turn releases the youth to the Probation Officer. It also must be determined by either the Social Worker or Probation Officer that it is in the child's best interest to enter foster care. Sometimes there are children who are a victim of child abuse and also break the law resulting in a Section 241.1 Welfare and Institutions Code, Dual Jurisdiction. When this occurs Child Welfare and Probation work together to create a plan to ensure the child's safety as well as implementing reunification.

The table below indicated the number of children 0-17 who enter Foster Care July1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

City	Child Population	Child with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Child
Modoc	1,709	12	7.0
Alturas	1,188	7	5.9
Cedarville	150	1	6.7
Non Geocoded City not specified		4	

University of California at Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research [www.cssr.berkeley.edu](http://www.cssr.berkeley.edu)

The main portion of children entering Foster Care are located within Alturas which is the County seat but there are children that reside in non-identified towns within the County that also enter Foster Care. Due to their location and remoteness they do not receive the services necessary to ensure that the family's issues that led to detention are addressed to the level necessary. One could correlate the high level of reentry following reunification to the remoteness of the county and the difficulty of providing families with the necessary tools to implement change within their home. Another factor that may increase the likelihood of reentry is the lack of quality services available in the area. It was identified during the stakeholder's meeting that a challenge within all departments in Modoc County is recruiting people with education and or license to perform jobs such as social workers, alcohol and drug counselors, clinicians and health care providers.

Currently, Modoc County as a whole is seeking outside resources to recruit qualified staff in surrounding areas. Specifically, Child Welfare utilizes Merit Systems Services to recruit for all positions. At this point in time salaries within Modoc County are significantly lower than surrounding or comparable counties, making it difficult to entice qualified applicants

That data that indicates reentry rates for Modoc County fluctuates, which can be an indication of internal leadership changes but in 2008 4 out of 18 children who were reunified with their parents reentered foster care. The table below indicates the comparison of 2007 to 2013, indicating the amount of referrals received, substantiated and children entered into foster care.

Measure:	01/01/07 to 12/31/07	01/01/12/ to 12/31/12
PR : Referral Rates	106	97
PR: Substantiation Rates	20.4%	23.4%

Participation Rates: rate per 1,000; c1.2 and c2.2: median (months: composites: estimated score  
C.D.S.S./UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

Placement Type	10/01/07 to 09/30/08	10/01/12 to 09/30/13
FFA	85.7	57.1
Family Placement	14.3%	42.9%

Participation Rates: rate per 1,000; c1.2 and c2.2: median (months: composites: estimated score  
C.D.S.S./UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

The table above indicates that there was a decrease in FFA placements and increase in family placements. During the time frame safety plans were implemented within the department which decreased the number of substantiated referrals being acted on. When a substantiated referral was acted on it often was resolved with a family placement due to the limited number of foster homes in the community. Modoc County currently has three licensed Foster Care Homes which were originally licensed under Mt. View Foster Family Agency. Mt. View Foster Family Agency closed resulting in the homes being licensed by Community Care Licensing. Due to the low number of Foster Care Placements children are often placed in surrounding towns, such as Susanville, Redding, Portola or Litchfield, all in California. Placement within these areas results in the children changing educational placements and missing a lot of school in order to attend his or her court ordered visitation with the parents. Also facilitating services from that distance is very difficult and not effective. T.E.A.C.H Inc. is applying to become a licensed Foster Family Agency. This will strongly increase the number of foster care homes as well as strengthen the services that families receive. T.E.A.C.H also runs the ILP, Parents Plus program, Crisis Center, C.A.S.A., and subsidized daycare. These services offered are increasing access to services for foster youth.

This is also true for probation as the closest Juvenile Hall currently is also in Susanville. Juveniles are transported to Susanville and stay through the duration of their time spent in juvenile hall. Long term committed youth have a difficult time transitioning back to Alturas and adapting to different service providers. Often Juveniles are successful in Juvenile Hall and return to an environment that requires transitional time to a group home or the parents' home. The probation officer facilitates this transition with a case plan while engaging the youth with services providers. When parents are not a part of the behavioral plan for the minor they cannot continue with implementation of the behavioral plan.

The following analysis of Probation data is intended to reflect the reasons families enter the system and to make sure their needs are met so the youth are less likely to re-enter. Probation has between two and nine youth in foster care at any given time. During the time of the Peer Review and this writing, the current number of youth with a foster care placement order is seven. Approximately one-third of the youth who are placed through probation have had previous Child Welfare history. In the past, few were removed and placed through Child Welfare.

Time Period	Placements per year	Average Ethnicity	Average Age	Average Placement Type	ICWA/Tribal Affiliated
2013	6	White	15-17	Group Home	1
2012	1	Native American	11-15	Kinship	1
2011	7	White	16-17	Group Home	0
2010	5	White	16-17	Group Home	0

\*\*Data collected from the Berkeley website: [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

The majority of placements since Modoc County's last CSA in 2009, have been related to substance abuse and violence (assault and battery most common), as well as the majority of placement youth suffering from mental health issues.

The trend in placement youth for probation has not change significantly on average since 2009, with the lowest number of placements being in 2012.

Opened Juvenile Cases for Juveniles to Probation						
Year	Number of opened cases in Probation	Referred to Juvenile Probation	Referred to Juvenile Traffic	Misdemeanor Total	Felony Total	All other infraction or traffic violations
2013	47	20	27	7	13	27
2012	71	33	38	19	9	43
2011	75	51	22	26	10	39
2010	77	47	30	16	26	35

Modoc County Probation Department records

The average number of law enforcement reports received by probation per year is approximately 30-50. In some cases, several reports are received in relation to one case, due to some situations requiring the involvement of more than one agency. Furthermore, in cases involving co-offenders, one report is received for each juvenile involved. The report is only considered once when calculating the total number of reports received by law enforcement.

Of the reports received by law enforcement, the majority of the reports are reviewed by the District Attorney's office. Of the reports referred to the District Attorney, the majority result in formal petitions being filed and enter the delinquent arena of the Court. Very few are referred back with no charges filed. The remaining reports are referred to traffic court or handled informally. Those reports typically involve minor traffic offenses, minor marijuana infractions, and curfew.

On average, the probation caseload averages 15-30 juveniles. However, those numbers include all types of supervision (informal, formal, Deferred Entry of Judgment, Wardship, and placement).

The most common referred offenses involve vandalism, burglary, theft, assault and battery. Upon referral of those offenses, it is often found the offenses also involved the youth being under the influence of drugs and or alcohol, or have found substance abuse to be an issue for those referred juveniles.

The majority of youth offenders are referred after receipt of a law enforcement report. However, a small percentage of juveniles are arrested and brought directly to probation. In those cases, depending on the severity of the crime, the status of the youth, and the safety of the youth and community, some are detained in juvenile hall, while others are released to a parent or responsible adult with supervision conditions. The average age of juvenile in-custody youth is 16 years, with the highest age of 18 years and the lowest being 11 years.

In-custody Youth for Probation					
Year	Number of In-custody Youth	Youth Transported to Juvenile Hall	Youth released to parent/responsible adult	Number of Male In-custody	Number of Female In-custody
2013	26	16	10	19	7

Modoc County Probation Department records

## Public Agency Characteristics

### **POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS**

During the stakeholder meeting it was identified that in the past Modoc County has created many great working collaborative networks that resulted in positive outcomes for clients. These collaborative networks were identified by the stakeholders as the following:

- Strengthening Families Program
- Juvenile Delinquency Court
- Healthy Beginnings
- Family Wellness Court
- Katie A Implementation Team
- Community Collaborative

These collaborative networks have been terminated Due to prior leadership philosophies. Since November 2013 it has been the goal of Social Services to implement new collaborative networks

that are positive for clients. Recently, Family Wellness Court, Healthy Beginnings, Katie A. Implementation Team, Strengthening Families have been implemented and a representative from Child Welfare participates in Juvenile Delinquency Court and Community Collaborative. As a whole, Modoc County Department of Social Services is in a rebuilding stage resulting in new organization of the organizational chart, hiring staff and training all staff. Historically Child Welfare has prior issues with implementing intervention with substantiated referrals. It is the goal of Child Welfare at this time to not only train staff on the Division 31 mandated requirements but reorganizing the department so there are checks and balances implemented to ensure that not only work that is performed is recorded within the CWS/CMS system but that one person in the department is responsible for monitoring CWS outcomes.

Modoc County Probation Department has had leadership that that has not changed but it has been identified that they are understaffed. Not only with support staff but also probation officers that can visit children in out of home detention or placement. This problem has increased recently due to the loss of the only juvenile probation officer who had over five years' experience.

#### **Board of Supervisors:**

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the County and a number of special districts. The five members of the Board are elected on a non-partisan basis to serve a four year term. Each is selected from one of the five supervisorial districts of the county. Board members, in partnership with County staff, work to ensure the services and programs essential to the prosperity of Modoc County continue to be delivered.

#### **Tribal:**

There are four recognized tribal nations in Modoc County and a number of non-recognized bands. Fort Bidwell is a reservation in the northeastern corner of the county. The tribal offices in Fort Bidwell are used to house the ICWA worker and Alcohol and Drug Counselor, whose positions are currently vacant. Cedarville Rancheria is in Surprise Valley with tribal offices in Alturas. This Paiute tribe has recently encountered a very tragic murder of their chair members resulting in a complete reorganization of their tribe. Alturas Rancheria is located just outside Alturas and operates a small casino. The headquarters for the Pit River Nation is in Burney, Shasta County, but provide services to tribal members in Modoc County. All of these tribes receive health coverage services through Strong Family Health Services. Currently Strong Family Health Services does not provide direct care but ensures clients attend their necessary health appointments and the services are paid for.

#### **School Districts:**

There are three school districts within Modoc County, including, Modoc Joint Unified School District, Surprise Valley Joint Unified School District, and Tulelake Joint Unified School District. Each of these districts is overseen by Modoc County Office of Education (MCOE).

MCOE oversees the Stronghold Court School which is a school created to support Warner Mountains Group Home in Canby, California, which is approximately 20 miles from Alturas.

**Law Enforcement:**

Law enforcement agencies in the county include the Modoc County Sheriff's Office, the Alturas Police Department, State Fish and Game enforcement officers, California Highway Patrol and Federal Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management enforcement officers who all provide law enforcement services in Modoc County.

**Superior Court:**

Modoc County Superior Court consists of two Superior Court Judges in Modoc County on alternating days of the week. Under the umbrella of the Superior Court there are: Juvenile Delinquency Court, Adult Drug Court, Family Dependency Court and Family Wellness Court. Each of these courts requires the attendance and participation of one or both of the judges and collaborative efforts of service providers in the community. Child Welfare and Probation staff have an excellent working relationship with court staff and judges.

**Cities:**

Alturas is a classic "one traffic signal town," a flashing red light at a four-way stop where Highways 395 and 299 intersect. However, businesses and the community support many local projects for youth and activities such as Little League baseball, soccer, boy scouts, and middle school and high school sports. Also special interest clubs of Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H. The community also supports several service organizations including two Rotary Clubs with approximately sixty members.

**COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Child Welfare Services (CWS) is a division within the Modoc County Department of Social Services (DSS). The division is made of one Social Worker Supervisor II, four social workers, one systems support analyst, and one clerical support person. CWS contracts with an attorney for consultation and representation in Dependency matters. Currently DSS is rebuilding and now has an Interim Director appointed. The Social Worker Supervisor reports to the Interim Director.

The Social Workers report to the Social Worker Supervisor and is only responsible for Child Welfare cases. These Child Welfare functions include:

- Emergency Response
- Family Reunification
- Family Maintenance
- Permanent Placement

These functions include court report writing and court appearances which often result in the Social Worker having to testify. The Social Workers are also responsible for entering all information in the CWS/CMS system.

Currently the four Social Workers consist of Social Worker III, II and I. One of these Social Workers is bilingual and the rest are English speaking only. It has recently been identified during rebuilding planning meetings that a Program Manager position is needed within the Child Welfare Department as well as the APS, IHSS, and PG programs which are housed with Child Welfare. This proposal is going to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors at the next BOS meeting. It is planned that when the Department is short staffed that the Supervisor can carry a case load and the Program Manager can approve the CWS/CMS actions.

The Modoc County Probation Department is a branch of the Modoc County Superior Court. The Department is headed by the Chief Probation Officer who oversees two juvenile officers and one adult officer (Assistant Chief Probation Officer) and one probation technician who serves as front office staff. There are also two on-call transport persons. The Chief Probation Officer also has administrative responsibility for the Modoc County CalWORKS program, which is located within the same building. The Chief Probation Officer is appointed by the Court with the Board of Supervisors allocating money from the General Fund for the operation of the Department. However, due to recent newly created funding streams at this time the Probation Department is completely funded by monies generated from Public Safety Realignment, SB 678 (Adult Felon Services) and Juvenile Probation and Camps funding and as such are not currently receiving monies from the General Fund. The Chief Probation Officer is currently the only bilingual (Spanish/English) officer. The Assistant Chief Probation Officer handles an adult case load and is supervisor to the Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the juvenile case load to include placements. The third Deputy Probation Officer is a new hire and currently is assigned to both adult and juvenile case loads. The Juvenile Officer is responsible for entering information into the CWS/CMS system and when necessary the Assistant Chief Probation Officer will perform any CWS/CMS supervisory functions. Acquiring probation specific CWS/CMS training has proved difficult.

After hours, the Assistant Chief Probation Officer and the two Deputy Probation Officers provide coverage for juveniles in law enforcement custody. Each officer takes a 7 day rotation as Modoc County does not have a juvenile hall. Therefore, the on call Probation Officer has to facilitate the booking process.

### **FINANCIAL/MATERIAL RESOURCES**

Department of Social Services does not receive County General Funds. All funding received for Modoc County Child Welfare Services is received by AB 118 Realignment Child Welfare Services and Child Welfare Services Sub Account. These funds were expanded for Fiscal Year 2013-14 to pursuant to SB 1020 to reflect Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (Kin-GAP)

savings for the extended Foster Care (FC) program and Title IV-E. Fiscal year 20012-13 CAPIT, CBCAP, PSSF funds were not applied for or utilized due to prior leadership philosophy.

Currently it is anticipated that these OCAP funds will be utilized to fund prevention programs in Modoc County.

It is projected that the Department of Social Services will spend all of the CWS allocation and augmentation. OCAP funds are allocated and a portion of the funds will be utilized to reinstate the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Probation funding is derived from the County General Fund monies augmented by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), Juvenile Probation Camp Funding (JCPF), the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), the Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act (Prop 36), AB90, TANF and Title IV-E.

At this time the Probation Department only utilizes CWSOIP funds to pay for the family finding tool (LexisNexis) as this Department has in the past received conflicting information as to how those funds may be spent. However, this issue is something the probation department hopes to rectify for the next fiscal year. Therefore, in the interim, another funding source, Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), was used to pay for additional services and case plan activities to those youth and families who are Title IV-E eligible. These services included fuel to parents for visitation with their child who are placed both in and out of county, psychological evaluation of youth to determine needs to ensure appropriate services and placement are provided, facilitating site visits and family visits, trainings, additional clothing when needed and evidence based programming materials and supplies.

Independent Living Program Funds are used to provide ILP services for Probation and Child Welfare foster youth. ILP funds are not only personal support and monthly classes, but also for clothing, job readiness, work related expenses, driver's license classes, apartment/dorm furnishings, school related expenses and transportation if it applies to the youth's daily living plan. Each youth also receives a money incentive for participating in ILP services and meeting said requirements. Probation maintains a collaborative working relationship with the ILP Coordinator who provides critical support to the youth and the probation officer which serves as a tremendous asset to all involved. The ILP Coordinator often travels with the Probation Officer during site visits so they maintain contact with the youth to ensure their needs continue to be met. This also applies to those youth placed out of county.

### **CHILD WELFARE/PROBATION OPERATED SERVICES**

County Operated Shelters: Modoc County does not have a shelter.

County Licensing: Modoc County has three Licensed Foster Care Homes. These homes were initially licensed through Mt. View Foster Family Agency which is no longer in business. It is the goal of CWS to be able to certify Foster homes within the department. This is necessary

because there is no one local to certify or monitor foster family homes. As a result they currently are licensed through community Care Licensing housed in Chico, CA. When there is an emergency placement the county relies on these three Certified Foster Homes which are currently full with long term placements.

County Adoptions: The CDSS Adoptions District Office located in the City of Chico provides adoptions services including assessments, home studies, paperwork finalization and payment determinations through a contract with Modoc County Social Services.

The Probation Department utilizes a Delinquency Court Program for youth at risk for group home placement; however, at the time of this writing the program is on hiatus due to low referral numbers coupled with these numbers were youth who were in need of a higher level of treatment and care that was not available at a county level and thus had to be removed and placed in group homes. A variety of services are provided including individual counseling for the youth, family counseling, behavioral health, Independent Living Program (ILP) services, alcohol and drug, Strengthening Families, and parenting classes. The Probation Department also coordinates with the school in other matters to include IEPs. In 2013, only two youth were served.

The Probation Department also has an in-house certified Domestic Violence/Batterers Intervention Program provider who follows and implements an Evidence Based treatment program. This service is also accessed by Child Welfare.

Modoc County is one of the nine California counties that do not have a juvenile detention facility. Extraordinary county resources are devoted to out-of-county placement for juveniles that, by the nature of their offenses, absolutely require detention in a locked facility or require incarceration. The long travel distance to detention facilities, with the closest being approximately 104 miles one way and the furthest being 163 miles one way, further tax scarce resources.

While in out-of-county detention, youthful offender rehabilitation programs that involve intervention with families that have the potential to reduce recidivism are not likely to be as effective due to the distance and infrequent contact between the youth and his/her family. However, if applicable, the youth will receive alcohol and drug and mental health counseling. Due to the fact the youth is incarcerated out of county, continuing treatment programs involving county agencies (behavioral health, continuing medical treatment, vocations services and job placement, etc.) cannot be initiated while the youth is in custody and must be deferred until the youth returns to the county. The treatment program is initiated by a case plan created by the Probation Officer and the youth.

### **OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS**

Child Welfare and Probation work in conjunction with Public Health, specifically the Foster Care Nurse, who provides medical case management: evaluates client care plans; confers with physicians and other professional staff regarding the youth condition and health care needs. Due

to this service, youth receive timely annual physical and dental appointments. The medical information is entered into the CWS/CMS system by the Foster Care Nurse. The Foster Care Nurse and the Social Worker or Probation Officer update the Health and Education Passport for each foster youth, and provide copies to the youth and placement provider as needed.

## State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

Modoc County Child Welfare Services is participating in Katie A. / Core Practices Model and Fostering Connections After 18 Program.

### Katie A. / Core Practices Model:

Modoc County is behind on their Katie A. planning. This is due to changes within Administration and severed relationships between Department of Social Services and Modoc County Behavioral Health. Since November 2013, Modoc County Behavioral Health and Child Welfare has had planning meetings, created a referral system, and holds monthly staff meetings to ensure that all CWS children are being served. Due to the limited number of children that fall under the category of receiving services every child over the age of two years old is referred to Behavioral Health for an assessment. Since this new network collaboration, there have been six foster children who have completed a mental health evaluation by a licensed LCSW. If identified at assessment, the child is referred to a health evaluation or continued counseling.

### Fostering Connections After 18 Program:

Modoc County began providing after 18 services to youth in January of 2012. So far this process has served, Probation 2, Child Welfare 2. The collaboration to serve these students includes the basic collaborative within the service providing scope. The Social Worker or Probation, Non-Minor Dependent (NMD), and ILP Coordinator work together to assess the NMD's needs to determine what type of services they qualify for. During the stakeholder meeting it was identified that the lack of transitional housing is an issue because often NMD's do not qualify for a Supervised Independent Living Plan (SILP). If a NMD does not qualify for a SILP the options for their living situation is limited. In the past, this has resulted in NMD's moving into an alternate living situation that he or she may not have been ready for. It has been determined by Child Welfare that if the NMD does not qualify for a SILP then we can help create an alternate living situation that resembles a SILP but they have a payee or they live with someone that is appropriate and will monitor the NMD as a transitional housing unit would.

The Probation Officer meets with the AB12 youth as needed in addition to the required monthly contact, to assist in their transition and independence. The Probation Officer and ILP

Coordinator often meet together with the youth, to maintain open communication and collaboration, to ensure the youth is provided with the support and services he or she needs to succeed. Probation helps provide the youth with transportation to and from appointments, job searching, residency searching, and meetings. Probation also assists the AB12 youth in filling out paperwork for services (Cal-Fresh, Department of Motor Vehicles, Schools, Employment, and other community assistance programs). The Probation Officer and/or ILP Coordinator will attend any meetings with the youth as needed for support or assistance.

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

### **THE BOS-DESIGNATED PUBLIC AGENCY**

The BOS designated public agency is Modoc County Department of Social Services to administer the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF programs. During the fiscal year 2012-2013, Department of Social Services did not receive these funds due to not complying with reporting mandates. This was due to prior leadership philosophies. However, since that time, reporting mandates have been met and CBCAP funding has been received. In prior years Modoc County Department of Social Services contracted with TEACH Inc. to facilitate services such as parenting classes, Child Abuse Prevention Council and a family service worker who was housed in the Child Welfare Department.

These funds have been applied for fiscal year 13-14 and implementation of services will occur when the needs of the county are identified. Currently and fiscal year 12-13 parenting classes continued to be a service that was provided to clients through TEACH Inc. by a contract from Department of Social Services. This funding came from a different area other than CAPIT and CBCAP.

### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (CAPC)**

As of 2011 the Child Abuse Prevention Council stopped convening when the funding was not received during fiscal year 12-13. Since then it has not been implemented because of reorganization within the Department of Social Services Department. Currently it is the goal of Modoc County Department of Social Services to reinstate the Child Abuse Prevention Council to monitor the Children's Trust Fund, CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF.

### **COUNTY CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND COMMISSION, BOARD OR COUNCIL**

In the past the Child Abuse Prevention Council was the oversight committee for the Children's Trust Fund. This currently is monitored by the Department of Social Services.

## **PSSF COLLABORATIVE**

The Department of Social Services has been designated by the Board of Supervisors to Administer PSSF funds. In the past, the PSSF funds were overseen by the Child Abuse Prevention Council and used to fund a Family Service Worker Position housed at Department of Social Services. This Family Service Worker was hired by the County as a Social Worker I and the position has not been filled. This position is being reconfigured and will be joined with the parenting specialist position at T.E.A.C.H. Inc.

## Systemic Factors

### **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Modoc County Child Welfare is a “dedicated” county within the CWS/CMS system. This system tracks everything a Social Worker completes with a client. The county has nine work stations used by Social Workers, support staff, and administration. There are also two laptops that are used by the supervisor. Currently there is a staff member that has been the systems support analyst since CWS/CMS was installed. This staff member is available to other staff for problem solving and input issues. In 2003, Child Welfare invested in SafeMeasures® as a management tool. This management tool is a quality assurance software system that records and analyzes data, and links the data to key performance and federal outcome measures. Child Welfare also uses Structured Decision Making which is a tool to help a Social Worker assess risk.

Probation staff is also required to use the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) to document basic case related functions as they apply to placements.

CWS/CMS is a system that California Department of Social Services implements and utilizes to monitor counties. It is also a system that is beneficial to social workers because he or she can utilize the system to monitor their cases and ensure that they are meeting their monthly requirements, much as social worker planned contacts. Training for all the programs mentioned above is provided by the Northern Training Academy.

In 2013, Modoc County Probation Department went “live” with an updated version of our web based case management system called Justware. It supports all Adult and Juvenile case activity including: probationer profiles, victims, probation contact information, charges, dispositions/sentencing, biographical information, court hearings and probation orders. It is anticipated the new case management system will provide the ability to extract some data to assist in measuring outcomes and to determine what programs are most effective in reducing recidivism.

In addition to the new case management system, in 2012 Probation Officers were trained to use the evidence based risk assessment tool, Assessments.com, which is an evidence-based approached to the supervision of youth that offers staff an effective and easy to use interface to assess risk and needs of youth. The assessment tool helps the Probation Officer create a case plan for the youth that is directed to their needs, and helps to eliminate referring youth to programs or services that may be detrimental to their rehabilitation, or may not address the more serious issues the youth may be facing. Furthermore, the assessment tool is useful for service providers working with the youth to have a clearer idea of the youth's needs and current state. It provides collaboration between entities and probation, to ensure the youth is receiving the most out of their services and full support.

In regards to the assessment tool, should the Probation Officer receive an influx of juvenile offenders during a short span of time or a high and demanding caseload, these scenarios create a data entry issue for the Probation Officer, with respect to finding time for each assessment, as there is only one juvenile officer to supervise a juvenile caseload while doing daily data entry work.

Modoc County Probation also utilizes the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool II (JSORRAT-II). This assessment is required to be completed on all male sex offenders to assist in determining the level of recidivism risk and supervision.

## **CASE REVIEW SYSTEM**

### **Court Structure/Relationship:**

Modoc County Superior Court has two full-time judges who hear all cases, including civil, criminal, family law, juvenile (dependency and delinquency) and probate. There is one contracted public defender and five private attorneys. When the private attorneys accept a court appointed case the contracted rate applies. All represent parents and other parties in juvenile court. A contract attorney represents the Child Welfare cases. There is a CASA program and a majority of dependents have a CASA volunteer assigned to them.

### **Modoc County Child Welfare System:**

Timely notification – The County provides foster parents, Tribes, pre-adoptive parents and relative caregivers of children in foster care with notice of the opportunity to be heard in any review held with respect to the child in their care.

Notice of Hearings are generated from the CWS/CMS computer system and sent by the Social Services Department. The Department is aware of the need for timely notification and meets the requirements. The Probation Department utilizes the Martin Dean Essential Publishers court forms that are updated every six months and sends notices within the set time limits.

Modoc County follows the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 290.1-297 for the noticing of parents, legal guardians, child, if the child is 10 years of age or older, attorneys and sub-care providers.

#### General Case Planning and Review:

The County meets the requirements for having a written case plan within 60 calendar days of the in-person investigation or initial removal. Case plans are reviewed every six months or earlier if necessary.

Child Welfare has taken the information from the CWS/CMS case plan function and created a user-friendly template for the initial case plan. The document is divided into the required categories and allows the Social Worker to gather the necessary data.

Distance is a barrier to timely development and review of case plans; for example, if the child is placed out of the county or the parents live in a more remote part of the county. This requires organization and coordination on the part of the Social Worker to incorporate the update of case plans into the monthly face-to-face contacts with the child, or scheduling with the parents.

It is the desire and intent of the Department that clients be involved in the definition of the problem statement and the identification of appropriate services to be included in their case plan. If a client should refuse to participate in the development of their case plan or to sign it, the Department creates the case plan and documents the reason for the parental refusal to sign.

#### Modoc County Probation Juvenile Court System:

The District Attorney represents the Probation Department as he/she is the signatory on submitted petitions.

The Probation Department has maintained a professional and friendly working relationship with the Court and continues to maintain an open line of communication. The same can be said of defense counsel and such communication works in the best interest of the juvenile.

As with Child Welfare, distance is also a barrier to timely development and review of case plans. Often the juvenile is placed out of county or the parents live in a more remote part of the county. This issue creates an added challenge for the Probation Department system to deal with.

The Modoc County Probation Department meets the requirements for written case plans within 60 calendar days of the investigation (intake) or the initial removal of the youth from the home. During the investigation process the Probation Officer develops the case plan with the youth and parent(s)/guardian(s) based on information disclosed in the social history interview as well as taking into account the type of crime committed. All Officers are trained in Motivational Interviewing skills which is important to the validity of the assessment tool. In utilizing the tool, it can assist the officer in creating a rapport with the youth in hopes of reducing recidivism and strengthen the family. At a minimum of every six months the case plans are reviewed and updated with the youth and family. Case plans are also updated when a need is later identified. In the delinquency arena of the Court, dispositional and placement review reports are filed in a timely manner. Placement review reports outline the progress of the youth and family and include the next date for the next six month hearing.

## **FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

Modoc County Department of Social Services does not license foster homes nor does the Probation Department. In the past there was a one foster family agency that took care of recruiting, training, certifying foster families. Currently there are three Certified Foster Family Homes in Modoc County and they are licensed through Community Care Licensing in Chico, California.

It is the future goal of T.E.A.C.H Inc. to become a licensed foster family agency. The anticipation is that this will increase the number of foster homes in Modoc County. If a child is currently removed from his or her parent and the current three foster homes are full, the child could be placed as far as away as Portola or Redding, California. This makes reunification a challenge as well as making the child change schools.

Foster Parents are included in any training that Child Welfare hosts that is appropriate and meets the ongoing training needs of the Foster Parent.

## **STAFF, CAREGIVER AND SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING**

Modoc County has reinstated a "Grow your Own" initiative. In the past the MCDSS and other Northern Welfare Directors worked together with the Modoc Health Services Director another Behavioral Health Directors and California State University of Chico to develop distance and online educational opportunities and career pathways using MHSA (Prop 36) and Title IV-E Funds. During the rebuilding of Social Services this has been identified as a positive outcome for Modoc County because quality trained Social Workers are hired but in payment for their bachelors or master's degree they commit to multiple one, two or even three years of working for Child welfare to repay their debt.

When a Social Worker is hired, it is required that he or she complete a Core I program within the first year of employment. This is also true for the Social Worker Supervisor. There is a Core II requirement that is started within the second year of employment as a Social Worker II. All training is provided by Northern California Research and Training Academy through UC Davis Extension. Not only does the Northern California Research and Training Academy provide Core Training but they provide training focusing on an array of topics pertaining to Child Welfare. A majority of these trainings require travel to Davis, Redding or Willows. Recently there has been no trainings that are held in house, currently there is a CWS/CMS training scheduled in house in May 2014. Also there has been a contract created with the Northern California Research and Training Academy to provide multiple in house trainings to all staff and collaborative partners.

Probation Officers are required by the State Board of Corrections to obtain forty hours of training every fiscal year. New Officers are mandated to complete a 200 hour core course, which also requires travel out of the area, sometimes as far as Santa Rosa, California.

However, most of the trainings involving juvenile placement is sought through the Northern California Research and Training Academy and The Center for Human Services Resource Center for Family Focused Practice, both through UC Davis Extension.

It is the hope of the Probation Department to share in trainings in this arena with Child Welfare.

### **AGENCY COLLABORATION**

In the past Modoc County Social Services has had a close working relationship with Probation and Health Services. Recently this relationship was strained but is currently being reinstated by creating MOU's and regularly scheduling meetings to discuss clients and administrative issues. The reinstatement of the Family Wellness Court, Katie A, and Healthy Beginnings has been instrumental for increasing the collaborative network between Behavioral Health and the Courts. During the Stakeholder's meeting it was identified that these programs worked well and needed to be reinstated. This process has started quickly and smoothly. Modoc County Department of Social Services has also implemented a planning team to guide and support Social Services during the rebuilding process. This planning team consists of Behavioral Health, Public Health, Cal Works, Probation, Modoc Superior Courts, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., Treatment Court Coordinator, and Marta Mackenzie a contracted employee, former Shasta County Health Services, Director. There is not only a collaborative effort to support Social Services during this time of rebuilding but service providers have a strong sense of collaboration to serve clients at a higher level than most recent years.

Collaboration with public and private agencies MCDSS, has a close relationship with Probation and Behavioral Health Services, with MOUs in place and regularly scheduled meetings to discuss clients and administrative issues. The development of the Drug Treatment Court system has been instrumental in increasing interaction and trust. The Drug Court Steering committee is composed of all the Department heads of the court involved agencies including Probation and Child Welfare, Parents Plus advocates and community agencies. They meet quarterly and address any collaboration issue that may arise.

### **SERVICE ARRAY**

T.E.A.C.H.: Alturas houses the largest community-based non-profit organization in Modoc County, Training, Employment and Community Help, Inc. (T. E.A.C.H., Inc.). Originally started by the Modoc County Office of Education (MCOE), it is now a separate 501 c.3 (American Tax Exempt Non-Profit Organization) that subcontracts with many agencies for a number of different programs for children and families.

T.E.A.C.H. operates a crisis intervention program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Services include a shelter, a peer counseling, emergency transportation, advocacy, accompaniment, walk-in center, emergency food and clothing, hospital room protocol and assistance, assistance with temporary restraining orders, rape prevention education, self-defense classes, support groups, 24-hour hotline and emergency response to law enforcement and

hospitals. T.E.A.C.H., Inc., also provides the community with a food bank, energy assistance, homeless shelter, and transportation.

T.E.A.C.H. is the childcare Resource and Referral agency, providing subsidized childcare for CalWORKS, Child Welfare Services and low-income working families. At the Early Head Start Program which houses School Readiness Initiative, and Welcome Baby! a prevention program for new mothers and babies.

T.E.A.C.H. operates a number of different programs including Parent Education Workshops, Independent Living Skills for foster youth and parenting classes.

The Modoc County Office of Education: The MCOE has a long history of proactive community involvement. MCOE oversees the Child and Family Resource Center, SEALs after school program, State Pre-School, and Stronghold Court School. Stronghold Court School is the education placement for youth who are placed at Warner Mountains Group Home.

Modoc County Health Services: Health Services is an agency composed of Alcohol and Drug Services, Mental Health Services and Public Health Services that are housed together in Alturas, providing services to residents of Modoc County. Each division provides services under contract to the state.

Alcohol and Drug Division (AOD): This division provides addiction recovery services. Among the activities provided are; day treatment, outpatient treatment, youth treatment, perinatal treatment and prevention activities: outreach to youth groups; involvement in the three drug treatment courts (Adult, Dependency and Delinquency); and treatment for family members. All of these activities hold promise for families who come to be involved with our child welfare system and probation. It is clear that the majority of cases involving abuse and neglect occur in families with substance abuse problems.

Mental Health Services (MHS): This division contracts with the state to provide specialty mental health services to the Medi-Cal eligible population of Modoc County. Services include outpatient treatment, acute care, hospitalization, mental health services, child psychiatry (though Tele-medicine), medication treatment and management, brokerage services and case management. The target population for most services must be Medi-Cal eligible; however, all residents qualify for emergency services.

The one area of long-standing concern in MHS when addressing the needs of children and their families has been our inability to hire a clinician trained in the treatment of family systems. Modoc County is a small rural county with limited resources which makes it difficult to recruit licensed professionals with special credentials.

An area of long-standing concern for the Probation Department is the lack of 5150 W&I adolescent placements available to Behavioral Health Services when declaring a juvenile a danger to themselves or others. The lack of level 14 placements and receiving a mental health patch to fiscally support the placement are also problems.

Public Health Division (PHS): This division emphasizes the health of the community and takes a number of steps to enhance the health of our youth. The most commonly recognized active undertakes is the immunization clinic. Modoc County joined a network of northern counties in creating a data bank that tracks the immunization records of all children in the 17 member counties. This makes it possible for any child's record to be assessed, with appropriate authorization, so that at any time a provider can determine if there is a need to further protect the child with another immunization.

PHS provides education and follow-up to pregnant women. Through the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program a public health nurse provides classes on healthy pregnancy, birthing, breast-feeding, early childhood care and education, etc. Working with other agencies in Modoc County, this nurse receives referrals for women who could benefit from this service. It is not unusual for families at risk of neglect and abuse to receive instruction from the nursing staff, thereby avoiding further involvement with Child Welfare or the justice system.

The Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) depends on the involvement of nurses for Provider Education, Quality Assurance and follow-up care/case management. Whenever neglect/abuse are at issue, a complete physical done by a physician is indicated. Should the child enter the foster care system and be placed outside their home, a public health nurse follows the health concerns of the child by building a Health and Education passport that will follow that child everywhere he/she is placed. This way, fewer children will have medical issues missed because of the need to protect them by removing them from their homes.

California Children's Services provides support and in some cases pays for transportation to treatment appointments of children with chronic, disabling conditions. The family of any child who qualifies will be helped with the paperwork involved in receiving treatment and as importantly, the cost of travel and stay to take the child to the necessary appointments for treatment. It is important to note that children who are disabled are at a higher risk of abuse.

The Tobacco Control and Cessation Program was the original springboard for the Teen Health Coalition. As part of PHS, the Tobacco program has been instrumental in getting out into the schools and community. The efforts of those health specialists afforded the entire department an opportunity to heighten student's awareness of issues of vital concern to them. This program works with any individual interested in quitting their involvement with tobacco.

The Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program uses information gathered from surveys done by a variety of agencies in Modoc County to compile a list of priorities for their residents. This program has also helped improve the percentage of low birth weight babies born to mothers in our county. The MCAH program coordinates its activities with other young child serving agencies like First Five Modoc, the Child Care Resource and Referral program, the Modoc Child Care Council, Early Head Start and others.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, high school aged residents are welcomed into a teen clinic where they can receive information on reproductive health. Younger children are

taught to wash their hands correctly and take care of their oral health. Every mother and child is targeted for nutritional information and obesity prevention.

**CalWORKS:** For eligible families CalWORKS provides employment and training services, mental health and alcohol and drug assessments, job skills development and literacy assessments.

**Alliance for Workforce Development:** is a collaborative employment focused agency funded by the Workforce Investment Act and including the state Employment Development Department and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. They also work closely with CalWORKS, MCDSS and local schools.

**Modoc First Five:** is the local Prop 10 agency. They provide funding to new and existing programs focused on early childhood education, child health and wellness and their own School Readiness Initiative.

**Far Northern Regional Center:** provides services to developmentally disabled children and adults with offices in Redding, 150 miles away. They provide eligibility determination, case management services, consultation, advocacy, some help with placement and independent living assistance for eligible adults.

**Modoc County Drug Court System:** Local interest in Drug Courts in Modoc County began in 1999 when a Judge and the Health Services Director formed an advisory group which has evolved into the present Drug Court/Prop 36 Steering Committee which oversees all of the present drug courts. Drug Courts are characterized by the combination of judicial authority and accountability with treatment and support. The drug court process brings together every two weeks treatment providers from a number of agencies to discuss the compliance and progress of drug court participants. This constant contact with shared goal has helped to create and sustain an environment where collaboration is the norm.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM**

Modoc County does not have a formal evaluation process for Child Welfare Services. Currently Child Welfare services utilize a checks and balances type of environment while utilizing CWS/CMS. Cases and Referrals are monitored by the supervisor electronically and with weekly staffing meetings. This ensures the agency's compliance with applicable statutes and regulations. Currently there has been strong oversight from CDSS in regards to measures 2B measure, Timely Response (10day response compliance). The Department also utilizes Safe Measures, a quality assurance software system that records and analyzes data, and links the data to key performance and Federal outcomes measures. Social Workers also utilize a Structure Decision Making to ensure help analyze information that is received when child abuse is reported. This system ensures that the Social Workers provide a non-bias response to reports of child abuse. This system is currently utilized with every referral received.

## Critical Incident Review Process

In the past there has been a Child Death Review Team; however, currently there is not an active one due to the Child Abuse Prevention Counsel not being utilized. This will be initiated when funding is received.

## National Resource Center (NRC) Training and Technical Assistance

At this point in time Modoc Child Welfare is not accessing training and technical assistance through Federal partners at the Western Pacific Implementation Center and through the various National Resource Centers provided by the ACF, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During this rebuilding time within Modoc County Department of Social Services as a whole there are many avenues that are being utilized for training and accessing training and technical assistance through the identities above is definitely option in the future.

## Peer Review Results

### **FOCUS AREA**

The Modoc County 2013 Peer Review (formerly known as the PQCR or Peer Quality Case Review) was held in January 2014 as a collaborative effort of Modoc County Child Welfare Services and the Modoc County Probation Department. Peer Review interview teams were represented by Lassen, Siskiyou and Shasta County Child Welfare Departments and by Lassen, Siskiyou and Trinity Probation Departments.

During the analysis of outcomes for the CSA and the completion of the Peer Review, specific outcome measures were selected for Child Welfare and Probation.

- Child Welfare Focus Area: Reentry after Reunification
- The Probation Focus Area: Reunification within 12 Months

For Child Welfare, after reviewing data provided by CDSS there has been an increase in the amount of out of home placements that have occurred in Modoc County. Placements include

Kinship, Foster Family Agency (FFA) and Group Home and the amount of Kinship has increased as well as FFA placements. Comparing October 2008-2009 to October 2012-2013 FFA placements increased from 5 to 11. Also, Kinship placements increased from 0 to 3.

The monthly Summary Reports indicate that there is an increase in referrals received and responded to.

**Summary Report Case and Client Demographics**  
02/01/2014 to 02/28/2014

Case Services Component	County
Emergency Response	12
Family Maintenance	6
Family Reunification	7
Permanent Placement	1
Supportive Transition	2
	28

The specific case data results in the 42.86% of the month was spent on Emergency Response and 25% was spent on Family Reunification. When referrals are received they are evaluated by staffing as well as utilizing Structured Decision Making to determine if the alleged child abuse warrants an immediate response or a ten day response. If referrals are unfounded the parents or child is referred to services and it is the parent's responsibility for implementation of the intervention. Services through Modoc Health Services, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., or Probation (Batterers Intervention) are usually offered. When child abuse is substantiated and requires court intervention then these services become court ordered. If there is substantiated child abuse but does not reach the level of court intervention then voluntary services are offered.

The Probation Department currently has seven open cases and averages between two and nine open cases at any given time. Because of the small caseload, the Juvenile Officer, who handles everything from intake to termination, also oversees the placement case load and is able to devote time to youth in placement and their families to ensure they receive the appropriate series to assist in a successful reunification and/or permanency/transition to adulthood. While most youth are successful while in placement, many return to homes and families that have only minimally implemented tools acquired from the service/treatment providers with whom they engage with through their case plans. In the past, there were approximately one-third of probation youth that had or should have had Child Welfare intervention. There are a few prior placement youth who were received by Probation that were closer to the age of 18 and therefore, did not have the span of time to work with the youth and family for an extended period of time. Unfortunately, they went on to enter the adult criminal arena. These youth were never taught the fundamentals by their parents who they themselves may have suffered from drug and alcohol and domestic violence abuse issues. These issues are compounded by the fact it is difficult for small counties to implement evidence-based practices when the behavioral and mental health infrastructure is minimal. In larger communities, several behavior health entities and private

organizations exist to refer youth and families. In Modoc County, we are relegated only to county behavioral health. Modoc County Probation focused on reunification within twelve months in hopes of sorting out both the strengths and barriers of the current supports offered to youth and families and with some direction on how to elicit positive change.

Probation selected two of the most complex cases to review during the Peer Review.

**Findings:**

**Promising Practices for Child Welfare:**

- Committed Line Staff
- Line Staff accountability. Working for children's best interests.
- Strong teamwork within the department
- Current management listening to staff's concerns: Staff feel heard
- Have representation on Dependency Drug Court OR Family Wellness Court panel

**Promising Practices for Probation:**

- The Probation Officer had the case for the entire three years. Good continuity and relationship building.
- Committed staff
- Probation and ILP have a good working relationship
- Use of family finding
- Appropriate level of care
- Frequent check-in with local youth

**Barriers and Challenges for Child Welfare:**

- Need for additional staff
- Limited resources
- Minimal direction/more agency structure needed in the past
- Minimal supervisor support in the past
- No methods for problem solving/crisis resolution in the past
- Service providers limited expertise level (Alcohol and Drug and Mental Health)
- No case staffing
- No Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings
- Line staff overwhelmed with caseload
- No Differential Response (DR)
- No multidisciplinary collaboration

**Barriers and Challenges for Probation:**

- Limited local resources
- Tribes do not provide local services
- More family finding

- Finding creative ways to locate family
- No FFA placements for probation youth
- Service providers limited expertise level (Alcohol and Drug and Mental Health)
- No Wraparound program
- Lack of local foster homes

#### Recommendations for Child Welfare:

- Utilizing/implementing trainings that are attended/acquired
- Better communication between child welfare and service providers
- Continue with balanced and impartial supervision
- Access to and utilization of reunification-based trainings
- Recruit local foster parents
- Safe Measures and SOP training
- Develop and continue to repair relationships with outside agencies
- Policies and Procedures manual needs to be updated and expanded; should include best practices
- Develop more robust wraparound services; develop and utilize multi-disciplinary teams; make efforts to retain good leadership and workers for departmental continuity
- Seek coaching and/or mentorship regarding family engagement

#### Recommendations for Probation:

- Sustained family counseling
- Improved local provider expertise
- Locate funding sources for services, strengthening families, wraparound, robust services in the local area
- Develop local services specific to youth in crisis

## Outcome Data Measures

The section below includes an overview of Modoc County's current performance in the 32 outcome measures identified by State and Federal guidelines. Each section will include a definition of the measure, a data set and an analysis of Modoc County's performance. All data figures presented in this section were taken from the quarterly data reports spanning approximately the last 5 years.<sup>3</sup> Some data sets were supplemented with SafeMeasures® reports

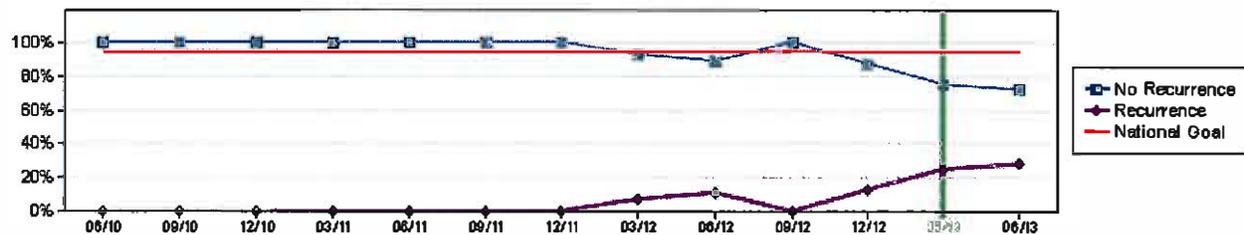
<sup>3</sup> <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1358.htm>

and other information collected from the Center for Social Services Research (CSSR), Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)<sup>4</sup>.

### S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT

*Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation during the 6-month period, what percent were not victims of another substantiated maltreatment allegation within the next 6 months?*

Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County's last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS has improved in this outcome measure, from 60% (Quarter 3 2008) to 75% (Quarter 3 2013), which represents 24 out of 32 children. The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard over the past three years. Modoc County was at 100% for this measure through multiple quarters during this time period, but has recently fallen below the National Standard of 94.6%.



CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTER SAFE/MEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR S1.1: NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT, JUNE 2010 – JUNE 2013. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

### ANALYSIS

There have been many changes within the Modoc Child Welfare Department since the last CSA was conducted mainly including administration and philosophy changes. As a result the overall data during this time frame varies. There are multiple factors leading to Modoc County falling below the national average in this measure. The major factor is that there has been a lack of services available to clients while engaged in the department's voluntary or court ordered case plan. This is due to the termination of multiple collaborative networks that worked together to serve clients as a whole. Also, the Child Welfare system is set up to connect clients with services and service providers maintain in a client's life after their child welfare case is dismissed. There was a time period that clients were not being referred to services that help implement change and families did not receive the services necessary to stabilize situations or determine that children were not at risk anymore. Therefore the recurrence of maltreatment has risen in Modoc County.

Another key factor that affects this measure is that every referral that enters the Child Welfare Department is entered in to the system, even if a child is already in a CWS case. It has been reported that in the past that if a family was already engaged in a case and a new allegation of child abuse was reported it would not be entered as a new referral. Currently, a new referral is

<sup>4</sup> [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/ReportDefault.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/ReportDefault.aspx)

created and investigated if the new allegation of child abuse is substantiated it is presented to the court as a subsequent or supplemental petition (Welfare & Institutions Code, 342 or 387).

## **S2.1 NO MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE**

*Of all children served in foster care during the year, what percent were not victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation by a foster parent or facility staff member?*

Modoc County continues to excel in this performance measure and has consistently exceeded the National standard of 99.7%. Since the last CSA, Modoc County has not experienced a single episode of child maltreatment in a foster care setting.

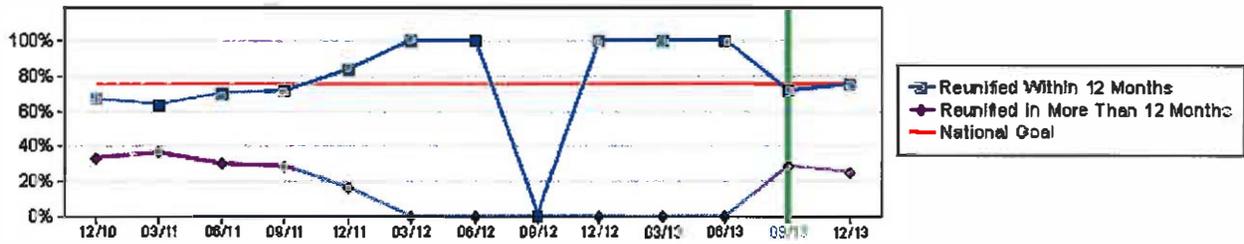
### **ANALYSIS**

In the past Mt. View Foster Family Agency screened, monitored, and certified foster homes in Modoc County. The Social Worker for Mt. View Foster Family Agency constantly monitored the Foster Parents ensuring it was known what type of children would fit in their home the best, allowing there to be a positive match between child and foster parent. Often there was limited foster homes placements resulting in placements occurring to meet the immediate needs of placement but at a later date the child would be placed in a home that bettered met his or her needs. Currently Mt. View FFA is no longer in business and three of seven homes that were certified by Mt. View FFA have become Certified Foster Family Homes through Community Care Licensing. It is a concern of the Department that these three homes do not receive as quality monitoring as they received in the past because they are currently licensed under Community Care Licensing and they are required to see them once a year unlike the weekly contact that was required by Mt. View FFA. It is the goal of Modoc County Department of Social Services to become eligible to certify foster homes. The results of this measure also are consistent with the low numbers of placements for a considerable timeframe since the last CSA.

## **C1.1 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)**

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

Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County's last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS data has fluctuated greatly in this outcome measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 71.4% (5 out of 7 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance also of 71.4% (5 out of 7 children). The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard over the past three years. Modoc County CWS was at 100% for this measure during multiple quarters during this time period, but has recently fallen just below the National Standard of 75.2%. Due to the low numbers of placements the data will be skewed if there is a single sibling group not reunifying within 12 months.



CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER SAFEMEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR C1.1: REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT), DECEMBER 2010 – DECEMBER 2013. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

Probation data in this measure is limited, due to the low number of youth in Placement. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (2 out of 2 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children).

**C1.2 MEDIAN TIME OF REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT)**

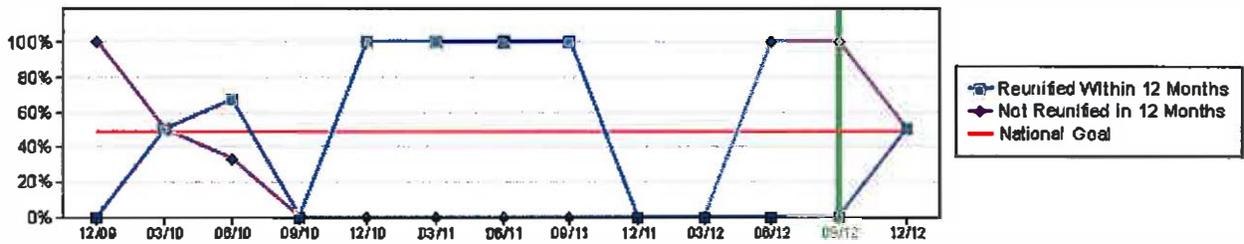
*Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification?*

Modoc County CWS’ median time of reunification has fluctuated greatly over the past 5 years, largely due to the low placement numbers. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a median time of 7.9 months (7 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a median time of 1.5 (7 children). The National Standard for this measure is a median time of 5.4 months.

**C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (ENTRY COHORT)**

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

The National Standard for this measure is 48.4%. Modoc County CWS data shows huge fluctuation in this measure, due to the low number of children entering placement within a 6-month time period. Most recent data (Quarter 3 2013), shows 0 out of 3 children reunified within 12 months.



CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER SAFEMEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR C1.3: REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (ENTRY COHORT), DECEMBER 2009 – DECEMBER 2012. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

Due to the methodology of this measure and the low Probation Placement numbers, Modoc County Probation does not have data for the two comparison time periods (Quarter 3 2008 and Quarter 3 2013).

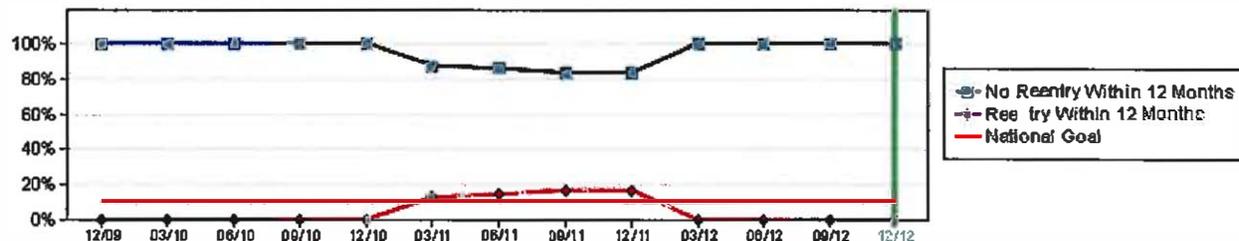
## ANALYSIS

It is the opinion of child welfare that the huge fluctuation within many measures, especially this one is a result of the inconsistent changes within the department. Recently a contract with State Adoptions has been created and regular staffing is promoting Social Workers to focus more on timelines that may or may not result in permanent placements. With supervisory consistency and services being provided to clients during their family reunification services, this measure is expected to either improve or indicate where the department needs to improve. It is predicted that when services provided to clients are more available and the collaborative networks such as Family Wellness Court are fully implemented the flow of cases will move from family reunification to family maintenance in the timeframe recommended or a permanent plan will be implemented.

### C1.4 REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION

*Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year, what percent reentered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of the earliest discharge to reunification during the year?*

As noted previously in this report, Reentry Following Reunification is an area of critical concern for Modoc County CWS and was the focus of our Peer Review. Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County’s last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS data has fluctuated in this outcome measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 22.2% (4 out of 18 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 3 children). The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard (9.9%) over the past three years.



CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER SAFEMEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR C1.4: REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT), DECEMBER 2009 – DECEMBER 2012. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

Probation Reentry data in this measure varies greatly from quarter to quarter, due to the low number of youth in this measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 14.3% (1 out of 7 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 50% (1 out of 2 children).

## **ANALYSIS**

Reentry following reunification is a concern for Modoc Child Welfare because it was identified that there has been a timeframe where services were not provided to clients during their time of family reunification. As a result, they continued with their case plan which included visits, social worker planned contacts, and a basic mental health assessment that did not include any follow up appointment if necessary. When child abuse is substantiated it is the responsibility of Child Welfare to address the issue of abuse appropriately in an immediate manner, which includes the child's immediate safety. Once safety and jurisdiction is determined it is the responsibility of the Social Worker to work with the family to determine the services necessary for the family to comply with to ensure the return and continued safety of the child. In a successful case this is determined to be the implementation of change. When implementation of change does not occur then parents are not able to fully identify their strengths and needs and ensure that they are capable of maintaining their child or children's safety in the future. Often families enter family maintenance services and are still unable to continue their lives as imagined because they do not process the skills needed to ensure their child or children's safety. It is the Modoc Child Welfare goal to ensure that implementation of change occurs with families. It has been determined that ensuring that there are services available for parents to engage in will help provide parents with the tools necessary to ensure the safety of their child or children. Services that will be available as needed to client's case plan include the following:

- Parents Plus
- Behavioral Health Assessment and/or continued counseling
- Alcohol and Drug Services
- Family Wellness Court
- Domestic Violence Services
- Healthy Beginnings
- Foster Youth Services
- Independent Living Services
- Social Worker Planned Contact
- Transportation

### **C2.1 ADOPTION WITHIN 24 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)**

*Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home?*

Data for this measure showed Modoc County has not had any children discharged to an adoption since the last CSA in June 2009.

## **C2.2 MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION (EXIT COHORT)**

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

There is no data for this measure for the past five years.

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

*Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year?*

Over the past five years there have been a total of four children that were in care for 17 continuous months or longer. None of the four children were discharged to an adoption by the last day of the year for the specified time periods.

## **C2.4 LEGALLY FREE WITHIN 6 MONTHS (17 MONTHS IN CARE)**

*Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the period, what percent became legally free within the next 6 months?*

The National Standard for this Measure is 10.9%. Modoc County has not met the National Standard for the last five years. There are very few children represented in this Measure, ranging from zero to two children for each quarterly time period.

The table below outlines Modoc County’s data for this outcome measure over the last five years:

Time Period		Legally free within 6 months	Not legally free within 6 months	Total
OCT2007-MAR2008	n	.	2	2
JAN2008-JUN2008	n	.	2	2
APR2008-SEP2008	n	.	2	2
JUL2008-DEC2008	n	.	2	2
OCT2008-MAR2009	n	.	2	2
JAN2009-JUN2009	n	.	2	2
APR2009-SEP2009	n	.	1	1
JUL2009-DEC2009	n	.	.	.
OCT2009-MAR2010	n	.	.	.
JAN2010-JUN2010	n	.	.	.
APR2010-SEP2010	n	.	.	.
JUL2010-DEC2010	n	.	.	.
OCT2010-MAR2011	n	.	1	1
JAN2011-JUN2011	n	.	.	.
APR2011-SEP2011	n	.	.	.
JUL2011-DEC2011	n	.	2	2
OCT2011-MAR2012	n	.	1	1
JAN2012-JUN2012	n	.	1	1
APR2012-SEP2012	n	.	1	1
JUL2012-DEC2012	n	.	1	1
OCT2012-MAR2013	n	.	.	.

**C2.5 ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (LEGALLY FREE)**

*Of all children in foster care who became legally free for adoption during the year, what percent were then discharged to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months?*

The National Standard for this Measure is 53.7%. For Modoc County, there are very few children represented in this Measure, ranging from zero to two children for each quarterly time period.

The table below outlines Modoc County’s data (n) for this outcome measure over the last five years:

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Adopted in less than 12 months</b>	<b>Not adopted within 12 months</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>OCT2007-SEP2008</b>	0	0	0
<b>JAN2008-DEC2008</b>	0	0	0
<b>APR2008-MAR2009</b>	0	0	0
<b>JUL2008-JUN2009</b>	1	0	1
<b>OCT2008-SEP2009</b>	1	0	1
<b>JAN2009-DEC2009</b>	1	1	2
<b>APR2009-MAR2010</b>	1	1	2
<b>JUL2009-JUN2010</b>	0	1	1
<b>OCT2009-SEP2010</b>	0	1	1
<b>JAN2010-DEC2010</b>	0	0	0
<b>APR2010-MAR2011</b>	0	0	0
<b>JUL2010-JUN2011</b>	0	0	0
<b>OCT2010-SEP2011</b>	0	0	0
<b>JAN2011-DEC2011</b>	0	0	0
<b>APR2011-MAR2012</b>	0	0	0
<b>JUL2011-JUN2012</b>	0	0	0
<b>OCT2011-SEP2012</b>	0	0	0

## **ANALYSIS**

The lack of adoptions is consistent with the data that indicates there was very limited number of placements during a specific timeframe since the last CSA. Recently, Modoc Child welfare has worked on rebuilding their relationship with State Adoptions. Within January and February of 2014 Modoc Child Welfare has sent State Adoptions four referrals for adoptions.

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

*Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year and prior to turning 18?*

Modoc County CWS has had very few children remain in care for 24 months or longer over the past five years. The total number of children on a quarterly basis, represented in the denominator over the past five years, ranged from zero, most quarters, up to four children during other quarters. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 2 children), and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children). Modoc County did not meet the National Standard of 29.1% at any time over the past five years.

Modoc County Probation has had very few children remain in care for 24 months or longer over the past five years. The total number of children on a quarterly basis, represented in the denominator over the past five years, ranged from zero, most quarters, up to 1 child during other

quarters. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 1 children), and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children).

**ANALYSIS**

Since the last CSA in 2009 Modoc County has had a drop in placements as a result there has only been two children in placement during Quarter 3 and they did not stay in foster care longer than 24 months and did not exit to a permanent plan.

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

*Of all children discharged from foster care during the year who were legally free for adoption, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18?*

Over the past five years, only five quarters of data include children that met the methodology for this measure. For three out of the five quarters, Modoc CWS met the National Standard of 98%, with 1 out of 1 child exiting to permanency before turning 18, as shown in the below table:

	JAN2009-DEC2009	APR2009-MAR2010	JUL2009-JUN2010	OCT2009-SEP2010	JAN2010-DEC2010
	n	n	n	n	n
<b>Exited to permanency before age 18</b>	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Did not exit to permanency before age 18</b>	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	1	1	1	2	1

Probation did not have any youth over the past five years that fit the methodology for this measure.

**ANALYSIS**

The implementation of AB 12 has made dependent children more interested in becoming Non Minor Dependents. This is because they can look forward to a less restricted living environment that still provides support and guidance. The one youth that exited permanency prior to 18 petitioned the court to be emancipated and was granted.

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

*Of all children in foster care during the year who were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, what percent had been in foster care for 3 years or longer?*

Modoc CWS has performed well in this measure over the past 5 years. From the quarterly reporting period of July 2009 – June 2010 until present data, none of the children that discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, had been in foster care for 3 years or longer. The National Standard for this measure is 37.5% (below). See table below.

		In care less than 3 years	In care 3 years or longer	Total
JUL2009-JUN2010	n	.	.	.
OCT2009-SEP2010	n	.	.	.
JAN2010-DEC2010	n	1	.	1
APR2010-MAR2011	n	1	.	1
JUL2010-JUN2011	n	1	.	1
OCT2010-SEP2011	n	1	.	1
JAN2011-DEC2011	n	.	.	.
APR2011-MAR2012	n	.	.	.
JUL2011-JUN2012	n	.	.	.
OCT2011-SEP2012	n	3	.	3
JAN2012-DEC2012	n	3	.	3
APR2012-MAR2013	n	3	.	3
JUL2012-JUN2013	n	3	.	3
OCT2012-SEP2013	n	1	.	1

Modoc Probation has performed well in this measure over the past 5 years. Between Quarter 3 2008 and Quarter 3 2013, none of the children that discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, had been in foster care for 3 years or longer. Quarter 3 2013 data shows 0 out of 1 child.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Prior to exiting Foster Care, there was no youth in Foster Care more than three years. This is an indication that Modoc County Child Welfare either searches for family members or ensures that there is a permanent plan implemented in the time frame allotted.

The majority of children Probation has in placement are typically between the ages of 15 and 17. Therefore, the average group home program is one year to 18 months and when placements successfully complete their program within that timeframe they are then reunified with their parent or guardian.

### C4.1-C4.3 PLACEMENT STABILITY

*Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in foster care for*

*-at least 8 days but less than 12 months (Measure C4.1), National Standard is 86%*

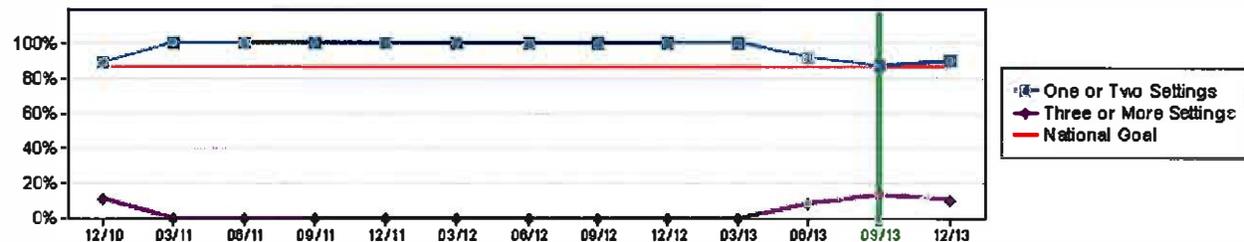
*-at least 12 months but less than 24 months (Measure C4.2), National Standard is 65.4%*

*-at least 24 months (Measure C4.3), National Standard is 41.8%*

Placement stability is defined as having less than three placements while in care. The National Standard for this performance area drops as time in care increases; 86% for the shorter placement series (8 days to 12 months in care), 65.4% (up to 24 months in care) and 41.8% for those in care at least 24 months.

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

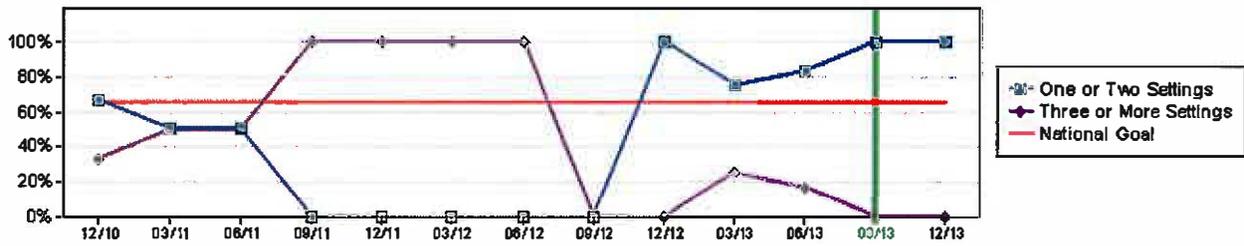
Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County’s last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS data has done well in this outcome measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (8 out of 8 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 85.7% (12 out of 14 children). The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard (86%) over the past three years.



In regard to Probation, Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (8 out of 8 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data also shows a performance of 100% (6 out of 6 children). Over the past five years, performance in this measure has never fallen below 85.7%.

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

Modoc County’s CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (2 out of 2 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 100% (5 out of 5 children). Performance in this measure has fluctuated over time. The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National Standard (65.4%) over the past three years.



Modoc County’s Probation CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (1 out of 1 child) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children). Performance in this measure has almost consistently been at 100% over the past five years. Only 0 to 3 youth during any given quarter met the methodology of this measure (in care for more than 12 months, but less than 24 months).

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

Modoc County’s CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 2 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children). Over the past three years only one child met the methodology for this measure (in care for more than 24 months) and that child had stability.

Modoc County’s Probation CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 1 child) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 1 child). Performance in this measure has consistently been at 0% over the past five years. Only 0 to 1 youth during any given quarter met the methodology of this measure (in care for more than 24 months).

**ANALYSIS (C4.1, C4.2, C4.3)**

Maintaining placement can be a challenge especially with the lack of Foster Homes in the area. For the time frame that this data was retrieved Modoc child Welfare had a significantly low number of placements.

Probation works to find appropriate group home/foster care placements on a case by case basis to meet the child’s specific needs. The group home and foster care providers are accommodating with handling and meeting the needs of our placement children. Probation also works closely with the placement providers and children to maintain stability.

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

*These reports count both the number of child abuse and neglect referrals that require, and then receive, an in-person investigation within the time frame specified by the referral response type. Referrals are classified as either immediate response (within 24 hrs) or 10-day response. Please note that this is a CDSS measure.*

Modoc County has met the State Standard of 90% in the area of timely response for both immediate response referrals and 10 day referrals over the past 5 years.

**Immediate Response Type-Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals by Time to Investigation**

Count	July 1 2008 – Sept 30 2008	July 1 2009 – Sept 30 2009	July 1 2010 – Sept 30 2010	July 1 2011 – Sept 30 2011	July 1 2012 – Sept 30 2012	July 1 2013 – Sept 30 2013
Timely Response	15	6	10	12	13	8
Non-Timely Response	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Compliance Percentage</b>	<b>88.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>80%</b>

State Standard=90%

**10 Day Response Type-Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals by Time to Investigation**

Count	July 1 2008 – Sept 30 2008	July 1 2009 – Sept 30 2009	July 1 2010 – Sept 30 2010	July 1 2011 – Sept 30 2011	July 1 2012 – Sept 30 2012	July 1 2013 – Sept 30 2013
Timely Response	26	29	16	27	26	13
Non-Timely Response	1	4	0	1	1	5
<b>Compliance Percentage</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>86.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>94.1%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>96.3%</b>

State Standard=90%

**ANALYSIS**

After analyzing the data it was identified that the Social Workers were not counting the date that the referral was received as a date that counted towards the response. After staffing it was identified that the Social Workers utilize the reminder within the system that indicates when a referral is due. According to CDSS this reminder is programmed incorrectly and does not give the correct reminder. For example if the referrals determined response time is 10 days then the reminder within the system would prompt the Social Worker to make the initial contact for investigation on the 11<sup>th</sup> day. This problem is being resolved at the State level. Until this resolution, the reminder function of CWS/CMS is not being utilized.

Due to the low numbers of placement children Probation has in care it only takes one abscond placement child to skew the timely monthly case worker visit percentages.

## MEASURE 2F - TIMELY MONTHLY CASEWORKER OUT-OF-HOME VISITS

*These reports measure the compliance rate for case worker visits with children. The rate is equal to the percentage of children requiring a caseworker contact who received the contact in a timely manner.*

Overall, Modoc County CWS has done well in this performance area. Spanning the last five years performance has been above the 90% national standard in this area. The compliance figures for the last five years are shown below.

OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011	OCT2011-SEP2012	OCT2012-SEP2013
%	%	%	%	%
100	98.2	97.6	98.3	94.4

Probation data for this measure is only available for the most recent year. See below.

Oct 2012 – Sept 2013
%
95.5

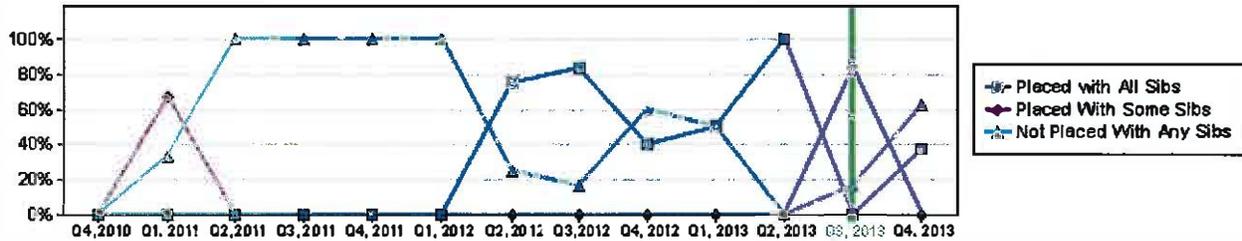
## ANALYSIS

A possible barrier to meet this measure for both Modoc Child Welfare and Probation is placements out of county. Child Welfare recently has made relationships with surrounding counties that can help with out of county placement visits. When there are multiple people placed in Redding for residential treatment then one Social Worker will travel to see each client that is there. This has helped with hitting this mandate.

## 4A SIBLINGS PLACED TOGETHER IN FOSTER CARE

*These reports provide point in time counts of sibling groups placed in Child Welfare supervised foster care.*

Modoc County's CWS Quarter 3 2008 data regarding all siblings placed together, shows a performance of 100% (4 out of 4 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 33.3% (3 out of 9 children). Modoc County's CWS Quarter 3 2008 data regarding some siblings placed together, shows a performance of 100% (4 out of 4 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 77.8% (7 out of 9 children). The graph below shows trends over time for the past three years.



## ANALYSIS

With the limited number of placements, the data can be skewed dramatically when one family with three or more siblings enters Foster Care. This is due to the lack of foster homes in the area that are already being utilized or cannot accommodate a sibling group.

Modoc County only has one group home within the county and at the time of this writing no in-county foster care for delinquent youth. Typically the children probation deals with have behavioral issues that require specific services and treatment.

### 4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (ENTRIES FIRST PLACEMENT)

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

**Important note:** Youth 18 and over electing to remain in care as non-minor dependents as provided by Assembly Bill 12 may be placed in a new placement type, the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). This placement type has been included in the Entries, Point-in-time, 4E (1&2) ICWA, and Exits analyses. Prior to a CWS/CMS system revision in November 2012, SILP placements may have been categorized as Court Specified or Other. Thus, some shift in counts from those categories to SILP may occur.

The chart below represents the different types of facilities children first experience when entering care for CWS.

Placement Type	Interval				
	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011	OCT2011-SEP2012	OCT2012-SEP2013
	n	n	n	n	n
<b>Kin</b>	.	1	3	3	3
<b>FFA</b>	5	2	2	.	8
<b>Group</b>	.	1	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	5	4	5	3	11

The chart below represents the different types of facilities youth first experience when entering care for Probation. The majority of youth enter Group or FFA care.

Placement Type	Interval				
	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011	OCT2011-SEP2012	OCT2012-SEP2013
	n	n	n	n	n
Kin	.	.	1	.	.
FFA	1	1	1	1	.
Group	.	1	2	.	2
Total	1	2	4	1	2

### ANALYSIS

Mãdoc County Child Welfare and Probation both utilize the minimal level of care appropriate for the child. Often the type of placement a child is placed in is determined by their behavior and availability of family members. For a child to be placed in a group home immediately there must be a significant reason. For example it has been deemed necessary for the child to be placed in a group home setting because the treatment and counseling was specially geared towards sexual assault or it can also be deemed in the child’s best interest to be placed in a facility that can give them the supervision needed for them to not harm themselves.

Mãdoc County only has one group home within the county and at the time of this writing no in-county foster care for delinquent youth. Typically the children probation deals with have behavioral issues that require specific services and treatment.

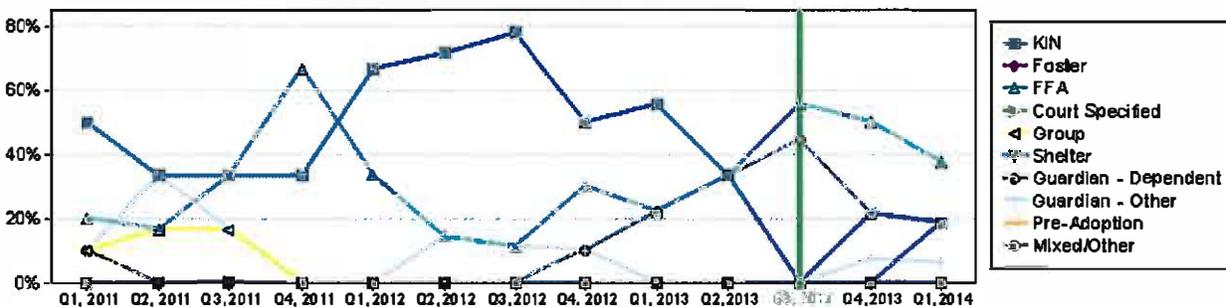
### 4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (POINT IN TIME)

*These reports include all children who have open child welfare or probation supervised placement episode in the CWS/CMS system.*

**Important note:** Youth 18 and over electing to remain in care as non-minor dependents as provided by Assembly Bill 12 may be placed in a new placement type, the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). This placement type has been included in the Entries, Point-in-time, 4E (1&2) ICWA, and Exits analyses. Prior to a CWS/CMS system revision in November 2012, SILP placements may have been categorized as Court Specified or Other. Thus, some shift in counts from those categories to SILP may occur.

The chart and graph below show point in time data related to least restrictive placement for CWS. Kinship placements have been heavily utilized, as well as FFA placements.

Placement Type	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
<b>Kin</b>	.	2	1	5	3
<b>FFA</b>	3	1	2	3	7
<b>Group</b>	1	.	.	.	.
<b>Non-FC</b>	1	.	.	.	.
<b>Guardian - Other</b>	1	.	.	1	1
<b>Trial Home Visit</b>	.	1	.	.	.
<b>SILP</b>	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Other (?)</b>	.	1	.	1	2
<b>Missing</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	6	5	3	10	14



The chart below shows point in time data related to least restrictive placement for Probation. The majority of youth are placed in Group care.

Placement Type	Point In Time				
	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
<b>FFA</b>	1	.	1	.	.
<b>Court Specified Home</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Group</b>	3	3	4	1	6
<b>Non-FC</b>	.	.	1	.	.
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	.	.	1	.	.
<b>Runaway</b>	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Total</b>	4	3	7	1	7

## ANALYSIS

Modoc Child Welfare determines the best placement for children after exhausting all options in the follow specific order:

- Family placement
- NREFM
- FFA

If a higher level of placement is needed then a group home setting is utilized if there is no other family available. Recently Child Welfare has had two Dependents transition into a Non – Minor Dependent. Both of these NMD’s utilized a SILP living arrangement. It has been determined that because Modoc County does not have a transitional living environment, the Social Worker will exhaust all avenues with the NMD to secure a living environment that ensures some type of supervision and support while allowing the NMD to be independent. For example, approving a NMD to live with a family member or friend and engage in an agreement or possibly make the person that they entered into the agreement with the NMD’s payee.

### 4E ICWA & MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT STATUS

*These reports examine the placement status of Indian Child Welfare Act eligible children [4E(1)] and children with primary or mixed (multi) ethnicity of American Indian [4E(2)]. Placement status takes placement type, child relationship to substitute care provider, and substitute care provider ethnicity into account. The resulting placement status categories are placements with relatives; with non-relative, Indian substitute care providers; with non-relative, non-Indian substitute care providers; with non-relative substitute care providers with ethnicity missing in CWS/CMS; in group homes (ethnicity cannot be determined); and in other placements.*

**Important note:** *Youth 18 and over electing to remain in care as non-minor dependents as provided by Assembly Bill 12 may be placed in a new placement type, the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). This placement type has been included in the Entries, Point-in-time, 4E (1&2) ICWA, and Exits analyses. Prior to a CWS/CMS system revision in November 2012, SILP placements may have been categorized as Court Specified or Other. Thus, some shift in counts from those categories to SILP may occur.*

The below chart shows placement status, over the past five years, for children with ICWA eligibility. The majority of the children were placed with relatives.

	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
<b>Relatives</b>	.	1	1	3	.
<b>Non Relatives, Indian SCPs</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Non Relatives, Non Indian SCPs</b>	1	.	.	.	1
<b>Non Relatives, SCP Ethnic Missing</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Group Homes</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Other</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Missing</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	1	1	1	3	1

The chart below shows placement status, over the past five years, for children primary or mixed (multi) ethnicity of American Indian.

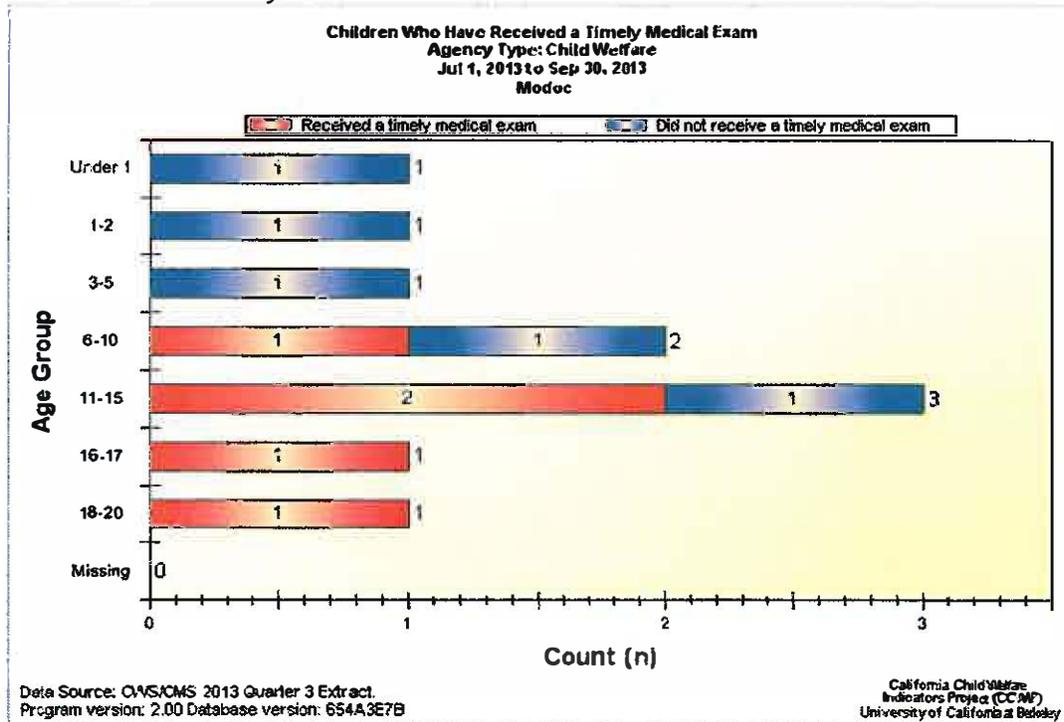
Placement Status	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
Relatives	.	1	1	3	2
Non Relatives, Indian SCPs	.	.	.	.	.
Non Relatives, Non Indian SCPs	1	.	.	2	3
Non Relatives, SCP Ethnic Missing	.	.	.	.	.
Group Homes	.	.	.	.	.
Other	.	1	.	.	1
Missing	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

## ANALYSIS

In the past the relationship between the tribes and Child Welfare has been difficult. Currently this relationship is improving with the Cedarville Rancheria. Recently the tribe has been providing Child Welfare with a tribal resolution which allows the tribe and Child Welfare to work together to solve a placement issue for a child.

## 5B (1) RATE OF TIMELY HEALTH EXAMS AND 5B (2) RATE OF TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS

CDSS Measure 5B: Timely Medical/Dental Exams

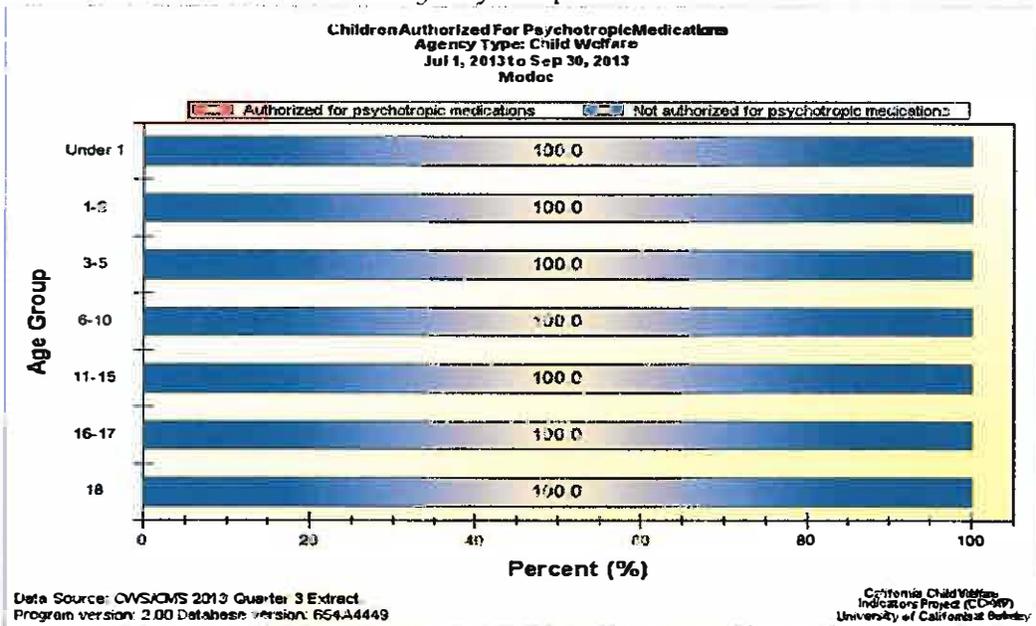


## ANALYSIS

When a child enters foster care they are required to have a CHDP medical and dental exam within 30 days of placement. According to the information above, Modoc County Child Welfare is at 50% of meeting this goal. There was a point in time when the Public Health Nurse/Foster Care Nurse who enters this data was not able to access CWS/CMS. Since then, this problem has been resolved and the Department is working to improve in this measure.

## 5F PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

CDSS Measure 5F: Children Authorized for Psychotropic Medications



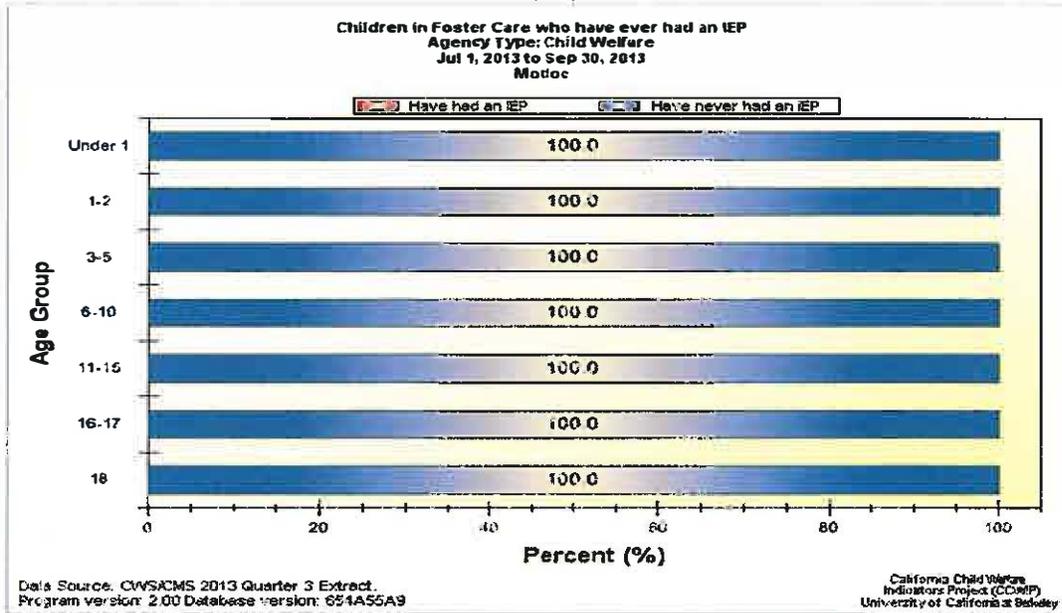
## ANALYSIS

There was a point in time when the Public Health Nurse/Foster Care Nurse who enters this data was not able to access CWS/CMS. Since then, this problem has been resolved and the Department is working to improve in this measure.

For the Probation Department, there is no data for this measure for the past five years.

## 6B INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

CDSS Measure 6B: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)



[HTTP://CSSR.BERKELEY.EDU/UCB\\_CHILDWELFARE/CDSS](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/cdss)

### ANALYSIS

When an IEP is necessary for a child the Social Worker attends the IEP Team Meeting. At the time frame presented there were no children in foster care who had an IEP.

For the Probation Department, there is no data for this measure for the past five years.

## 8A COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL OR EQUIVALENCY

### 8A OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

### 8A HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

### 8A RECEIVED ILP SERVICES

### 8A PERMANENCY CONNECTION WITH AN ADULT

### ANALYSIS

For Child Welfare and Probation there is no data for this measure for the past five years. By utilizing the FYS coordinator, Public Health Nurse, and ILP coordinator, each of these people will have CWS/CMS and can enter the data personally.

## Summary of Findings

### **Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention**

Modoc County currently does not have a foster Family Agency and does not certify homes within the Child Welfare Department. This is why it is mandatory for Child Welfare to work with other FFA's or Community Care Licensing in regards to recruitment and monitoring of already licensed homes.

### **Concurrent Planning**

The relationship between State Adoptions and Child Welfare has been initiated by a contract. There will be continued communication between Adoptions and Modoc Child Welfare. Also, there will be a concurrent planning training provided in house for Social Workers. This training will be provided by UC Davis Training Academy and is being incorporated in the training plan for 2014-2015.

### **Safety Organized Practices (SOP)**

This program is being implemented because it provides support from the referral to post-permanency. To continue implementation there needs to be continuous training to present a solution – focused treatment to the Child Welfare System. This program was implemented and staff was trained at one time but there was no follow through. Staff that was trained is no longer employed. This training will be provided by UC Davis Training Academy and is being incorporated in the training plan for 2014-2015.

### **Services to Clients and Relationships Other Agencies/Service Providers**

The County will Continue to collaborate with other agencies and Service providers to ensure that clients are receiving quality and effective services. The main collaborative partnerships that are in effect are:

- Family Wellness Court
- Healthy Beginnings
- Katie A.
- Sexual Assault Response Team
- Sub monitoring of contracted programs with T.E.A.C.H. Inc. (ILP and Parents Plus)

All of these collaborative partnerships are currently functioning and serving clients. Healthy Beginnings, Katie A. and the Sexual Assault Response Team meet on a monthly basis. The

family Wellness Court meets on a biweekly basis. CWS monitors contracted programs with T.E.A.C.H. Inc. on a monthly and quarterly fiscal basis.

### **Native American/Child Welfare/Probation Collaboration**

It has been identified that inviting tribal representative to collaborative meetings will benefit the relationship between service providers and the tribes. Currently, a representative from Strong Family Health Center participates in the Family Wellness Court collaborative. Strong Family Health Center is involved with this collaborative because if the client is registered with a surrounding tribe they will provide anger management as well as alcohol and drug counseling.

### **Trainings for Staff**

Training for staff will include:

- CWS/CMS
- SDM
- SOP
- Concurrent Planning
- Meet core training requirements for SW I, II, and SW Supervisor II.

### **Staffing issues**

Probation continues to be understaffed but there does not appear to be a viable solution at this time. It has proven difficult to find qualified applicants to hire and retain them as employees as most do not have the required Bachelor's Degree; this coupled with the low salary range and retirement package, is not attractive to most. CWS is fully staffed and is working on training the new employees.

# California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

For submittal of: CSA  SIP  Progress Report

County	Modoc
SIP Period Dates	2014 - 2019
Outcome Data Period	2011-2013
<b>County Child Welfare Agency Director</b>	
Name	Kelly Crosby
Signature*	<i>Kelly Crosby</i> 6/25/14
Phone Number	530-640-8622
Mailing Address	120 North Main St. Alturas, CA 96101
<b>County Chief Probation Officer</b>	
Name	Elias Fernandez
Signature*	<i>Elias Fernandez Jr.</i> 6-30-14
Phone Number	530-233-6324
Mailing Address	326 South Main Street Alturas, CA 96101
<b>Public Agency Designated to Administer CAPIT and CBCAP</b>	
Name	Modoc County Department of Social Services
Signature*	<i>Carole McCulley</i> 6/25/14
Phone Number	530-233-6501
Mailing Address	120 North Main St. Alturas, CA 96101
<b>Board of Supervisors (BOS) Signature</b>	
BOS Approval Date	
Name	
Signature*	

Log Control received 7/31/14  
 RECEIVED - 3 2014

**Mail the original Signature Sheet to:**

\*Signatures must be in blue ink

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

## Contact Information

Child Welfare Agency	Name	Carole McCulley
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# California - Child and Family Services Review

## Modoc County County Self-Assessment

FEBRUARY 2014



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## Introduction

The purpose of the CSA is to comprehensively assess the full array of child welfare and probation program, from prevention and protection through permanency and aftercare. The CSA is completed every five years by the county in coordination with their local community partners. The CSA enables counties to determine effectiveness of current practice, programs and resources across the continuum of child welfare and probation placement services and identify areas of targeted system improvement.

Assembly Bill 636 established the Child Welfare Services Outcomes and Accountability Act of 2001. The CSA is one of the major components of the California-Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) process which emphasizes continuous quality improvement. The C-CFSR process is a cyclical process which went from a 3-year to a 5-year cycle. Other major parts of this process are the Peer Review and System Improvement Plan (SIP). Modoc County's most recent CSA was completed in June 2009.

When the Modoc County CSA is complete the county will work together with the state to develop the upcoming SIP that will be effective 2014 through 2019. This SIP will act as an operational agreement between CDSS and the County, ensuring the collaboration with local community, prevention and early intervention partners and is approved by the county Board of Supervisor (BOS). It provides an outline for how the county will improve their system of care for children and families. The SIP will ensure that CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds will address priority needs within Modoc County. There is an Annual SIP Progress Report requirement that allows CDSS to monitor the outcome of the SIP.

## C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

### **C-CFSR TEAM**

The Modoc County 2014 C-CFSR Team Included:

Monica SeEVERS, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Modoc County Probation Department  
Carole McCulley, Social Worker Supervisor II, Modoc Department of Social Services  
Samantha Sabala, Program Manager, CDSS  
Christina Hoerl, Social Services Consultant III, CDSS  
Barbara Ricciuti-Colombo, Social Services Consultant III, CDSS  
Patricia Harper, Social Services Consultant III, Office of Child Abuse Prevention

The team met via conference calls and in person in preparation for the Peer Review and completion of the CSA approximately five times between late November 2013 and February

2014. They reviewed and discussed the CSA Questionnaire and Peer Review documents provided by the State Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau (CSOAB) in preparation for the Stakeholders Meeting, the Peer Review and the completion of the CSA.

### **Core Representatives**

In collaboration with the C-CFSR team, service providers and community stakeholders within and surrounding Modoc County were included to provide input on the CSA.

Stakeholders:

Tara Shepard, Modoc County Behavioral Health, Co- Director

Judge Francis W. Barclay, Modoc Superior Court, Judge

Elias “Leo” Fernandez, Jr., Modoc County Probation Department, Chief Probation Officer

Jessica Fredrick, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., CASA and Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator

Carol Callaghan, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., Parents Plus, Crisis Center and ILP Services

Michael Traverso, Modoc County Behavioral Health, Clinical Supervisor

Karen Stockton, Director of Modoc County Behavioral Health

Elizabeth Varney, Modoc Superior Court, Drug Court Coordinator

Several attempts were made to engage previous child welfare foster care youth who had successfully transitioned out of the foster care system in the 2013 in the CSA process but they declined to participate. Two former youth that would participate have moved out of the area. The Stakeholders who were not present at the meeting were identified and asked questions on an individual basis included:

Nicki Munholand, ICWA Representative for the Cedarville Rancheria

Misti Norby, Modoc County Office of Education, FYS

Parent of In-Care Youth

In-Care Youth

Donna Haney, Foster Parent

The C-CFSR team determined the areas of focus for Child Welfare and Probation based on the most current data extract report provided by UC Berkeley, Q2 2013 (<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb/childwelfare>). The team identified C1 Reunification Composite as an outcomes and accountability focus area for both Child Welfare and Probation. Child Welfare’s focus area was determined to be C1.4 Reentry Following Reunification. Probation’s focus area was determined to be C1.1 Reunification within 12 months. The baseline data period

for the CSA would be CWS Outcomes System summary for Modoc County, data extract Q3 2013.

## **THE CSA PLANNING PROCESS**

The C-CFSR team met four times as a group via conference call to plan to identify Modoc County's focus area as well as plan for the Peer Review that occurred on January 22, 2014 and January 23, 2014. Besides the conference calls, there were extensive conversations via email or phone that occurred between Christina Hoerl, Monica Seevers, and Carole McCulley. Also, simultaneously Patricia Harper and Carole McCulley were completing the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) Annual Report that was not officially considered a planning process for the CSA but naturally occurred as a foundation of understanding the areas of strengths and weaknesses within the Modoc County Department of Social Services. The areas of weakness that were identified within the OCAP Annual Review were used to help the C-CFSR team identify the focus areas for Social Services and later create questions for the Stakeholder meeting.

There was limited time to hold multiple Stakeholders meetings therefore there was one Stakeholder meeting conducted on January 16, 2014. To utilize the time efficiently the group was asked specific questions that were created by the team and a questionnaire was presented to the group. This questionnaire encompassed the same questions but more in depth. Also, it allowed people who were not comfortable speaking in front of the group to respond honestly. The questionnaire addressed prevention, reunification services, teaming and collaboration and foster care reentry.

Monica Seevers, Carole McCulley and or staff met with the following mandated parties individually:

- ICWA
- Foster Parents
- Former and Current Foster Youth
- State Adoptions

## **PARTICIPATION OF CORE REPRESENTATIVES**

Per the California Child and Family Services Review Instruction Manual, Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation has included all required representatives and most stakeholders to participate in the Modoc County 2014 CSA. Everyone included in the CSA process was helpful and provided appropriate feedback that identified strengths and weaknesses within Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation.

These Stakeholders, will provide input and guidance throughout the CSA process as part of the C-CFSR Team and in implementing the SIP when Completed. Please note:

- The Modoc County BOS has designated the Modoc County Department of Social Services to oversee the County's Children's Trust Fund (CCTF)
- The Modoc County BOS has designated Public Agency Modoc County Department of Social Services to administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF programs

The ICWA coordinator for the Cedarville Rancheria was contacted and engaged in the initial process of the CSA and input was given by this Paiute tribe. Recently three members of their governing board as well as their tribal administrator were murdered. Also, two other members of the board were severely injured and multiple tribal members were witnesses. As a result of these recent events, the tribe is grieving while trying to manage regular business. This tragedy is within the tribe as well as our small community and Modoc Child Welfare. Both the Cedarville Rancheria and Modoc County Child Welfare are in a rebuilding time period and it is the goal that the tribe and Modoc Child Welfare build a relationship during their time of growth. It is the goal of Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation to not only work with the Cedarville Rancheria but also engage other local tribes and build a collaborative relationship in the future.

### **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

Child Welfare and Probation collaborated to identify their stakeholders within the community. The agencies identified the Modoc County Treatment Court Steering Committee as the best forum for engaging the majority of stakeholders within Modoc County. On January 16, 2014, the monthly committee meeting convened. Child Welfare and Probation solicited stakeholder input on prevention, reunification services, teaming and collaboration, and foster care reentry. The CDSS C-CFSR team attended the meeting via teleconference provided the Stakeholders a brief overview of the CSA and SIP.

During this meeting Stakeholders were provided an agenda and questionnaire to solicit their feedback. The questions that were provided to the Stakeholders included:

### **PREVENTION**

1. What are some of the issues facing the children/youth in Modoc County that bring them to the attention of Child Welfare or Juvenile Probation? (domestic violence, poverty, and neglect) What services in the community assist to prevent families from entering the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice System? What services are needed, but missing?

### **REUNIFICATION SERVICES**

2. What reunification services are working well for children/youth and families?  
 3. Discuss the barriers or challenges that children/youth and families have had in receiving services that meet their needs.

### **TEAMING AND COLLABORATION**

4. As service providers, how have we ensured multi-agency teaming and collaboration? What are the barriers to successfully working together? What are your suggestions for improving multi-agency collaboration?

### **FOSTER CARE REENTRY**

5. What services/supports are available to families after children/youth return home, to prevent re-entry into foster care/probation placement? Are there services gaps?

Can you provide an example, or examples, of situations in which at risk families were successful in avoiding re-entry? What were the major themes of these success stories?

Major Themes that emerged from discussions and the questionnaire:

- Modoc Child Welfare: improve their Department with utilizing Signs of Safety, Team Decision Making and Deferential Response.
- As a group: improve and utilize the referral forms to their agency such as Behavioral Health(Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug evaluations), TEACH Inc.(Parents Plus, CASA, ILP Services and Crisis Center), Public Health(Healthy Beginnings),
- The Modoc County Child Abuse Prevention Counsel was identified as a place that allowed agencies to collaborate about prevention services provided to clients. There needs to be improvements in the implementation and monitoring but the community benefitted from the counsel.
- There is a need for everyone to speak the same language to ensure the clients are not receiving false information. This includes each department understanding each other's timelines and programs.
- It has been determined a "warm handoff" followed with a referral, benefits the client and ensures more timely services.
- Improve communication between clinics, Public Health Nurses and Child Welfare in regards to the CHDP requirements.
- There is a high need for Probation Foster Care and Group Home placement options and Juvenile Hall housing.
- Services that are implemented need to continue after duration of the Probation or Child Welfare case.
- There is a high need for Foster Care placements in Modoc County.
- Finding and keeping qualified professionals to maintain programs is a challenge.

In summation there was one constant reoccurring theme identified as a strength and an area in need of improvement. The strength is that in the past Modoc County has had a strong collaborating network. This collaborative network included Family Wellness Court, Strengthening Families, Child Abuse Prevention Counsel, Healthy Beginnings, Community Collaborative and Maternal Child and Adolescent. These collaborative networks were eliminated during the last year and half, which was identified as an area in need of improvement. Many Stakeholders felt that if the collaborative network is rebuilt with programs that are mentioned

above this negative will quickly become a positive. Thus, allowing each agency to service their individual population at a higher level.

## Demographic Profile

### GENERAL COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Modoc County is located in the most north eastern corner of California. It is a high desert, mountainous region that shares state borders with Nevada to the east and Oregon to the north. In 1998, Modoc County was declared a “frontier county” by the state legislature due to the sparse population, which is just above two persons per square miles, coupled with the issues of providing services to this widely dispersed population. There are approximately 9,327 (according to the U.S. Census estimate for 2012) inhabitants within 39,177 square miles which is significantly lower than the 2010 census results of 9,686. Within two years, the population decreased by 359 which some may correlate this to the high percentage of unemployment and the low socioeconomic status of the county. The population percent change, April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2012, was -3.7% for Modoc County, as compared to 2.1% for the state as a whole.<sup>1</sup> Long distances separate small communities within the county.

#### Population reported at 2012 United States Census

<b>The County</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Modoc County	9,327
<b>Incorporated City</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Alturas	2,802
<b>Census Designated Place</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
Adin	272
California Pines	520
Canby	315
Cedarville	514
Daphnedale Park	184
Eagleville	59
Fort Bidwell	173
Lake City	61
Likely	63

<sup>1</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/stats/06/06049.html>

Lookout	84
New Pine Creek	98
Newell	449
All other Census Designated Place's (combined)	4,067

Modoc County is the third least populated county in the state. There are no metropolitan areas in Modoc County and no lighted intersections with the exception of one flashing red light at the intersection of Highways 299 and 395 located in Alturas. The city of Alturas is the county seat, being the largest and only incorporated city in Modoc County with an estimated 2,748 permanent residents.<sup>2</sup> The rest are located throughout the county with concentrations in four geographical areas: Alturas/Likely, Cedarville/Surprise Valley, Tulelake/Newell and Adin/Big Valley. Each of these areas are a minimum of a twenty minute drive to over an hour from Alturas, which houses all of the county services as well as service normally associated with an incorporated city. Larger cities closest to Alturas include Klamath Falls, Oregon 100 miles to the north; Redding, California, 150 miles to the west and Reno, Nevada, 190 miles to the south.

Many families living in outlying areas are low income, often without telephones, vehicles or fuel for travel. Lack of transportation is the major barrier to utilization of health and social services in Modoc County.

The approximate ethnic breakdown of Modoc County's population in 2012:<sup>3</sup>

White, not Hispanic	Native American	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Multiracial
77.8%	5.1%	1.1%	1.4%	14.4%	3.5%

In addition to city and county services and schools, Alturas houses regional headquarters for:

- The U.S. Forest Service
- The U.S. National Resources Conservation Service
- The Bureau of Land Management
- The California Department of Forestry
- State Fish and Game Office
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Modoc National Wildlife Refuge
- The California Highway Patrol
- A California Conservation Camp
- Cal-Trans and two California Agricultural Inspection Stations

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.city-data.com>

<sup>3</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/stats/06>

<sup>4</sup> [www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html](http://www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html)

- The California Department of Motor Vehicles

The median household income between the years of 2008-2012 was \$37,482, while the per capita income in the county for that same time period was \$20,916.<sup>5</sup> In February 2014, 120 adults received CalWORKS. Approximately 3% of the 120 adults did not have CalFresh attached. In addition to those numbers there was a total caseload of 20 for CalFresh and General Assistance for the month of February. There is a total of 448 cases receiving CalFresh, of these cases approximately 30 to 40 percent are Public Assistance.

The schools in Modoc County are divided among four joint unified school districts and the Modoc County Office of Education (MCOE). The school districts coincide with the five geographical regions within the county: Alturas, Tulelake, Newell, Surprise Valley and Big Valley. The total number of students in the K-12 system in 2013 was approximately 1,530.<sup>6</sup> The Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA) is located in MCOE and covers the entire county. As of this writing, 136 students had Individualized Education Plans. MCOE also runs several alternative schools that serve approximately 26 students.

The majority of those clients in Modoc County speak English; however, there is a large Spanish speaking population in the Newell area within the Migrant camp.

Child Welfare has one Social Worker and Probation has one Officer both of whom are bilingual (Spanish/English) to serve those clients who do not speak English as their first language.

In Modoc County for the population of five years and speaking only the English Language is 86.7%; speaking a language other than English 13.3% and Spanish speaking only 11.8%.<sup>7</sup>

There are four recognized tribal nations in Modoc County and a number of non-recognized bands. Fort Bidwell is a reservation in the northeastern corner of the county. The tribal offices in Fort Bidwell house the tribal ICWA worker. The Cedarville Rancheria is located in Surprise Valley with tribal offices in Alturas. The Alturas Rancheria is just outside Alturas and operates a small casino and event center. The headquarters for the Pit River Nation is in Burney, California, in Shasta County, but they provide services to tribal members in Modoc County, including ICWA.

<sup>5</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/stats/06>

<sup>6</sup> [www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html](http://www.homefacts.com/unemployment/California/Modoc-County.html)

<sup>7</sup> <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

## **CHILD MALTREATMENT INDICATORS**

Modoc County has a low population as compared to their geographical size. It has been determined that the population of Modoc County is represented by two and half people per square mile. This leaves Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation having challenges meeting the needs of families and children that reside in smaller remote surrounding towns. Often providing services to families and children who live in the remote towns surrounding Alturas is a challenge. This can prevent services provided to families. Which in return these small numbers

skew our county’s outcome data reports. One child or family can result in outcome measure results lower or higher than Federal and State standards.

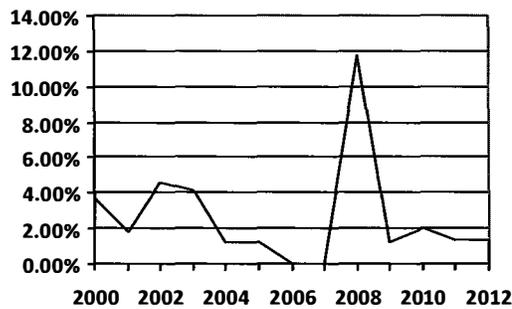
Modoc County is a medically underserved County which can be detrimental to populations that require medical intervention such as elderly and newborns. Modoc Medical Center has a skilled nursing facility and family practice medical clinic and the only emergency room in Modoc County. The emergency room is limited to what can be offered mainly due to the actual physical structure of the hospital. For example the hospital is not allowed to deliver babies unless the mother is in active labor and it is an emergency. Due to the low number of births at the Modoc Medical Center there is no Ob/GYN or doctor that specializes in pregnancy. Most pregnant mothers travel to Lakeview or Klamath Falls, Oregon, Fall River Mills, California, for their prenatal care and delivery. If a family is of low socioeconomic status they often do not have transportation to make their appointments. Also the State of Oregon does not take Medi-Cal so most people who are on Medi-Cal travel to Fall River Mills for the prenatal appointments. There is no public transportation; therefore families often have difficulty seeking prenatal care. This negatively affects the child as well as the mother and possibly leading to the child having high medical needs and or low birth rate.

Modoc County Birth Report for 2012

Births in Oregon	Births in California Hospitals (Not in Alturas)	Births at Modoc Medical Center
45	31	0
	Total Births from Modoc County residents: 76	

Out of the 76 births reviewed in 2012, 58 women entered prenatal care during their first trimester and 15 women had less than 8 prenatal visits. Also, five infants were born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces). In 2012, there is a total of four births, three of these were from mothers aged 18 to 19 years of age and one from a mother who was 17 years of age or younger.

The number of births for 18-19 year olds is similar to that of previous years. The number of births to ≤17year olds appears to be typical as well and still significantly lower than 2008. Comparing the number of teen births ≤17 years as a percent of total county births is as follows:



One does have to note that our birth numbers are small, and can vary considerably from year to year, so data obtained in one year can be misleading.

Entry into care in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester was **76%**. Entry into care has varied from a low of 67.5% in 2009 and a high of 82% in 2011. Comparison to other years is as follows:

The percentage of women receiving 7 prenatal appointments or less is **20%**. This number remains higher than we would like. There continues to be barriers to receiving adequate prenatal care for many women due to time off work, travel time, and travel expenses. This issue remains a priority for Public Health. The newborn complication rate this year was **12%**. Of the two complications specifically noted on the birth certificates involved assisted ventilation just after delivery and NICU admissions.

The above information was received from 2012 birth certificates, and was provided by Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Director at Modoc County Public Health.

Employment in Modoc County consists of government agencies, county, self-employment and the small amount of jobs that are supported by the local stores and restaurants.

Monthly Labor Force Data for Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP)  
December 2013- Preliminary  
Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Modoc County	3,670	3,280	390	10.6%
Alturas City	1,130	960	170	14.7%

State of California Employment and Development Department <http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county/modoc.htm>

Approximately 16.4% of families and 21.5% of the population are below the poverty line, including 29.7% of those under age 18 and 8.6% of the age 65 or over.

The overall culture in Modoc County is unique in regards to a strong drinking and drug culture. Modoc County has land that is vacant within the Modoc National Forest, providing an environment for marijuana cultivation. This environment attracts people that engage in drug use

and illegal behavior. Often when parents engage in substance abuse there is an increased risk that the child is at risk of adverse experiences and negative outcomes, both short and long term.

Families in which one or both parents have substance use disorders, and particularly families with an addicted parent, often experience a number of other problems that affect parenting, including mental illness, unemployment, high levels of stress, and impaired family functioning, all of which can put children at risk for maltreatment (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2005). A child's basic needs, including nutrition, supervision, and nurturing, may go unmet due to parental substance use, resulting in neglect. Depending on the extent of the substance use and lack of positive parenting skills, abuse can also include physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

There are many factors that lead to child maltreatment. The factors that are in Modoc County are also in other counties in California. The difference is that there are often not enough or appropriate services available to ensure that families are able to make changes within their life. Such as employment opportunities, alcohol and drug services, transportation, domestic violence services and transportation. Having limited services in these areas exacerbates family issues and creates a higher risk of children to be maltreated. Not all parents who live in poverty abuse their children or engage in substance abuse but there are indications that having a high percent of people living in poverty makes a higher possibility that a child is maltreated. Maltreatment of children occurs when there is trigger or stressor in the family's life. Sometimes these triggers or stressors are situational and are often difficult to overcome such as poverty or substance abuse.

## **CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION POPULATION**

When a child enters into Foster Care through the Child Welfare System he or she is a victim of physical, emotional, sexual or general neglect. A child who enters foster care through probation has to have violated the law and/or be the result of family dysfunction (out of control juvenile) that has come to the attention of law enforcement who in turn releases the youth to the Probation Officer. It also must be determined by either the Social Worker or Probation Officer that it is in the child's best interest to enter foster care. Sometimes there are children who are a victim of child abuse and also break the law resulting in a Section 241.1 Welfare and Institutions Code, Dual Jurisdiction. When this occurs Child Welfare and Probation work together to create a plan to ensure the child's safety as well as implementing reunification.

The table below indicated the number of children 0-17 who enter Foster Care July1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

City	Child Population	Child with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Child
Modoc	1,709	12	7.0
Alturas	1,188	7	5.9
Cedarville	150	1	6.7
Non Geocoded City not specified		4	

University of California at Berkeley, Center for Social Services Research [www.cssr.berkeley.edu](http://www.cssr.berkeley.edu)

The main portion of children entering Foster Care are located within Alturas which is the County seat but there are children that reside in non-identified towns within the County that also enter Foster Care. Due to their location and remoteness they do not receive the services necessary to ensure that the family's issues that led to detention are addressed to the level necessary. One could correlate the high level of reentry following reunification to the remoteness of the county and the difficulty of providing families with the necessary tools to implement change within their home. Another factor that may increase the likelihood of reentry is the lack of quality services available in the area. It was identified during the stakeholder's meeting that a challenge within all departments in Modoc County is recruiting people with education and or license to perform jobs such as social workers, alcohol and drug counselors, clinicians and health care providers.

Currently, Modoc County as a whole is seeking outside resources to recruit qualified staff in surrounding areas. Specifically, Child Welfare utilizes Merit Systems Services to recruit for all positions. At this point in time salaries within Modoc County are significantly lower than surrounding or comparable counties, making it difficult to entice qualified applicants

That data that indicates reentry rates for Modoc County fluctuates, which can be an indication of internal leadership changes but in 2008 4 out of 18 children who were reunified with their parents reentered foster care. The table below indicates the comparison of 2007 to 2013, indicating the amount of referrals received, substantiated and children entered into foster care.

Measure:	01/01/07 to 12/31/07	01/01/12/ to 12/31/12
PR : Referral Rates	106	97
PR: Substantiation Rates	20.4%	23.4%

Participation Rates: rate per 1,000; c1.2 and c2.2: median (months: composites: estimated score  
C.D.S.S./UC Berkley California Child Welfare Indictors Project (CCWIP) [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

Placement Type	10/01/07 to 09/30/08	10/01/12 to 09/30/13
FFA	85.7	57.1
Family Placement	14.3%	42.9%

Participation Rates: rate per 1,000; c1.2 and c2.2: median (months: composites: estimated score  
C.D.S.S./UC Berkley California Child Welfare Indictors Project (CCWIP) [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

The table above indicates that there was a decrease in FFA placements and increase in family placements. During the time frame safety plans were implemented within the department which decreased the number of substantiated referrals being acted on. When a substantiated referral was acted on it often was resolved with a family placement due to the limited number of foster homes in the community. Modoc County currently has three licensed Foster Care Homes which were originally licensed under Mt. View Foster Family Agency. Mt. View Foster Family Agency closed resulting in the homes being licensed by Community Care Licensing. Due to the low number of Foster Care Placements children are often placed in surrounding towns, such as Susanville, Redding, Portola or Litchfield, all in California. Placement within these areas results in the children changing educational placements and missing a lot of school in order to attend his or her court ordered visitation with the parents. Also facilitating services from that distance is very difficult and not effective. T.E.A.C.H Inc. is applying to become a licensed Foster Family Agency. This will strongly increase the number of foster care homes as well as strengthen the services that families receive. T.E.A.C.H also runs the ILP, Parents Plus program, Crisis Center, C.A.S.A., and subsidized daycare. These services offered are increasing access to services for foster youth.

This is also true for probation as the closest Juvenile Hall currently is also in Susanville. Juveniles are transported to Susanville and stay through the duration of their time spent in juvenile hall. Long term committed youth have a difficult time transitioning back to Alturas and adapting to different service providers. Often Juveniles are successful in Juvenile Hall and return to an environment that requires transitional time to a group home or the parents' home. The probation officer facilitates this transition with a case plan while engaging the youth with services providers. When parents are not a part of the behavioral plan for the minor they cannot continue with implementation of the behavioral plan.

The following analysis of Probation data is intended to reflect the reasons families enter the system and to make sure their needs are met so the youth are less likely to re-enter. Probation has between two and nine youth in foster care at any given time. During the time of the Peer Review and this writing, the current number of youth with a foster care placement order is seven. Approximately one-third of the youth who are placed through probation have had previous Child Welfare history. In the past, few were removed and placed through Child Welfare.

Time Period	Placements per year	Average Ethnicity	Average Age	Average Placement Type	ICWA/Tribal Affiliated
2013	6	White	15-17	Group Home	1
2012	1	Native American	11-15	Kinship	1
2011	7	White	16-17	Group Home	0
2010	5	White	16-17	Group Home	0

\*\*Data collected from the Berkeley website: [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

The majority of placements since Modoc County's last CSA in 2009, have been related to substance abuse and violence (assault and battery most common), as well as the majority of placement youth suffering from mental health issues.

The trend in placement youth for probation has not change significantly on average since 2009, with the lowest number of placements being in 2012.

Opened Juvenile Cases for Juveniles to Probation						
Year	Number of opened cases in Probation	Referred to Juvenile Probation	Referred to Juvenile Traffic	Misdemeanor Total	Felony Total	All other infraction or traffic violations
2013	47	20	27	7	13	27
2012	71	33	38	19	9	43
2011	75	51	22	26	10	39
2010	77	47	30	16	26	35

Modoc County Probation Department records

The average number of law enforcement reports received by probation per year is approximately 30-50. In some cases, several reports are received in relation to one case, due to some situations requiring the involvement of more than one agency. Furthermore, in cases involving co-offenders, one report is received for each juvenile involved. The report is only considered once when calculating the total number of reports received by law enforcement.

Of the reports received by law enforcement, the majority of the reports are reviewed by the District Attorney's office. Of the reports referred to the District Attorney, the majority result in formal petitions being filed and enter the delinquent arena of the Court. Very few are referred back with no charges filed. The remaining reports are referred to traffic court or handled informally. Those reports typically involve minor traffic offenses, minor marijuana infractions, and curfew.

On average, the probation caseload averages 15-30 juveniles. However, those numbers include all types of supervision (informal, formal, Deferred Entry of Judgment, Wardship, and placement).

The most common referred offenses involve vandalism, burglary, theft, assault and battery. Upon referral of those offenses, it is often found the offenses also involved the youth being under the influence of drugs and or alcohol, or have found substance abuse to be an issue for those referred juveniles.

The majority of youth offenders are referred after receipt of a law enforcement report. However, a small percentage of juveniles are arrested and brought directly to probation. In those cases, depending on the severity of the crime, the status of the youth, and the safety of the youth and community, some are detained in juvenile hall, while others are released to a parent or responsible adult with supervision conditions. The average age of juvenile in-custody youth is 16 years, with the highest age of 18 years and the lowest being 11 years.

In-custody Youth for Probation					
Year	Number of In-custody Youth	Youth Transported to Juvenile Hall	Youth released to parent/responsible adult	Number of Male In-custody	Number of Female In-custody
2013	26	16	10	19	7

Modoc County Probation Department records

## Public Agency Characteristics

### **POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS**

During the stakeholder meeting it was identified that in the past Modoc County has created many great working collaborative networks that resulted in positive outcomes for clients. These collaborative networks were identified by the stakeholders as the following:

- Strengthening Families Program
- Juvenile Delinquency Court
- Healthy Beginnings
- Family Wellness Court
- Katie A Implementation Team
- Community Collaborative

These collaborative networks have been terminated Due to prior leadership philosophies. Since November 2013 it has been the goal of Social Services to implement new collaborative networks

that are positive for clients. Recently, Family Wellness Court, Healthy Beginnings, Katie A. Implementation Team, Strengthening Families have been implemented and a representative from Child Welfare participates in Juvenile Delinquency Court and Community Collaborative. As a whole, Modoc County Department of Social Services is in a rebuilding stage resulting in new organization of the organizational chart, hiring staff and training all staff. Historically Child Welfare has prior issues with implementing intervention with substantiated referrals. It is the goal of Child Welfare at this time to not only train staff on the Division 31 mandated requirements but reorganizing the department so there are checks and balances implemented to ensure that not only work that is performed is recorded within the CWS/CMS system but that one person in the department is responsible for monitoring CWS outcomes.

Modoc County Probation Department has had leadership that that has not changed but it has been identified that they are understaffed. Not only with support staff but also probation officers that can visit children in out of home detention or placement. This problem has increased recently due to the loss of the only juvenile probation officer who had over five years' experience.

#### **Board of Supervisors:**

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the County and a number of special districts. The five members of the Board are elected on a non-partisan basis to serve a four year term. Each is selected from one of the five supervisorial districts of the county. Board members, in partnership with County staff, work to ensure the services and programs essential to the prosperity of Modoc County continue to be delivered.

#### **Tribal:**

There are four recognized tribal nations in Modoc County and a number of non-recognized bands. Fort Bidwell is a reservation in the northeastern corner of the county. The tribal offices in Fort Bidwell are used to house the ICWA worker and Alcohol and Drug Counselor, whose positions are currently vacant. Cedarville Rancheria is in Surprise Valley with tribal offices in Alturas. This Paiute tribe has recently encountered a very tragic murder of their chair members resulting in a complete reorganization of their tribe. Alturas Rancheria is located just outside Alturas and operates a small casino. The headquarters for the Pit River Nation is in Burney, Shasta County, but provide services to tribal members in Modoc County. All of these tribes receive health coverage services through Strong Family Health Services. Currently Strong Family Health Services does not provide direct care but ensures clients attend their necessary health appointments and the services are paid for.

#### **School Districts:**

There are three school districts within Modoc County, including, Modoc Joint Unified School District, Surprise Valley Joint Unified School District, and Tulelake Joint Unified School District. Each of these districts is overseen by Modoc County Office of Education (MCOE).

MCOE oversees the Stronghold Court School which is a school created to support Warner Mountains Group Home in Canby, California, which is approximately 20 miles from Alturas.

**Law Enforcement:**

Law enforcement agencies in the county include the Modoc County Sheriff’s Office, the Alturas Police Department, State Fish and Game enforcement officers, California Highway Patrol and Federal Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management enforcement officers who all provide law enforcement services in Modoc County.

**Superior Court:**

Modoc County Superior Court consists of two Superior Court Judges in Modoc County on alternating days of the week. Under the umbrella of the Superior Court there are: Juvenile Delinquency Court, Adult Drug Court, Family Dependency Court and Family Wellness Court. Each of these courts requires the attendance and participation of one or both of the judges and collaborative efforts of service providers in the community. Child Welfare and Probation staff have an excellent working relationship with court staff and judges.

**Cities:**

Alturas is a classic “one traffic signal town,” a flashing red light at a four-way stop where Highways 395 and 299 intersect. However, businesses and the community support many local projects for youth and activities such as Little League baseball, soccer, boy scouts, and middle school and high school sports. Also special interest clubs of Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H. The community also supports several service organizations including two Rotary Clubs with approximately sixty members.

**COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Child Welfare Services (CWS) is a division within the Modoc County Department of Social Services (DSS). The division is made of one Social Worker Supervisor II, four social workers, one systems support analyst, and one clerical support person. CWS contracts with an attorney for consultation and representation in Dependency matters. Currently DSS is rebuilding and now has an Interim Director appointed. The Social Worker Supervisor reports to the Interim Director.

The Social Workers report to the Social Worker Supervisor and is only responsible for Child Welfare cases. These Child Welfare functions include:

- Emergency Response
- Family Reunification
- Family Maintenance
- Permanent Placement

These functions include court report writing and court appearances which often result in the Social Worker having to testify. The Social Workers are also responsible for entering all information in the CWS/CMS system.

Currently the four Social Workers consist of Social Worker III, II and I. One of these Social Workers is bilingual and the rest are English speaking only. It has recently been identified during rebuilding planning meetings that a Program Manager position is needed within the Child Welfare Department as well as the APS, IHSS, and PG programs which are housed with Child Welfare. This proposal is going to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors at the next BOS meeting. It is planned that when the Department is short staffed that the Supervisor can carry a case load and the Program Manager can approve the CWS/CMS actions.

The Modoc County Probation Department is a branch of the Modoc County Superior Court. The Department is headed by the Chief Probation Officer who oversees two juvenile officers and one adult officer (Assistant Chief Probation Officer) and one probation technician who serves as front office staff. There are also two on-call transport persons. The Chief Probation Officer also has administrative responsibility for the Modoc County CalWORKS program, which is located within the same building. The Chief Probation Officer is appointed by the Court with the Board of Supervisors allocating money from the General Fund for the operation of the Department. However, due to recent newly created funding streams at this time the Probation Department is completely funded by monies generated from Public Safety Realignment, SB 678 (Adult Felon Services) and Juvenile Probation and Camps funding and as such are not currently receiving monies from the General Fund. The Chief Probation Officer is currently the only bilingual (Spanish/English) officer. The Assistant Chief Probation Officer handles an adult case load and is supervisor to the Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the juvenile case load to include placements. The third Deputy Probation Officer is a new hire and currently is assigned to both adult and juvenile case loads. The Juvenile Officer is responsible for entering information into the CWS/CMS system and when necessary the Assistant Chief Probation Officer will perform any CWS/CMS supervisory functions. Acquiring probation specific CWS/CMS training has proved difficult.

After hours, the Assistant Chief Probation Officer and the two Deputy Probation Officers provide coverage for juveniles in law enforcement custody. Each officer takes a 7 day rotation as Modoc County does not have a juvenile hall. Therefore, the on call Probation Officer has to facilitate the booking process.

### **FINANCIAL/MATERIAL RESOURCES**

Department of Social Services does not receive County General Funds. All funding received for Modoc County Child Welfare Services is received by AB 118 Realignment Child Welfare Services and Child Welfare Services Sub Account. These funds were expanded for Fiscal Year 2013-14 to pursuant to SB 1020 to reflect Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (Kin-GAP)

savings for the extended Foster Care (FC) program and Title IV-E. Fiscal year 20012-13 CAPIT, CBCAP, PSSF funds were not applied for or utilized due to prior leadership philosophy. Currently it is anticipated that these OCAP funds will be utilized to fund prevention programs in Modoc County.

It is projected that the Department of Social Services will spend all of the CWS allocation and augmentation. OCAP funds are allocated and a portion of the funds will be utilized to reinstate the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Probation funding is derived from the County General Fund monies augmented by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), Juvenile Probation Camp Funding (JCPF), the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), the Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act (Prop 36), AB90, TANF and Title IV-E.

At this time the Probation Department only utilizes CWSOIP funds to pay for the family finding tool (LexisNexis) as this Department has in the past received conflicting information as to how those funds may be spent. However, this issue is something the probation department hopes to rectify for the next fiscal year. Therefore, in the interim, another funding source, Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), was used to pay for additional services and case plan activities to those youth and families who are Title IV-E eligible. These services included fuel to parents for visitation with their child who are placed both in and out of county, psychological evaluation of youth to determine needs to ensure appropriate services and placement are provided, facilitating site visits and family visits, trainings, additional clothing when needed and evidence based programming materials and supplies.

Independent Living Program Funds are used to provide ILP services for Probation and Child Welfare foster youth. ILP funds are not only personal support and monthly classes, but also for clothing, job readiness, work related expenses, driver's license classes, apartment/dorm furnishings, school related expenses and transportation if it applies to the youth's daily living plan. Each youth also receives a money incentive for participating in ILP services and meeting said requirements. Probation maintains a collaborative working relationship with the ILP Coordinator who provides critical support to the youth and the probation officer which serves as a tremendous asset to all involved. The ILP Coordinator often travels with the Probation Officer during site visits so they maintain contact with the youth to ensure their needs continue to be met. This also applies to those youth placed out of county.

### **CHILD WELFARE/PROBATION OPERATED SERVICES**

County Operated Shelters: Modoc County does not have a shelter.

County Licensing: Modoc County has three Licensed Foster Care Homes. These homes were initially licensed through Mt. View Foster Family Agency which is no longer in business. It is the goal of CWS to be able to certify Foster homes within the department. This is necessary

because there is no one local to certify or monitor foster family homes. As a result they currently are licensed through community Care Licensing housed in Chico, CA. When there is an emergency placement the county relies on these three Certified Foster Homes which are currently full with long term placements.

County Adoptions: The CDSS Adoptions District Office located in the City of Chico provides adoptions services including assessments, home studies, paperwork finalization and payment determinations through a contract with Modoc County Social Services.

The Probation Department utilizes a Delinquency Court Program for youth at risk for group home placement; however, at the time of this writing the program is on hiatus due to low referral numbers coupled with these numbers were youth who were in need of a higher level of treatment and care that was not available at a county level and thus had to be removed and placed in group homes. A variety of services are provided including individual counseling for the youth, family counseling, behavioral health, Independent Living Program (ILP) services, alcohol and drug, Strengthening Families, and parenting classes. The Probation Department also coordinates with the school in other matters to include IEPs. In 2013, only two youth were served.

The Probation Department also has an in-house certified Domestic Violence/Batterers Intervention Program provider who follows and implements an Evidence Based treatment program. This service is also accessed by Child Welfare.

Modoc County is one of the nine California counties that do not have a juvenile detention facility. Extraordinary county resources are devoted to out-of-county placement for juveniles that, by the nature of their offenses, absolutely require detention in a locked facility or require incarceration. The long travel distance to detention facilities, with the closest being approximately 104 miles one way and the furthest being 163 miles one way, further tax scarce resources.

While in out-of-county detention, youthful offender rehabilitation programs that involve intervention with families that have the potential to reduce recidivism are not likely to be as effective due to the distance and infrequent contact between the youth and his/her family. However, if applicable, the youth will receive alcohol and drug and mental health counseling. Due to the fact the youth is incarcerated out of county, continuing treatment programs involving county agencies (behavioral health, continuing medical treatment, vocations services and job placement, etc.) cannot be initiated while the youth is in custody and must be deferred until the youth returns to the county. The treatment program is initiated by a case plan created by the Probation Officer and the youth.

#### **OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS**

Child Welfare and Probation work in conjunction with Public Health, specifically the Foster Care Nurse, who provides medical case management: evaluates client care plans; confers with physicians and other professional staff regarding the youth condition and health care needs. Due

to this service, youth receive timely annual physical and dental appointments. The medical information is entered into the CWS/CMS system by the Foster Care Nurse. The Foster Care Nurse and the Social Worker or Probation Officer update the Health and Education Passport for each foster youth, and provide copies to the youth and placement provider as needed.

## State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

Modoc County Child Welfare Services is participating in Katie A. / Core Practices Model and Fostering Connections After 18 Program.

### Katie A. / Core Practices Model:

Modoc County is behind on their Katie A. planning. This is due to changes within Administration and severed relationships between Department of Social Services and Modoc County Behavioral Health. Since November 2013, Modoc County Behavioral Health and Child Welfare has had planning meetings, created a referral system, and holds monthly staff meetings to ensure that all CWS children are being served. Due to the limited number of children that fall under the category of receiving services every child over the age of two years old is referred to Behavioral Health for an assessment. Since this new network collaboration, there have been six foster children who have completed a mental health evaluation by a licensed LCSW. If identified at assessment, the child is referred to a health evaluation or continued counseling.

### Fostering Connections After 18 Program:

Modoc County began providing after 18 services to youth in January of 2012. So far this process has served, Probation 2, Child Welfare 2. The collaboration to serve these students includes the basic collaborative within the service providing scope. The Social Worker or Probation, Non-Minor Dependent (NMD), and ILP Coordinator work together to assess the NMD's needs to determine what type of services they qualify for. During the stakeholder meeting it was identified that the lack of transitional housing is an issue because often NMD's do not qualify for a Supervised Independent Living Plan (SILP). If a NMD does not qualify for a SILP the options for their living situation is limited. In the past, this has resulted in NMD's moving into an alternate living situation that he or she may not have been ready for. It has been determined by Child Welfare that if the NMD does not qualify for a SILP then we can help create an alternate living situation that resembles a SILP but they have a payee or they live with someone that is appropriate and will monitor the NMD as a transitional housing unit would.

The Probation Officer meets with the AB12 youth as needed in addition to the required monthly contact, to assist in their transition and independence. The Probation Officer and ILP

Coordinator often meet together with the youth, to maintain open communication and collaboration, to ensure the youth is provided with the support and services he or she needs to succeed. Probation helps provide the youth with transportation to and from appointments, job searching, residency searching, and meetings. Probation also assists the AB12 youth in filling out paperwork for services (Cal-Fresh, Department of Motor Vehicles, Schools, Employment, and other community assistance programs). The Probation Officer and/or ILP Coordinator will attend any meetings with the youth as needed for support or assistance.

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

### **THE BOS-DESIGNATED PUBLIC AGENCY**

The BOS designated public agency is Modoc County Department of Social Services to administer the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF programs. During the fiscal year 2012-2013, Department of Social Services did not receive these funds due to not complying with reporting mandates. This was due to prior leadership philosophies. However, since that time, reporting mandates have been met and CBCAP funding has been received. In prior years Modoc County Department of Social Services contracted with TEACH Inc. to facilitate services such as parenting classes, Child Abuse Prevention Council and a family service worker who was housed in the Child Welfare Department.

These funds have been applied for fiscal year 13-14 and implementation of services will occur when the needs of the county are identified. Currently and fiscal year 12-13 parenting classes continued to be a service that was provided to clients through TEACH Inc. by a contract from Department of Social Services. This funding came from a different area other than CAPIT and CBCAP.

### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (CAPC)**

As of 2011 the Child Abuse Prevention Council stopped convening when the funding was not received during fiscal year 12-13. Since then it has not been implemented because of reorganization within the Department of Social Services Department. Currently it is the goal of Modoc County Department of Social Services to reinstate the Child Abuse Prevention Council to monitor the Children's Trust Fund, CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF.

### **COUNTY CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND COMMISSION, BOARD OR COUNCIL**

In the past the Child Abuse Prevention Council was the oversight committee for the Children's Trust Fund. This currently is monitored by the Department of Social Services.

## **PSSF COLLABORATIVE**

The Department of Social Services has been designated by the Board of Supervisors to Administer PSSF funds. In the past, the PSSF funds were overseen by the Child Abuse Prevention Council and used to fund a Family Service Worker Position housed at Department of Social Services. This Family Service Worker was hired by the County as a Social Worker I and the position has not been filled. This position is being reconfigured and will be joined with the parenting specialist position at T.E.A.C.H. Inc.

## Systemic Factors

### **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Modoc County Child Welfare is a “dedicated” county within the CWS/CMS system. This system tracks everything a Social Worker completes with a client. The county has nine work stations used by Social Workers, support staff, and administration. There are also two laptops that are used by the supervisor. Currently there is a staff member that has been the systems support analyst since CWS/CMS was installed. This staff member is available to other staff for problem solving and input issues. In 2003, Child Welfare invested in SafeMeasures® as a management tool. This management tool is a quality assurance software system that records and analyzes data, and links the data to key performance and federal outcome measures. Child Welfare also uses Structured Decision Making which is a tool to help a Social Worker assess risk.

Probation staff is also required to use the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) to document basic case related functions as they apply to placements.

CWS/CMS is a system that California Department of Social Services implements and utilizes to monitor counties. It is also a system that is beneficial to social workers because he or she can utilize the system to monitor their cases and ensure that they are meeting their monthly requirements, such as social worker planned contacts. Training for all the programs mentioned above is provided by the Northern Training Academy.

In 2013, Modoc County Probation Department went “live” with an updated version of our web based case management system called Justware. It supports all Adult and Juvenile case activity including: probationer profiles, victims, probation contact information, charges, dispositions/sentencing, biographical information, court hearings and probation orders. It is anticipated the new case management system will provide the ability to extract some data to assist in measuring outcomes and to determine what programs are most effective in reducing recidivism.

In addition to the new case management system, in 2012 Probation Officers were trained to use the evidence based risk assessment tool, Assessments.com, which is an evidence-based approached to the supervision of youth that offers staff an effective and easy to use interface to assess risk and needs of youth. The assessment tool helps the Probation Officer create a case plan for the youth that is directed to their needs, and helps to eliminate referring youth to programs or services that may be detrimental to their rehabilitation, or may not address the more serious issues the youth may be facing. Furthermore, the assessment tool is useful for service providers working with the youth to have a clearer idea of the youth's needs and current state. It provides collaboration between entities and probation, to ensure the youth is receiving the most out of their services and full support.

In regards to the assessment tool, should the Probation Officer receive an influx of juvenile offenders during a short span of time or a high and demanding caseload, these scenarios create a data entry issue for the Probation Officer, with respect to finding time for each assessment, as there is only one juvenile officer to supervise a juvenile caseload while doing daily data entry work.

Modoc County Probation also utilizes the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool II (JSORRAT-II). This assessment is required to be completed on all male sex offenders to assist in determining the level of recidivism risk and supervision.

### **CASE REVIEW SYSTEM**

#### **Court Structure/Relationship:**

Modoc County Superior Court has two full-time judges who hear all cases, including civil, criminal, family law, juvenile (dependency and delinquency) and probate. There is one contracted public defender and five private attorneys. When the private attorneys accept a court appointed case the contracted rate applies. All represent parents and other parties in juvenile court. A contract attorney represents the Child Welfare cases. There is a CASA program and a majority of dependents have a CASA volunteer assigned to them.

#### **Modoc County Child Welfare System:**

Timely notification – The County provides foster parents, Tribes, pre-adoptive parents and relative caregivers of children in foster care with notice of the opportunity to be heard in any review held with respect to the child in their care.

Notice of Hearings are generated from the CWS/CMS computer system and sent by the Social Services Department. The Department is aware of the need for timely notification and meets the requirements. The Probation Department utilizes the Martin Dean Essential Publishers court forms that are updated every six months and sends notices within the set time limits.

Modoc County follows the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 290.1-297 for the noticing of parents, legal guardians, child, if the child is 10 years of age or older, attorneys and sub-care providers.

### General Case Planning and Review:

The County meets the requirements for having a written case plan within 60 calendar days of the in-person investigation or initial removal. Case plans are reviewed every six months or earlier if necessary.

Child Welfare has taken the information from the CWS/CMS case plan function and created a user-friendly template for the initial case plan. The document is divided into the required categories and allows the Social Worker to gather the necessary data.

Distance is a barrier to timely development and review of case plans; for example, if the child is placed out of the county or the parents live in a more remote part of the county. This requires organization and coordination on the part of the Social Worker to incorporate the update of case plans into the monthly face-to-face contacts with the child, or scheduling with the parents.

It is the desire and intent of the Department that clients be involved in the definition of the problem statement and the identification of appropriate services to be included in their case plan. If a client should refuse to participate in the development of their case plan or to sign it, the Department creates the case plan and documents the reason for the parental refusal to sign.

### Modoc County Probation Juvenile Court System:

The District Attorney represents the Probation Department as he/she is the signatory on submitted petitions.

The Probation Department has maintained a professional and friendly working relationship with the Court and continues to maintain an open line of communication. The same can be said of defense counsel and such communication works in the best interest of the juvenile.

As with Child Welfare, distance is also a barrier to timely development and review of case plans. Often the juvenile is placed out of county or the parents live in a more remote part of the county. This issue creates an added challenge for the Probation Department system to deal with.

The Modoc County Probation Department meets the requirements for written case plans within 60 calendar days of the investigation (intake) or the initial removal of the youth from the home. During the investigation process the Probation Officer develops the case plan with the youth and parent(s)/guardian(s) based on information disclosed in the social history interview as well as taking into account the type of crime committed. All Officers are trained in Motivational Interviewing skills which is important to the validity of the assessment tool. In utilizing the tool, it can assist the officer in creating a rapport with the youth in hopes of reducing recidivism and strengthen the family. At a minimum of every six months the case plans are reviewed and updated with the youth and family. Case plans are also updated when a need is later identified. In the delinquency arena of the Court, dispositional and placement review reports are filed in a timely manner. Placement review reports outline the progress of the youth and family and include the next date for the next six month hearing.

## **FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

Modoc County Department of Social Services does not license foster homes nor does the Probation Department. In the past there was a one foster family agency that took care of recruiting, training, certifying foster families. Currently there are three Certified Foster Family Homes in Modoc County and they are licensed through Community Care Licensing in Chico, California.

It is the future goal of T.E.A.C.H Inc. to become a licensed foster family agency. The anticipation is that this will increase the number of foster homes in Modoc County. If a child is currently removed from his or her parent and the current three foster homes are full, the child could be placed as far as away as Portola or Redding, California. This makes reunification a challenge as well as making the child change schools.

Foster Parents are included in any training that Child Welfare hosts that is appropriate and meets the ongoing training needs of the Foster Parent.

## **STAFF, CAREGIVER AND SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING**

Modoc County has reinstated a "Grow your Own" initiative. In the past the MCDSS and other Northern Welfare Directors worked together with the Modoc Health Services Director another Behavioral Health Directors and California State University of Chico to develop distance and online educational opportunities and career pathways using MHSA (Prop 36) and Title IV-E Funds. During the rebuilding of Social Services this has been identified as a positive outcome for Modoc County because quality trained Social Workers are hired but in payment for their bachelors or master's degree they commit to multiple one, two or even three years of working for Child welfare to repay their debt.

When a Social Worker is hired, it is required that he or she complete a Core I program within the first year of employment. This is also true for the Social Worker Supervisor. There is a Core II requirement that is started within the second year of employment as a Social Worker II. All training is provided by Northern California Research and Training Academy through UC Davis Extension. Not only does the Northern California Research and Training Academy provide Core Training but they provide training focusing on an array of topics pertaining to Child Welfare. A majority of these trainings require travel to Davis, Redding or Willows. Recently there has been no trainings that are held in house, currently there is a CWS/CMS training scheduled in house in May 2014. Also there has been a contract created with the Northern California Research and Training Academy to provide multiple in house trainings to all staff and collaborative partners.

Probation Officers are required by the State Board of Corrections to obtain forty hours of training every fiscal year. New Officers are mandated to complete a 200 hour core course, which also requires travel out of the area, sometimes as far as Santa Rosa, California.

However, most of the trainings involving juvenile placement is sought through the Northern California Research and Training Academy and The Center for Human Services Resource Center for Family Focused Practice, both through UC Davis Extension.

It is the hope of the Probation Department to share in trainings in this arena with Child Welfare.

### **AGENCY COLLABORATION**

In the past Modoc County Social Services has had a close working relationship with Probation and Health Services. Recently this relationship was strained but is currently being reinstated by creating MOU's and regularly scheduling meetings to discuss clients and administrative issues. The reinstatement of the Family Wellness Court, Katie A, and Healthy Beginnings has been instrumental for increasing the collaborative network between Behavioral Health and the Courts. During the Stakeholder's meeting it was identified that these programs worked well and needed to be reinstated. This process has started quickly and smoothly. Modoc County Department of Social Services has also implemented a planning team to guide and support Social Services during the rebuilding process. This planning team consists of Behavioral Health, Public Health, Cal Works, Probation, Modoc Superior Courts, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., Treatment Court Coordinator, and Marta Mackenzie a contracted employee, former Shasta County Health Services, Director. There is not only a collaborative effort to support Social Services during this time of rebuilding but service providers have a strong sense of collaboration to serve clients at a higher level than most recent years.

Collaboration with public and private agencies MCDSS, has a close relationship with Probation and Behavioral Health Services, with MOUs in place and regularly scheduled meetings to discuss clients and administrative issues. The development of the Drug Treatment Court system has been instrumental in increasing interaction and trust. The Drug Court Steering committee is composed of all the Department heads of the court involved agencies including Probation and Child Welfare, Parents Plus advocates and community agencies. They meet quarterly and address any collaboration issue that may arise.

### **SERVICE ARRAY**

T.E.A.C.H.: Alturas houses the largest community-based non-profit organization in Modoc County, Training, Employment and Community Help, Inc. (T. E.A.C.H., Inc.). Originally started by the Modoc County Office of Education (MCOE), it is now a separate 501 c.3 (American Tax Exempt Non-Profit Organization) that subcontracts with many agencies for a number of different programs for children and families.

T.E.A.C.H. operates a crisis intervention program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Services include a shelter, a peer counseling, emergency transportation, advocacy, accompaniment, walk-in center, emergency food and clothing, hospital room protocol and assistance, assistance with temporary restraining orders, rape prevention education, self-defense classes, support groups, 24-hour hotline and emergency response to law enforcement and

hospitals. T.E.A.C.H., Inc., also provides the community with a food bank, energy assistance, homeless shelter, and transportation.

T.E.A.C.H. is the childcare Resource and Referral agency, providing subsidized childcare for CalWORKS, Child Welfare Services and low-income working families. At the Early Head Start Program which houses School Readiness Initiative, and Welcome Baby! a prevention program for new mothers and babies.

T.E.A.C.H. operates a number of different programs including Parent Education Workshops, Independent Living Skills for foster youth and parenting classes.

The Modoc County Office of Education: The MCOE has a long history of proactive community involvement. MCOE oversees the Child and Family Resource Center, SEALs after school program, State Pre-School, and Stronghold Court School. Stronghold Court School is the education placement for youth who are placed at Warner Mountains Group Home.

Modoc County Health Services: Health Services is an agency composed of Alcohol and Drug Services, Mental Health Services and Public Health Services that are housed together in Alturas, providing services to residents of Modoc County. Each division provides services under contract to the state.

Alcohol and Drug Division (AOD): This division provides addiction recovery services. Among the activities provided are; day treatment, outpatient treatment, youth treatment, perinatal treatment and prevention activities: outreach to youth groups; involvement in the three drug treatment courts (Adult, Dependency and Delinquency); and treatment for family members. All of these activities hold promise for families who come to be involved with our child welfare system and probation. It is clear that the majority of cases involving abuse and neglect occur in families with substance abuse problems.

Mental Health Services (MHS): This division contracts with the state to provide specialty mental health services to the Medi-Cal eligible population of Modoc County. Services include outpatient treatment, acute care, hospitalization, mental health services, child psychiatry (though Tele-medicine), medication treatment and management, brokerage services and case management. The target population for most services must be Medi-Cal eligible; however, all residents qualify for emergency services.

The one area of long-standing concern in MHS when addressing the needs of children and their families has been our inability to hire a clinician trained in the treatment of family systems. Modoc County is a small rural county with limited resources which makes it difficult to recruit licensed professionals with special credentials.

An area of long-standing concern for the Probation Department is the lack of 5150 W&I adolescent placements available to Behavioral Health Services when declaring a juvenile a danger to themselves or others. The lack of level 14 placements and receiving a mental health patch to fiscally support the placement are also problems.

Public Health Division (PHS): This division emphasizes the health of the community and takes a number of steps to enhance the health of our youth. The most commonly recognized active undertakes is the immunization clinic. Modoc County joined a network of northern counties in creating a data bank that tracks the immunization records of all children in the 17 member counties. This makes it possible for any child's record to be assessed, with appropriate authorization, so that at any time a provider can determine if there is a need to further protect the child with another immunization.

PHS provides education and follow-up to pregnant women. Through the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program a public health nurse provides classes on healthy pregnancy, birthing, breast-feeding, early childhood care and education, etc. Working with other agencies in Modoc County, this nurse receives referrals for women who could benefit from this service. It is not unusual for families at risk of neglect and abuse to receive instruction from the nursing staff, thereby avoiding further involvement with Child Welfare or the justice system.

The Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) depends on the involvement of nurses for Provider Education, Quality Assurance and follow-up care/case management. Whenever neglect/abuse are at issue, a complete physical done by a physician is indicated. Should the child enter the foster care system and be placed outside their home, a public health nurse follows the health concerns of the child by building a Health and Education passport that will follow that child everywhere he/she is placed. This way, fewer children will have medical issues missed because of the need to protect them by removing them from their homes.

California Children's Services provides support and in some cases pays for transportation to treatment appointments of children with chronic, disabling conditions. The family of any child who qualifies will be helped with the paperwork involved in receiving treatment and as importantly, the cost of travel and stay to take the child to the necessary appointments for treatment. It is important to note that children who are disabled are at a higher risk of abuse.

The Tobacco Control and Cessation Program was the original springboard for the Teen Health Coalition. As part of PHS, the Tobacco program has been instrumental in getting out into the schools and community. The efforts of those health specialists afforded the entire department an opportunity to heighten student's awareness of issues of vital concern to them. This program works with any individual interested in quitting their involvement with tobacco.

The Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program uses information gathered from surveys done by a variety of agencies in Modoc County to compile a list of priorities for their residents. This program has also helped improve the percentage of low birth weight babies born to mothers in our county. The MCAH program coordinates its activities with other young child serving agencies like First Five Modoc, the Child Care Resource and Referral program, the Modoc Child Care Council, Early Head Start and others.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, high school aged residents are welcomed into a teen clinic where they can receive information on reproductive health. Younger children are

taught to wash their hands correctly and take care of their oral health. Every mother and child is targeted for nutritional information and obesity prevention.

CalWORKS: For eligible families CalWORKS provides employment and training services, mental health and alcohol and drug assessments, job skills development and literacy assessments.

Alliance for Workforce Development: is a collaborative employment focused agency funded by the Workforce Investment Act and including the state Employment Development Department and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. They also work closely with CalWORKS, MCDSS and local schools.

Modoc First Five: is the local Prop 10 agency. They provide funding to new and existing programs focused on early childhood education, child health and wellness and their own School Readiness Initiative.

Far Northern Regional Center: provides services to developmentally disabled children and adults with offices in Redding, 150 miles away. They provide eligibility determination, case management services, consultation, advocacy, some help with placement and independent living assistance for eligible adults.

Modoc County Drug Court System: Local interest in Drug Courts in Modoc County began in 1999 when a Judge and the Health Services Director formed an advisory group which has evolved into the present Drug Court/Prop 36 Steering Committee which oversees all of the present drug courts. Drug Courts are characterized by the combination of judicial authority and accountability with treatment and support. The drug court process brings together every two weeks treatment providers from a number of agencies to discuss the compliance and progress of drug court participants. This constant contact with shared goal has helped to create and sustain an environment where collaboration is the norm.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM**

Modoc County does not have a formal evaluation process for Child Welfare Services. Currently Child Welfare services utilize a checks and balances type of environment while utilizing CWS/CMS. Cases and Referrals are monitored by the supervisor electronically and with weekly staffing meetings. This ensures the agency's compliance with applicable statues and regulations. Currently there has been strong oversight from CDSS in regards to measures 2B measure, Timely Response (10day response compliance). The Department also utilizes Safe Measures, a quality assurance software system that records and analyzes data, and links the data to key performance and Federal outcomes measures. Social Workers also utilize a Structure Decision Making to ensure help analyze information that is received when child abuse is reported. This system ensures that the Social Workers provide a non-bias response to reports of child abuse. This system is currently utilized with every referral received.

## Critical Incident Review Process

In the past there has been a Child Death Review Team; however, currently there is not an active one due to the Child Abuse Prevention Counsel not being utilized. This will be initiated when funding is received.

## National Resource Center (NRC) Training and Technical Assistance

At this point in time Modoc Child Welfare is not accessing training and technical assistance through Federal partners at the Western Pacific Implementation Center and through the various National Resource Centers provided by the ACF, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During this rebuilding time within Modoc County Department of Social Services as a whole there are many avenues that are being utilized for training and accessing training and technical assistance through the identities above is definitely option in the future.

## Peer Review Results

### **FOCUS AREA**

The Modoc County 2013 Peer Review (formerly known as the PQCR or Peer Quality Case Review) was held in January 2014 as a collaborative effort of Modoc County Child Welfare Services and the Modoc County Probation Department. Peer Review interview teams were represented by Lassen, Siskiyou and Shasta County Child Welfare Departments and by Lassen, Siskiyou and Trinity Probation Departments.

During the analysis of outcomes for the CSA and the completion of the Peer Review, specific outcome measures were selected for Child Welfare and Probation.

- Child Welfare Focus Area: Reentry after Reunification
- The Probation Focus Area: Reunification within 12 Months

For Child Welfare, after reviewing data provided by CDSS there has been an increase in the amount of out of home placements that have occurred in Modoc County. Placements include

Kinship, Foster Family Agency (FFA) and Group Home and the amount of Kinship has increased as well as FFA placements. Comparing October 2008-2009 to October 2012-2013 FFA placements increased from 5 to 11. Also, Kinship placements increased from 0 to 3.

The monthly Summary Reports indicate that there is an increase in referrals received and responded to.

Summary Report Case and Client Demographics  
02/01/2014 to 02/28/2014

Case Services Component	County
Emergency Response	12
Family Maintenance	6
Family Reunification	7
Permanent Placement	1
Supportive Transition	2
	28

The specific case data results in the 42.86% of the month was spent on Emergency Response and 25% was spent on Family Reunification. When referrals are received they are evaluated by staffing as well as utilizing Structured Decision Making to determine if the alleged child abuse warrants an immediate response or a ten day response. If referrals are unfounded the parents or child is referred to services and it is the parent’s responsibility for implementation of the intervention. Services through Modoc Health Services, T.E.A.C.H. Inc., or Probation (Batterers Intervention) are usually offered. When child abuse is substantiated and requires court intervention then these services become court ordered. If there is substantiated child abuse but does not reach the level of court intervention then voluntary services are offered.

The Probation Department currently has seven open cases and averages between two and nine open cases at any given time. Because of the small caseload, the Juvenile Officer, who handles everything from intake to termination, also oversees the placement case load and is able to devote time to youth in placement and their families to ensure they receive the appropriate series to assist in a successful reunification and/or permanency/transition to adulthood. While most youth are successful while in placement, many return to homes and families that have only minimally implemented tools acquired from the service/treatment providers with whom they engage with through their case plans. In the past, there were approximately one-third of probation youth that had or should have had Child Welfare intervention. There are a few prior placement youth who were received by Probation that were closer to the age of 18 and therefore, did not have the span of time to work with the youth and family for an extended period of time. Unfortunately, they went on to enter the adult criminal arena. These youth were never taught the fundamentals by their parents who they themselves may have suffered from drug and alcohol and domestic violence abuse issues. These issues are compounded by the fact it is difficult for small counties to implement evidence-based practices when the behavioral and mental health infrastructure is minimal. In larger communities, several behavior health entities and private

organizations exist to refer youth and families. In Modoc County, we are relegated only to county behavioral health. Modoc County Probation focused on reunification within twelve months in hopes of sorting out both the strengths and barriers of the current supports offered to youth and families and with some direction on how to elicit positive change.

Probation selected two of the most complex cases to review during the Peer Review.

### **Findings:**

#### **Promising Practices for Child Welfare:**

- Committed Line Staff
- Line Staff accountability. Working for children's best interests.
- Strong teamwork within the department
- Current management listening to staff's concerns: Staff feel heard
- Have representation on Dependency Drug Court OR Family Wellness Court panel

#### **Promising Practices for Probation:**

- The Probation Officer had the case for the entire three years. Good continuity and relationship building.
- Committed staff
- Probation and ILP have a good working relationship
- Use of family finding
- Appropriate level of care
- Frequent check-in with local youth

#### **Barriers and Challenges for Child Welfare:**

- Need for additional staff
- Limited resources
- Minimal direction/more agency structure needed in the past
- Minimal supervisor support in the past
- No methods for problem solving/crisis resolution in the past
- Service providers limited expertise level (Alcohol and Drug and Mental Health)
- No case staffing
- No Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings
- Line staff overwhelmed with caseload
- No Differential Response (DR)
- No multidisciplinary collaboration

#### **Barriers and Challenges for Probation:**

- Limited local resources
- Tribes do not provide local services
- More family finding

- Finding creative ways to locate family
- No FFA placements for probation youth
- Service providers limited expertise level (Alcohol and Drug and Mental Health)
- No Wraparound program
- Lack of local foster homes

#### Recommendations for Child Welfare:

- Utilizing/implementing trainings that are attended/acquired
- Better communication between child welfare and service providers
- Continue with balanced and impartial supervision
- Access to and utilization of reunification-based trainings
- Recruit local foster parents
- Safe Measures and SOP training
- Develop and continue to repair relationships with outside agencies
- Policies and Procedures manual needs to be updated and expanded; should include best practices
- Develop more robust wraparound services; develop and utilize multi-disciplinary teams; make efforts to retain good leadership and workers for departmental continuity
- Seek coaching and/or mentorship regarding family engagement

#### Recommendations for Probation:

- Sustained family counseling
- Improved local provider expertise
- Locate funding sources for services, strengthening families, wraparound, robust services in the local area
- Develop local services specific to youth in crisis

## Outcome Data Measures

The section below includes an overview of Modoc County's current performance in the 32 outcome measures identified by State and Federal guidelines. Each section will include a definition of the measure, a data set and an analysis of Modoc County's performance. All data figures presented in this section were taken from the quarterly data reports spanning approximately the last 5 years.<sup>3</sup> Some data sets were supplemented with SafeMeasures® reports

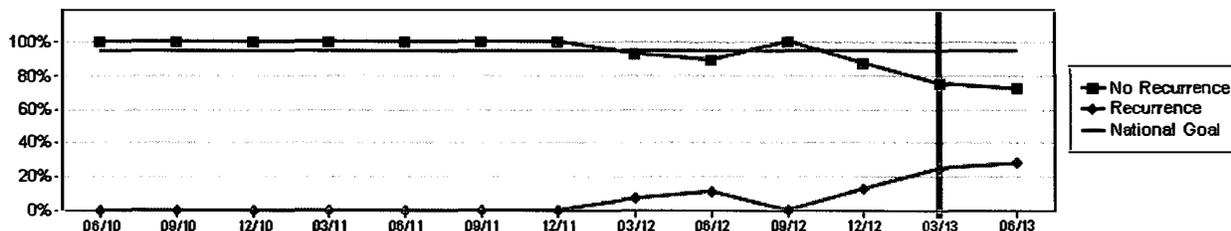
<sup>3</sup> <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1358.htm>

and other information collected from the Center for Social Services Research (CSSR), Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)<sup>4</sup>.

### S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT

*Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation during the 6-month period, what percent were not victims of another substantiated maltreatment allegation within the next 6 months?*

Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County’s last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS has improved in this outcome measure, from 60% (Quarter 3 2008) to 75% (Quarter 3 2013), which represents 24 out of 32 children. The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard over the past three years. Modoc County was at 100% for this measure through multiple quarters during this time period, but has recently fallen below the National Standard of 94.6%.



CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER SAFE MEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR S1.1: NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT, JUNE 2010 – JUNE 2013. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

### ANALYSIS

There have been many changes within the Modoc Child Welfare Department since the last CSA was conducted mainly including administration and philosophy changes. As a result the overall data during this time frame varies. There are multiple factors leading to Modoc County falling below the national average in this measure. The major factor is that there has been a lack of services available to clients while engaged in the department’s voluntary or court ordered case plan. This is due to the termination of multiple collaborative networks that worked together to serve clients as a whole. Also, the Child Welfare system is set up to connect clients with services and service providers maintain in a client’s life after their child welfare case is dismissed. There was a time period that clients were not being referred to services that help implement change and families did not receive the services necessary to stabilize situations or determine that children were not at risk anymore. Therefore the recurrence of maltreatment has risen in Modoc County.

Another key factor that affects this measure is that every referral that enters the Child Welfare Department is entered in to the system, even if a child is already in a CWS case. It has been reported that in the past that if a family was already engaged in a case and a new allegation of child abuse was reported it would not be entered as a new referral. Currently, a new referral is

<sup>4</sup> [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare/ReportDefault.aspx](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/ReportDefault.aspx)

created and investigated if the new allegation of child abuse is substantiated it is presented to the court as a subsequent or supplemental petition (Welfare & Institutions Code, 342 or 387).

## **S2.1 NO MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE**

*Of all children served in foster care during the year, what percent were not victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation by a foster parent or facility staff member?*

Modoc County continues to excel in this performance measure and has consistently exceeded the National standard of 99.7%. Since the last CSA, Modoc County has not experienced a single episode of child maltreatment in a foster care setting.

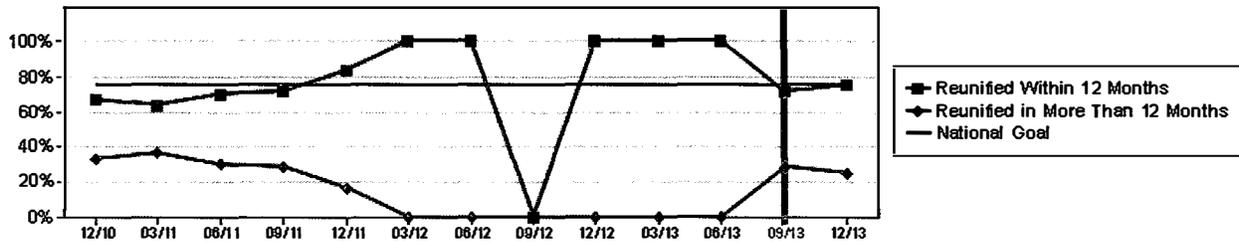
### **ANALYSIS**

In the past Mt. View Foster Family Agency screened, monitored, and certified foster homes in Modoc County. The Social Worker for Mt. View Foster Family Agency constantly monitored the Foster Parents ensuring it was known what type of children would fit in their home the best, allowing there to be a positive match between child and foster parent. Often there was limited foster homes placements resulting in placements occurring to meet the immediate needs of placement but at a later date the child would be placed in a home that bettered met his or her needs. Currently Mt. View FFA is no longer in business and three of seven homes that were certified by Mt. View FFA have become Certified Foster Family Homes through Community Care Licensing. It is a concern of the Department that these three homes do not receive as quality monitoring as they received in the past because they are currently licensed under Community Care Licensing and they are required to see them once a year unlike the weekly contact that was required by Mt. View FFA. It is the goal of Modoc County Department of Social Services to become eligible to certify foster homes. The results of this measure also are consistent with the low numbers of placements for a considerable timeframe since the last CSA.

## **C1.1 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)**

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

Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County's last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS data has fluctuated greatly in this outcome measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 71.4% (5 out of 7 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance also of 71.4% (5 out of 7 children). The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard over the past three years. Modoc County CWS was at 100% for this measure during multiple quarters during this time period, but has recently fallen just below the National Standard of 75.2%. Due to the low numbers of placements the data will be skewed if there is a single sibling group not reunifying within 12 months.



CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER SAFEMEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR C1.1: REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT), DECEMBER 2010 – DECEMBER 2013. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

Probation data in this measure is limited, due to the low number of youth in Placement. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (2 out of 2 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children).

### C1.2 MEDIAN TIME OF REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT)

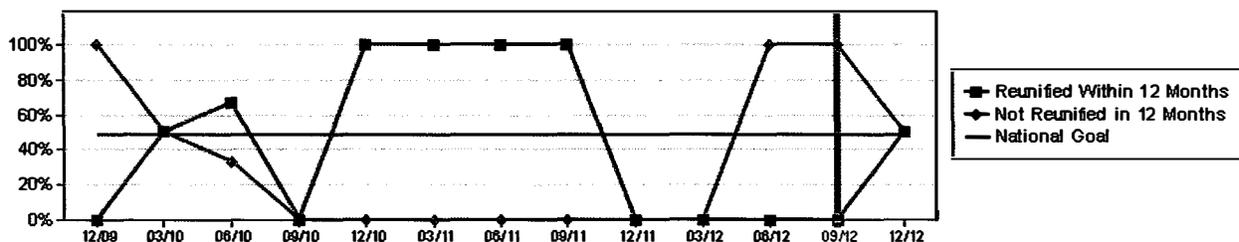
*Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification?*

Modoc County CWS’ median time of reunification has fluctuated greatly over the past 5 years, largely due to the low placement numbers. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a median time of 7.9 months (7 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a median time of 1.5 (7 children). The National Standard for this measure is a median time of 5.4 months.

### C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (ENTRY COHORT)

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

The National Standard for this measure is 48.4%. Modoc County CWS data shows huge fluctuation in this measure, due to the low number of children entering placement within a 6-month time period. Most recent data (Quarter 3 2013), shows 0 out of 3 children reunified within 12 months.



CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER SAFEMEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR C1.3: REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (ENTRY COHORT), DECEMBER 2009 – DECEMBER 2012. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

Due to the methodology of this measure and the low Probation Placement numbers, Modoc County Probation does not have data for the two comparison time periods (Quarter 3 2008 and Quarter 3 2013).

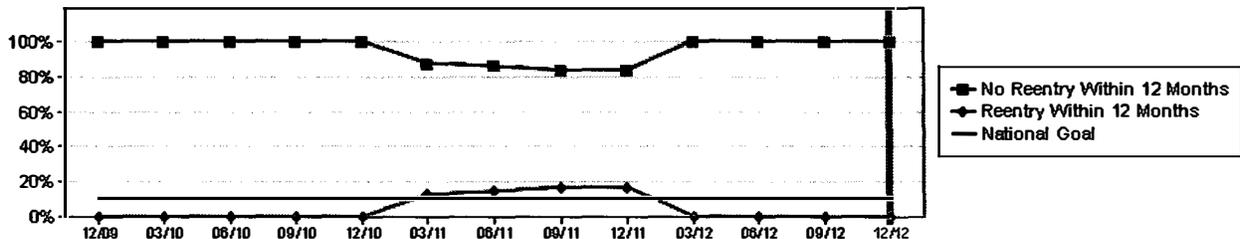
**ANALYSIS**

It is the opinion of child welfare that the huge fluctuation within many measures, especially this one is a result of the inconsistent changes within the department. Recently a contract with State Adoptions has been created and regular staffing is promoting Social Workers to focus more on timelines that may or may not result in permanent placements. With supervisory consistency and services being provided to clients during their family reunification services, this measure is expected to either improve or indicate where the department needs to improve. It is predicted that when services provided to clients are more available and the collaborative networks such as Family Wellness Court are fully implemented the flow of cases will move from family reunification to family maintenance in the timeframe recommended or a permanent plan will be implemented.

**C1.4 REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION**

*Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year, what percent reentered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of the earliest discharge to reunification during the year?*

As noted previously in this report, Reentry Following Reunification is an area of critical concern for Modoc County CWS and was the focus of our Peer Review. Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County’s last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS data has fluctuated in this outcome measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 22.2% (4 out of 18 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 3 children). The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard (9.9%) over the past three years.



CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER SAFEMEASURES® DATA. MODOC, CFSR C1.4: REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT), DECEMBER 2009 – DECEMBER 2012. RETRIEVED FEBRUARY 24, 2014, FROM CHILDREN’S RESEARCH CENTER WEBSITE. URL: [HTTIPS://WWW.SAFEMEASURES.ORG/CA/](https://www.safemeasures.org/ca/)

Probation Reentry data in this measure varies greatly from quarter to quarter, due to the low number of youth in this measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 14.3% (1 out of 7 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 50% (1 out of 2 children).

## **ANALYSIS**

Reentry following reunification is a concern for Modoc Child Welfare because it was identified that there has been a timeframe where services were not provided to clients during their time of family reunification. As a result, they continued with their case plan which included visits, social worker planned contacts, and a basic mental health assessment that did not include any follow up appointment if necessary. When child abuse is substantiated it is the responsibility of Child Welfare to address the issue of abuse appropriately in an immediate manner, which includes the child's immediate safety. Once safety and jurisdiction is determined it is the responsibility of the Social Worker to work with the family to determine the services necessary for the family to comply with to ensure the return and continued safety of the child. In a successful case this is determined to be the implementation of change. When implementation of change does not occur then parents are not able to fully identify their strengths and needs and ensure that they are capable of maintaining their child or children's safety in the future. Often families enter family maintenance services and are still unable to continue their lives as imagined because they do not process the skills needed to ensure their child or children's safety. It is the Modoc Child Welfare goal to ensure that implementation of change occurs with families. It has been determined that ensuring that there are services available for parents to engage in will help provide parents with the tools necessary to ensure the safety of their child or children. Services that will be available as needed to client's case plan include the following:

- Parents Plus
- Behavioral Health Assessment and/or continued counseling
- Alcohol and Drug Services
- Family Wellness Court
- Domestic Violence Services
- Healthy Beginnings
- Foster Youth Services
- Independent Living Services
- Social Worker Planned Contact
- Transportation

### **C2.1 ADOPTION WITHIN 24 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)**

*Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home?*

Data for this measure showed Modoc County has not had any children discharged to an adoption since the last CSA in June 2009.

## **C2.2 MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION (EXIT COHORT)**

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

There is no data for this measure for the past five years.

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

*Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year?*

Over the past five years there have been a total of four children that were in care for 17 continuous months or longer. None of the four children were discharged to an adoption by the last day of the year for the specified time periods.

## **C2.4 LEGALLY FREE WITHIN 6 MONTHS (17 MONTHS IN CARE)**

*Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the period, what percent became legally free within the next 6 months?*

The National Standard for this Measure is 10.9%. Modoc County has not met the National Standard for the last five years. There are very few children represented in this Measure, ranging from zero to two children for each quarterly time period.

The table below outlines Modoc County’s data for this outcome measure over the last five years:

Time Period		Legally free within 6 months	Not legally free within 6 months	Total
OCT2007-MAR2008	n	.	2	2
JAN2008-JUN2008	n	.	2	2
APR2008-SEP2008	n	.	2	2
JUL2008-DEC2008	n	.	2	2
OCT2008-MAR2009	n	.	2	2
JAN2009-JUN2009	n	.	2	2
APR2009-SEP2009	n	.	1	1
JUL2009-DEC2009	n	.	.	.
OCT2009-MAR2010	n	.	.	.
JAN2010-JUN2010	n	.	.	.
APR2010-SEP2010	n	.	.	.
JUL2010-DEC2010	n	.	.	.
OCT2010-MAR2011	n	.	1	1
JAN2011-JUN2011	n	.	.	.
APR2011-SEP2011	n	.	.	.
JUL2011-DEC2011	n	.	2	2
OCT2011-MAR2012	n	.	1	1
JAN2012-JUN2012	n	.	1	1
APR2012-SEP2012	n	.	1	1
JUL2012-DEC2012	n	.	1	1
OCT2012-MAR2013	n	.	.	.

**C2.5 ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (LEGALLY FREE)**

*Of all children in foster care who became legally free for adoption during the year, what percent were then discharged to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months?*

The National Standard for this Measure is 53.7%. For Modoc County, there are very few children represented in this Measure, ranging from zero to two children for each quarterly time period.

The table below outlines Modoc County’s data (n) for this outcome measure over the last five years:

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Adopted in less than 12 months</b>	<b>Not adopted within 12 months</b>	<b>Total</b>
OCT2007-SEP2008	0	0	0
JAN2008-DEC2008	0	0	0
APR2008-MAR2009	0	0	0
JUL2008-JUN2009	1	0	1
OCT2008-SEP2009	1	0	1
JAN2009-DEC2009	1	1	2
APR2009-MAR2010	1	1	2
JUL2009-JUN2010	0	1	1
OCT2009-SEP2010	0	1	1
JAN2010-DEC2010	0	0	0
APR2010-MAR2011	0	0	0
JUL2010-JUN2011	0	0	0
OCT2010-SEP2011	0	0	0
JAN2011-DEC2011	0	0	0
APR2011-MAR2012	0	0	0
JUL2011-JUN2012	0	0	0
OCT2011-SEP2012	0	0	0

## **ANALYSIS**

The lack of adoptions is consistent with the data that indicates there was very limited number of placements during a specific timeframe since the last CSA. Recently, Modoc Child welfare has worked on rebuilding their relationship with State Adoptions. Within January and February of 2014 Modoc Child Welfare has sent State Adoptions four referrals for adoptions.

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

*Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year and prior to turning 18?*

Modoc County CWS has had very few children remain in care for 24 months or longer over the past five years. The total number of children on a quarterly basis, represented in the denominator over the past five years, ranged from zero, most quarters, up to four children during other quarters. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 2 children), and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children). Modoc County did not meet the National Standard of 29.1% at any time over the past five years.

Modoc County Probation has had very few children remain in care for 24 months or longer over the past five years. The total number of children on a quarterly basis, represented in the denominator over the past five years, ranged from zero, most quarters, up to 1 child during other

quarters. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 1 children), and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children).

**ANALYSIS**

Since the last CSA in 2009 Modoc County has had a drop in placements as a result there has only been two children in placement during Quarter 3 and they did not stay in foster care longer than 24 months and did not exit to a permanent plan.

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

*Of all children discharged from foster care during the year who were legally free for adoption, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18?*

Over the past five years, only five quarters of data include children that met the methodology for this measure. For three out of the five quarters, Modoc CWS met the National Standard of 98%, with 1 out of 1 child exiting to permanency before turning 18, as shown in the below table:

	JAN2009-DEC2009	APR2009-MAR2010	JUL2009-JUN2010	OCT2009-SEP2010	JAN2010-DEC2010
	n	n	n	n	n
Exited to permanency before age 18	1	1	1	1	0
Did not exit to permanency before age 18	0	0	0	1	1
Total	1	1	1	2	1

Probation did not have any youth over the past five years that fit the methodology for this measure.

**ANALYSIS**

The implementation of AB 12 has made dependent children more interested in becoming Non Minor Dependents. This is because they can look forward to a less restricted living environment that still provides support and guidance. The one youth that exited permanency prior to 18 petitioned the court to be emancipated and was granted.

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

*Of all children in foster care during the year who were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, what percent had been in foster care for 3 years or longer?*

Modoc CWS has performed well in this measure over the past 5 years. From the quarterly reporting period of July 2009 – June 2010 until present data, none of the children that discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, had been in foster care for 3 years or longer. The National Standard for this measure is 37.5% (below). See table below.

		In care less than 3 years	In care 3 years or longer	Total
JUL2009-JUN2010	n	.	.	.
OCT2009-SEP2010	n	.	.	.
JAN2010-DEC2010	n	1	.	1
APR2010- MAR2011	n	1	.	1
JUL2010-JUN2011	n	1	.	1
OCT2010-SEP2011	n	1	.	1
JAN2011-DEC2011	n	.	.	.
APR2011- MAR2012	n	.	.	.
JUL2011-JUN2012	n	.	.	.
OCT2011-SEP2012	n	3	.	3
JAN2012-DEC2012	n	3	.	3
APR2012- MAR2013	n	3	.	3
JUL2012-JUN2013	n	3	.	3
OCT2012-SEP2013	n	1	.	1

Modoc Probation has performed well in this measure over the past 5 years. Between Quarter 3 2008 and Quarter 3 2013, none of the children that discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, had been in foster care for 3 years or longer. Quarter 3 2013 data shows 0 out of 1 child.

### **ANALYSIS**

Prior to exiting Foster Care, there was no youth in Foster Care more than three years. This is an indication that Modoc County Child Welfare either searches for family members or ensures that there is a permanent plan implemented in the time frame allotted.

The majority of children Probation has in placement are typically between the ages of 15 and 17. Therefore, the average group home program is one year to 18 months and when placements successfully complete their program within that timeframe they are then reunified with their parent or guardian.

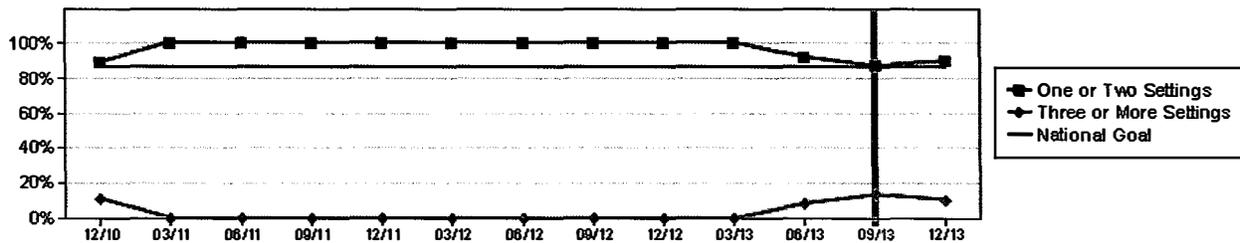
**C4.1-C4.3 PLACEMENT STABILITY**

*Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in foster care for*  
 -at least 8 days but less than 12 months (**Measure C4.1**), National Standard is 86%  
 -at least 12 months but less than 24 months (**Measure C4.2**), National Standard is 65.4%  
 -at least 24 months (**Measure C4.3**), National Standard is 41.8%

Placement stability is defined as having less than three placements while in care. The National Standard for this performance area drops as time in care increases; 86% for the shorter placement series (8 days to 12 months in care), 65.4% (up to 24 months in care) and 41.8% for those in care at least 24 months.

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

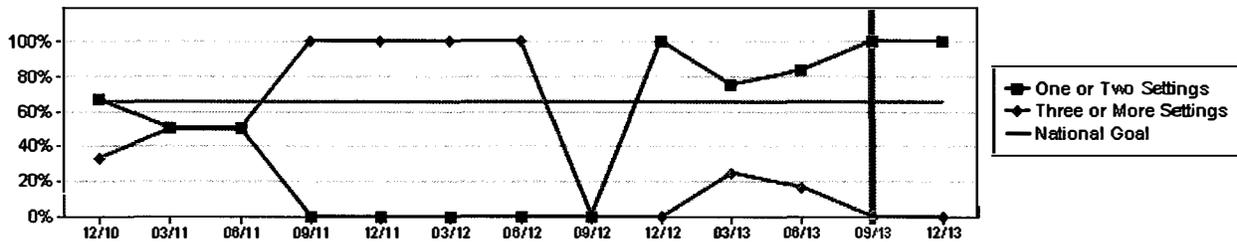
Data analysis spanning the time period from Modoc County’s last County Self-Assessment (June 2009) to current, reveals that Modoc County CWS data has done well in this outcome measure. Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (8 out of 8 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 85.7% (12 out of 14 children). The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National standard (86%) over the past three years.



In regard to Probation, Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (8 out of 8 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data also shows a performance of 100% (6 out of 6 children). Over the past five years, performance in this measure has never fallen below 85.7%.

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

Modoc County’s CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (2 out of 2 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 100% (5 out of 5 children). Performance in this measure has fluctuated over time. The graph below shows the trend line in comparison to the National Standard (65.4%) over the past three years.



Modoc County’s Probation CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 100% (1 out of 1 child) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children). Performance in this measure has almost consistently been at 100% over the past five years. Only 0 to 3 youth during any given quarter met the methodology of this measure (in care for more than 12 months, but less than 24 months).

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

Modoc County’s CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 2 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 0 children). Over the past three years only one child met the methodology for this measure (in care for more than 24 months) and that child had stability.

Modoc County’s Probation CWS Quarter 3 2008 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 1 child) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 0% (0 out of 1 child). Performance in this measure has consistently been at 0% over the past five years. Only 0 to 1 youth during any given quarter met the methodology of this measure (in care for more than 24 months).

**ANALYSIS (C4.1, C4.2, C4.3)**

Maintaining placement can be a challenge especially with the lack of Foster Homes in the area. For the time frame that this data was retrieved Modoc child Welfare had a significantly low number of placements.

Probation works to find appropriate group home/foster care placements on a case by case basis to meet the child’s specific needs. The group home and foster care providers are accommodating with handling and meeting the needs of our placement children. Probation also works closely with the placement providers and children to maintain stability.

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

*These reports count both the number of child abuse and neglect referrals that require, and then receive, an in-person investigation within the time frame specified by the referral response type. Referrals are classified as either immediate response (within 24 hrs) or 10-day response. Please note that this is a CDSS measure.*

Modoc County has met the State Standard of 90% in the area of timely response for both immediate response referrals and 10 day referrals over the past 5 years.

### Immediate Response Type-Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals by Time to Investigation

Count	July 1 2008 – Sept 30 2008	July 1 2009 – Sept 30 2009	July 1 2010 – Sept 30 2010	July 1 2011 – Sept 30 2011	July 1 2012 – Sept 30 2012	July 1 2013 – Sept 30 2013
Timely Response	15	6	10	12	13	8
Non-Timely Response	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Compliance Percentage</b>	<b>88.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>80%</b>

State Standard=90%

### 10 Day Response Type-Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals by Time to Investigation

Count	July 1 2008 – Sept 30 2008	July 1 2009 – Sept 30 2009	July 1 2010 – Sept 30 2010	July 1 2011 – Sept 30 2011	July 1 2012 – Sept 30 2012	July 1 2013 – Sept 30 2013
Timely Response	26	29	16	27	26	13
Non-Timely Response	1	4	0	1	1	5
<b>Compliance Percentage</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>86.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>94.1%</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>96.3%</b>

State Standard=90%

### ANALYSIS

After analyzing the data it was identified that the Social Workers were not counting the date that the referral was received as a date that counted towards the response. After staffing it was identified that the Social Workers utilize the reminder within the system that indicates when a referral is due. According to CDSS this reminder is programmed incorrectly and does not give the correct reminder. For example if the referrals determined response time is 10 days then the reminder within the system would prompt the Social Worker to make the initial contact for investigation on the 11<sup>th</sup> day. This problem is being resolved at the State level. Until this resolution, the reminder function of CWS/CMS is not being utilized.

Due to the low numbers of placement children Probation has in care it only takes one abscond placement child to skew the timely monthly case worker visit percentages.

## MEASURE 2F - TIMELY MONTHLY CASEWORKER OUT-OF-HOME VISITS

*These reports measure the compliance rate for case worker visits with children. The rate is equal to the percentage of children requiring a caseworker contact who received the contact in a timely manner.*

Overall, Modoc County CWS has done well in this performance area. Spanning the last five years performance has been above the 90% national standard in this area. The compliance figures for the last five years are shown below.

OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011	OCT2011-SEP2012	OCT2012-SEP2013
%	%	%	%	%
100	98.2	97.6	98.3	94.4

Probation data for this measure is only available for the most recent year. See below.

<b>Oct 2012 – Sept 2013</b>
<b>%</b>
<b>95.5</b>

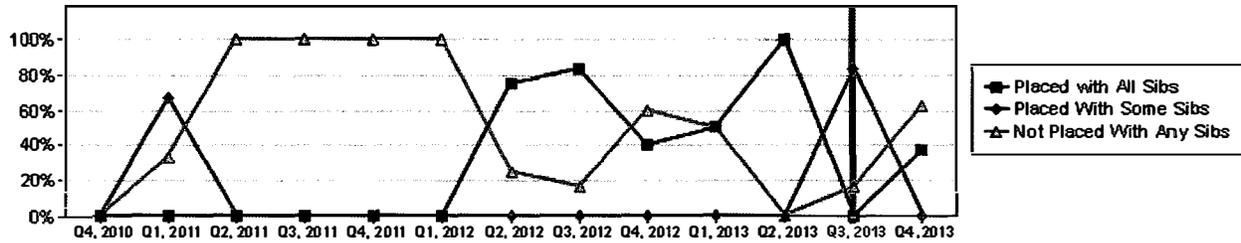
### ANALYSIS

A possible barrier to meet this measure for both Modoc Child Welfare and Probation is placements out of county. Child Welfare recently has made relationships with surrounding counties that can help with out of county placement visits. When there are multiple people placed in Redding for residential treatment then one Social Worker will travel to see each client that is there. This has helped with hitting this mandate.

### 4A SIBLINGS PLACED TOGETHER IN FOSTER CARE

*These reports provide point in time counts of sibling groups placed in Child Welfare supervised foster care.*

Modoc County's CWS Quarter 3 2008 data regarding all siblings placed together, shows a performance of 100% (4 out of 4 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 33.3% (3 out of 9 children). Modoc County's CWS Quarter 3 2008 data regarding some siblings placed together, shows a performance of 100% (4 out of 4 children) and Quarter 3 2013 data shows a performance of 77.8% (7 out of 9 children). The graph below shows trends over time for the past three years.



## ANALYSIS

With the limited number of placements, the data can be skewed dramatically when one family with three or more siblings enters Foster Care. This is due to the lack of foster homes in the area that are already being utilized or cannot accommodate a sibling group.

Modoc County only has one group home within the county and at the time of this writing no in-county foster care for delinquent youth. Typically the children probation deals with have behavioral issues that require specific services and treatment.

### 4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (ENTRIES FIRST PLACEMENT)

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

**Important note:** Youth 18 and over electing to remain in care as non-minor dependents as provided by Assembly Bill 12 may be placed in a new placement type, the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). This placement type has been included in the Entries, Point-in-time, 4E (1&2) ICWA, and Exits analyses. Prior to a CWS/CMS system revision in November 2012, SILP placements may have been categorized as Court Specified or Other. Thus, some shift in counts from those categories to SILP may occur.

The chart below represents the different types of facilities children first experience when entering care for CWS.

Placement Type	Interval				
	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011	OCT2011-SEP2012	OCT2012-SEP2013
	n	n	n	n	n
<b>Kin</b>	.	1	3	3	3
<b>FFA</b>	5	2	2	.	8
<b>Group</b>	.	1	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	5	4	5	3	11

The chart below represents the different types of facilities youth first experience when entering care for Probation. The majority of youth enter Group or FFA care.

Placement Type	Interval				
	OCT2008-SEP2009	OCT2009-SEP2010	OCT2010-SEP2011	OCT2011-SEP2012	OCT2012-SEP2013
	n	n	n	n	n
Kin	.	.	1	.	.
FFA	1	1	1	1	.
Group	.	1	2	.	2
Total	1	2	4	1	2

## ANALYSIS

Modoc County Child Welfare and Probation both utilize the minimal level of care appropriate for the child. Often the type of placement a child is placed in is determined by their behavior and availability of family members. For a child to be placed in a group home immediately there must be a significant reason. For example it has been deemed necessary for the child to be placed in a group home setting because the treatment and counseling was specially geared towards sexual assault or it can also be deemed in the child's best interest to be placed in a facility that can give them the supervision needed for them to not harm themselves.

Modoc County only has one group home within the county and at the time of this writing no in-county foster care for delinquent youth. Typically the children probation deals with have behavioral issues that require specific services and treatment.

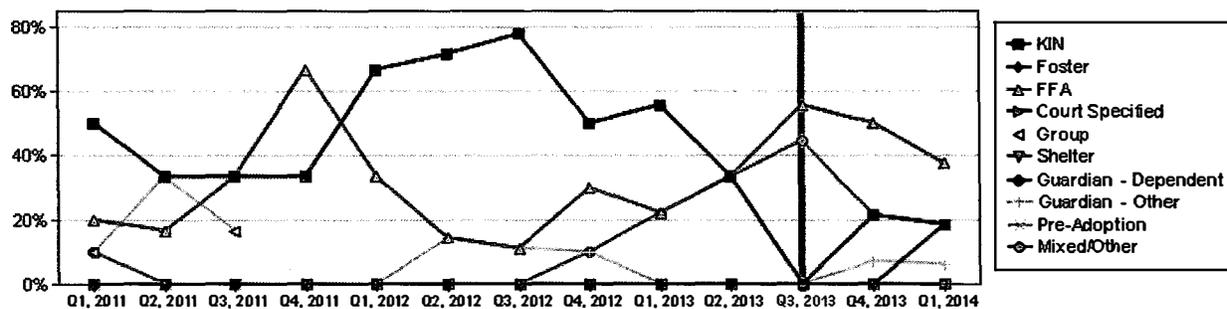
## 4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (POINT IN TIME)

*These reports include all children who have open child welfare or probation supervised placement episode in the CWS/CMS system.*

**Important note:** Youth 18 and over electing to remain in care as non-minor dependents as provided by Assembly Bill 12 may be placed in a new placement type, the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). This placement type has been included in the Entries, Point-in-time, 4E (1&2) ICWA, and Exits analyses. Prior to a CWS/CMS system revision in November 2012, SILP placements may have been categorized as Court Specified or Other. Thus, some shift in counts from those categories to SILP may occur.

The chart and graph below show point in time data related to least restrictive placement for CWS. Kinship placements have been heavily utilized, as well as FFA placements.

Placement Type	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
Kin	.	2	1	5	3
FFA	3	1	2	3	7
Group	1	.	.	.	.
Non-FC	1	.	.	.	.
Guardian - Other	1	.	.	1	1
Trial Home Visit	.	1	.	.	.
SILP	.	.	.	.	1
Other (?)	.	1	.	1	2
Missing	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>



The chart below shows point in time data related to least restrictive placement for Probation. The majority of youth are placed in Group care.

Placement Type	Point In Time				
	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
FFA	1	.	1	.	.
Court Specified Home	.	.	.	.	.
Group	3	3	4	1	6
Non-FC	.	.	1	.	.
Transitional Housing	.	.	1	.	.
Runaway	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

## ANALYSIS

Modoc Child Welfare determines the best placement for children after exhausting all options in the follow specific order:

- Family placement
- NREFM
- FFA

If a higher level of placement is needed then a group home setting is utilized if there is no other family available. Recently Child Welfare has had two Dependents transition into a Non – Minor Dependent. Both of these NMD’s utilized a SILP living arrangement. It has been determined that because Modoc County does not have a transitional living environment, the Social Worker will exhaust all avenues with the NMD to secure a living environment that ensures some type of supervision and support while allowing the NMD to be independent. For example, approving a NMD to live with a family member or friend and engage in an agreement or possibly make the person that they entered into the agreement with the NMD’s payee.

### 4E ICWA & MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT STATUS

*These reports examine the placement status of Indian Child Welfare Act eligible children [4E(1)] and children with primary or mixed (multi) ethnicity of American Indian [4E(2)]. Placement status takes placement type, child relationship to substitute care provider, and substitute care provider ethnicity into account. The resulting placement status categories are placements with relatives; with non-relative, Indian substitute care providers; with non-relative, non-Indian substitute care providers; with non-relative substitute care providers with ethnicity missing in CWS/CMS; in group homes (ethnicity cannot be determined); and in other placements.*

**Important note:** *Youth 18 and over electing to remain in care as non-minor dependents as provided by Assembly Bill 12 may be placed in a new placement type, the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP). This placement type has been included in the Entries, Point-in-time, 4E (1&2) ICWA, and Exits analyses. Prior to a CWS/CMS system revision in November 2012, SILP placements may have been categorized as Court Specified or Other. Thus, some shift in counts from those categories to SILP may occur.*

The below chart shows placement status, over the past five years, for children with ICWA eligibility. The majority of the children were placed with relatives.

	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
<b>Relatives</b>	.	1	1	3	.
<b>Non Relatives, Indian SCPs</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Non Relatives, Non Indian SCPs</b>	1	.	.	.	1
<b>Non Relatives, SCP Ethnic Missing</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Group Homes</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Other</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Missing</b>	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	1	1	1	3	1

The chart below shows placement status, over the past five years, for children primary or mixed (multi) ethnicity of American Indian.

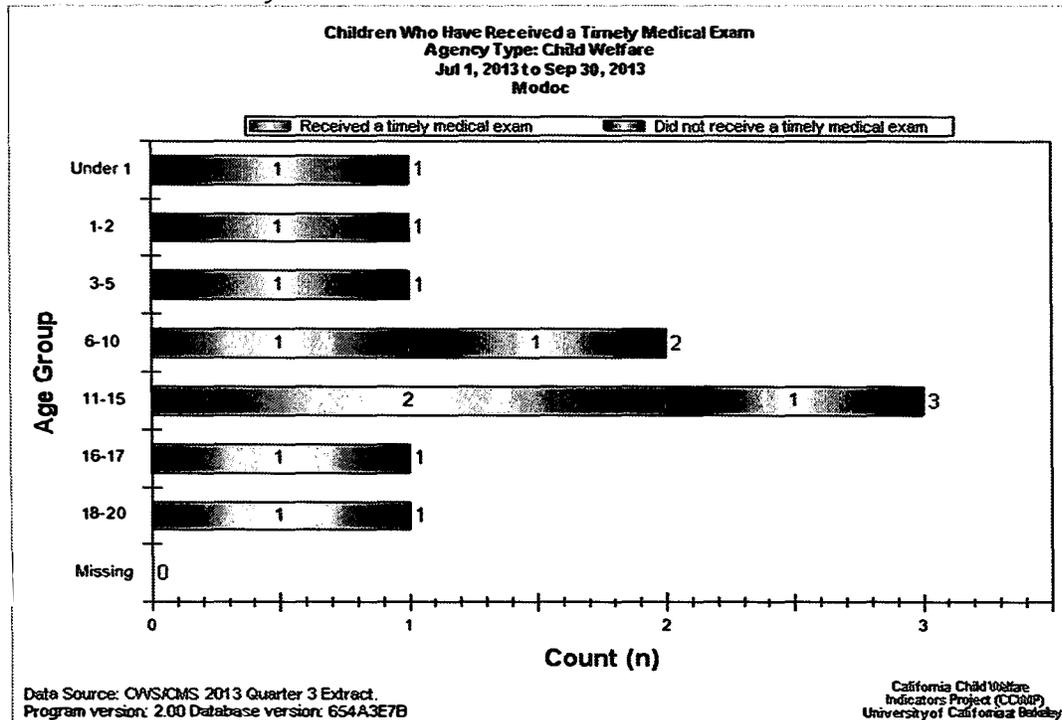
Placement Status					
	1-Oct-09	1-Oct-10	1-Oct-11	1-Oct-12	1-Oct-13
	n	n	n	n	n
Relatives	.	1	1	3	2
Non Relatives, Indian SCPs	.	.	.	.	.
Non Relatives, Non Indian SCPs	1	.	.	2	3
Non Relatives, SCP Ethnic Missing	.	.	.	.	.
Group Homes	.	.	.	.	.
Other	.	1	.	.	1
Missing	.	.	.	.	1
Total	1	2	1	5	7

### ANALYSIS

In the past the relationship between the tribes and Child Welfare has been difficult. Currently this relationship is improving with the Cedarville Rancheria. Recently the tribe has been providing Child Welfare with a tribal resolution which allows the tribe and Child Welfare to work together to solve a placement issue for a child.

### 5B (1) RATE OF TIMELY HEALTH EXAMS AND 5B (2) RATE OF TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS

CDSS Measure 5B: Timely Medical/Dental Exams

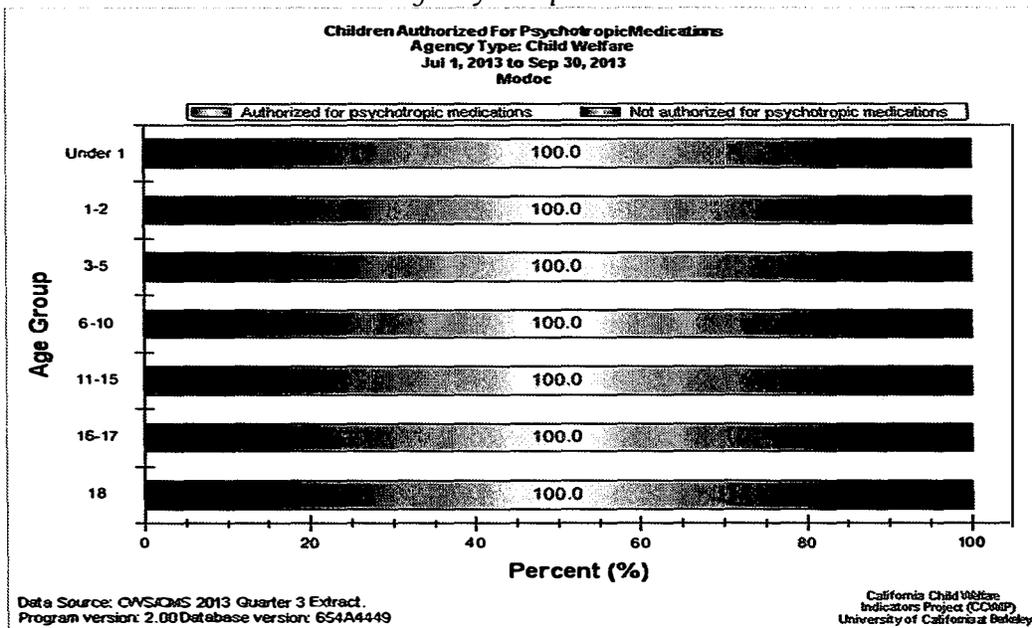


### ANALYSIS

When a child enters foster care they are required to have a CHDP medical and dental exam within 30 days of placement. According to the information above, Modoc County Child Welfare is at 50% of meeting this goal. There was a point in time when the Public Health Nurse/Foster Care Nurse who enters this data was not able to access CWS/CMS. Since then, this problem has been resolved and the Department is working to improve in this measure.

### 5F PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

CDSS Measure 5F: Children Authorized for Psychotropic Medications



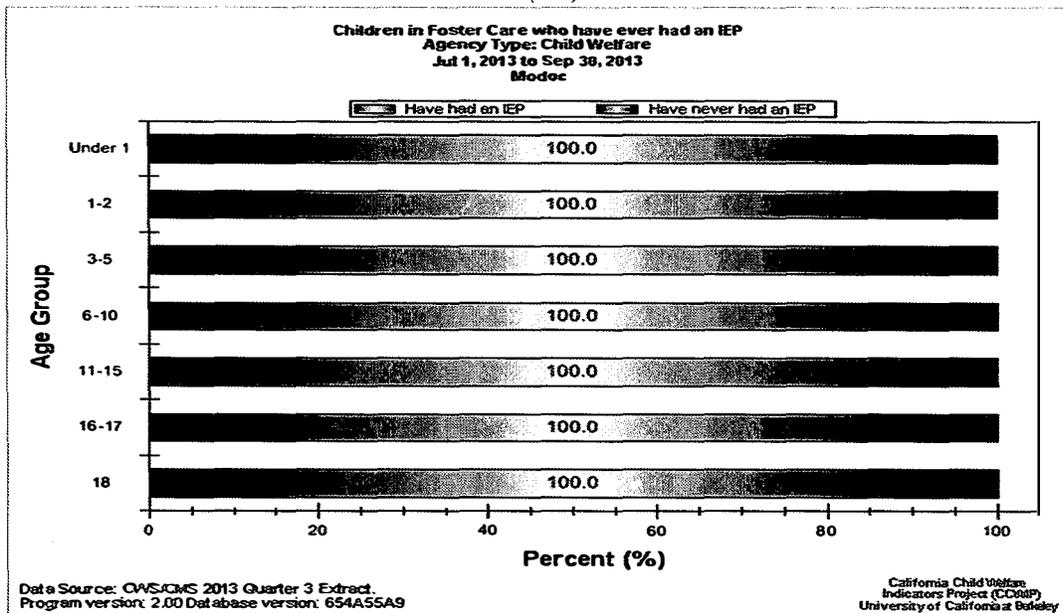
### ANALYSIS

There was a point in time when the Public Health Nurse/Foster Care Nurse who enters this data was not able to access CWS/CMS. Since then, this problem has been resolved and the Department is working to improve in this measure.

For the Probation Department, there is no data for this measure for the past five years.

## 6B INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

CDSS Measure 6B: Individualized Education Plan (IEP)



[HTTP://CSSR.BERKELEY.EDU/UCB\\_CHILDWELFARE/CDSS](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/cdss)

### ANALYSIS

When an IEP is necessary for a child the Social Worker attends the IEP Team Meeting. At the time frame presented there were no children in foster care who had an IEP.

For the Probation Department, there is no data for this measure for the past five years.

## 8A COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL OR EQUIVALENCY

### 8A OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

### 8A HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

### 8A RECEIVED ILP SERVICES

### 8A PERMANENCY CONNECTION WITH AN ADULT

### ANALYSIS

For Child Welfare and Probation there is no data for this measure for the past five years. By utilizing the FYS coordinator, Public Health Nurse, and ILP coordinator, each of these people will have CWS/CMS and can enter the data personally.

## Summary of Findings

### **Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention**

Modoc County currently does not have a foster Family Agency and does not certify homes within the Child Welfare Department. This is why it is mandatory for Child Welfare to work with other FFA's or Community Care Licensing in regards to recruitment and monitoring of already licensed homes.

### **Concurrent Planning**

The relationship between State Adoptions and Child Welfare has been initiated by a contract. There will be continued communication between Adoptions and Modoc Child Welfare. Also, there will be a concurrent planning training provided in house for Social Workers. This training will be provided by UC Davis Training Academy and is being incorporated in the training plan for 2014-2015.

### **Safety Organized Practices (SOP)**

This program is being implemented because it provides support from the referral to post-permanency. To continue implementation there needs to be continuous training to present a solution – focused treatment to the Child Welfare System. This program was implemented and staff was trained at one time but there was no follow through. Staff that was trained is no longer employed. This training will be provided by UC Davis Training Academy and is being incorporated in the training plan for 2014-2015.

### **Services to Clients and Relationships Other Agencies/Service Providers**

The County will Continue to collaborate with other agencies and Service providers to ensure that clients are receiving quality and effective services. The main collaborative partnerships that are in effect are:

- Family Wellness Court
- Healthy Beginnings
- Katie A.
- Sexual Assault Response Team
- Sub monitoring of contracted programs with T.E.A.C.H. Inc. (ILP and Parents Plus)

All of these collaborative partnerships are currently functioning and serving clients. Healthy Beginnings, Katie A. and the Sexual Assault Response Team meet on a monthly basis. The

family Wellness Court meets on a biweekly basis. CWS monitors contracted programs with T.E.A.C.H. Inc. on a monthly and quarterly fiscal basis.

### **Native American/Child Welfare/Probation Collaboration**

It has been identified that inviting tribal representative to collaborative meetings will benefit the relationship between service providers and the tribes. Currently, a representative from Strong Family Health Center participates in the Family Wellness Court collaborative. Strong Family Health Center is involved with this collaborative because if the client is registered with a surrounding tribe they will provide anger management as well as alcohol and drug counseling.

### **Trainings for Staff**

Training for staff will include:

- CWS/CMS
- SDM
- SOP
- Concurrent Planning
- Meet core training requirements for SW I, II, and SW Supervisor II.

### **Staffing issues**

Probation continues to be understaffed but there does not appear to be a viable solution at this time. It has proven difficult to find qualified applicants to hire and retain them as employees as most do not have the required Bachelor's Degree; this coupled with the low salary range and retirement package, is not attractive to most. CWS is fully staffed and is working on training the new employees.