

California - Child and Family Services Review

County Self-Assessment

JULY 2010-MARCH 2014

**San Benito County
2014**

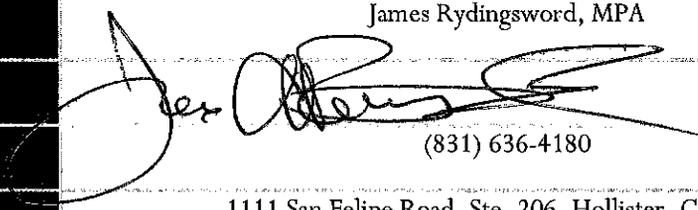


California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

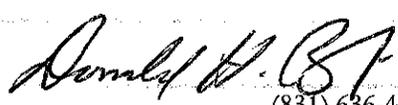
For submittal of: CSA SIP Progress Report

County	San Benito County
SIP Period Dates	
Outcome Data Period	Quarter 3, 2013

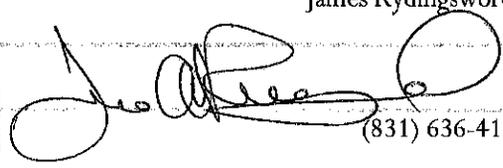
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Name	James Rydingsword, MPA
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Board of Supervisors (BOS) Signature

BOS Approval Date	
Name	
Signature*	

Mail the original Signature Sheet to:

Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau
Attention: Bureau Chief
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California Department of Social Services
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*Signatures must be in blue ink

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Introduction

San Benito County is located along the Coast Mountain Range one hour south of SAN JOSE. As of 2012 the County population was 56,884. Nearly two-thirds of the county's population live in the County seat, Hollister. EL CAMINO REAL passes through the County and includes Mission San Juan Bautista. It is a largely rural County with most residents involved in ranching, agribusiness, and/or small farms.

San Benito County has a comprehensive infrastructure for providing child welfare services. The Board of Supervisors and community endorse the provision of services to the children, youth and families throughout the County.

Some of the County Health and Human Services Agency offices are co-located with easy access among the entire agency divisions. Under the umbrella of the Agency are divisions providing Social Services, Employment Services and Health Services. However, Public Health, which also encompasses Emergency Medical Services and Environmental Health, is at a different location.

The Juvenile Probation Division, including Juvenile Hall, falls under the umbrella of the Probation Department.

As required, San Benito Health & Human Services Agency and Juvenile Probation conducted this County Self-Assessment in partnership with the California Department of Social Services. The San Benito County Child Abuse Prevention Council was also an active participant.

C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

C-CFSR Planning Team

Focus Area	Name	Organization
Child Welfare	Maria Corona	Health and Human Services
CDSS	Irma Munoz	California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse and Prevention
CDSS	Joti Bolina	California Department of Social Services, Outcomes and Accountability Bureau

Probation	Yolanda Leon	Juvenile Probation Placement Supervisor
Consultant	Lisa Molinar	Shared Vision Consultants
Regional Training Academy	Adreanna Riley	Bay Area Academy

Core Representatives

Required Participant	Name	Organization
Child Abuse Prevention Council Representative (and Children's Trust Fund)	Andi Anderson	CAPC
County Board of Supervisor designated agency to administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Programs	Andi Anderson	CAPC
County Alcohol and Drug Department	Rene Hankla	San Benito County Behavioral Health-Substance Abuse
County Health Department	Robert England, PHN	San Benito County Public Health
County Mental Health	Lynda Yoshikawa	San Benito County Behavioral Health
Juvenile Court	Candice Hooper	San Benito County Office of the District Attorney
Parents/Consumers	Anonymous	Parents that attended the focus groups
Resource Families	Lynette Jewett	Resource Family
Youth Representative	Angie Partida	Former Foster Youth

The CSA Planning Process

To ensure continuous quality improvement, San Benito County has designated a team that acts as the driver of the C-CFSR process. The team meets regularly to ensure that all aspects of the C-CFSR are carried out. The C-CFSR Team is led by representatives from the County's Child Welfare Agency, the Juvenile Probation Department and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Participation of Core Representatives

All core participants were represented in either stakeholder meetings or focus groups.

Stakeholder Feedback

Focus groups with parents, youth and staff were conducted December 12th and 13th, 2013. A comprehensive survey was administered to the community to gain stakeholder feedback from twenty seven participants. Please see attachments for the survey.

Core Representatives

Stakeholder Feedback

Focus groups with parents, youth and staff were conducted December 12th and 13th, 2013. A comprehensive survey was administered to the community to gain stakeholder feedback from twenty seven participants. Please see attachments for the survey.

- Andi Anderson – CAPC, CCTF and PSSF Collaborative Liasison
- Esther Curtice from CASA
- Yani Bundros from Mental Health
- Liz Alameda with Connecting Principles (Anger Management Program)
- Laura Siering with Hollister School District
- Anne Ratto with Gavilan College
- Diane Ortiz with Youth Alliance
- Frank and Diane Beitz with Foster Youth Services
- Nancy Murphy with Kinship Center
- Shannon Raybon with New Dimensions Foster Family Agency (FFA)
- Mabel Patton with Rainbow Valley FFA
- Maria Sanchez and Lynda Yoshikawa with San Benito County Behavioral Health
- Marta Sullivan with Door to Hope Residential Treatment Center
- John Bustamonte and Renee Hankla with San Benito County Substance Abuse Program
- Holly Simpson with California State Adoptions
- Juvenile Justice Commission Chair
- Juvenile Review Board Members with Juvenile First Offenders
- Community Review Baord with Low level adult offenders
- Adam Sanders with Indian Triki
- Robert England - Placement Health Department Nurse
- Al Devos - County Gang Coordinator
- Captain Reynoso with Hollister Police Department
- Colleen Grimes - County Office of Education - Alternative School Principle
- Elena DeLa Puerta - Alternative School Counselor
- Candice Hopper - District Attorney
- Kevin Nitzel - Juvenile Hall Superintendent

- Lorna Gilbert - SELPA
- Mike Sanchez - County Office of Education Superintendent
- Donna Elmhurst - Juvenile Review Board and Hillside Christian Fellowship Church
- Ana Cabrera with the Family Resource Center
- Paula Norton with Probation tutoring program

Demographic Profile

General County Demographics

POPULATION

The population in San Benito was estimated as 56,884 in 2012, a 2.9% increase from April 2010, just slightly above the total population increase of 2.1% for California (US Census Quick facts, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06069.html>).

As shown in Table 1, the population in San Benito County increased only 3.8% from 2000-2010 compared to a nearly 10% increase in the state population during the same period.

TABLE 1: GENERAL POPULATION OF SAN BENITO COUNTY, 10-YEAR CHANGE

	April, 2000	April, 2010
California	33,873,086	37,253,956
San Benito County	53,234	55,269

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2010, with 2000 Benchmark. Sacramento, California
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-4/2001-10/>

POPULATION GROUPS BY GENDER, RACE AND ETHNICITY

The 2010 Census data shows that the largest racial group in San Benito is White at 64%. The “other” race category, which likely is comprised of mostly the Hispanic/Latino population, is the second largest racial group at 26%. The remaining racial groups represent extremely small numbers. However, Table 3 shows that the majority (56%) of the population identifies themselves as Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. In contrast, only 38% of the county identifies as White, even though they make up 64% of the race.

Similarly Table 4 shows that 69% of the children in San Benito are Hispanic/Latino, whereas White children only account for 26% of the child population. This demonstrates the necessity for services and programs that are culturally appropriate for the Hispanic/Latino population.

There are slightly more males (51%) than females in the youth population. Children under 18 comprise 29% of the overall population (Table 5). The total population of children by age group is displayed in Table 5. The smallest percent of children are under the age of one (4.6%) and the highest percent are age 16 (6.3%) showing there is not a lot of variation in the numbers of children by age.

TABLE 2: SAN BENITO POPULATION BY RACE

State/County	Race							
	Total (All race groups)	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other race	Multi-Race
California	37,253,956	21,453,934	2,299,072	362,801	486,1007	144,386	6,317,372	1,815,384
San Benito	55,269	35,181 64%	483 0.9%	895 1.6%	1,443 2.6%	94 0.17%	14,471 26%	2,702 4.9%

TABLE 3: SAN BENITO POPULATION BY IDENTIFIED ETHNICITY

State/County	Ethnicity/Race								
	Total	Hispanic or Latino (any race)	White	Black	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other race	Multi-Race
California	37,253,956	14,013,719 37%	14,956,253 40%	2,163,804 5.8%	162,250 0.4%	4,775,070 13%	128,577 0.3%	85,587 0.2%	968,696 2.6%
San Benito	55,269	31,186 56%	21,154 38%	355 0.6%	231 0.4%	1,298 2.3%	65 0.1%	67 0.1%	913 1.7%

TABLE 4: CHILD POPULATION, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

San Benito County	RACE		ETHNICITY	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Child Population	16,066	100%	16,066	100%
Hispanic			11,047	69%
African American/Black	141	0.9%	93	0.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	288	1.8%	68	0.4%
Asian American	336	2%	274	1.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	23	0.1%	9	0.06%
Multi-racial	1,225	7.6%	382	2.4%
White	9,000	56%	4,170	26%
Other	5,053	31%	23	0.1%

TABLE 5: CHILD POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER

San Benito County	Number		
	Female	Male	Total
0-2 Years	1,148	1,200	2,348
3-5 Years	1,311	1,273	2,584
6-10 Years	2,127	2,292	4,419
11-13 Years	1,337	1,461	2,798
14-17 Years	1,955	1,962	3,917
Total 0-17	7,878	8,188	16,066

Source Tables 2-5: State of California, Department of Finance: 2010 Census Detailed Age by Race/Hispanic Origin by Gender. Sacramento, CA. <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/data/>

POPULATION/DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Table 6 shows the demographic changes of the child population over the 2006-2010 period. White and African American children have decreased by 17% and 15.9% respectively. Asian, Hispanic/Latino, multiracial and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander have increased by a small

amount (see below). However, due to the very small numbers involved, the changes over this period are likely insignificant to system outcomes.

Regarding live births, the most recent available data shows that in 2010, 73% of live births were Hispanic babies followed by White babies at 22%. This aligns with the ethnic profile of San Benito County. From 2006 -2010 there was a 17% decrease in the total of live births even though there was a slight increase to the total population of San Benito in 2010.

TABLE 6: LIVE BIRTHS BY RACE/ETHNIC GROUP OF MOTHER 2006-2010

Year	Total County Births	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic							
			Multi-race	American Indian	Asian	Black	Pacific Islander	White	Other Race	Unknown
2006	885	643	2	1	16	3	1	215	0	4
2007	882	649	11	3	13	4	2	195	0	5
2008	816	621	6	3	15	2	1	165	0	3
2009	752	544	11	0	9	2	0	182	1	3
2010	735	540	8	1	16	1	0	159	0	10

Source: California Department of Public Health, <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/CountyBirthStatisticalDataTables.aspx>

Thirty nine percent of San Benito residents over the age of five speak a language other than English (see below). Of those who speak another language, the majority speak Spanish. For those that speak another language, fifty three percent state that they speak English less than "very well".

TABLE 7: LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME – 2011 ESTIMATES

Languages Spoken at Home	San Benito County		
	Total	Percent of specified language speakers	
		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Population 5 years and over	50,746 (100%)	N/A	N/A
Speak only English	20,054 (61%)	N/A	N/A
Speak a language other than English	20,054 (39%)	47%	53%
Other Language spoken	20,054 (100%)		
Spanish or Spanish Creole	18,626 (93%)	47%	53%
Other Indo-European languages	394 (2%)	34%	66%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	881 (4%)	36%	64%
Other languages	153 (1%)	16%	84%
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH			
Spanish or Spanish Creole	17,619 (100%)	47.6%	52.4%
5-17 years	3,620 (21%)	67.0%	33.0%

18-64 years	12,489 (70%)	44.2%	55.8%
65 years and over	1,510 (9%)	29.5%	70.5%
Other Indo-European languages	571 (100%)	64.1%	35.9%
5-17 years	46 (8%)	100.0%	0.0%
18-64 years	353 (62%)	74.5%	25.5%
65 years and over	172 (30%)	33.1%	66.9%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	993 (100%)	36.5%	63.5%
5-17 years	84 (8%)	100.0%	0.0%
18-64 years	709 (71%)	19.7%	80.3%
65 years and over	200 (20%)	69.0%	31.0%
Other languages	107 (100%)	0.0%	100.0%
5-17 years	0 -	-	-
18-64 years	107 (100%)	0.0%	100.0%
65 years and over	0 -	-	-

Source: US Census, 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_5YR_DP02

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_3YR_S1601&prodType=table

EDUCATION

The American Community Survey conducted in 2011 estimates of those 25 years or older, in San Benito, 75% have a high school diploma or higher, this is 5% lower than the estimate for California and 10% lower than the estimate for the U.S.

TABLE 8: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (ESTIMATES)

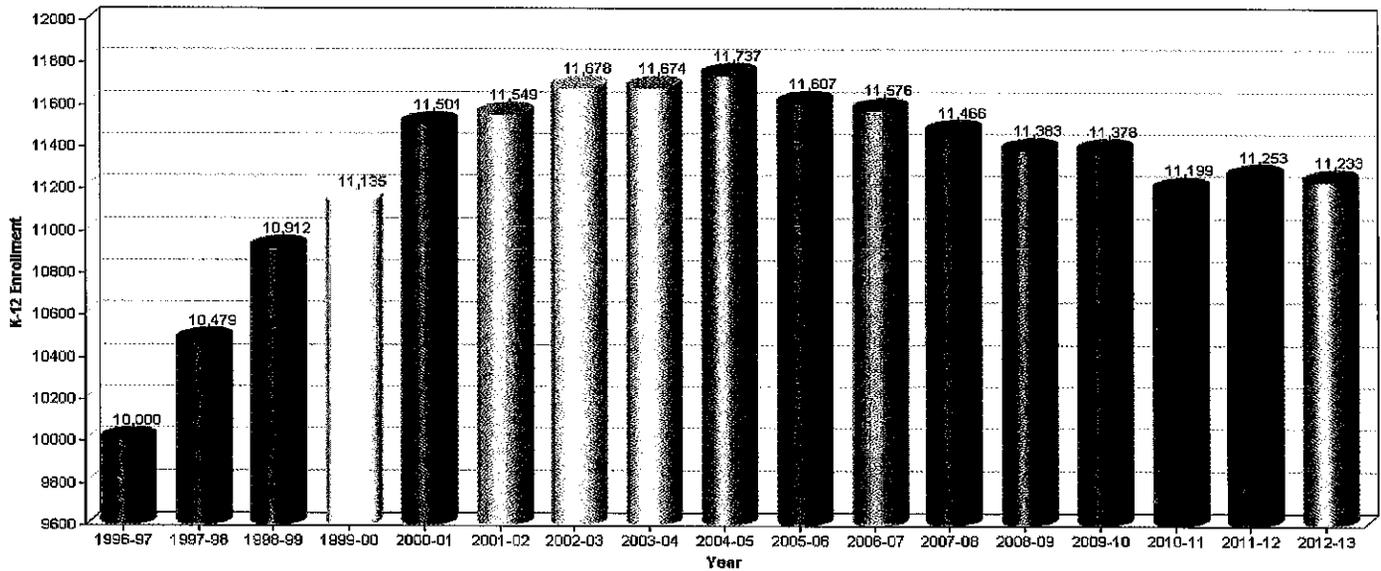
Highest Level of Education Attained	Number	Percent
Population 25 years and over	33,689	100%
Less than 9 th grade	5,311	16%
High school, no diploma	3,021	9%
High school graduate (or equivalency)	7,887	23%
Some college, no degree	8,314	25%
Associate's degree	2,999	9%
Bachelor's degree	4,642	14%
Graduate of professional degree	1,515	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

HTTP://FACTFINDER2.CENSUS.GOV/FACES/TABLESERVICES/JSF/PAGES/PRODUCTVIEW.XHTML?PID=ACS_11_5YR_DP02

Table 9, below, shows the overall increase of educational enrollment for K-12 since 1996 to present. Enrollment peaked in 2004/05 and has declined since that year, but has leveled to approximately 11,200 students enrolled per year over the past three years.

TABLE 9: EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENT OVER TIME (1996 – 2013)



Source: California Department of Education, Data Reporting Office. Report: Time series - Public School Enrollment <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DO/EnrTimeRptCo.aspx?Level=County&cname=SAN^BENITO&cCode=35&cTopic=Enrollment&cLevel=County&cYear=2011-12&myTimeFrame=S&cChoice=TSEnr2>

The special education enrollment in 2012 was 1,174 with Hispanic and White children comprising the highest rates of students in special education. The highest impairment was Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI).

TABLE 10: SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND IMPAIRMENT 2012

Ethnicity	Mental Retardation	Hard of Hearing	Deaf	Speech or Language Impairment	Visual Impairment	Emotional Disturbance	Orthopedic Impairment	Other Health Impairment	Specific Learning Disability	Deaf-Blindness	Multiple Disability	Autism	Traumatic Brain Injury
	(MR)	(HH)	(deaf)	(SLI)	(VI)	(ED)	(OI)	(OHI)	(SLD)	(DB)	(MD)	(AUT)	(TBI)
Native American	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0
Asian Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Filipino	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Hispanic	61	16	1	205	8	9	11	60	367	1	3	36	0
African-American	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
White	21	4	1	79	3	29	7	60	116	1	4	37	0
Total	85	20	2	294	11	40	18	122	497	2	7	76	0

Source: Special Tabulation by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division; Assessment, Evaluation and Support (December 1, 2012)

Spanish is the most wide spread spoken language in San Benito County, with Filipino/Tagalong being the next largest language.

TABLE 11: ENGLISH LEARNERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY TOP LANGUAGES SPOKEN

San Benito County	Number					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Arabic	2	0	3	4	3	4
Cambodian	1	1	2	2	5	5
Filipino	12	10	13	14	17	16
Korean	1	0	0	0	2	3
Mandarin	3	2	6	6	5	4
Punjabi	11	7	8	8	8	6
Spanish	2,755	2,706	2,890	2,513	2,714	2,834
Vietnamese	3	3	7	6	6	5
All Other Non-English Languages	36	37	47	46	45	25

Source: California Dept. of Education, English Learners by Grade and Language Data Files.
<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/SearchName.asp?rbTimeFrame=oneyear&rYear=2012-13&cCounty=35+SAN+BENITO&Topic=LC&Level=County&submit1=Submit>

The high school dropout rate in San Benito County was 10.9% (2011) with San Benito High measuring at 11.3%. San Benito High School serves as the primary high school for Hollister city residents and most county residents.

Percentage of public high school students who drop out of high school, based on the four-year adjusted cohort dropout rate (e.g. 14.7% of California 9th-12th grade students dropped out of high school in 2011). The adjusted cohort dropout rate measures the percentage of students who exit grades 9-12 without a high school diploma, GED, or special education certificate of completion and do not remain enrolled after the end of the fourth year. Note: For percentages, LNE (Low Number Event) refers to data that have been suppressed because there were fewer than 20 dropouts in grades 9-12.

TABLE 12: HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS (2011)

Region	Percent	
	2010	2011
San Benito County	10.6%	10.9%

Region	Percent	
	2010	2011
Aromas/San Juan Unified	*LNE	*LNE
San Benito High	9.2%	11.3%

Source: Kidsdata.org via California Dept. of Education, California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS). Accessed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/filescohort.asp> (May 2013).

The most recent data from the California Department of Education illustrates that the centralized waiting list increased remained at about 890 and then decreased in 2011 to 783.

TABLE 13: CHILD CARE ELIGIBILITY LIST – NUMBER OF CHILDREN WAITING FOR CHILDCARE

YEARS	CHILDREN
2011	783
2010	889
2009	898

Source: Centralized Eligibility List, California Department of Education, 2011) <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/celreports.asp>

More than 60% of students (6132) in San Benito are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. This is an increase from the previous years when only one half of the students were eligible for food assistance.

TABLE 14: Student Eligibility to Receive Free or Reduced Price School Meals, by Eligibility Status

San Benito County	Number				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Eligible	5,557	5,808	5,918	5,788	6,132
Not Eligible	5,884	5,650	5,318	5,584	4,866

Source: www.kidsdata.org - Data Source: California Department of Education, Free/Reduced Price Meals Program & CalWORKS Data Files, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/cw/filesafdc.asp> (May, 2013); U.S. Department of Education, NCES Common Core of Data, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/index.asp> (May 2013)

The percent of public school students eligible to receive free or reduced price meals is determined by eligibility status. A child's family income must fall below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines (\$29,055 for a family of four in 2011) to qualify for free meals, or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines (\$41,348 for a family of four in 2011) to qualify for reduced-cost meals.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME, EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

The median income in San Benito County is higher than California's (\$70,231).

TABLE 15: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

Region	Annual Income
San Benito County	\$73,150
Hollister	\$64,123

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at <http://factfinder2.census.gov> (January 2013). Definition: The median is the value at which half of the annual family incomes are higher and half of the incomes are lower. These estimates have been adjusted for inflation, to enable comparison over time.

Rents have decreased over the last 2 years after peaking in 2011. The table below illustrates that the current rent for a 3 bedroom apartment is approximately \$ 1,700.

TABLE 16: SAN BENITO FAIR MARKET RENT BY UNIT SIZE OVER TIME

San Benito County	Amount				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Studio - 0 Bedrooms	\$742	\$797	\$847	\$799	\$701
1 Bedroom	\$1,005	\$1,080	\$1,147	\$1,082	\$871

2 Bedrooms	\$1,118	\$1,201	\$1,276	\$1,204	\$1,179
3 Bedrooms	\$1,584	\$1,702	\$1,808	\$1,706	\$1,737
4 Bedrooms	\$1,961	\$2,107	\$2,238	\$2,112	\$2,088

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent, <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html> (Nov. 2012). Accessed at Kidsdata.org, http://www.kidsdata.org/data/topic/table/market_rent-unit.aspx

The unemployment rate is very high at 15.1%, up 8% from 2007, prior to the economic downturn.

TABLE 17: SAN BENITO COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECEMBER 2007 -2013

Year	Number of Employed	Number of Unemployed	Unemployment Rate %
2013	23,200	4,100	15.1
2012	22,900	3,700	13.9
2011	22,100	4,200	15.9
2010	21,600	4,500	17.2
2009	21,400	3,500	14.3
2008	22,500	2,400	9.6
2007	22,300	1,700	7.2

Source: <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>

The number of children below the federal poverty threshold (0-99%) is 14.4%. Those under 199% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are 21.2%.

TABLE 18: CHILDREN LIVING ABOVE AND BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL (REGIONS OF 10,000 RESIDENTS OR MORE), BY INCOME LEVEL: 2005 - 2011

San Benito County	Percent		
	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011
0-99% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	12.6%	12.9%	14.4%
100-199% of FPL	19.7%	20.6%	21.2%
200% of FPL or Higher	67.7%	66.5%	64.4%

Source: Kidsdata.org via U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. (January 2013)

The above table is the estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 living above and below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), by income level. For example, in 2007-11, 19.4% of children in California lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold (0-99% of FPL). The FPL was \$22,811 for a family of two adults and two children in 2011.

TABLE 19: CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2009-2011)

San Benito County	Percent				
	2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011
African American/Black	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE
American Indian/Alaska Native	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE
Asian American	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE
Hispanic/Latino	12.1%	10.3%	21.0%	22.6%	23.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE
White	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE
Multiracial	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE	LNE

*Note: LNE means Low Number Event. Source: Kidsdata.org via US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at <http://factfinder2.census.gov> (Dec. 2012)

Hispanic children are the largest group of children living in poverty (23%). According to the U.S. Census 2010, three percent fewer families in San Benito County were reported to be living in poverty compared to the statewide rate.

TABLE 20: POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS OF FAMILIES (2011)

San Benito	California
11.3%	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml#none

TABLE 21: CHILDREN LIVING IN CROWDED HOUSEHOLDS (10,000 RESIDENTS OR MORE)

Region	Percent		
	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011
San Benito County	22.1%	22.9%	23.6%

Data Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey microdata files. (Feb. 2013). Definition: Estimated percentage of children under age 18 living in households with more than one person per room of the house. "Rooms" include living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, enclosed porches, and lodger's rooms.

HOMELESSNESS AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TABLE 22: SAN BENITO HOMELESS SNAPSHOT

San Benito County
193 people are homeless in San Benito County on any given night, and 401 experience homelessness annually.
31% are in families with children.
39% are unsheltered. However, most of those sheltered when the census was conducted in January were in the winter shelter which closes in April.
More than half (57%) are male, and half are between the ages of 31-50.
20% of the homeless population is chronically homeless.
More than half (57%) are homeless for the first time.
More than half (56%) cited job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness.

Source: 2011 Monterey and San Benito Counties Homeless Census and Survey http://mcdss.co.monterey.ca.us/reports/downloads/lead_me_home_01_13.pdf

TABLE 23: SAN BENITO COUNTY CALWORKS DATA (Number of people as of January of each year)

Region	Number				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
San Benito County	1,704	1,930	2,286	2,357	2,030
	3.1%	3.5%	4.1%	4.2%	3.6%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Dept. of Social Services, CalWORKs Data Trends. Accessed at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG219.htm> (Nov. 2012); California Dept. of Finance, Population & Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, & the State, 2011-2012, and Population Estimates for Counties & State, 2001-2010. Accessed at <http://www.dof.ca.gov> (Nov. 2012).

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there is one federally recognized tribe in San Benito County. The Coastanoan/Ohlone is a federally recognized Tribe located in and around San Juan Bautista

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE ANALYSIS

San Benito County is located along the Coast Mountain Range approximately one hour south of San Jose. San Benito County is largely rural with most residents involved in ranching, agribusiness, and/or small farms. The vast majority of the county's population lives in Hollister, the County seat.

In 2012, the population of San Benito County was estimated as 56,884, a 2.9% increase from April 2010, just slightly above the total population increase of 2.1% for California. County population increased only 3.8% from 2000-2010 compared to a nearly 10% increase in state population during the same period. More than two thirds (69%) of the children in San Benito are Hispanic/Latino, whereas White children only account for 26% of the child population. This demonstrates the continuing necessity for services and programs that are culturally appropriate for the Hispanic/Latino population.

Children under 18 comprise 29% of the overall population. There is not significant variation among the number of children by age. The smallest percent of children are under the age of one (4.6%) and the highest percent are age 16 (6.3%). There are slightly more males (51%) than females in the youth population. Regarding live births, the most recent available data (2010) shows that 73% of live births were Hispanic babies followed by White babies at 22%. This aligns with the ethnic profile of San Benito County.

Thirty nine percent of San Benito residents over the age of five speak a language other than English. Of those who speak another language, the majority speak Spanish. For those that speak another language, fifty three percent state that they speak English less than "very well".

The American Community Survey conducted in 2011 estimates that of those 25 years or older, in San Benito County, 75% have a high school diploma or higher. This ranking is 5% lower than the estimate for California statewide and 10% lower than the national estimate. In 2012, 1,174 students were enrolled in special education. The enrollment was almost evenly divided between Hispanic and White children. The highest identified impairments were Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI).

More than 60% of students (6132) enrolled in San Benito County schools are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. This is an increase from the previous years when only one half of the students were eligible for food assistance.

According to the most recent data on median income, the median income in San Benito County is higher than California's (\$70,231). The unemployment rate is very high at 15.1%, up 8% from

2007, prior to the economic downturn. Rents have decreased over the past two years after peaking in 2011.

The number of children below the federal poverty threshold (0-99%) is 14.4%. The number of children under 199% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is 21.2%. Hispanic children constitute the largest group of children living in poverty (23%). According to the U.S. Census 2010, three percent fewer families in San Benito County were reported to be living in poverty compared to the statewide rate.

Regarding homelessness in San Benito County, based on a 2011 community survey, approximately 200 people were counted as homeless on any given night and 401 reported having at least one night of homelessness during the past year. Thirty-one percent lived in families with children. More than half were homeless for the first time in 2011 and more than half of those cited job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness. More than one half of the homeless were male and half were between the ages of 31-50. Twenty percent of the homeless population is *chronically homeless* in San Benito County.

Child Maltreatment Indicators

According to the Centers for Disease Control¹, a combination of individual, relational, community, and societal factors contribute to the risk of child maltreatment. Although children are not responsible for the harm inflicted upon them, certain characteristics have been found to increase their risk of being maltreated. Risk factors are those characteristics associated with child maltreatment—they may or may not be direct causes.

Risk Factors for Victimization

- Children younger than 4 years of age
- Special needs that may increase caregiver burden (e.g., disabilities, mental retardation, mental health issues, and chronic physical illnesses)

Risk Factors for Perpetration

Individual Risk Factors

- Parents' lack of understanding of children's needs, child development and parenting skills
- Parents' history of child maltreatment in family of origin
- Substance abuse and/or mental health issues including depression in the family
- Parental characteristics such as young age, low education, single parenthood, large number of dependent children, and low income
- Non-biological, transient caregivers in the home (e.g., mother's male partner)
- Parental thoughts and emotions that tend to support or justify maltreatment behaviors

Family Risk Factors

- Social isolation
- Family disorganization, dissolution, and violence, including intimate partner violence

¹ Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/riskprotectivefactors.html>

- Parenting stress, poor parent-child relationships, and negative interactions

Community Risk Factors

- Community violence
- Concentrated neighborhood disadvantage (e.g., high poverty and residential instability, high unemployment rates, and high density of alcohol outlets), and poor social connections.

CHILD RISK FACTORS – AGE AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Low Birth weight babies have ranged between 5% - 7% for babies born between the years 2006-2010. It is in alignment with the state’s rate at 6.8%.

TABLE 1: LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES – 2006-2010

Region	Number				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
San Benito County	52	58	59	37	46
	5.9%	6.6%	7.2%	4.9%	6.3%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Dept. of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Files; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Natality data on WONDER (Mar. 2012).

The percentage of babies born to adolescent mothers (age 15-19) overall in San Benito County decreased significantly in 2010 to 16.3%. It has ranged from 32% to 38% over the previous four years. The birth rate for Latina adolescents, although higher than the general population (see table), also dropped significantly in 2010.

TABLE 2: BIRTHS TO ADOLESCENT MOTHERS, AGED 15-19, 2006-2010

Region	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
San Benito County	84 34.9%	96 38.4%	83 32.4%	86 32.6%	43 16.3%
Hispanic/Latina*	53.3%	58.9%	49.8%	48.8%	21.3%

*Note: Only Hispanic/Latina mother’s showed significant percentages; all other ethnicities were too low to list.

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Public Health Department, County Health Status Profiles, December 2012

California’s rate of mother’s receiving prenatal care is 83.5%. San Benito’s rate of prenatal care has been higher than the state’s rate since 2007.

TABLE 3: NO PRENATAL CARE BEGUN IN THE TRIMESTER – 2006-2010

Region	Percent				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
San Benito County	83.2%	84.0%	87.9%	86.4%	89.6%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Public Health Department, County Health Status Profiles, December 2012

Medi-Cal and other public forms of insurance have increased since 2003 from 29.9% to 36.7% in 2009. The number of privately insured patients has varied between 4.7% and 7.0%, showing no clear trend.

TABLE 4: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE 2009

San Benito County	Percent			
	2003	2005	2007	2009
Employment-Based Insurance	50.4%	58.2%	64.9%	53.2%
Medi-Cal / Healthy Families / Other Public	29.9%	32.6%	23.7%	36.7%

Privately Purchased	7.0%	4.9%	6.4%	4.7%
Uninsured	12.7%	4.3%	5.0%	5.4%

TABLE 5: CHILDREN WITH MAJOR DISABILITIES 2009-2011

Region	Percent	
	2008-2010	2009-2011
	333	350
San Benito County	2.1%	2.2%

Source: As cited on KidsData.org, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

In San Benito County, 2.2% of children live with disabilities. Children are classified as having disabilities if they have serious difficulties in one or more of the following areas: hearing, vision, cognitive ability (asked of ages 5-17), ambulatory ability (asked of ages of 5-17), self-care (asked of ages 5-17), or independent living (asked of ages 15-17).

TABLE 6: DEPRESSION RELATED FEELINGS BY GENDER AND GRADE LEVEL (2008-2010)

San Benito County	Percent			
	Female		Male	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
7th Grade	29.3%	70.7%	22.9%	77.1%
9th Grade	32.0%	68.0%	23.6%	76.4%
11th Grade	41.9%	58.1%	25.1%	74.9%
Non-Traditional	48.8%	51.2%	27.1%	72.9%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). <http://www.wested.org/chks>

Table 6 shows the percentage of students of San Benito County in grades 7, 9, and 11, and non-traditional students, reporting whether in the past 12 months, they had felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped doing some usual activities, by gender. The grade levels included in school district-level data depend on the grades offered in each school district; for example, high school districts do not include 7th grade data. "Non-traditional" students are those enrolled in Community Day Schools or Continuation Education.

TABLE 7: HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES BY AGE GROUP (2007-2011)

Monterey and San Benito Counties	Number				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
5-14 years	45	56	58	73	36
Percentage	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	1.1%	0.5%
15-19 years	122	130	145	145	161
Percentage	3.4%	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%	4.3%

Data Source: Special Tabulation by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (Feb. 2013). California Dept. of Finance, 2000-2010 Estimates of Population by Race/Ethnicity with Age and Gender Detail; and State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity and 5-year Age Groups, 2010-2060 (by year). Accessed at <http://www.dof.ca.gov> (Feb. 2013).

From 2007-2011, the rate of hospitalizations for mental health issues for youth in San Benito County has been higher overall than California. There was a spike in the rate of mental health

hospitalizations for young children (aged 5-14) from Monterey and San Benito Counties in 2010 but a steady rate of hospitalizations for older youth (15-19) over the last 5 years.

FAMILY RISK FACTORS – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND AOD ISSUES

In San Benito County, the rate of calls for assistance relating to domestic violence per 1000 adults remained fairly stable between 1998 and 2012, ranging between 6.0 to 8.8 calls per 1000 population. (This is calculated based on the adult population.)

TABLE 8: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RATES, ADULTS (AGES 18-69)

Region	Rate per 1,000														
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
San Benito County	6.1	6.0	8.8	7.1	7.7	7.8	6.9	7.6	6.9	6.0	8.0	7.7	7.0	7.0	6.5

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Dept. of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance Database (1998-2009) and California Criminal Justice Profiles, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Accessed at <http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/criminal-justice-profiles> (Jun. 2013); California Dept. of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999, 2000-2010, 2010-2060. Accessed at <http://www.dof.ca.gov> (May 2013). <http://www.kidsdata.org/data/region/dashboard.aspx?loc=127&cat=1>

FAMILY RISK FACTORS – HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND HOUSING COSTS

The table below shows that most (71.5%) children in San Benito County live within a married couple household. This is slightly higher (4%) than the median in the State of California.

TABLE 9: FAMILY STRUCTURE AMONG HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN (2007-2009)

	CA	San Benito
Female-Headed Household	18.8%	17.9%
Male-Headed Household	4.8%	6.2%
Married Couple (Opposite Sex)	67.9%	71.5%
Unmarried Couple (Opposite Sex)	8.0%	4.3%
Unmarried or Married Same-Sex Couple	0.3%	LNE
Other Households	0.3%	LNE

Source: KidsData.org, US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (April 2011)

San Benito’s median family income is on par with California and higher by \$5,000 annually than the national median family income.

Child maltreatment analysis

In 2012, in San Benito County, approximately one third of children were under five years of age. The percentage of babies born to adolescent mothers (age 15-19) overall in San Benito County decreased significantly in 2010 to 16.3% from a high of 38% over the previous four years. The birth rate for Latina adolescents although higher than the general population also dropped significantly in 2010. Consistently since 2007, the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in San Benito County (89.6 %) has been higher than the state rate (83.5%). Low birth rate weight babies have ranged between 5% - 7% of all births between the years 2006-2010. This is consistent with the state’s rate at 6.8%. Medi-Cal and other public forms of insurance are a major source of funding for health care. The percentage of patients relying on Medi-Cal has

increased between 2003 and 2009 from 29.9% to 36.7%. Approximately 2% of children/youth 5-17 in San Benito have some disability, defined as having serious difficulties in one or more of the following areas: hearing, vision, cognitive ability (asked of ages 5-17), ambulatory ability (asked of ages of 5-17), self-care (asked of ages 5-17), or independent living (asked of ages 15-17). The rate of hospitalizations among youth in San Benito County for mental health issues has been slightly higher than the statewide rate. However, there has been a slight decrease for both age groups (5-14 years and 15-19 years). In 2010, a spike in the rate of mental health hospitalizations occurred for young children (aged 5-14) from Monterey and San Benito Counties but for older youth (15-19), the rate of hospitalizations has only slightly increased.

Regarding family risk factors, the rate of calls for assistance relating to domestic violence per 1000 adults remained fairly stable between 1998 and 2012, ranging from 6.0 to 8.8 calls per 1000 adult population. The rate in 2012 was 6.5 which was the lowest in 5 years but without more demographic and comparative information, the possible impact on child maltreatment cannot be determined. Most children in San Benito County (71.5%) live within a married couple household. This is slightly higher (+4%) than the median in the State of California. San Benito County's median family income is on par with the statewide median income and \$5,000 higher annually than the national median family income.

Child Welfare and Probation Population – San Benito County

ALLEGATIONS, SUBSTANTIATIONS AND ENTRIES

Current data extract (unless otherwise noted): Q3 2013

All of the data was extracted from Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Yee, H., Hightower, L., Mason, F., Lou, C., Peng, C., King, B., & Lawson, J. (2013). University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

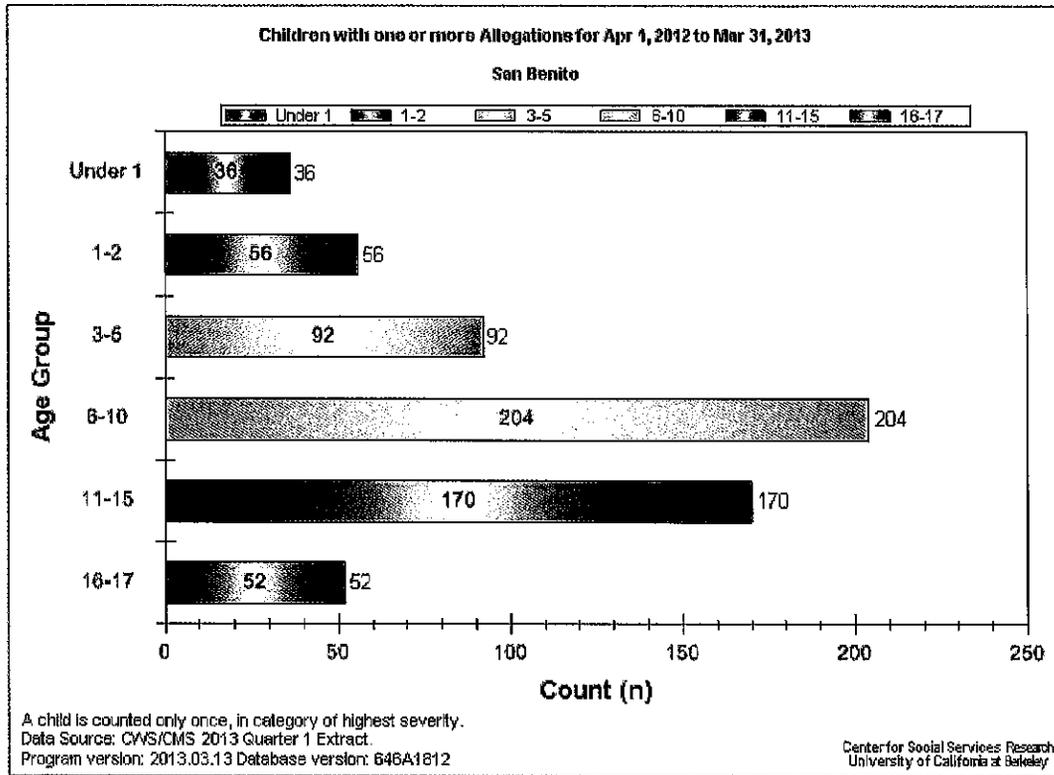
There were 610 referrals in the last year, of those the majority were for age range 6-10 (204) and 11-15 (170).

TABLE A: REFERRALS APRIL 1, 2012 TO MARCH 31, 2013

Age Group	Age Group						Total n
	Under 1	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-17	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	
Under 1	36	0	0	0	0	0	36
'1-2	0	56	0	0	0	0	56
'3-5	0	0	92	0	0	0	92
'6-10	0	0	0	204	0	0	204
'11-15	0	0	0	0	170	0	170
16-17	0	0	0	0	0	52	52

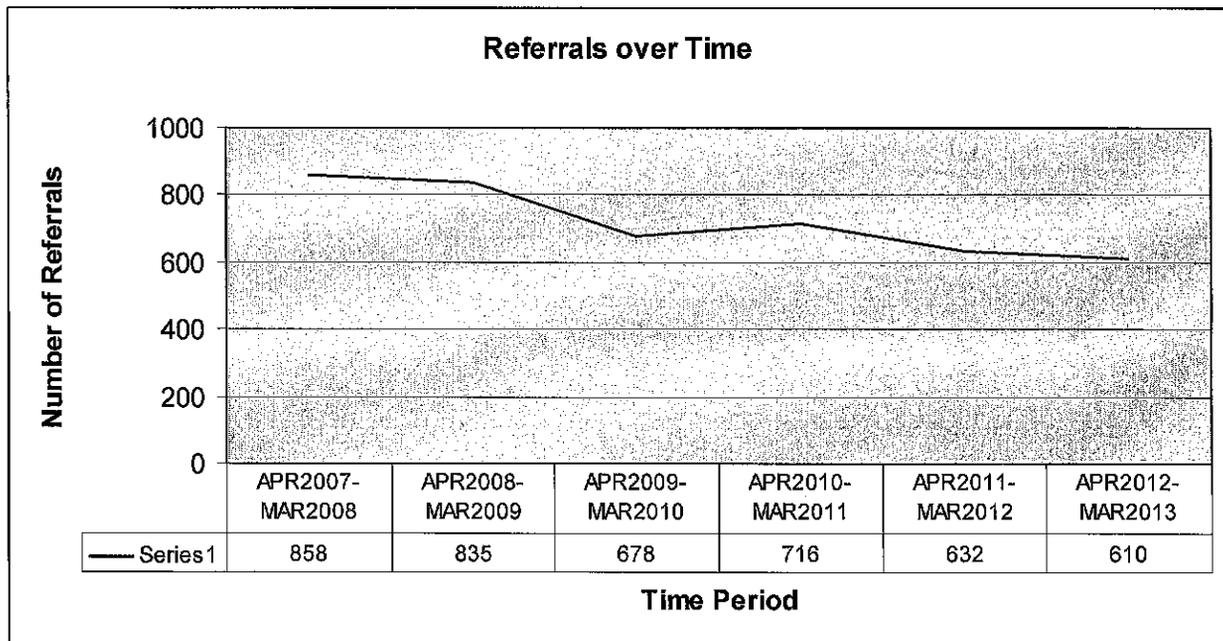
Total	36	56	92	204	170	52	610
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CHART 1: REFERRALS BY AGE GROUP - APRIL 1, 2012 TO MARCH 31, 2013



Since 2007, there has been an overall downward trend in referrals.

TABLE B: TOTAL REFERRALS OVER TIME (2007 – 2013)



Latino children over the last CSA have consistently comprised the largest group of referrals.

TABLE C: REFERRALS BY ETHNIC GROUP (2008 – 2013)

Ethnic Group	APR2008-MAR2009	APR2009-MAR2010	APR2010-MAR2011	APR2011-MAR2012	APR2012-MAR2013
	n	n	n	n	n
	Black	10	9	9	8
White	205	179	183	167	160
Latino	546	411	492	438	389
Asian/PI	7	3	6	2	4
Nat Amer	4		1	1	1
Missing	63	76	25	16	52
Total	835	678	716	632	610

Hollister is the largest city in San Benito County with 15,891 children. However, San Juan Bautista has more allegations (referrals) per 1,000 children at 34.5.

TABLE D: REFERRALS BY ZIP CODE

ZIP Code	City	Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children
California		9,697,339	487,242	50.3
San Benito		15,891	561	35.3
95043	Paicines	140	1	7.1
95023	Hollister	14,649	457	31.2

California Child and Family Services Review

95045	San Juan Bautista	1,102	38	34.5
Not Geocoded, 6.2%			35	0
Out of County, 5.3%			30	0

General neglect comprises the great majority of referrals in each reporting period. Physical abuse had a spike in 2011-2012, where it peaked at 18.2%. Overall referrals were highest in 2008/09, decreasing in each subsequent year. Last year, the number of referrals were the lowest at 610 referrals.

TABLE E: REFERRALS BY ALLEGATION TYPE

Allegation Type	APR2008- MAR2009	APR2009- MAR2010	APR2010- MAR2011	APR2011- MAR2012	APR2012- MAR2013
	n	n	n	n	n
	Sexual Abuse	79	85	73	74
Physical Abuse	185	138	177	157	177
Severe Neglect	6	3	6	6	2
General Neglect	426	362	368	314	309
Exploitation	0	0	0	0	0
Emotional Abuse	89	60	67	62	40
Caretaker Absence/Incapacity	16	10	9	8	6
At Risk, Sibling Abused	14	10	16	11	5
Substantial Risk	20	10	0	0	0
Total	835	678	716	632	610

Of the 610 referrals, 66 with a spike in referrals the last year (2012-2013).

Of the 610 referrals in 66 were substantiated. This has significantly decreased since 198 in 2008 - 2009.

TABLE F: SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS BY ALLEGATION TYPE (2008 - 2013)

Allegation Type	APR2008- MAR2009	APR2009- MAR2010	APR2010- MAR2011	APR2011- MAR2012	APR2012- MAR2013
	%	%	%	%	%
	Sexual Abuse	2.5	0	5	0.8
Physical Abuse	8.6	9.2	8.5	18.2	6.1
Severe Neglect	1	1.1	1.4	0	0
General Neglect	59.1	64.4	71.6	69.4	86.4
Exploitation	0	0	0	0	0
Emotional Abuse	11.6	2.3	2.8	0.8	1.5
Caretaker Absence/Incapacity	3.5	2.3	4.3	5	6.1
At Risk, Sibling Abused	3.5	9.2	6.4	5.8	0

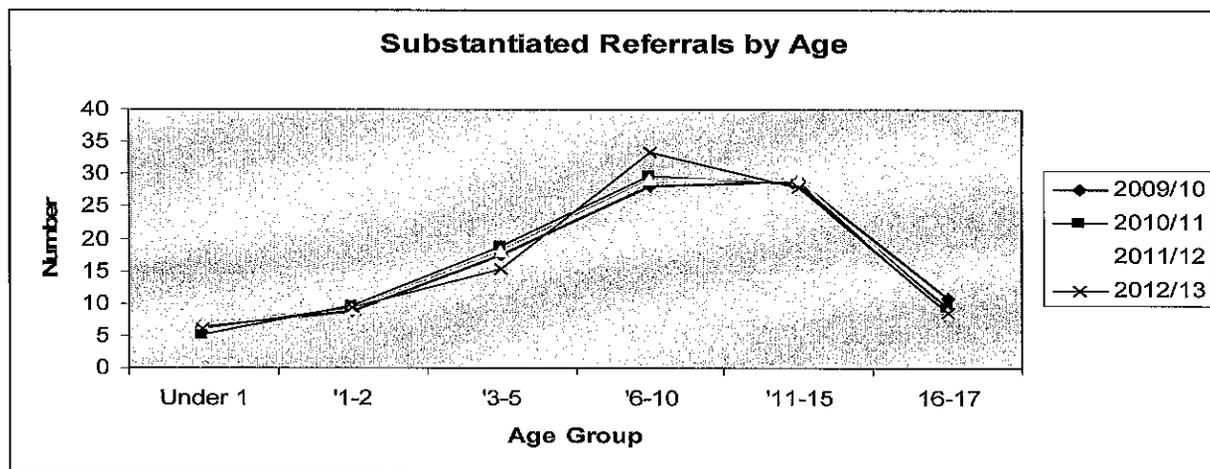
Substantial Risk	10.1	11.5	0	0	0
Total Numbers	198	87	141	121	66

The majority of children with substantiated allegations are those between 6 and 15 years old.

TABLE G: SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS BY AGE (2008 - 2013)

Age Group				
	APR2009-MAR2010	APR2010-MAR2011	APR2011-MAR2012	APR2012-MAR2013
	%	%	%	%
Under 1	6.2	5	6.8	5.9
1-2	8.8	9.4	8.9	9.2
3-5	17.4	18.6	17.9	15.1
6-10	28	29.6	29.1	33.4
11-15	28.9	28.4	29	27.9
16-17	10.6	9.1	8.4	8.5

CHART 2: SUBSTANTIATED REFERRALS BY AGE



Latino children constitute the great majority (69.7%) of children with substantiated referrals. White children are the next largest group at 28.7%. Other ethnic groups are not significantly represented.

TABLE H: SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS BY ETHNICITY (2008 - 2013)

Group					
	APR2008-MAR2009	APR2009-MAR2010	APR2010-MAR2011	APR2011-MAR2012	APR2012-MAR2013
	%	%	%	%	%
Black	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.7
White	26.6	29.7	26.5	27.1	28.7
Latino	70.7	68.3	71.2	71.1	69.7

Asian/PI	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.7
Nat Amer	0.5	.	0.1	0.2	0.2

FIRST ENTRIES

There were 45 children who entered foster care in 2012, approximately 50% less than the previous year, but more in alignment with 2009 and 2010.

TABLE I: FIRST ENTRIES INTO CARE BY AGE (2009 – 2012)

Age Group				
	JAN2009-DEC2009	JAN2010-DEC2010	JAN2011-DEC2011	JAN2012-DEC2012
	n	n	n	n
Under 1	8	9	9	10
'1-2	11	6	10	6
'3-5	6	6	15	8
'6-10	7	4	20	12
'11-15	12	9	28	8
16-17	1	4	3	1
Total	45	38	85	45

Hispanic and White children comprise almost all the children entering foster care in each of the last four years.

TABLE J: FIRST ENTRIES INTO CARE BY ETHNICITY (2009 – 2012)

Ethnic Group				
	JAN2009-DEC2009	JAN2010-DEC2010	JAN2011-DEC2011	JAN2012-DEC2012
	n	n	n	n
Black	0	0	5	1
White	16	11	16	14
Latino	28	27	63	30
Asian/P.I.	0	0	0	0
Nat Amer	0	0	0	0
Multi-Race	0	0	0	0
Missing	1	.0	1	.0
Total	45	38	85	45

The majority of children who entered foster care in 2012, 40 children were from Hollister.

TABLE K: FIRST ENTRIES INTO CARE BY ZIP CODE (2012)

ZIP Code	City	Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children
California		9,697,339	30,798	3.2

San Benito		15,891	59	3.7
95043	Paicines	140	0	0
95045	San Juan Bautista	1,102	1	0.9
95023	Hollister	14,649	40	2.7
Not Geocoded, 27.1%			16	0
Out of County, 3.4%			2	0

TABLE L: OTHER ENTRIES INTO CARE BY AGE (2009 – 2012)

Age Group				
	JAN2009-DEC2009	JAN2010-DEC2010	JAN2011-DEC2011	JAN2012-DEC2012
	n	n	n	n
Under 1	0	0	0	1
'1-2	0	1	0	0
'3-5	1	6	1	2
'6-10	2	6	5	5
'11-15	4	2	6	5
16-17	1	1	3	1
Total	8	16	15	14

TABLE M: OTHER ENTRIES INTO CARE BY ETHNIC GROUP (2009 – 2012)

Ethnic Group				
	JAN2009-DEC2009	JAN2010-DEC2010	JAN2011-DEC2011	JAN2012-DEC2012
	n	n	n	n
Black	0	0	0	0
White	2	4	4	5
Latino	6	12	11	9
Asian/P.I.	0	0	0	0
Nat Amer	0	0	0	0
Multi-Race	0	0	0	0
Missing
Total	8	16	15	14

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

There were 101 children in care in 2012, about 25 more children the year before. Hispanic children represent 69% of children in foster care. During the previous five years, 2010 had the fewest children in care at 57 children in care.

TABLE N: CHILD WELFARE CASELOAD BY AGE (2008 – 2012)

Age Group					
	Jul 1,2008	Jul 1,2009	Jul 1,2010	Jul 1,2011	Jul 1,2012

	n	n	n	n	n
Under 1	4	2	8	5	4
'1-2	13	10	10	14	14
'3-5	14	17	11	16	17
'6-10	26	21	11	20	34
'11-15	17	22	9	23	22
16-17	16	10	8	8	10
Total	90	82	57	86	101

TABLE O: CHILD WELFARE CASELOAD BY ETHNIC GROUP (2008 – 2012)

Ethnic Group					
	Jul 1,2008	Jul 1,2009	Jul 1,2010	Jul 1,2011	Jul 1,2012
	n	n	n	n	n
Black	2	0	0	5	2
White	13	12	11	20	29
Latino	71	70	46	61	70
Asian/P.I.	4	0	0	0	0
Nat Amer	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Race	0	0	0	0	0
Missing
Total	90	82	57	86	101

The total caseload is split into thirds among Family Maintenance (29.3%), Family Reunification (32.1%), and Permanent Placement (32.9%).

TABLE P: CHILD WELFARE CASELOAD BY SERVICE COMPONENT- APRIL 2013

Service Component Type	Voluntary Status			Total
	Court Ordered	Voluntary	Missing	
	n	n	n	
Emergency Response	1	0	1	2
Pre-Placement (FM)	6	0	0	6
Post-Placement (FM)	41	0	0	41
Family Reunification	45	0	0	45
Permanent Placement	41	5	0	46
Supportive Transition	0	0	0	0
Total	134	5	1	140

TABLE Q: CHILD WELFARE CASELOAD BY SERVICE COMPONENT BY ETHNICITY – APRIL 2013

Service Component Type	Ethnic Group						Total
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Nat Amer	Missing	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	

Emergency Response	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Pre-Placement (FM)	0	3	3	0	0	0	6
Post-Placement (FM)	0	11	30	0	0	0	41
Family Reunification	0	11	34	0	0	0	45
Permanent Placement	1	11	34	0	0	0	46
Supportive Transition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	37	102	0	0	0	140

The majority of children under age 1 (72.7%) are receiving Family Reunification. The majority of youth aged 16-17 (63.6%) are in Permanent Placement.

TABLE R: CHILD WELFARE CASELOAD BY SERVICE COMPONENT BY AGE GROUP – APRIL 2013

PERCENT	Age Group							All
	Under 1	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-17	18-20	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Emergency Response	9.1	0	0	0	2.7	0	0	1.4
Pre-Placement (FM)	0	0	0	2.7	8.1	18.2	0	4.3
Post-Placement (FM)	9.1	25	42.9	29.7	35.1	18.2	0	29.3
Family Reunification	72.7	40	33.3	32.4	27	0	0	32.1

Public Agency Characteristics

San Benito County has a comprehensive infrastructure for providing child welfare services. The Board of Supervisors and community support the provision of services to the children, youth and families of our county.

Some of the county Health and Human Services Agency offices are co-located with easy access among all the agency divisions. Under the umbrella of the agency are divisions providing Social Services, Employment Services, Eligibility Services and Health Services. However, Public Health which also encompasses Emergency Medical Services and Environmental Health is located at a different location. Emergency Medical Services and Environmental Health are co-located near Health and Human Services Agency.

The Juvenile Probation Division, including Juvenile Hall falls under the umbrella of the Probation Department.

San Benito County Health and Human Services agency provides the fiscal and program accountability for the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds. The Child Abuse Prevention Council administers the CAPIT, CBCAP and PSSF funding. Most of the funds go to the Family Resource Center which is located in the same building as the Health and Human Services Agency. The FRC

provides oversight of the services delivered and is accountable to CAPC and H&HSA. The FRC does not oversee or administer the funding.

The specific services the Family Resource Center (a division of the Health and Human Services Agency) provides through the OCAP administered funds are delivered to families across the entire county. The Family Resource Center provides primary and secondary prevention, intervention and treatment services to families to improve positive outcomes for children, youth and families. This can be seen further in the "Section E. Outcomes" analysis of this report.

A. County Operated Shelter

The County does not operate a children's shelter. Specific foster parents and Foster Family Agency foster homes are identified as willing to accept placements on an emergency 24- hour basis. In addition, for challenging placement situations, the County has contracted and developed an MOU with Monterey County for the use of their 23 hour Cherish Receiving Center.

The County does not have any Transitional Housing Programs for youth.

There are two programs for emergency housing for Adults. Community Services Workforce Development operates a winter shelter from Dec. to March each year that provides 24 units at the Migrant Center for families with minor children. Families are able to stay for the duration of the winter operation. Families pay a rental fee, which is returned to them at the end of the winter shelter season in an effort to assist families gain the money needed to secure other means of housing. The Homeless Coalition (a local non-profit) runs a winter shelter at the unaccompanied adult labor camp from Dec. to March each year and its capacity is approximately 24 persons. These individuals are allowed to stay as long as there is space available for the duration of the shelter operation season. They are provided with food and shelter, however, shelter is for sleeping only, and individuals must leave the premises in the morning and are allowed to return at night.

B. County licensing

San Benito County provides foster home licensing services for interested families/individuals who wish to become foster parents. An in-house social worker at the Family Resource Center (FRC) provides orientations once a month or more frequently, depending on the demand of prospective foster parents. FRC provides assistance to the Licensing Social Worker with outreach efforts conducted through community events and distribution of brochures/flyers that contain information about how to become a foster parent. As foster homes become approved, they are identified as foster-adoptive or regular foster homes. Foster-adoptive homes are those that are willing to and have been approved to adopt children if they are unable to be returned home. Currently there are a total of seven county licensed foster homes. Of the seven, only six are active and only two homes are foster- adoptive only but do assist with Emergency Placements as needed. All of the seven homes prefer to have infants or small children under the age of 9 placed in their home.

C. County Adoptions

San Benito County has an MOU with the CDSS to provide all aspects of adoption services for the county. This configuration of services requires staff from both agencies to work collaboratively in order to facilitate timely adoptions. Monthly meetings occur at which dependent children cases are discussed and referred for adoption assessments through a regular concurrent planning process. Families who want to adopt dependent children are served by the Fresno Regional Office and are encouraged to actively participate with them in an effort to expedite the process and provide permanency for the dependent child in foster care.

D. Probation Agency Juvenile Placement Unit

The San Benito County Probation Juvenile Placement Unit provides supervision and care to minors who are ordered into out of home placement by the San Benito County Juvenile Court. The placement unit is represented by a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer and one Deputy Probation Placement Officer. In addition, a Public Health Nurse and Human Services Eligibility Officer are assigned to provide assistance to the Placement Unit.

Minors who are ordered into suitable placements by the Juvenile Court are generally placed in group homes or residential treatment centers based upon treatment needs, delinquency history, and protection of the community, family issues, and availability of appropriate placements. Placements could also be with relative/non-relative extended families. The Orange County Risk and Needs Assessment and MAYSI-2 is completed for each child from the onset, with the goal to identify the child's needs and risk, to determine the best placement and to ultimately achieve family reunification.

The Deputy Probation Officers (DPO'S) directly supervise their assigned cases. The parents/guardians, placement staff and the minor work collaboratively on the minor's case plan goals, so that the minor will be successful in placement not only behaviorally, but also emotionally, socially and legally. Local resources and extended family members are contacted and utilized, whenever possible, in order to reduce group home placements. Although case planning is intended to be in collaboration with the parents, probation youth parents' are occasionally not available to participate in the case planning efforts. Some parents are deceased, incarcerated or their whereabouts are unknown. All possible efforts are made to obtain parental input in the case planning process (e.g. incarcerated parents have case plans reviewed with them at a correctional institution or via telephone). Guardians and/or relatives are also contacted for input when parents are unavailable.

E. Juvenile Probation

Supervising Deputy Probation Officer: The Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO) is responsible for supervising and overseeing the day-to-day activities of all DPO' s including the Placement Unit Deputy Probation Officers. SDPO position functions include attending placement meetings and providing direction regarding placement decisions and appropriate case plans. The SDPO also attends meetings of the Interagency Placement Committee, Children's Inter Agency Coordinating County (CICC), Children's System of Care – Family and Access Coordinating Team (FACT); Foster Youth Service Council (FYS), Probation Advisory

Committee, Juvenile Probation weekly staff meetings and other statewide training seminars and conferences.

The SDPO chairs the Juvenile Probation Weekly staff meetings where prospective placement cases are staffed and screened prior to submitting a placement referral to the Court. Other tasks include conferencing cases with DPO's and the Chief and reviewing reports prior to submission to the Court.

Placement Deputy Probation Officers: The Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) are responsible for ensuring the stability, safety, and well-being of minors who have been ordered into out-of-home care. The average placement caseload size for a DPO is 3 foster youth and 20 non-foster youth. The DPO's track all placement changes, update case plans as needed and report the minor's progress to the Court. The DPO's are responsible for all visits and contacts with minors, group homes, treatment providers, school officials, and parents. These contacts are regulated by CDSS MPP Division 31, and also affect Title IV-E reimbursements. Monitoring of specific probation terms is also required, including drug testing, conducting probation searches, obtaining restitution, and monitoring compliance with therapy conditions. The Probation Officers are also responsible for monitoring the placement facilities to ensure compliance with Title 22 regulations.

The Placement DPO's ensure that all required documents are in order and submitted to the appropriate parties, as required by Agency policy and State regulations. Other tasks include conferencing cases with the SDPO, gathering Probation placement statistics for submission to CDSS (FC23) and assisting with the transport of minors from juvenile hall to a placement, or vice-versa.

Funding sources for Probation in San Benito County in FY 12-13 include: (a) federal IV-E; and (b) County funds required as match to draw down the state and federal funds.

F. County Government Structure

Please see attachments of the Health and Human Services Organizational Chart and County Probation Organizational Chart.

Child Welfare Services is a division within San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). San Benito County Probation is a separate organization within county government. Children's Services, Children's Behavioral Health (Mental Health Division) and Probation use interagency meetings and joint training activities to facilitate a complementary approach to child welfare issues.

A. Staffing Characteristics

Turnover

For purposes of this self-assessment, turnover rate is defined as the number of workers who left the child welfare agency by resigning or who were terminated during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) divided by the total number of positions for each staff category.

The turnover rates by classification are displayed in the following chart:

TURNOVER RATE BY CLASSIFICATION FOR CHILD WELFARE (2012-2013)

Classification	Number	Percentage
Administrative Support	1	100%
Social Work Aides	0	0%
CWS Social Workers	0	0%
Staff Analysts	0	0%
Social Work Supervisors	0.3	33%

Worker Caseload Size by Service Program

We have ten full time and one part time Child welfare social workers in our county who are assigned to multiple programs.

There is one Screener, one Court Worker, and three Emergency Response Unit workers who investigate, write petitions and detention reports. The court worker then carries cases through court after the detention hearing. There is a backup support provided to the court worker by the other ER Unit workers with court cases as needed.

We have five continuing workers that carry multiple programs consisting of FR/FM/PP and one part time Social Worker that assists with relative assessments and social worker functions as needed. Continuing Unit also provides support to the Court Worker and ER unit if the need arises.

For purpose of the CSA, we will focus only on caseload size of the core child welfare programs over FY 09/10.

- ER Social Workers – Average 25 new investigations/month, 12.5 per ER worker data taken from Safe Measures 2013
- Continuing Services Social Workers – combined carry approximately: FM is 35 cases; FR 32 cases and PP 47 cases which average 25.6 cases per social worker. (report taken from safe measures) 2013

Our employees are represented by SEIU; there are no outstanding bargaining issues.

Private contractors

We rely upon service providers in our community in order to have the broadest array of services for our children and families that funding levels afford. Our Family Resource Center (FRC) which is operated by San Benito County, provides an array of services to the families and children of San Benito County. The Family Resource Center provides home visiting programs that work with families that are self-referred or referred by other community Agencies that include, but are not limited to Cal-Works, Child Protective Services, Schools, Clinics, Behavioral Health and Public Health. The program is designed to improve family functioning by providing parents services and resources to support optimal child development and healthy parenting. Parents are given information on child development, health, child safety, age appropriate

expectations, and are linked to community resources. The program provides case management through home visits and center based NuParent classes that promote the family's ability to provide safe, healthy and stable home environments for their children that support family and/or child abuse prevention within the home. Court ordered parenting classes are also offered through the FRC throughout the year and are provided in English and Spanish. The FRC has bi-lingual/bi-cultural staff which address a need identified by the stakeholders in San Benito County.

Independent Living Program (ILP) Services are also provided through the FRC. San Benito County ILP is designed to encourage and promote self-sufficiency amongst the participants by providing them with life skills workshops, career exploration, job skill development, interviewing skills, resume writing workshops and money management/budgeting. Assistance is also provided with enrollment in a vocational, and/or in higher education, that includes financial aid planning. A variety of curriculum, video, workbooks, life skills materials, and professional guests are incorporated into the ILP in order to help the youth develop the skills needed for independence and self-sufficiency. In addition, individual meetings are held with participating youth in an effort to plan and assure a smooth transition into self-sufficiency.

San Benito County contracts with three therapists who are readily available to work with families and children who are in need of counseling services. The availability of these services promotes family reunification and increases positive family dynamics to help parents and children address issues that brought them to the attention of Child Welfare Services. Further, for families in which children remained in the home, our experience shows that counseling assists parents and children with acquiring effective communication skills which promotes healthy environments which support the health, safety and well-being of the children in the home.

Financial/Material Resources

San Benito County utilizes allocated funding to provide services and blends these services to meet the needs of the population. The Child Abuse Prevention Council administers CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds and Children's Trust funds to assist families throughout the county with primary and secondary prevention programs. San Benito County continues to seek grant funding to increase services. In the long-term, as funding becomes available, this funding should continue to positively affect reunification and recurrence rates for San Benito County children and families.

Political Jurisdictions

Tribes

There is a Coastanoan/Ohlone federally recognized Indian Tribe in San Juan Bautista. An annual Indian festival is held in San Juan Bautista in which vendors and Indian Tribes come together to share their heritage, sell crafts and conduct performances. There is one ICWA case currently in the child welfare system.

School Districts/Local Education Agencies

There are four school districts within San Benito County. The Hollister School District, Aromas-San Juan Unified School District, North County/Spring Grove, and San Benito High School District. School districts have a close collaborative relationship with Child Welfare, Probation, and Mental Health as well as community based organizations. San Benito County had received Mental Health System of Care funding for a number of years. San Benito County Child Welfare participates in the Children System of Care (CSOC) collaborative team. Information is shared between agencies about children at risk of entering or who have entered the child welfare system. The children's situation is triaged for case planning purposes. This meeting facilitated by Behavioral Health includes members of mental health, probation, child welfare, community partners and parent mentors. The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) and Family Resource Center are not involved in these meetings as they serve a different population. These meetings take place on a monthly basis. In addition, CWS participates in quarterly meetings with the Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council to the continuum of services and service gaps. CAPC is not involved in these meetings.

In addition, San Benito County has a Foster Care Education Liaison who is located at San Benito County Office of Education. Quarterly meetings occur with Foster Youth Services (FYS) Council at San Benito County of Education offices and members of the council include probation, child welfare, behavioral health, representatives from our schools and the Board of Supervisors. In 2007, in collaboration with the Community Assistance Network, Foster Youth Services Advisory Group and the San Benito County of Education, an operational hierarchy of services and methodology was established to prioritize allocation of services to students. Initially, a consensus was reached that youth in the last two years of high school were most at risk (of not completing high school and transitioning to post-secondary education or independent living) and therefore should be identified as most in need of FYS services. Nonetheless, FYS has been able to work with youth from the time they enter the foster care system. Although high school youth remain a high priority, modifications have been made to the methodology to serve youth based on measurable conditions that most often impact educational outcomes irrespective of age, grade, or geographical location. The majority of youth served by FYS are between the ages of 11-17 years, which is consistent with the demographics of foster children attending San Benito County schools.

Law Enforcement

San Benito County Sheriff's Department and the Hollister Police Department work closely with ER staff on mutual investigations. We are continue to work with local law enforcement to review protocols, concerns or issues as they arise to ensure optimal collaboration for the safety and well-being of mutual investigations.

Cities

The two major cities in our county are Hollister and San Juan Batista. There are also smaller communities within our geographic boundaries. We do not have an outstation assignment during regular business hours.

State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

The County has participated in and implemented current federal or state initiatives. Current examples include, but are not limited to:

- Core Practice Model for the State 4/17/13 – State-wide initiative to develop Core Model to streamline Child Welfare practice language and function throughout the state
- Fostering Connections To Success Act (AB 12). Agency collaborating with partners to improve outcomes for transitional age youth. Educating youth, families, and providers about resources and access for NMD; implementation of new legislation. FYS Subcommittee developed 05/11 with SW Supervisor as chair. Met monthly until Q2 2012/2013, when meetings were scheduled less frequently. Committee formed to address implementation. Mission statement: The San Benito County AB12 Subcommittee's mission is to streamline communication among providers to identify and serve all eligible youth and ensure they have access to post-secondary education and independent living services to foster their success as independent adults. Policy and procedure being developed.
- Katie A.: Department leaders met and conferred regularly about implementation. Workers Participated in *Katie A. Parent Engagement Series Training 8/2/13*, Targeted case management and services for at-risk children with open CPS cases, multiple placements or high mental health needs. Meeting weekly with Behavioral Health for identification and implementation. Currently five youth identified. Exploring other rural county approaches. Lake County provided a presentation of creative service delivery by in-house staff, including early engagement groups and parent partner positions. Involved stakeholders' including parents and foster youth. Parents interested in becoming parent partners. Jointly developed Eligibility Forms to identify eligible children.
- Safety Organized Practice has been integrated into our child welfare system through close collaboration with the Bay Area Academy and coaching during 2013. Through this practice model, social workers have been able to apply a structured strategy designed to help all the key stakeholders involved with a child- the parents, the extended family, the child welfare worker, supervisor, managers, lawyers, judges, and other individuals- maintain their focus on assessing and enhancing child safety at all points in the case process. This practice model integrates the best *signs of safety* methodology, i.e., a strengths and solution focused child welfare approach that includes Structured Decision Making.

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

The BOS-Designated Public Agency

San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency, has been designated by the Board of Supervisors as the designated public agency. Human Services Agency Staff provides the fiscal and program accountability for the CAPIC/CBCAP/PSSF Funds.

Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)

The Child Abuse Prevention Council administers the CAPIC, CBCAP and PSSF funding. Most of the funds go to the Family Resource Center which is located in the same building as the Health and Human Services Agency. The FRC provides oversight of the services delivered and is accountable to CAPC and H&HSA. The FRC does not oversee or administer the funding. Our CAPC is an established independent organization within county government.

County Children's Trust Fund Commission, Board or Council

The FRC Supervisor presents at our CAPC meetings information on our program services and activities and disseminates a written report to all members. Our county publishes this information in our local web page, Benito Link.

The county does not deposit any portions of our CBCAP allocation into the CCTF.

PSSF Collaborative

Systemic Factors

1. Management Information Systems

San Benito County fully utilizes the statewide Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) as a primary system for tracking referrals, cases, placements, court activity and clients. Social workers use desk top computers to access CWS/CMS. There is also the capacity for after-hours staff to use a laptop to access CWS/CMS by virtual private network (VPN) by using State provided tokens that provide access to the CWS/CMS system. To help support all agency staff in monitoring the use of CWS/CMS and subsequent outcomes for children, youth and families, we contract with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for *Safe Measures*. This application is used by all social workers, supervisors and agency deputy director who oversees child welfare to track the status of our outcome measures as well as for caseload planning. For example, a worker can easily see what face to face visits are outstanding in a given month.

To ensure that we are making informed decisions considering risk, safety and protective capacity, we use Structured Decision Making (SDM) which has its own data collection and analysis component provided by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

All social workers and staff receive training in all computer systems by the Bay Area Academy, Supervisors, or the Deputy Director. Staff also attends State sponsored CWS/CMS new user training as it becomes available.

San Benito County contracts with National Council on Crime and Delinquency to provide ad hoc reports as necessary. They provide statistical reports developed from the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and/or web SDM.

The San Benito County Probation Department secured direct access to CWS/CMS during FY 2012-2013. The Department works closely with the Child Welfare agency for CWS/CMS account access, training and information. Full utilization by the Probation Department is impacted by regular technical problems. In addition, a Child Welfare eligibility worker is assigned to handle probation cases for purposes of foster care payment processing.

The Family Resource Center uses the Excel program to track data for the home visiting program, parenting classes and NuParent program, information and referral calls. In addition, information is disseminated through the CAPC public meetings every other month and through other collaborative meetings with community service providers.

Discussion:

The Self-Assessment team noted that it is difficult to share data from agency to agency due to their use of different data systems. Probation, Mental Health, Child Welfare, Independent Living Program, and the Family Resource Center all have separate data programs that do not easily "share" information.

Another difficulty is the size of our county. We have no dedicated CWS/CMS trainer and routinely the Supervisors and Deputy Director find themselves providing training to staff and trying to find out solutions to data entry problems. An example of this is inputting information into the dental section of the Health and Education Passport. One hundred percent of the children in our county receive regular dental care, yet a significantly less number of children are listed as receiving it according to the CWS/CMS system. We have tried to trouble shoot this in many ways including utilizing our Public Health nurse to enter data, but unfortunately for several months this did not occur. Currently there is an assigned Public Health nurse who is coming to the agency weekly to remedy this discrepancy. We will continue to monitor data entry on an ongoing basis.

2. Case Review System

In San Benito County, the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and hears most of the dependency and delinquency matters. Cases are heard in Superior Court, which is located in downtown Hollister, CA. Social workers travel approximately 1.5 miles from their office to the courthouse.

There exists a collaborative relationship between the courts, probation and child welfare. Child Welfare and Probation work together through system of care meetings and quarterly supervisor/management meetings which occur at Behavioral Health. These meetings provide a venue to discuss and address any issues that arise in regards to services gaps or community

concerns. Further, CWS social workers, supervisors, deputy director, the Judge and County Counsel meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues or concerns related to improving outcomes for children and families as they relate to court practice. For example, discussions continue to occur regarding the use of protective custody warrants include clarification of role responsibilities and judicial expectations. Most recently, Safety Organized Practice was the topic of this quarterly meeting.

San Benito County Judges (2) are diligent in adhering to the requirements of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Reviews and permanency hearings are scheduled to meet prescribed time frames. Notices are sent within the legal guidelines. Orders carefully include language required to meet Title IV-E requirements. The Judicial Council conducts annual Title IV-E audits.

The principle of parent-child-youth involvement in case planning is an area where we have focused much effort. Over the past two years, we have begun using family team meetings to discuss home removal prevention, placement changes, returning children home, etc. The purpose of these family team meetings is to involve those people who are identified by the family as their support system in locating resources and helping craft safety plans and case plans that will facilitate reunification and family stability. The overall goal is to maintain and ensure the child's safety, health and well-being in the least restrictive environment. The challenge to fully utilizing this resource is our small staff, transportation and logistics.

Our social workers and probation officers visit every dependent/ward child, in person at least once a month with no exceptions, even if the child is placed out-of-county. Visits are also conducted in person at least once a month with the care provider and/or parents.

In terms of internal case review of child welfare matters, the primary oversight responsibility falls to the unit supervisor. Monthly one-on-one supervisor-worker conferences are required. Supervisors are expected to maintain current knowledge about each case in their unit. This primarily happens during these conferences. Supervisors also must review case plans, court documents, etc., before they are filed. Supervisors review and discuss risk, safety and protective factors with staff at key decision points as well. Supervisors provide support to their staff also by assisting with court report writing, court appearances, placement and other case related activities when an influx of cases or child removals is experienced.

Because of our small size, the Child Welfare Services Deputy Director often takes a direct role in case conferencing and providing guidance and suggestions to line staff. We also meet with our County Counsel who is now co-located at the CWS office to discuss court cases and permanency is addressed at these meetings.

In cases where it is felt that a child needs a concurrent home, a staffing is conducted with CDSS adoption staff. All efforts to find a permanent home through adoption or legal guardianship if appropriate, are documented in the case file. This information is presented to the court at the case review hearings.

3. Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention

San Benito County currently has a part-time child welfare social worker responsible for assessing newly referred Non Related Extended Family Members (NREFM) caregivers. However, if an influx of interested relative caregivers is experienced, the responsibility falls on the assigned social worker to conduct some of these assessments. Licensing for county foster homes is done by this part-time social worker who is trained to do foster home licensing. An IHSS social worker is also trained in the Licensing program and can provide back up as needed.

If a relative is identified as a possible placement, the child welfare social worker is expected to conduct the assessment and the approval process. The process can be time consuming. Families as well as social workers sometimes express frustration with this process which does not readily accommodate the realities of certain communities in our County, where families do not have the resources to meet placement requirements including space and bedroom requirements, criminal histories etc.

We have seven county licensed homes and only six are taking placements; preference is given to infants and small children. Most dependent children are placed in Foster Family Agencies (FFA). Those FFA's include but are not limited to Kinship Center (Monterey), AspiraNet (Salinas), Rainbow Valley (Merced), Safe Harbor (Modesto), Approachable (Merced) and Family Linkages (Gilroy) The FFA's have homes in San Benito County, but none have offices in Hollister, CA.

Annual re-assessments are conducted on county licensed and NREFM homes. NREFM related orientation is provided by the social worker assessing the home. County Licensing sends prospective foster parents to PRIDE program training in Santa Clara County. Santa Clara County allows prospective San Benito County Foster Parents attendance as a courtesy to San Benito County.

FFA's recruit for foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children in our county through the distribution of flyers or brochures at community based events. Information is distributed in English and Spanish.

The CDSS Adoptions District Office (DO) provides adoptive home study assessments for prospective adoptive families. If the prospective adoptive family is part of an FFA which is also an adoption Agency, this FFA will conduct the adoptive home study. The DO is now conducting home studies for all prospective adoptive homes which are not part of an FFA that has both licenses. They work with families to complete the necessary paper work and requirements; the process has improved given that State Adoptions has worked diligently to ensure timely home studies are conducted in a more streamlined manner.

4. Staff, Caregiver and Service Provider Training

San Benito County utilizes the Bay Area Academy to provide the Common Core training mandated within the first two years of employment, as well as the Foundations of Supervision Core training mandated within the first year of assignment. The Bay Area Academy provides Advanced and Regional trainings to support the continuing education and staff development needs of all child welfare staff providing family preservation and support services, child protective services, foster care services, adoption services, and independent living services.

San Benito County also contracts with UC Davis for some trainings, specifically tailored to the needs of our county in topics related to court reports, protective custody warrants, and petitions.

We provide an ongoing in-service training series which includes training on child welfare legal mandates and processes, evidence based practices and use of CWS/CMS. For mandates related to state and federal law, our County Counsel provides training to our social workers.

Each year, Probation officers are required to take a minimum of 40 hours of Standards and Training for Corrections (STC), certified by the Correction Standards Authority. The San Benito County Probation Department Juvenile Services utilizes the Center for Family-Focused Practice, supported by the California Department of Social Services, to provide training to juvenile probation placement officers. The placement officer has been benefiting from this training, e.g., the placement Core course, concurrent planning, and case plan development and will continue to participate in training to increase the Department's capacity to arrange the best possible placements for all youth.

San Benito regularly invites our community partners to training, meetings and events and we have and has excellent participation. We are a close community and share our training resources whenever appropriate.

Family Resource Center employees attend Bay Area and UC Davis training related to case management, home visiting, child development, using a strengths-based practice approach and others as appropriate. Our OCAP liaison attends UC Davis and county sponsored trainings pertaining to managers/supervisors.

CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF is not used to fund attendance at program required meetings or training events for FRC staff. Training or meeting expenses are provided at county cost.

Staff development is imperative to the quality of services delivered to families of the community. Training enables the staff to develop and improve the skills needed to work with parents, caregivers and families for the prevention of child abuse and neglect through services that include home visiting, child development education and effective parenting information that enhances safe and healthy home environments. This training builds a parents ability to address issues early in the development of problem solving in order to prevent maladaptive behaviors (in both parents and children) and improve overall outcomes for children.

The Family Resource Center receives one-on-one technical assistance from the designated CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF county liaison. The county liaison contacts the State OCAP office for specific questions or directions and relays this information.

San Benito County is small in comparison to our neighboring counties. Although at times San Benito County has limited staffing and resources, social workers strive to engage and collaborate with families to co-create case plans that promote behavioral changes within the family with the goal of eventually reunifying parents and their children. In addition during the early stages of a case in the ER Unit, the Agency provides reasonable efforts to assist families with mitigating issues that lead to children's detention from their homes. Social workers also

participate in evidence based practices such as utilization of Structured Decision Making tools that include but are not limited to Family Strengths and Needs Assessments to help parents/youth/child with case plan development. In the continuing unit, social workers sometimes focus more on what the parents need to do rather than on assessing the behavioral changes that will eventually help stabilize the family to prepare for the safe return of their children into their care. This is an area that will be considered for inclusion in the SIP.

5. Agency Collaborations

This section identifies what collaborations exist in the County of San Benito to coordinate child welfare planning efforts (broadly stated from prevention throughout the continuum) including shared expectations, responsibilities, the exchange of information, aligning of activities, sharing of resources and enhancing the capacity of all involved.

San Benito County supports and enhances prevention and intervention service programs through effective collaboration with community agencies. The Family Resource Center provides some of the prevention services. An important service is the Home Visiting Program also known as the Great Beginnings Home Visiting Program. Child Welfare Services refers families to this program for services that help maintain family units together while addressing issues and need within the family dynamics as they arise. Public Health also assists with the interpretation and data entry for CHDP dental and physical exams for foster care children. Through collaboration and communication, early intervention and assistance in identifying appropriate services at a young age, families can be linked to appropriate community services.

San Benito County CWS works closely with law enforcement agencies and other multidisciplinary community teams to conduct joint investigations as appropriate to minimize child trauma and assist the family with services. For example, the Agency has a partnership with United Narcotics Enforcement Team (UNET); Sexual Assault Response Team (SART); Child Abuse Response Team (CART); School Law Partnership. In addition, CWS staff participates in other collaboratives such as School Attendance Review Board (SARB) and the Domestic Violence Committee (DVC)

San Benito County FRC provides information regarding program progress and participation at the quarterly Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) meetings. In addition, CAPC also monitors and provides input and advice on the needs in the community for more or different services which reinforces our efforts to prevent child maltreatment.

First 5 collaborates with our agency and provides free child care for our clients children during our court ordered English and Spanish parenting classes. First Five will continue to collaborate with the FRCs in the future.

SYSTEM OF CARE AND QUALITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

San Benito County CWS and Probation supervisors and managers participate in System of Care meetings and CICC meetings to address service gaps and strategize plans that help decrease the barriers families encounter when accessing services. The common goal is to create a single, integrated, strength-based System of Care partnership dedicated to improving the lives of

children and their families, through the delivery of comprehensive, coordinated, community-based services and support. In addition, the System of Care team has embraced the Integration of Safety Organized Practice to minimize out of home placement and promote permanency for children.

SAFE KIDS CALIFORNIA:

San Benito County FRC staff participates in the Child Injury Prevention Coalition, which meets once a month. Through this Coalition, several community agencies come together to plan and implement public education to inform the community about child injury prevention that includes but is not limited to water safety, sun burns, car seat, head injuries, and walking safety.

6. Service Array

Families in our community have a range of services available to them. Agencies serving our community work hard to provide culturally competent services that meet the needs of non-native English speakers and members of specific ethnic or cultural groups. These services are linked to provide a continuum of family-centered, holistic care. Many of our agency staff and community partners are bi-lingual and bi-cultural.

In addition, we have services for children and adults with disabilities that include: California Children’s Services, CCCIL Central Coast Center for Independent Living, Children & Adults with AD/HD and ADD, Early Start Prevention Program, HOPE Rehabilitation, March of Dimes, San Andreas Regional Center, Social Vocational Services, Special Parents Information Network (SPIN) and a support group for parents with children of special needs by the name of Exceptional Parents Unlimited which serves various counties including San Benito.

We have one federally recognized Native American Indian tribe Coastanoan/Ohlone Tribe in San Juan Bautista. We do follow the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and make inquiries for every family. If a child is identified as an Indian child, we request culturally appropriate services from the tribe and/or recommendations on how to individualize and provide culturally appropriate services for the family.

The Family Resource Center, San Benito County HSA , and Juvenile Probation, provides services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families assisted by the agency are and are used to determine other service needs.

The Family Resource Center is the one of the community organization available that provides free services for families and children for identified needs related to areas of parent education, information and referral, home visiting, family strengthening, safety in the home, case management, and child abuse and neglect prevention education material. The Family Resource Center provides intensive home visiting services that work with families to promote safe, healthy and nurturing home environments while also focusing on prevention of child abuse and neglect. Services include, but are not limited to supporting and providing families with linkages to community services, case management, parenting education, teaching and demonstrating, improving parent/child relationships and family preservation. Services are strength based

focused, emphasizing that family dynamics are instrumental in maintaining safe and healthy environments that help promote healthy growth and development of children.

Families are assessed to determine the level of services needed. Through the assessment process, case plan objectives are developed in conjunction with the family. Assessments to determine substance abuse and domestic violence issues are also utilized to help ensure all of the needs are identified. Referrals to services, transportation, follow-up and service provider contacts are included in the services offered through the Family Resource Center Home Visitation Program. Health education services are provided to parents through health related informational brochures and consultation with Public Health on an identified topic. The Family Resource Center also works with teenage mothers and fathers to help prevent child abuse and neglect, secondary pregnancies and school dropout. Services are provided through home visiting, parent education, information and community resources information, teaching and demonstrating and advocacy. The Family Resource Center provides services to rural areas as needed. Family Resource Center is available to help families, regardless of their geographical location.

The Family Resource Center also collaborates with numerous agencies in an effort to address the needs of families, and identified service gaps. Staff maintains frequent contact with community service providers that include but are not limited to Health & Human Services Agency Food Stamp Program, Medi-Cal, Cal-Works, Compassionate Pregnancy Services, Public Health, Housing Authority, Planned Parenthood, health clinics, GED Program, Behavioral Health, San Benito Food Bank, One-Stop Career Center, Youth Employment Services, local schools and the Community Services and Workforce Development.

The Family Resource Center also works closely with Child Protective Services to ensure families which are at risk of losing their children or are identified as families that can use other community services are provided with the assistance they need to address the issues that brought them to the attention of CWS. Through the home visiting program, CWS families receive comprehensive services that teach positive parenting skills, child development, safety and prevention of child maltreatment. The program offers NuParent classes, parent support services, parenting classes, home visitation, infant development assessments, dental education; social, emotional and behavioral education and parent/child activities to help promote healthy relationships in and outside the home.

Youth Alliance is also another community Agency that provides services to local youth and their families; some of the programs provided by Youth Alliance are:

- **Joven Noble (Noble Youth) Program:** This weekly program educates youth in social and personal development and assists them in developing the skills needed to make positive life choices. Parents also participate in Cara y Corazon (living with Face and Heart) groups. These "parent circles" use a family strengthening and community mobilization approach that assists parents and other members of the extended family to raise and educate their children from a positive bicultural base;

- **The Familia (Fathers And Mothers Learning & Achieving Program):** The Familia Young Parents Program is a culturally and developmentally appropriate program designed for pregnant or parenting adolescents who reside in San Benito County and are in school or need support achieving their high school diploma. Its purpose is to provide the opportunity to strengthen family functioning and enhance the health and educational potential of adolescent pregnant or parenting mothers and fathers. FAMILIA supports the healthy and safe development of their children with case management, weekly educational support groups, school credit if eligible, and fun family outings. The program serves teen mothers and fathers with children 0-5 years old throughout the year;
- **Caminos School Based Counseling Program:** Bilingual Spanish/English school based counseling and case management services are provided by referral for children aged 0 - 17. On site services include assessments, creation of service plans, referrals for services, advocacy, individual and family counseling, educational support groups, and parent workshops. Educational outreach includes working with the community to recognize the early signs and symptoms of children in need of behavioral health services.
- **School Based Counseling as part of the Bullying Prevention Project:** The Hollister San Benito GRIP Project is designed to address regional violence and gang affiliation in the schools and community. This evidence based program known as the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, helps address this issue. Program services have been established at three school sites (Cerra Vista Elementary, Sunnyslope Elementary, and San Juan K-8). This system of care provides bilingual (Span/Eng) counseling services as issues surrounding bullying emerge. Outreach staff provides individual, peer group, and family counseling services. This is a referral based program where youth are referred to this program as reported incidents occur. Our staff works in concert with school administration, staff, gang prevention coordinator, and the community to promote an anti-bullying school climate at all our school sites. Also, the YA Teen Leadership program is an ongoing youth development program for teens ages 13 to 19 years. Activities include youth conferences, fundraising events, field trips, mentoring, work experience, community service projects, as well as educational workshops. Youth can also become mentors for younger students in the CASA de Milagros after school program by assisting and coordinating video and mural art projects at the sites.

Youth Alliance also provides a variety of after school related programs and works for children and families of the community.

In the past, San Benito County experienced a high migration of people from Oaxaca, Mexico, who have been identified as needing services, but often do not access services due to fear and language barriers. The Family Resource Center and other community providers continue to strive to ensure that their services reach underserved communities such as the Oaxacan population when a referral is received. Interpretation services are utilized to help address communication gaps, and outreach is conducted to ensure this population is aware of the availability of services through the Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center provides an array of information and resources through brochures, booklets, videos and face to

face contacts that promote child abuse prevention, family health and well-being. Referrals for prevention services are received from several County and community agencies as well as schools.

San Benito County's Great Beginnings Program is in the category of Promising Programs and Practices. This Program has included projects related to the development and implementation of evidence-based prevention strategies and practices. The program uses an Outcomes Evaluation Plan which lists the activity, the indicator or performance measure and the data collection method/source, the achievement status, and most important, the results.

Our activities include: Provide child abuse prevention services through home visitation, to families with children 0-18 years old in which parents are educated on child development and child rearing. The indicator/performance measure is: 75% of families will demonstrate progress by a minimum of 1 point on the Family Matrix Tool for the following 4 indicators: Family Relations, Community Relations, Early Childhood Development and Social/Emotional Health. Our Data Collection, Method/Source is our Family Development Matrix Tool for Home Visiting.

Another activity included in the Promising Programs and Practices is our Nu-Parent Classes in which parents learn and understand the child's health and development. The indicator/performance measure is: 75% of parents will demonstrate an increase in knowledge and understanding of the importance of health and child development. The data collection method/source is the Nu Parent Pre and Post Questionnaires.

Another activity is the Court Ordered Family Wellness Course in which families learn positive parenting information. The indicator/performance measure is: 75% of parents will demonstrate increased understanding of the importance of stable homes, positive family relations and age appropriate discipline. The data collection method is the Pretest and the Post Impact Survey at the end of the class.

The last activity is that clients are referred and linked to preventative health care and community resources to address identified needs. The indicator/performance measure is: 75% of clients are referred to services each quarter and access the services and a minimum of 75% will receive preventative health care. The data collection, method/source is the Referral Tracking Forms for Services.

The County Human Services Agency provides a multitude of services, social workers and supervisors to provide services designed to promote safe and stable families (A portion funded by PSSF).

Family Resource Center:

The Family Resource Center provides services in Spanish and English, including prevention programs, with emphasis on families with children (0-5), child victims of crime services, parenting, referral information, and the home visiting program. (CAPIT and CBCAP Funded) CAPIT provides funds for case management/home visiting to clients who have open CPS cases or those who had a CPS referral and a case was not opened who would benefit from case management. Family wellness classes, referrals to early health and development services,

developmental assessments and one on one parenting skills are also provided. The CBCAP and CAPIT funds case management/home visiting to non-CPS clients, they are linked to community services, referrals to health services, we also offer parent education (PSSF Family Support and PSSF Family Preservation. , Our Vocational Assistant provides transportation services to our clients for substance abuse services (PSSF Time-Limited Family Reunification) (). and the FRC offers our Nu-Parent Classes.(CAPIT funded) The targeted population the program is trying to reach is high risk families with children 5 years old or younger.

Public Health Department:

The Public Health Department continues to provide preventative health related information to the community and immunizations for children who cannot access them otherwise through primary care providers. Public Health continues to hold Flu clinics and this prevention program was well received by the community. The Public Health Medical Treatment Unit provides physical therapy to children and adults with disabilities. There have been difficulties staffing this program but when staffed it provides a very much needed service.

San Benito Food Bank:

The San Benito food bank has an outreach program and distributes food all over the county, including remote areas. The food bank provides nutrition and education which is a key neglect prevention strategy in the community.

San Benito Public Library:

This past year, the Probation Department and the County library have implemented the Grow Strong Program. The program is a collaborative between the Department, the library and the Superior Court. The program attempts to disrupt multi-generational cycles of crime and drug abuse by supporting the literacy and educational success of potentially at risk children. Participants are referred by the Probation Department and taught family literacy skills through weekly on-site activities. The program complements other prevention efforts in our County by focusing on offenders' children who could be at risk through helping their parents overcome obstacles to employment and family stability.

The Library has a book mobile that travels all over the County, including remote areas. The book mobile stocks books in English and Spanish, as well as resource information from various agencies. They also have a "back pack" project which distributes school supplies. The CSA Team has suggested that child abuse prevention material be added to the resources the book mobile hands out in the community.

First Five Commission:

The First Five Commission has a mobile pre-school which serves children zero to five all over the County, including remote areas. This is a key prevention of child abuse and neglect strategy.

San Benito County Office of Education:

The San Benito Education Department sends cars into the community to transport children with disabilities to the program that meets their needs.

St. Louise Hospital and Hazel Hawkins hospital serve the community of San Benito County:
Hazel Hawkins Hospital has an out stationed Eligibility Worker where people can go and get all their eligibility questions regarding Health care answered.

Work Force Investment Board:

The Work Force Investment Board funds a *One Stop Career Center* that provides many resources and programs to help with employment.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA):

CWS and CASA work jointly to further the mutual goals of providing services to children who have been abused or neglected and to protect children at risk of harm. CASA partners with CWS to ensure families are provided a full array of services to preserve the family as a unit when required by law and/or in the best interests of the child and to assist the family with reunification and the prevention of further abuse of children.

The CSA Team identified that Probation is very eager to expand the CASA program to meet the needs of their population.

California Department of Social Services Adoptions District Office:

CWS and CDSS Adoptions share responsibility for concurrent planning and work together to facilitate the permanency goal of adoption for dependent children. A joint MOU outlines how the two agencies shall work together and delineates roles and responsibilities.

Our Child Welfare and Adoption Social Workers provide intensive case management to our prospective adoptive parents to expedite the adoption process. In addition, MDT and group decisions meetings are held and families and children receive assessments and screenings, (Funded by PSSF Adoption, Promotion Support).

Our social workers consult and review children in out-of-home care who need concurrent planning services. They assess and provide a written analysis of the adoptability of a child pursuant to W&I Code §361.5, 366.21 or 366.22. They inform caregivers and birth families of provisions and availability of kinship adoptions, post-adoption contact agreements and related services. They provide feedback and coaching about the potential special needs of the child in placement, and provide linkage to services for the children, to include but not be limited to, mental health, school-based, and in-home parent assistance, as identified.

The Fresno Regional Office has contracted with AspiraNet to provide Resource, Education, Advocacy, Counseling, and Hope (REACH) Pre and Post adoption services. Services provided by REACH and other sources include, but are not limited to:

- Relative assessments and feedback about the approval requirements and process. Efforts to preserve familiar relationships and connections. Assistance with criminal clearance and exemptions, as appropriate.
- Monthly psycho-educational support groups: Monthly meetings where families are able to receive information/training in adoption related issues. Provide opportunity and forum for families to meet and gain support from their peers in the community.

- Quarterly REACH newsletter: Quarterly newsletters include adoption related articles, listings of community trainings and educational/supports groups, on-line resources, book reviews and more.
- Educational Workshops and Trainings: A variety of workshops and trainings are made available in San Benito or neighboring counties.
- Adoption Resource Lending library: Book review and check outs available during the monthly support groups, through the county social worker, or by appointment.
- Case Management: Upon request, REACH clients can receive unlimited case management services.
- Crisis Counseling: REACH Families are eligible for up to six family sessions with a therapist who is familiar with foster/adoption issues.

Additionally, the social workers provide relinquishment services for birth/legal parents who are considering the option of adoption. They recruit prospective adoptive families, including families who fully support reunification goals, for children referred to CDSS. They complete adoption home studies of prospective adoptive families, including requests for adoption home studies through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC.)

The social workers make preliminary assessments and written reports concerning the prospective adoptive parents for the W&I Code §366.26 Hearings. They provide testimony for contested hearings regarding the reports (as needed and requested by County Counsel.) They match children with prospective adoptive families and place children for adoption. They review and provide medical and social background information concerning a child and their birth parents at the time of adoptive placement. They supervise adoptive placements until finalization and provide post adoptive placement services, as outlined above. They establish and assess for Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) Eligibility and benefits (pursuant to governing laws and County Programs regarding AAP Eligibility) and provide other appropriate and necessary adoption services as needed.

San Benito County Juvenile Probation:

An MOU outlines the process of interagency collaboration with respect to Welfare and Institutions Code 241.1 joint assessments and case planning for minor children involved in both the probation and child welfare systems. This MOU further delineates responsibilities regarding IV-E foster care payments.

Youth Alliance:

Youth Alliance was founded in June 1994, Youth Alliance provides educational outreach, leadership development, and cultural enrichment programs for children, youth, and families. Their free programs provide children and youth with the necessary skills to better their lives so they may become productive members of society. Their mission is to provide innovative and culturally relevant services that strengthen and enrich youth, families and the community. Their vision is to empower youth as leaders who contribute to the social and economic betterment of their community. Their guiding principles are

- Collaboration
- Advocacy

- Academic success
- Artistic expression
- Leadership
- Character development
- Self-sufficiency
- Social Responsibility
- Diversity of our families and communities

7. Quality Assurance System

To ensure program and fiscal integrity, we work closely with the FRC at the beginning of each fiscal year to develop a budget and claiming system to correctly allocate services to the specific funding stream. Claims are submitted when needed and are reviewed by the county liaison, the CWS Director and two levels of fiscal staff. If there are issues or questions regarding services or claiming, these can usually be resolved with a conversation.

The contractor (FRC) has always provided statistics or reports upon request. If, for example, foundation or private funding applications require information about the prevention and early intervention programs in the county, the FRC has always promptly responded. In addition, San Benito County understands it is responsible for the accountability of all programs funded through OCAP. In addressing issues of non-compliance, the County meets with involved parties and strategizes a plan of action to improve the quality of services and/or the identified non-compliance issue. A corrective action plan is implemented that includes, but is not limited to monthly meetings to assess the effectiveness of the implemented plan. Follow-up meetings to ensure that our efforts remain focused on the best interest of the community we serve are also instrumental in avoiding non-compliance issues related to program functions and service delivery. Through these collaborative efforts, the County has consistently provided the data required to satisfy our OCAP reporting requirements.

The Family Resource Center (FRC) which is a division of Health & Human Services Agency, a county office, ensures effective fiscal and program accountability for the funds received from CAPIT, CBCAP and PSSF to fund the Great Beginnings Program. CAPIT funding was used to fund the one Vocational Assistant in the Great Beginnings Program. CBCAP also helps fund the Vocational Assistant for the program and PSSF helps fund a part time Social Worker and some funds go for direct costs. The Vocational Assistant provides case management to clients, develops case plans, works with other agencies, refers clients to community resources, assists clients in accessing medical care, administers development assessments to children, , teaches Nu-Parent classes as well as Family Wellness Classes, and develops program brochures. In addition, the Vocational Assistant also helps with CPS supervised visits and transporting of clients and children to visitation. There were no expenditures for direct costs funded with PSSF dollars, the PSSF dollars were all allocated to personnel.

The components that the CBCAP funds within the Great Beginnings Program are: Case management/home visiting to clients who do not have open CPS cases, referrals to health services, our monthly multidisciplinary meeting, transportation services and our socialization groups as well as our Nu-parent classes. The components that we utilize CAPIT funds are case

management/home visiting for clients who have open CPS cases or those who had a CPS referral and a case was not opened, who would benefit from case management. Family wellness classes, referrals to early health and development services, developmental assessments and one on one parenting skills are also provided. The program's supervisor conducts quality review checks on the cases and holds individual staffing meetings with case managers to ensure that clients are meeting their case plans or identify solutions for clients who are encountering barriers or challenges that impede them from accomplishing their goals. The Vocational Assistant develops individual case plans with the input of the clients; these are reviewed initially 30 days from signing the plan and every ninety days thereafter. Clients are assessed by the Vocational Assistants using a Family Development Matrix at the initial intake and also every 3 months. The areas assessed include Health/Safety, Finances, Adult Education & Employment, Transportation and Mobility, Food & Clothing and Shelter. Clients are assessed to determine if they are currently in crisis, at risk, stable, safe/self-sufficient or thriving. Based on the results the supervisor can determine if the client is benefiting from the case management and if the program is making a difference. Our Pre/Post Questionnaires for our Nu-Parent Classes and Family Wellness Classes assist the Great Beginnings program with determining if the program is making a difference in the lives of clients and how much they are learning.

The Great Beginnings Program supervisor reports to the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) every two months on the activities, class subject matter, class participations, demographics and status of the clients. Input and advice on regulations, community needs, funding and capacity building have been crucial to the success of our CAPC and its contractors.

The Program's effectiveness is monitored and evaluated by measuring the impact made on clients utilizing the Family Development Matrix Tool for home visitation as well as Quarterly Agency Referral Tracking Forms. The program has two main outcomes: For parents to learn and implement positive parenting techniques with their children and for children to live in stable and nurturing environments free from family violence and drug exposure. The program uses the following performance measures and data collections methods: Seventy Five Percent of families will demonstrate progress by a minimum of 1 point improvement on the Family Matrix Tool for needs identified using 4 indicators: Family Relations, Community Relations, Early Childhood Development and Social/Emotional Health. Our Home Visitors assess clients every 3 months in these areas. In our Nu-Parent Classes we use the Nu-Parent Survey, Pre/Post Questionnaire and 75% of parents will demonstrate an increase in knowledge and understanding of the importance of health and child development. In our socialization groups 75% of parents will demonstrate importance of socialization and development by the Pre/Post Surveys. In our Family Wellness Classes, we use a Pre-test and an Impact Evaluation at the end of the class and 75% will demonstrate increase in the understanding of stable homes, positive relations and how it impacts their child. This past fiscal year, 2012/2013, we had 35 clients enrolled in the Great Beginnings Program and over 90% met their outcome goals.

The San Benito Child Abuse Prevention Council regularly reviews the numbers and types of services provided by our contractor, the Family Resource Center. The FRC is provided with

oversight from San Benito County's Health & Human Services Agency. Through both the CAPC and H&HSA, oversight is provided to ensure quality services. Consumers of FRC Services are asked to complete satisfaction surveys after receiving three months of service and provide us with input on their opinion about the services provided to them. If there is an area that needs improvement, the supervisor addresses it with the staff to ensure program effectiveness and as a collaborative effort develop a corrective action plan.

The Great Beginnings Program also known as The Home Visiting Program is a comprehensive child abuse prevention program; it receives most of its referrals from Child Protective Services (CPS). Some of the clients are referrals CPS has screened out because they do not meet any definitions of abuse so they are referred to the Great Beginnings Program for case management and child abuse prevention services. These families are linked to services in the community and receive one on one case management with an emphasis on child development, age appropriate milestones, parenting information and child abuse prevention resources. The program offers parents NuParent classes in which parents attend 6 sessions at our office and learn how to understand an infant's physical, cognitive and emotional and social development. In addition, parents learn the importance of play, toys for the baby and what *baby talk* is. Parents are informed about the Shaken Baby Syndrome, handling frustration, communicating with the baby, when to call the doctor, disease prevention, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), home safety, the importance of routines, sleep difficulties, problems with yelling and spanking, how to deal with challenging behaviors and seeing their baby in the future. Other families receive the 8 week court ordered Family Wellness Classes. In these sessions parents learn how to identify a healthy person and relationship and how it impacts the children, what constitutes positive discipline, how parents can guide their children, parents as models and leaders, coaching for behavioral changes, theoretical base of survival skills, goal setting, the core of listening, speaking and negotiation, how parents lead and courage, family rules, how to communicate, how to coach, the importance of family patterns, how families change, solving family problems, how to deal with handling difficult audiences and how to prepare the child for the world involving sex and drugs and most critical, maintaining the family unit safe and healthy free from child abuse occurrences and family violence.

Critical Incident Review Process

San Benito County works closely with law enforcement and other community agencies that include, but are not limited to Behavioral Health, Public Health and Community Solutions in cases in which fatalities or near fatalities have occurred and the family/child was identified as a family who received CWS services. Information is shared in a multi-disciplinary team approach to evaluate and assess the incident. Results of these meetings and reviews are used to improve services, advocate for change, and conduct public awareness activities, ultimately for the purpose of preventing future child maltreatment deaths.

National Resource Center (NRC) Training and Technical Assistance

Currently San Benito County does not receive any NRC training or technical assistance.

San Benito County Peer Review

FOCUS AREA:

The Peer Review was held in Hollister, CA on November 7th and 8th, 2013. Six staff from other counties were invited to participate in the Peer Review. For Child Welfare, staff from Napa, Calaveras, Yuba and Madera Counties attended and for Probation, staff from Santa Cruz and El Dorado Counties attended.

Both Child Welfare and Probation focused on outcome C1.1 Reunification within 12 months. For child welfare, within the 12 month period from 7/1/12 to 6/30/12, 52.1% percent of children were reunified with their families, 25 out of 48. And, for Probation, the only child/youth in the sample (one/one) not reunify during that period. The Federal Goal is 75.2%.

METHOD:

Over two days, three (3) interview sessions were held with debriefing following each interview. Four social workers and two probation officers were interviewed. An overview of San Benito County, CWS and Probation was provided during the first day to orient the peer reviewers to the County. This was followed by training on the interview process and tools to be used during the review. Finally, after the interviews were completed, a group debriefing and report out were held.

For CWS, of the four cases selected to have interviews conducted on them, three cases involved families that did not reunify in a timely manner, and one family had reunified within 12 months. For Probation, the two cases were hand selected to be representative of the youth in placement.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CHILD WELFARE:

Developing and maintaining family and community connections is important for families to reunify in a timely manner. During the review, the peers identified a number of promising practices. Peers noted that San Benito County social workers were experienced and committed to their work. They maintained connections with families by having at least monthly social worker visits with parents, meeting with children through regular contact at school, in the placement, and during visitation, and scheduling weekly family visitation. There is excellent communication with service providers, particularly the Youth Alliance and Great Beginnings, both programs are under contract to the County. There is a recognized value within child welfare in San Benito County in keeping siblings together and visitation is robust even when children are placed long distances away from the family. Another promising practice recognized in San Benito County was that foster parents are encouraged to become involved with the biological family and provided additional support. The biggest challenges to maintaining connection was the lack of engagement of fathers and out of county placements. Peers noted that case loads were high; there was a scarcity of Spanish speaking providers, limited parenting classes and a lack of therapists. Another barrier noted to reunification was the lack of staff available for weekend visits, transportation to visits and supervision of visits.

It is crucial that families are engaged in a strength-based way in order to have positive outcomes and understand what is expected of them so that they can reunify safely and quickly. Peers noted that social workers reviewed monthly the case plan with the parents and

completed a form which they left with parents, being very transparent and holding each other accountable. Other engagement strategies included excellent collaboration with service providers and service delivery is well organized and “streamlined”. The Great Beginnings Program was recognized as integral for laying the ground work for Family Reunification, and helping to make appropriate placements. Participants were in agreement that successful reunification depended on parents who were engaged and committed, motivated to reunify and attended all appointments. The main obstacle to engagement with some families in San Benito County was the fearfulness of the family about involvement with the child welfare system. San Benito County has many undocumented families and there is a culture of fear around involvement with any government entity for this population.

Conducting accurate assessments in order to provide referrals to appropriate services quickly impacts family reunification in a timely manner. It was noted that in San Benito the assessments occur quickly, the custodial parent, usually the mother was engaged early in services and the scope of services was all inclusive. The providers were invested in providing good services to families and communicated with each other. A primary barrier identified in conducting assessments was the lack of involvement by fathers.

In the area of Placement matching, the agency values placing siblings together, matching language and culture, maintaining a single, stable placement, utilizing local relatives and foster homes. Foster parents were acknowledged for supporting the reunification process. As with many small counties, there is a shortage of local foster family homes and many children are placed out of county. It was also noted that there was a lack of CASA volunteers for out of county placements.

During the case reviews, some promising practices were noted when the families reunified. The parents’ engagement/involvement facilitated a smooth reunification. The social workers utilize the Structured Decision Making tools and meet with providers regularly for updates on case plan progress. The families often continued their connection with the Great Beginnings Program even after reunification and the children were happy and ready to go home. It was also noted that the court generally followed the recommendation of the social worker which added to timely reunification. Barriers to reunification were (1) the lack of father involvement and, (2) the scarcity of Spanish speaking therapists.

Social workers who were interviewed had numerous recommendations regarding training, resources, policies and procedures. Social workers wanted more training around case planning and tools to increase their ability to tailor case plans around individual strengths and needs; training regarding services for children with autism whose numbers seem to be increasing; training on different cultures within the County and how to better communicate and engage persons coming from these cultures (e.g. Oaxacan); and training on how to facilitate effective Family Team Meetings.

Regarding resources, social workers indicated that were constantly challenged to be more creative with the limited resources available to them. One example was allowing interns to use county vehicles to assist with supervised visitation and mentoring vocational assistants to be

more interactive in supervising visitation. Specific recommendations included finding more resources in general to accommodate frequent visitation, recruiting more in County foster homes, better use of interns, establishing a Parent Partners Program and expanding the use of voluntary family maintenance. Social workers agreed that more policies are being implemented by the Agency and that doing so was instrumental in helping them do a better job working with children and families. In addition, the size of caseloads is essential to working effectively with children and families. Currently, case loads are small due to an increase in staff; social workers would like to see this continue as the smaller caseloads allow more engagement with families. Social workers expressed concern about the substance abuse model they were trained to use because it doesn't correlate with "our long term model of social work and impacts reunification. "We need to address the conflict between a *reduction model* and an *abstinence model*."

Probation

One Probation Officer and the Probation Supervisor were interviewed; however, due to the small number of probation case, it was difficult to identify trends across cases. It is also important to note the very small number of youth in out of home placement in San Benito County. As of July 1, 2013 there was only 1 youth in Placement. Over the past few years, San Benito County Juvenile Probation has substantially reduced the number of youth in out of home placement.

One of the things that the peers commended the County agencies for during the Peer Review was that Child Protection Services and Probation work in tandem in San Benito County. The culture is one of "our child/youth" not a "CPS or Probation" youth. The Probation Officers know the youth well and maintain frequent connection with the youth and family. The biggest barrier to reunification noted was using out of County placements, which is often necessary due to the lack of specialized resources for youth in San Benito County. This creates difficulties with visitation, transportation and associated expenses. The Probation department has been innovative in attempting to overcome this barrier by using video-chat and other ways to maintain connections, but out of County placement remains a barrier to timely reunification.

SHARING IDEAS AND PROMISING PRACTICES

A component of the Peer Review that is incredibly informative is the sharing of ideas by peers from child welfare and probation from the invited counties. The information is presented as promising practices from the peer county that San Benito may want to explore and potentially, implement in the future.

CHILD WELFARE

Calaveras County, has implemented a "Mentor Dads" program to assist with father engagement. They have also increased placement with relatives to help keep their children/youth in county. A Team Decision Meeting is scheduled every three months to prepare for what needs to happen by the six month court review; these meetings are facilitated by a designated worker or supervisor.

Santa Cruz, Calaveras and Madera Counties have worked out a procedure for interns to drive county cars and offered to connect San Benito County with the individual who established the program.

Madera County has found that utilizing consistent Family Team Meetings and Team Decision Making Meetings has helped with timely reunification.

Napa County has established a Father Engagement Initiative. To support their outreach efforts, the agency redesigned their lobby (put out more diverse magazines etc.); instituted an ongoing work group ROOTS and have revised the language that they use. They also have Icebreaker meetings with birth parents and foster parents that include discussion of relationship building and engagement. In an attempt to team build, increase recruitment and retain foster homes, they have social activities between foster parents and social workers and give awards for foster parents. Napa County also offers "life conferences" which are team meetings and are facilitated by a designated social worker.

In Yuba County, a visitation center has been established with a social worker in charge of the center and program aides to supervise visits. The visitation center is open during business hours and includes a kitchen and play areas inside and outside. Grandparents automatically receive once a month visits; extended family members also are offered visitation. There is a graduated visitation protocol beginning with visits within the visitation center, supervised out in the community, visits in home and then finally, overnights. Bus passes, gas cards etc. are provided to families. Most of their children are placed within the County. Yuba County has also implemented Safety Organized Practice including mapping, which they believe has assisted in timely reunification.

PROBATION

In El Dorado County, Probation officers request home passes within 30-60 days of placement for all youth to maintain connections with their families and also require the group homes to give home passes for all important family events. They also are committed to robust family finding and allow extended family members to visit at group homes.

In Santa Cruz County, the Probation Department regularly reinforces the importance of good communication with parents as crucial to successful reunification through training and supervision.

State-Administered CWS/CMS System Case Review

Outcome Data Measures

Readers should be aware that the total number of children in San Benito County's Child Welfare and in placement in the Probation System are relatively small. Therefore, few occurrences in a given indicator can affect what appears to be a significant change in the percentage.

The baseline for each outcome is the time period three years prior as this was our last CSA timeframe and we want to measure improvement since that time. Data used for current performance analysis throughout the report is Q3, 2013.

Data was extracted from the Center for Social Services Research: Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Glasser, T., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Winn, A., Lou, C., & Peng, C (2009). *Child Welfare Services Report for California*. Retrieved June 2010, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services research website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

The Great Beginnings Program which is funded by CAPIT/CBCAP and PSSF has impacted the county's performance in the manner that parents receive positive parenting techniques and information and they learn to redirect their child's behavior and gain knowledge on infant, child and adolescent development. Families are also been linked to community services and been taught how their personal choices, attitudes, behavior directly affects their child. The program is teaching parents tools to help assist in parenting during the times they feel stressed, hopeless, and in despair and in return parents implement their gained knowledge in their everyday living keeping children free from violence and abuse.

San Benito County believes if an unmet need or service gap is identified and we are able to offer the service to the community then it does justify funding of the program. For example, the service of lack of parenting classes was identified and through the Great Beginnings we offered and continue to offer our court ordered parenting classes and our clients have gained valuable skills towards their parenting. Our participants learn how to identify a healthy person and relationship and how it impacts the children, what is positive discipline, how parents can guide their children, parents as models and leaders, coaching for behavioral changes, theoretical base of survival skills, goal setting, the core of listening, speaking and negotiation, how parents lead and encourage, family rules, positive eating habits, how to communicate, how to coach, the importance of family patterns, how families change, solving family problems, how to deal with handling difficult audiences and how to prepare the child for the world involving sex and drugs and most critical, maintaining the family unit safe and healthy free from the child abuse occurrences and family violence.

The Great Beginnings Program was a funding program from a previous SIP and it has been effective resource utilized by the community and by child welfare social workers. . The program is monitored and evaluated by measuring the impact made on clients utilizing a Family Matrix Tool for home visitation as well as the Quarterly Agency Referral Tracking Forms. The program has two main outcomes: Parents to learn and implement positive parenting techniques with their children and for the children to live in a stable and nurturing environments free from violence and drug exposure. The program uses the following performance and data collection method: 75% of families will demonstrate progress by minimum of 1 point improvement on the Family Matrix Tool for needs identified using 4 indicators: Family Relations, Community Relations, Early Child Development and Social/Emotional Health. Our Home Visitor assess clients every 3 months in these areas. In our Nu Parent Classes we use the Nu-Parent Survey Pre-Post Questionnaire and 75% of parents will demonstrate an increase in knowledge and understanding of the importance of health and child development. Thus, over 85% of our participants in our court ordered parenting classes have learned how to be a better parent

through our Impact Evaluation that we give our participants. Each one is given a pre and post test to see what they know before the sessions and what they learned at the end of the sessions. Our county strongly believes that The Great Beginnings Program which is a comprehensive child abuse prevention program has and will continue to be beneficial to all our participants.

SAFETY:

S 1.1: Safety Outcome Measure - No Recurrence of Maltreatment

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, 100% of children with substantiated maltreatment within the 6-month period did not have another substantiated maltreatment allegation within the next 6 months.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	03/31/13	30	30	100.00%	Yes	6.0%

From the baseline of April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009, the percentage of children with substantiated maltreatment within the 6-month period who did not have another substantiated maltreatment allegation within the next 6 months increased from 97.1% to 100%.

Current performance is above the Federal Standard (94.6%) and the statewide performance standard (93.2%).

Stakeholders' discussion:

SDM has strengthened both initial response and ongoing assessment. Safety plans are constructed by social workers to utilize community and family resources and to avoid unnecessary or abrupt removal. When referrals are made to community partners, the social worker makes sure that the referral has been received and acted upon. Relapse during and after program participation was cited by stakeholders' as a serious impediment to successful reunification. "Social workers do not offer "RECOVERY" services". In many cases, stakeholders' reported a lack of transition services after rehab including counseling, recovery education and assistance linking with services, including affordable housing.

Training for mandated reporters occurs regularly making sure that information is shared and any communication gaps are identified and corrected.

Analysis -CWS

Relapse was identified as continuing problem in maintaining progress towards reunification and avoiding re-abuse. In meetings with our providers, we determined that clinical services terminated upon “graduation” from a substance abuse program and that social workers did not typically engage extended community and family support networks in open discussions regarding safety and case planning. After careful analysis, the agency initiated Safety Organized Practice to generate case plans that included community resource elements in addition to clinical services to treat and sustain recovery from alcohol and drug abuse/addiction. Challenges to collaboration with service providers regarding the necessity of including aftercare in their treatment protocol have been reduced and communication improved through training, collaborative staffing, interagency information sharing. Likewise, improving communication with community support groups has been stressed to overcome confidentiality barriers and confusion about the role of the support group in reporting to the court regarding parents’ performance in court mandated activities. Improved outcomes also relates to our policies for obtaining releases, regularly scheduled forums for joint assessments, and incorporating case plan elements that directly link capacity building and sustainable supports.

S 2.1: Safety Outcome Measure - No Maltreatment in Foster Care Child Welfare Services

This measure answers the question: Of all children served in out-of-home care during the year, what percent were not victims of a substantiated maltreatment report by a foster parent or facility staff while in out-of-home care. The denominator is the total number of children served in foster care during the specified year; the numerator is the count of these children in care who were not victims of a substantiated maltreatment report by a foster parent or facility staff.

⇒ **County’s Current Performance: Child Welfare Services**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, **none** of the children (100%) in out-of-home care were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report by a foster parent or facility staff.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	141	141	100.00%	Same	0%

From the baseline of April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009, the percentage of children who were in -out-of home care that were **not** victims of substantiated maltreatment remained constant at 100%.

Current performance is above the Federal Standard (99.68%) as well as the statewide performance (99.75%).

⇒ **County’s Current Performance: Juvenile Probation**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, **none** (100%) of all youth who were in out-of-home care under Probation supervision were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report by a foster parent or facility staff.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	9/30/13	14	14	100.0%	Same	0%

From the baseline of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010, the percentage of children who were in -out-of home care that were not victims of substantiated maltreatment stayed the same at 100%.

Current performance is above the statewide performance (99.9%).

Stakeholders' discussion:

Foster Family Agencies which provide the majority of placements for San Benito County continue to provide intensive supervision of each placement. In addition, social workers are required by policy and procedure to visit children in foster care on their caseloads at least monthly and are closely monitored to insure compliance. Stakeholders' stressed the importance of regular interaction with social workers and their accessibility. An area which was noted as requiring more attention was outreach to family members who might be available for placement, including out of state noncustodial parents and relatives. The importance of recruiting more foster homes in Hollister which is where the vast majority of families reside to safety and permanency was stressed. San Benito County has only five County licensed foster homes. Stakeholders' agreed that visitation and resources to support more frequent visitation should be a priority and that transportation was continuing impediment.

Analysis -CWS

San Benito County has continuously made it a priority to ensure the safety, health and well-being of children in out of home care. Social Workers make contact with the children at least once a month or more frequently if necessary. Social Workers review the child's rights at placement, and discuss issues of concern with caregivers to ensure the needs of the child are being met at all times. Social Workers also emphasize supporting caregivers and the child throughout the placement in an effort to prevent maltreatment or incidents of abuse. In addition, we continue to believe that an increase in non-relative extended family member placements is an important factor in this performance measure due to the child feeling more secure and safe when placed in a familiar environment with his/her relatives.

Analysis Probation

When a child is initially placed, the child's Probation Officer provides the child's parents/guardian; caregiver and the child with telephone numbers and direct each person to report any problem to the Officer who is mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Caregivers are required to report any incident to Probation immediately following the incident. Allegations of suspected abuse/neglect involving Court wards in out-of-home care are reported to Community Care Licensing where an abuse/neglect referral is opened in CWS/CMS. The investigation and documentation of these reports is performed by Community Care Licensing. In addition, the Probation Department's policy and procedure for investigating placement

alternatives are regularly reviewed as is our protocol for on-site monitoring of those placements.

2B: Safety Outcome Measure -Timeliness of Investigations for 10-day and Immediate Referrals

This measure looks at the percent of investigated child abuse/neglect referrals in the study period that have resulted in an in-person response (either immediate or within 10 days depending upon the assessment of the situation) for both planned and actual visits.

⇒ **County's Current Performance: Immediate Referrals**

From July 1, 2013- September 30, 2013, 100% of child abuse/neglect referrals that resulted in an immediate in-person response received that response in a timely manner.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
07/01/13	09/30/13	16	16	100.0%	Yes	33.2%

From the baseline of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, the percentage of children that received a child abuse/neglect immediate in person response in a timely manner was 100%. This has remained the same.

Current performance is above the Federal Standard (95%) as well as the statewide performance (96.9%).

⇒ **County's Current Performance: 10-day Referrals**

From July 1, 2013- September 30, 2013, 100% of child abuse/neglect referrals that resulted in a 10 - day in-person response, received that response in a timely manner.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
07/01/13	09/30/13	53	53	100.0%	NA	none

From the baseline of January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010, the percentage of children that received a child abuse/neglect immediate in person response in a timely manner was 100.00%. Performance in this critical area remains constant due to training and supervision.

Current performance continues to exceed the Federal Standard (95%) as well as the statewide performance (89.8%)

Stakeholders' discussion:

Stakeholders' noted some changes regarding ER. New social workers are not being assigned to ER until after they have been working at the agency for six months and have completed all the required training. Having more written procedures available to all socials workers has helped decision making for both new and experienced workers.

Analysis

Maintaining the increased staffing level in the Emergency Response (ER) unit, improved communication between the ER unit and social workers and greater stability with regards to turnover has enabled the agency to respond consistently within the standards. Re-structuring the Unit's assignments have also contributed to improved performance and assigning a designated person to carry cases through the Juvenile Court process has allowed other social workers to focus on assessment and case planning rather than preparing to testify in Juvenile Court regarding the removal of children.

2C: Safety Outcome Measures- Timely Social Worker Visits with Child

This measure examines of all children who required a monthly social worker visit, how many received a face to face visit?

⇒ **County's Current Performance: Timely Social Worker Visits**

In September 2013, we had a 95.2% compliance rate on timeliness of monthly social worker visits.

Most recent date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
09/30/13	832	874	95.2%	Yes	10.4%

From the baseline of March 2010, the percentage of children that received a timely monthly social worker visit increased from 84.8% to 95.2%.

Current performance has improved and slightly exceeds the Federal Standard (95%) and statewide performance (92.3%).

There is no data for Probation.

Stakeholders' discussion:

Having more written procedures available to our social workers has a made a difference in the time they can allocate to various duties, which allows more time during visits and better engagement.

Analysis – CWS

San Benito County has improved dramatically over the last three years on this measure, yet we still struggle with data entry which adversely impacts performance. Having more written procedures available to our social workers has a made a difference in the time they can allocate to various duties, which allows more time during visits and better engagement . The face to face protocol and documentation policy developed in the most recent SIP was fully implemented and regularly monitored by supervisors and through staffing. Staff is required to enter contacts within five days of the end of the month and use safe measures to track all entries. Data entry is assisted by volunteers and interns as well.

Due to the limited availability of foster homes in the County, Social Worker are compelled to place children in out of county foster homes, which requires long travel hours to and from placements.

Analysis - Probation

Probation Department Policy requires that the Probation Officer assigned to a youth is required to meet with the youth and their parent each month to check on their well-being; as well as monitor their compliance with Court orders and progress in treatment related to case plan goals. During the visit, the Probation Officer conducts a brief site inspection of the facility. There are no exceptions to this policy; every child is seen by their Probation Officer, regardless if they are placed in San Benito County or outside of the County.

PERMANENCY:

The most permanent and beneficial outcome for any child placed out of his/her home is to be successfully reunited with his/her parents. However, recognizing that this is not always possible and developing alternative permanent plans early in the “life” of a case is critical to good outcomes for children. Those alternatives are considered in the following order: adoption, guardianship and successful emancipation with permanent lifelong connections. This section of the report discusses our performance on providing permanency for children/youth in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems.

Reunification Outcomes

Permanency Measure C1.1: Reunification within 12 months (Exit Cohort)

This measure answers the question: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year that had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal? (Analysis of Measures C1.1- C1.3 is aggregated below.)

⇒ ***County’s Current Performance: Child Welfare Services***

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 51.1% of children discharged from foster care to reunification during that year were discharged within 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	24	47	51.1%	No	-13.6%

From the baseline of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, the percentage of children who were discharged from foster care to reunification during the year within 12 months of the date of their latest from their home decreased from 64.7% to 51.1%.

Current performance is below the Federal Standard (75.2%) as well as the statewide performance (64%).

⇒ **County's Current Performance: Juvenile Probation**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 100% of children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year were discharged within 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
01/01/12	09/30/13	1	1	100%	Yes	55.7%

From the baseline of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010, the percentage of children who were discharged from foster care to reunification has increased from 44.3% to 100.0%. *Readers should note that the 100% was based on a single child being reunified within 12 months from the date of his/her latest removal from his/her home.*

Current performance is above the statewide performance (60.4%).

Permanency Measure C1.2: Median Time to Reunification (Exit Cohort)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance: Child Welfare Services**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 11.9 months was the median length of stay of children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Change in months
10/01/12	09/30/13	NA	47	11.9 months		6.5 months

From the baseline of April 1, 2009- March 31, 2010, the median time to reunification of children who discharged from foster care to reunification has increased from 5.4 months to 11.9 months. Readers are reminded of the impact of calculating percentages within a small population such as the number of children in care during any one period in San Benito County.

Current performance is below the Federal Standard of 5.4 months and below the statewide performance (8.2 months).

⇒ **County's Current Performance: Juvenile Probation**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 10.5 months was the median length of stay for children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Change in months
10/01/12	09/30/13	N/A	1	10.5 months	yes	4.1 months

From the baseline of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010 the median time to reunification of children who discharged from foster care to reunification has decreased from 14.6 months (6 youths) to 10.5 months (one youth).

Current performance is slightly above the statewide performance (10.4 months).

Permanency Measure C1.3: Reunification within 12 Months (Entry Cohort)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance: Child Welfare Services**

From April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012, of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period who remained for 8 days or longer, 60.0% exited to reunification within 12 months from the first date of removal.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
04/01/12	09/30/12	12	20	60.0%	Yes	14.6%

From the baseline of October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, there has been a slight decrease from 61.8% of children to 60.0% of children discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months. However, current performance is well above both the Federal Standard (48.4%) and the statewide performance (47.2%).

⇒ **County's Current Performance: Juvenile Probation**

There is no data from the probation caseload that applies to this outcome.

Stakeholders' discussion (C1.1- C1.3)

Increased communication among public agencies and collaboration regarding shared families with private providers was cited as a major reason for the consistently strong performance in these three measures. Engagement of family members and youth in decision making and especially placement decisions has improved according to the stakeholders', but these efforts need to continue. Expanding visitation is stressed as it is a primary way of determining readiness for return home, few in County placements; limited supports for parents wanting to visit (e.g. transportation) and limited visitation supervision staff, all were cited as negatively impacting early reunification. More direct communication with parents about the timelines required by state and federal law, ensuring that parents get the necessary paperwork before court, help with communication with legal counsel, and more support with substance abuse recovery from the social worker were all suggested as ways for social workers to help parents strengthen their capacity to safely parent their child or children and reunify.

Analysis- CWS for C1.1 - C1.3

Structured Decision Making (SDM), tailored use of safety plans, and increased use of relative placements has strengthened decision making and permanency planning over the past three years in our County. Stakeholders' also acknowledged that communication among public agencies and between social services and providers continues to improve. Social workers were recognized for beginning to involve foster parents and relatives in supervising visits and consequently, "overnight" visits were occurring earlier than in prior years. Probation uses SKYPE to help maintain relationships between youth in out of County placements and family members.

However, core barriers to timely permanency persist. Stakeholders' were in agreement that resources generally, culturally competent and linguistically appropriate resources, and other supports for visitation negatively impact completion of case plans and timely reunification. Like in many Counties, fathers are not as successfully engaged as mothers. Children with special needs and parents with special needs have few resources available to them within the County including an inadequate number of FFAs. LGBTQ youth have few resources either through community based organizations or schools. Drug use continues to be heavy in the County with limited recovery options and no residential treatment. Many families reside in the more rural areas of the County which makes regular contact and visitation more challenging. Services are spread out around the County and hard to access.

Services for Spanish speaking children, youth and families continue to be patched together and in some areas, unavailable in San Benito County, e.g., there is no domestic violence counseling for Spanish speakers. Until recently, the Mental Health agency did not have any Spanish speaking therapists. Recently, Mental Health contracted with two Spanish speaking therapists. Parenting classes in Spanish are available; however, the Great Beginnings Program does not have Spanish speaking staff. San Benito County has a significant (8%) Oaxacan population. Unless this population speaks Spanish as well, there are no services available to these families. Social workers attempts to engage these families but language and being mistaken for "Mexican", and the absence of training about this culture are significant impediments.

A continuing challenge to reunification is engaging fathers and the paternal side of the family. Using Family Engagement Training Tools (e.g., Quality Improvement Center on Fatherhood) is a potential resource. In focus groups, it was noted that fathers are sometimes treated differently by the system and feel that all the attention and resources are focused on the mother and maternal side of the family.

Analysis- Probation

The probation officers make every effort to build a healthy working relationship with parents so that when the minor returns home the communication between the probation officer continues with more of a focus on making the child and family successful. We place the minor on an intensive supervision program upon release from placement whereby the minor, the parents, probation and local service agencies continually address the goals listed on the minor's home transition plan. Services are available for Spanish speaking youth and families including parenting classes and referral to the Hollister Youth Alliance. Regarding the Oaxacan

population, children often translate for their parents in the absence of an Oaxacan speaking interpreter available to the Probation Department or the court.

Permanency Measure C1.4: Re-Entry Following Reunification (Exit Cohort)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County’s Current Performance: Child Welfare Services**

From October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012, 12.5% of all children who exited to reunification within the year re-entered foster care within the following 12 month period.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/11	09/30/12	5	40	12.5%	Yes	10.5%

From the baseline of April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, there has been an increase in the number of children who exited to reunification within the year and re-entered foster care from 4.5% to 12.5 %. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (9.9%) as well as the statewide performance standard (11.9%).

County’s Current Performance: Juvenile Probation

From October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012, neither (0 %) of the two children who exited to reunification within the year re-entered foster care within the following 12 month period. The baseline from October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009 shows one of three children who exited foster care within the year re-entered within the following 12 month period.

Stakeholders’ discussion:

The absence of specialized services e.g., substance abuse for younger drug users, residential drug treatment, Domestic Violence recovery groups, anger management for teens, and sexual offenders treatment was again noted by stakeholders’ as challenges both for child welfare and probation. Despite the slowly improving economy, adults and entire families can fall in and out of homelessness. “Couch jumping” makes it hard to maintain contact with social workers or resources necessary to ensure that children are safe. Although social workers help with bus tokens, the scarcity of affordable housing and housing support makes it very difficult for a family to maintain stability.

Analysis – CWS

Social workers are limited by the resources available with the County and language barriers in some cases. CASA volunteers partner effectively with social workers and foster parents to support children in placement and identify needs for services. Recently, the County Mental Health Department contracted with two Spanish speaking therapists which will help fill a long recognized gap in services to children and their parents and should positively impact reunification. Additional resources for social workers including IPADS and portable navigation units have allowed social workers more flexibility in performing their duties and specially,

increased the time they can spend in the field meeting with children and youth on their caseload, assessing program participation and effectiveness, and enlisting support from community members and resources. We continue to stress using a “strength-based” approach with all families and especially in enlisting support from relatives. Supervisors use case staffing to train around this approach.

Permanency Measure C2.1: Adoption Within 24 months (Exit Cohort)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County’s Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 25.0% of children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	1	4	25.0	No	- 7.7%

From the baseline period April 1, 2009- March 31, 2010, there has been a decrease in the number of children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption, although the numbers are small. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (36.6%) as well as the statewide performance (28.2%).

⇒ **County’s Current Performance: Juvenile Probation**

There are no children from the Juvenile Probation caseload who meet the data requirements for the Adoption's outcomes.

Analysis - CWS

San Benito County does not have its own adoptions unit and relies on State Adoptions, Fresno District Office. Social Workers meet with a State Adoptions worker on a monthly basis to discuss the referral’s status and progress towards finalization. Emphasis by the adoption supervisor in improving communication and working intensely with the adoptive families to build a foundation for the adoption process has resulted in more timely adoptions and improved permanency.

Analysis - Probation

Although the data show that no Probation-supervised youth has exited care to adoption, the possibility is always explored. Parents, guardians and/or relatives are introduced to adoption services when appropriate and during the development or review of the youth’s case plan. A major barrier in this regard is that youth who are ordered into suitable placement by the Juvenile Court are typically over the age of 12 and most seek reunification with their parents and strongly object to the prospect of adoption.

Permanency Measure C2.2: Median Time to Adoption (Exit Cohort)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 33.1 months was the median length of an open case for those children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	N.A.	4	33.1 months	no	4.5 months

From the baseline period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, there has been an increase in median length of an open case of those children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption from 25.1 months to 33.1 months. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (27.3 months) as well as the statewide performance (29.8 months).

Analysis - CWS

Not having an Adoptions Unit in our County makes an already complicated process more challenging and very challenging to meet the Adoption/Permanency measures; however, communication between the County and State Adoptions unit continues to improve. Assigning all Permanency Placement cases to a single social worker has increased our capacity to ensure timely adoption. It is also helpful that the Juvenile Court Judge supports permanency and does not hesitate to issue subpoenas, e.g., to hold FFA's accountable for timely home studies, to require caregivers to account for failure to provide necessary documentation to State Adoptions in a timely manner, and to inquire of State Adoptions about delays in the process. When adoption is not assessed to be the appropriate recommendation for the child, legal guardianship is explored as an alternative permanent plan.

Permanency Measure C2.3: Adoption within 12 Months (17 Months in Care)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 33.3% of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer on the first day of the year in question were discharged to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year in question.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	4	12	33.3%	Yes	6.1%

From the baseline period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2009, there has been a significant decrease from 39.4% to 33.3% of children in foster care for 17 continuous months being discharged to a finalized adoption. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (22.7%) as well as the statewide performance (19.7%).

Analysis-CWS

Progress continues with improved communication with the state adoptions unit and consistent application of agency procedure and supervision. More training on case planning and tailoring case plans to individual clients has reinforced concurrent permanency planning and assisted with more thorough staffing of cases.

Permanency Measure C2.4: Legally Free Within 6 Months (17 Months in Care)

This measure answers the question: Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the year, what percent became legally free within the next 6 months?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009, 16.7% of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the year became legally free within the next 6 months.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	03/31/13	1	6	16.7	Yes	9.6%

From the baseline period April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009, there has been an increase from 7.1% to 16.7% of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer become legally free. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (10.9%) as well as the statewide performance (6.8%).

Analysis

Progress continues with improved communication with the state adoptions unit and consistent application of agency procedure and supervision. More training on case planning and tailoring case plans to individual clients has strengthened concurrent permanency planning and assisted with more thorough staffing of cases. Our staff would benefit from more culturally competent training and training on engaging families from specific cultures.

Permanency Measure C2.5: Adoption within 12 Months (Legally Free)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012, 44.4% of all children in foster care who became legally free for adoption during the year were discharged to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/11	09/30/12	4	9	44.4%	No	1.1%

From the April 1, 4008- March 31, 2009 baseline, there has been a slight decrease from 45.5 % to 44.4% of all children in foster care who became legally free for adoption during the year to discharge to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (53.7%) as well as the statewide performance (58.3%).

Analysis-CWS

See C2.1 above

Permanency Measure C3.1: Long Term Care Outcome: Exits to Permanency (24 Months in Care)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 42.9% of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year prior to turning 18.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	3	7	42.9%	Yes	11.6%

From the baseline of April 1, 3009 to March 21, 2010, there was a decrease from 54.5% to 42.9% of children in foster care for 24 months of longer discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year prior to turning 18. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (29.1%) but below the statewide performance of 58.3%%.

Analysis – CWS

See C2.1 above

Permanency Measure C3.2: Long Term Care Outcome: Exits to Permanency (Legally Free at Exit)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 100.0% of all children discharged from foster care during the year who were legally free for adoption discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	10	10	100.0%	Yes	6.2%

There was change in performance from the baseline year of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 from 93.8% to current performance at 100%. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (98%) as well as the statewide performance (96.9%).

Stakeholders' Discussion

Consistent monthly meetings with the state adoptions unit and clear written procedure has helped social workers insure that all youth will be discharged to a permanent home before reaching 18. Concurrent placements occur early in the process; collaboration with adoptive agencies and support agencies has improved; and, the Juvenile Court Judge has committed to holding families more accountable. Having the capacity to do fingerprinting for background checks for FFAs and private agencies helps the agency ensure that an appropriate home is ready for each youth before he/she turns 18.

Analysis-CWS

San Benito County is performing above the Federal Standard. San Benito County strives to ensure children are discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18 years of age. Supervisors continue to use Safe Measures to track caseload progress and review information in the individual supervision with the staff on a biweekly basis. Continuous meetings with State Adoptions, Social Workers, County Counsel, Children's attorney and engagement with extended families have helped San Benito County perform well in this measure. The shared goal is to work towards permanency for all children in foster care.

Permanency Measure C3.3: Long Term Care Outcome: In Care 3 Years or Longer (Emancipated/Age 18)

This measure answers the question: 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?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 40% of all children in foster care during the year who were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, had been in foster care for 3 years or longer.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change

10/01/12	09/30/13	2	5	40.0%	Yes	15%
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From the baseline of April 1, 2009 to March 32, 2010, the percentage of children who were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care and had been in foster care for three years or longer increased from 25% to 40%. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (35.7%) and below the statewide performance (60%).

Stakeholders' discussion

The Juvenile Court Judge's attention to time frames mandated by the state and federal law reinforces making timely permanency findings. This requires social workers to constantly reassess placement plans, conduct relative searches early and frequently, enlist the resources of the CASA volunteers to assist in finding resources for youth in care, and start concurrent planning as early as in ER. Challenges noted by stakeholder include parents who did not want to reunify, relatives who do not meet the criteria for visitation or placement, the difficulty in placing older youth, and the number of children and youth with special needs.

Analysis-CWS

San Benito County increased to the collaborative efforts between State Adoptions-Fresno District offices. In addition, continuous re-assessments are conducted by Social Workers to ensure placement plans are directly linked to the permanency goals of each child. CASA has also been instrumental in assisting with family finding efforts, which enlarge the scope of family connections for foster children which can often lead to permanent placements. Efforts to establish legal guardianship when adoption is not an option have also increased and contributed to earlier permanency. In addition, the assignment of all Permanency Placement caseload to one social worker has increased collaboration around meeting the requirements of a permanent plan of adoption. For example, the social worker explores options to accelerate permanency by including the child's attorney in home visits and meetings to discuss permanency options.

Permanency Measure C4.1: Placement Stability Outcome: Placement Stability (8 Days to 12 Months In Care)

This measure answers the question: Of all children served by probation during a year who were in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 93.5% of those children on probation during the year who had been in care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	3,072	3,284	93.5%	No	-0.8%

California Child and Family Services Review

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, the number of children who had two or fewer placement settings decreased from 94.3% to 93.5%. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (86.0%).

Placement Stability Outcome C4.2: Placement Stability (12 to 24 Months In Care)

This measure answers the question: Of all children served in foster care during a year who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 74.9% of children on probation during the year that had been in care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months had two or fewer placement settings.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	1,120	1,496	74.9%	Yes	1.7%

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, the percentage of all children during a year who had been in foster care for 12 months but less than 24 months, and had two or fewer placements, increased from 73.6% to 74.9%.

Permanency Measure C4.3: Placement Stability Outcome: Placement Stability (At Least 24 Months In Care)

This measure answers the question: Of all children served in foster care during a year who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 49.4% of children on probation during the year that had been in care for at least 24 months had two or fewer placement settings.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	562	1,137	49.4%	Yes	41.9%

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, the percentage of children in foster care during the year that had been in care for at least 24 months with two or fewer placement settings increased from 34.8% to 49.4%.

Permanency Measure C4.1: Placement Stability Outcome: Placement Stability (8 Days to 12 Months In Care)

This measure answers the question: Of all children served in foster care during a year who were in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 83% of those children in foster care during the year who had been in care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	44	53	83.0%	No	-5.2%

From the baseline of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, the number of children who had two or fewer placement settings decreased from 88.2% to 83% Current performance is below the Federal Standard (86.0%) as well as the statewide performance (83.6%).

Stakeholders' discussion

Placement decisions depend on thorough and timely assessment as well as placement options. Placement options are limited in San Benito County which can result in placement based on availability especially in emergency situations rather than assessment. Communication and sharing information with foster parents varies resulting sometimes in foster parents not having sufficient information to respond to the needs of the child or youth placed in their care. Support for foster parents in working with more challenging children and youth varies and is resource dependent. Some resources are helpful and others contribute to the behavior problem. Language and cultural sensitivity are critical to successful placement.

Analysis – CWS

There has been consistent performance in this measure in San Benito County over the past few years. For two quarters in 2012, placement resources were unexpectedly stressed due an increase in the number of families in crisis from a wider variety of socio-economic backgrounds and special cases involving large sibling groups and allegations of sex abuse. Placement stability requires our social worker to have strong and continuous communication with the caregivers and join the caregiver in identifying the child/youth's needs and locating accessible resources. How to better include the input of the foster parent in reports and case staffing is also being discussed. Our implementation of Safety Organized Practice over the past year will allow our social workers to better assess and craft safety plans that will ensure that children can be safe at home or in the community, thereby avoiding the necessity of removal. Our entire staff is trained in Safety Organized Practice and our supervisors have received advanced training. With the full implementation of Safety Organized Practice, we anticipate that the number of children entering care will remain relatively stable and as seen in other Counties, decrease.

Placement Stability Outcome C4.2: Placement Stability (12 to 24 Months In Care)

This measure answers the question: Of all children served in foster care during a year who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 79.5% of children in foster care during the year that had been in care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months had two or fewer placement settings.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	35	44	79.5%	Yes	49.5%

From the baseline, April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010, the percentage of all children during a year who had been in foster care for 12 months but less than 24 months, and had two or fewer placements, increased from 37.0% to 79.5%.

Analysis - CWS

Foster homes continue to be scarce in San Benito County, County funding is limited, and the majority of out of home placements are made through FFAS and many of these children are placed outside their own community. We have only five County licensed foster homes in our County, but they are either foster-adopt or are small and prefer younger children. During the past three years, social workers have emphasized working with family members and extended family members to identify more placements. We believe that the significant reduction in placement instability reflect these practice changes as well as our increased emphasis on collaboration and team decision making which has improved our capacity to identify, screen, place and support relative placements.

Permanency Measure C4.3: Placement Stability Outcome: Placement Stability (At Least 24 Months In Care)

This measure answers the question: Of all children served in foster care during a year who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 41.7% of children in foster care during the year that had been in care for at least 24 months had two or fewer placement settings.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/12	09/30/13	10	24	41.7%	Yes	4.7%

From the baseline, April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010, the percentage of children in foster care during the year that had been in care for at least 24 months with two or fewer placement settings increased from 37% to 41.7%.

Stakeholders' Discussion:

Social workers do an increasingly good job of locating relatives and NREFMs. Social workers seem to do a better job of communicating with children and youth in care. Some stakeholders were concerned that their social worker was difficult to reach, too judgmental, need to be more responsive to suggestions from children and youth about who are the important connections in

their lives and where they would like to live. Crisis intervention, individual counseling, after school activities, and more preparation for becoming any adult were mentioned by stakeholders as contributing to placement stability. Social workers should work with schools to ensure that there is no stigma attached to their being in foster care by teachers or administration. Helping youth contact their attorneys would also be helpful to their understanding of the legal process and their rights. Foster homes should be more carefully watched to see how children/youth are treated in different foster homes. CASA volunteers received mixed reviews, some were very helpful and others seemed not to know how to relate.

Analysis – CWS

Keeping adolescents in placement is a frequent problem, some runaway and want to come home and others are not satisfied with their placements and regularly request to be moved. The quality and support provided to FFA foster parents is inconsistent. We make rigorous efforts to locate extended family members; however, relatives may come forward late which requires assessment and may result in a placement change. Foster Parents may give a seven day notice which is not enough time to make a thorough assessment and placement. Children who are removed and placed an emergency placement, necessarily have to be moved to concurrent or foster/adoptive homes. When social workers change, a reassessment may occur which can cause a change of placement.

Analysis - Probation

The San Benito County Probation Department identified Placement Stability as a Focus Topic for the 2009 Peer Quality Case Review. They specifically focused on youth who had a failed placement prior to their 12 month review hearing and identified probation practices that contribute to the lack of success in their respective placement.

During the 2008-2009, San Benito County Juvenile Probation Department had seven (7) youth exit their placement program. Four of these seven youth (57%) were identified as *placement failures* which are defined as minors having exited placements due to running away from the home or having been terminated by the program within a 12 month placement period.

It is the philosophy of the Probation Agency that the goal of placement stability and successful reunification should guide placement, case planning, case management and service delivery. In this regard, the 2009 PQCR identified several areas of need related to these processes including: (a) engaging extended families and siblings in case planning and visits to help establish and achieve placement stability and successful reunification goals; (b) developing mechanisms by which care givers and probation officers can build a collaborative connection between the youth and their families; (c) placing children close to their homes to encourage family involvement in the reunification process; (d) strengthening the process for transitioning youths from foster care to his/her family and home community.

The agency is committed to strengthening existing processes for improving placement stability and achieving timely and successfully reunification, including those that promote effective case management and services that support the youth's success in placement and seamless return to his/her family and community.

Siblings Outcome: Siblings Placed Together (All) - Measure 4A

This measure answers the question: Of all siblings placed in out-of-home care, what percentage of them are placed together?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

On October 1, 2013, 53.5% of siblings placed in out-of-home care were placed together.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/13	10/01/13	23	43	53.5%	No	14.8%

From the baseline of April 1, 2010, the percentage of siblings in out-of-home care that are placed together has decreased from 68.3% to 53.5%. Performance has been difficult to stabilize over the last 3 years again reflecting the strong likelihood that sibling groups would be requiring placements and the challenges associated with finding housing for sibling groups in a County with a very limited foster home capacity.

There are no Federal Standards for this outcome at this time. The state performance is 53.5%, we are performing at the statewide level.

Siblings Outcome: Siblings Placed Together (Some or All)-Measure 4A

This measure answers the question: Of all siblings placed in out-of-home care, what percentage is placed together with some or all of their siblings?

⇒ **County's Current Performance:**

On October 1, 2013, 74.4% of all siblings placed in out-of-home care were placed together with some or all of their siblings.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Most recent performance	Direction?	Percent change
10/01/13	10/01/13	32	43	74.4%	No	9.5%

From the baseline of April 1, 2010, the percentage of siblings in out-of-home care that are placed some or all of their siblings decreased from 82.9% to 74.4%.

There are no Federal Standards for this outcome at this time. The state performance is 73.0%, we are performing above the statewide level.

Analysis - CWS

San Benito County's philosophy with regards to sibling groups is that every effort must be made to keep siblings together. This was recognized as a strength by stakeholders' and in the peer review. Social Workers are persistent in their placement search efforts to keep siblings together and minimize the trauma they experience when being removed from their home and each other. We recognize that frequently placing large sibling groups is challenging and some children must be separated, but in these cases social workers work with Foster Family Agencies

to ensure that the foster families interact with each other so that the children may also interact.

Placement Outcome: Type of Placement - Measure 4B Child Welfare Services

Point in time placement: As of October 1, 2013, 76 children/youth were in placement by San Benito County.

Kinship		Foster		FFA		Group		Guardian/dependent		Guardian/other		Other		Runaway	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
San Benito															
30	39.5	7	9.2	29	38.2					5	6.6	0	0	3	3.9
CA															
	35.7		9.1		25.8		6.2		2.5		8.5				1.3

Point in time placement: As of October 1, 2010, 72 children/youth were in placement by San Benito County

Kinship		Foster		FFA		Group		Guardian/dependent		Guardian/other		Other		Runaway	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
San Benito															
37	51.4	3	4.2	25	34.7	1	1.4	0	0	2	2.8	4	5.6	0	0
CA															
	32.6		9.9		29.6		6.6		4.5		8.9		1.3		1.6

Placement Outcome: Type of Placement - Measure 4B Juvenile Probation

On October 1, 2013 there were ten youth in placement in Juvenile Probation: 5 were placed in group home settings; two were placed with kin, one was placed in a SILP, one was placed in non-foster care and one was on runaway status.

Stakeholders' Discussion:

Stakeholders agreed that Emergency Response unit social workers in procedure and practice stress the importance of placing siblings together right at the beginning of placement and the importance of careful placement. Good communication is maintained between FFA's and agency workers. FFAs support sibling groups and in those cases when some siblings must be separated, FFA foster parents are encouraged to organize opportunities for all the siblings to regularly interact.

Securing local and appropriate placements for all children and youth is an ongoing challenge for social workers. Only five foster homes are currently licensed by San Benito County and additional funding is not available. As a result, the agency relies on FFAs and largely out of county placement. Placement is further complicated by placing large sibling groups, cases where sibling abuse is alleged and placement cannot be located, dependent and delinquent children cannot be placed in the same home, and state regulations on placement with NREFM can restrict possible placements. Parents may not tell social workers or probation officers regarding extended family members who may be available for placement. Multiple fathers with different legal status on a case can complicate placement.

Analysis - CWS

San Benito County re-implemented bi-weekly Placement Committee meetings through the San Benito County Family Access Coordinating Team (FACT) at Behavioral Health. This made sense since Placement Committee and FACT members are the same. These bi-weekly meetings have increased collaborative efforts to address the needs of children and youth who require a higher level of out-of-home placement. These meetings involve the social worker, child (if appropriate), parents, caregivers, service providers and other identified people to collaborate and work together to determine the appropriate level of placement and identifying the lowest level appropriate to meet the child's needs. Placement options are explored and a plan is developed to increase wrap around services that include therapeutic behavioral services that help reduce the level of placement if deemed appropriate to meet the needs of the child. San Benito County has found these meetings to be productive and instrumental in reducing the number of children in group homes.

In situations where a child is at risk of moving to a higher level of care, the Placement Committee via the FACT Team will work collaboratively to identify cross-agency services which may prevent the out-of-home placement or higher level of placement.

Analysis - Probation

Probation also utilizes the same process as Child Welfare services given that Probation participates in the Placement Committee meetings through the FACT team meetings at Behavioral Health. However, San Benito County Probation Department lacks out-patient treatment programs within the community and therefore has no choice but to refer minors to group home treatment programs to ensure they receive rehabilitative services.”

WELL-BEING:

The well-being outcomes measure how well the child welfare and probation system are caring for the children and youth that are in the system. At this time these measures do not have Federal standards and data collection on some measures has been problematic.

Measure 5A: Health and Education Passport

Percent of children entering foster care who have an initiated health passport (health record).

Cohort: Includes county welfare department supervised children entering foster care during the quarter with an initial open placement for at least 30 days

Analysis - CWS

San Benito County ensures that the Health and Education needs of the children are being met. The information regarding health and education is reported to the court through court reports. However, we currently do not enter that data into the CWS/CMS so we cannot provide the qualitative documentation; this is an area we will address in our SIP.

Measure 5B: Timely Dental Exams and Medical Exams July 1, 2013- September 30, 2013

Percent of children who meet the periodicity schedule for medical and dental assessments. This is measuring, of all the children who were due a health exam and dental exam in the given period, how many received them.

Data: 5B (1) Health Exams – 26/62 (41.9%)
5B (2) Dental Exams – 5/44 (11.4%)

Analysis - CWS

San Benito County ensures children receiving child welfare services are current with immunizations as recommended by the periodicity table. However, we currently do not enter the immunization data into the CWS/CMS system so we cannot provide the qualitative documentation, and this is an area we will address in our SIP.

Measure 5F: Psychotropic Authorization July 1, 2013-September 30, 2013

This report provides the percent of children in foster care with a court order or parental consent that authorizes the child to receive psychotropic medication.

Data: 7/01/13 to 9/30/13 83 (0.0%)

Analysis - CWS

San Benito County currently has no children in foster care who are receiving psychotropic medication. Our legal clerk provides excellent support by ensuring proper documentation is completed by the Social Worker to ensure appropriate court orders are drafted and submitted to the court and in place for the distribution and administration of psychotropic medications.

8A Emancipation: October 10, 2012- September 30, 2013

- Completed High School or equivalency: 0/0
- Obtained Employment: 0/0
- Have Housing Arrangements: 0/0
- Received ILLP Services: 0/0
- Permanency Connection with an Adult: 0/0

Education:

ILP GRADUATION DATA OCTOBER 2012- SEPTEMBER 2013

	CWS	Probation	Total
Number of youth emancipated	0	0	0
High school graduation or equivalency	0	0	0
Percentage	0	0	0
There were no youth in foster care who graduated from high school during the 2012-2013 school year.			

Stakeholders' Discussion:

The Probation Department obtains a psychiatric/psychological assessment for each child prior to placement. Medical and dental examinations are regular and current. Probation officers are in good communication with schools and help youth with their academic planning. All youth under probation supervision are required to attend the ILP program to help prepare them for adulthood and independence. Other programs which stakeholders considered beneficial include Foster Youth Services College Tours, the High School Career Center, One Stop Career Center, Youth Employment Opportunity Program, Community Services Workforce Development Agency which provides clothing and school supplies. Community based programs such as Hollister Youth Alliance and Joven Noble (teen parenting, etc.) provide structure, information, mentoring and important community linkages.

Analysis- CWS and Probation

In the area of well-being of the foster youth in San Benito County, some stakeholders reported experiences involving a lack of collaboration between agency and community services. Fiscal collaboration between agencies and programs is not as consistent as it could be and management and state policies can be a road-block to creative assistance to children, youth and families. Entering and collecting data is challenging, and there is no data entry system that exists between probation and public health. In some instances collaterals are not providing the requested information e.g. private doctors, and Out of County medical doctors/psychiatrists do not submit JV 220 (requesting a court order to administer or continue psychotropic medication) in a timely manner.

Preparation for emancipation is not as streamlined as it could be. Among the obstacles listed were long waiting periods to be approved for Medi-CAL benefits, the inability to meet with Eligibility Workers to discuss benefits and/or application status; and lack of awareness regarding medical insurance.

Some stakeholders indicated that some adolescents lack motivation to seek employment, education, etc. Others cited the low level of funding for youth programs, specifically adolescent mental health/substance abuse/employment training and skilled jobs. Some reported that the stigma of foster child/youth, make it difficult to find housing and employment and early pregnancy/fatherhood compound the challenges to emancipation. The lack of support from biological parents or family members was also cited a serious impediment to successful transition to adulthood.

SAN BENITO COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY

1. What type of service do you provide?
2. What best describes your role?
3. Please rate the Child Protective Services Agency's current effectiveness in addressing the needs of families and children in San Benito County.

Very Ineffective Ineffective Neutral Effective Very Effective

Responses Weighted Average San Benito Child Protective Service

4. In your opinion what areas can be improved? What is/is not working and why?
5. Please rate the Juvenile Probation's current effectiveness in addressing the needs of families and children in San Benito County.

Very Ineffective Ineffective Neutral Effective Very Effective

Responses Weighted Average San Benito Juvenile Probation

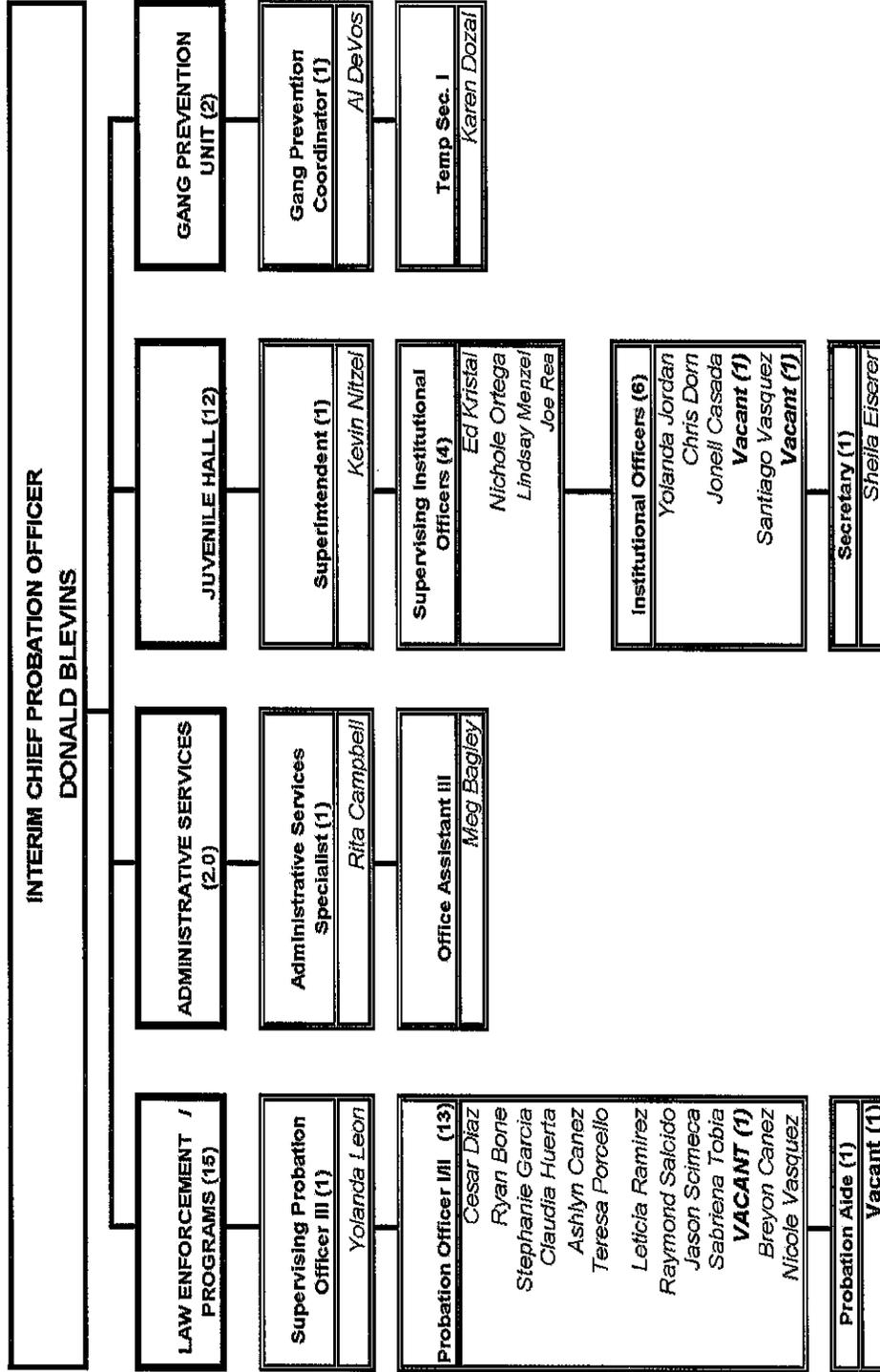
6. In your opinion what areas can be improved? What is/is not working and why?
7. In San Benito County, 37.6% of the population speaks a language other than English. What strengths and challenges exist for families and children in accessing culturally appropriate supports and services?
8. Training our staff is a priority. What areas do you identify as training needs for our workforce?
9. There are a variety of services available to families and children in San Benito County. Are there any gaps in services missing for biological families at risk or involved with CPS, relative families, guardianship families, and adoptive families? In what ways can we improve our service array?
10. What services are available for children with disabilities and their families?
11. How do children and families in isolated geographical areas of the county access services? Is there a better way to ensure these families have access to services?
12. What do you see as the primary issue that leads to families being involved in the child welfare system? What are community supports that could prevent some families from being involved in the system?
13. What are some of the ways our community is educated about child abuse prevention?

14. What are the top 3 needs of children and families who are at risk for repeated maltreatment in the county? Are there certain supports and/or programs missing to improve in this area?

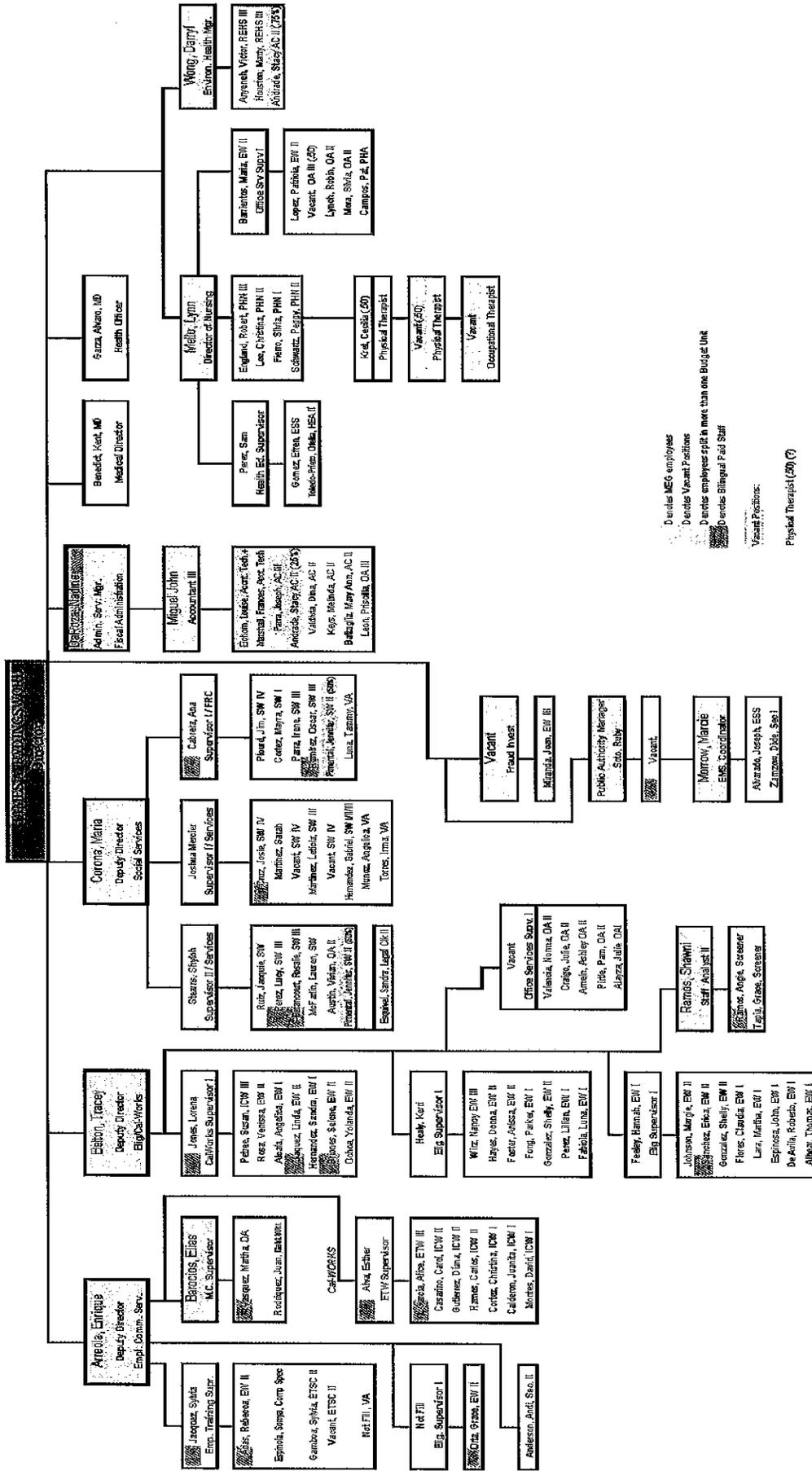


SAN BENITO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



San Benito Health and Human Service Agency



Dotted: MEG employees
 Dashed: Vacant Positions
 Solid: Regular employees split in more than one Budget Unit
 Stippled: Bilingual Staff
 Dotted: Vacant Positions
 Physical Therapist (20%)