California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet

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

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SIP Period Dates	January 30, 2015 –January 30, 2020
Outcome Data Period	Report Publication January 2014; Data extract: Q3 2013
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Mail the original Signature Sheet to:

Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau
Attention: Bureau Chief
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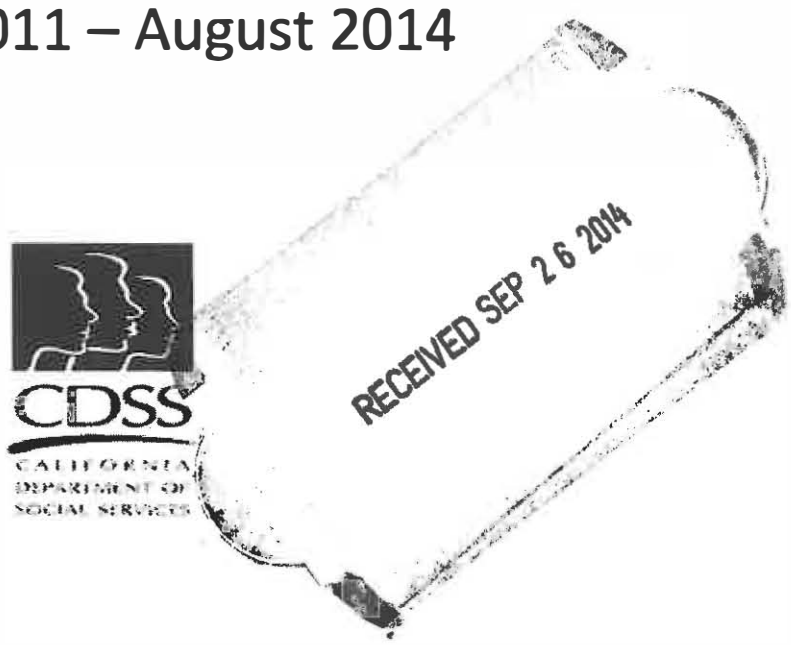
California - Child and Family Services Review

Stanislaus County
Self-Assessment

August 2011 – August 2014



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Introduction

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

The County Self-Assessment is one the three major components required by the California Children's and Families Services Review (C-CFSR). The C-CFSR emerged as a result of California's Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (AB 636). As required by AB 636, Stanislaus County Adult, Child & Family Services (ACFD) and Stanislaus County Probation must analyze, in collaboration with key community stakeholders, its performance on critical child welfare and probation outcomes. These outcomes are measured using data from the statewide child welfare database. In addition to the outcome indicators, the Self-Assessment must review systematic and community factors that correspond to the federal review. The areas needing improvement will be addressed in the System Improvement Plan (SIP), which must also be developed in partnership with community partners. The SIP must both be approved by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and submitted to the State.

In the past, counties have developed a separate plan for expenditure of federal and state funds for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP). In June 2008, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in collaboration with the California Welfare Directors' Association, announced integration of the CAPIT, CBCAP, and PSSF plan into the California Children and Families Review (C-CFSR). In an effort to minimize duplicative processes, maximize resources, and increase partnerships and communication between organizations, the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Plan has been integrated into the CSA and SIP process.

Stanislaus County's most recent Self-Assessment was completed in August of 2011 and the SIP followed completion in October of 2011. Recent changes to the C-CFSR process has resulted in a change to the evaluation and reporting periods and the three-year cycle has been increased to five years to allow counties additional time to plan, implement and achieve their desired outcomes and objectives.

As required, Stanislaus County Adult, Child & Family Services Division and Juvenile Probation led the County Self-Assessment in partnership with the California Department of Social Services.

C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

C-CFSR Planning Team

Focus Area	Name	Organization
Child Welfare	Jan Viss	Community Services Agency
Child Welfare	Julian Wren	Community Services Agency
CDSS	DeAnne Thornton	California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse and Prevention
CDSS	Julie Cockerton	California Department of Social Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau
CDSS	Anthony Bennett	California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse and Prevention
Probation	Melissa Marley	Juvenile Probation
Probation	Natascha Roof	Juvenile Probation
Consultant	Lisa Molinar	Shared Vision Consultants

Core Representatives

Required Participant	Name	Organization
Child Abuse Prevention Council Representative (and Children's Trust Fund)	Jeff Davis	Community Services Agency
County Board of Supervisor designated agency to administer CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Programs	Jan Viss	Community Services Agency
County Alcohol and Drug Department	Adrian Carroll	Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
County Health Department	Julie Falkenstein	Stanislaus County health Services Agency-Public Health Services
County Mental Health	Shannyn McDonald	Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Juvenile Court Representatives	Judge Ann Ameral	Stanislaus County Juvenile Court
Parents/Consumers	Linda & Mark D.	Community
Resource Families	Roxanne D.	Community
Youth Representative	Silvia C.	Community

The CSA Planning Process

To ensure continuous quality improvement, Stanislaus 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 Children's Services Agency, the Juvenile Probation Department and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Participation of Core Representatives

All core participants were represented in either focus groups or surveys.

Stakeholder Feedback

From April through May 2014, thirteen focus groups were conducted. Focus groups were conducted with:

- Alcohol and Other Drug Service Providers
- CWS Court Social Workers
- Court Staff – CWS
- Court Staff – Probation
- Superior Court Judge and Court Officers (Attorneys)
- CWS Supervisors – (Family Reunification and Court)
- Probation Staff
- Biological Parents – Probation
- Youth – Probation
- Youth – CWS
- Managers – CWS
- Biological Parents – CWS
- Caregivers – Foster Parents/Adoptive Parents and NREFM

The Focus groups were held at different locations to accommodate participants. Focus groups were scheduled from 60-90 minutes.

A large stakeholder meeting was conducted on April 22, 2014

Summary of Findings

Stanislaus County has conducted a comprehensive County Self-Assessment, including Peer Review, multiple focus groups, and community wide stakeholder meeting to solicit feedback about how both child welfare services and probation are meeting the needs of families in the County. Over the past three years despite budgetary cutbacks, staff turnover and loss of community resources, the County has made many improvements which were recognized by stakeholders and confirmed by data analysis. These improvements by both agencies were further reflected in the progress documented on the annual System Improvement Plan. The information and sources for citations for the following data can be found in the Demographic Section below.

Like many other counties in California, Stanislaus County suffered from the economic down turn over the past eight years. The impact on our County because of the growing population over the past decade (20% since 2000) and the mortgage crisis was especially felt by low and moderate income families. Median annual income in our County is 25% lower than the statewide average and 14% of the households lived under the poverty rate. The Hispanic population constitutes approximately 40% of our overall population, 31.8% of those under 19, and 56% of all children enrolled in our public schools.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 08/09, Stanislaus County experienced a reduction in social work staff and in services, e.g., (1) A multidisciplinary unit of Public Health Nurses, Substance Abuse Counselors, Social Workers, Mental Health Counselors, and Parent Partners called Families in Partnership was eliminated as part of the plan to right-size the budget in response to the budget shortfall. (2) Imbedded in this unit was a Drug Court program that provided intensive services to mothers with a significant drug history and motivated to prevent their children from entering foster care. This unit provided services to families were at significant risk of having their children placed into foster care. (3) Team Decision Meetings were discontinued. They were an effective way to engage families in the decision making process which decreased the number of children placed into foster care because alternate safety plans were created to mitigate risk and safety. They also served as a way for families to own the plan that was created and they were more likely to follow through with the plan. (4) The loss of Permanency Specialists was another factor. Permanency Specialists helped expedite the placement of children into relative or NERFM homes making the transition into foster care less traumatic for children if a child needed to be out of the home. (5) The termination of an innovative perinatal inpatient drug treatment program and a sober living home were significant losses in services delivery because it reduced the capacity to keep children with their parent while in treatment or lengthened the time to reunification because there were fewer options for structured housing for parents recovering from drug abuse. The perinatal program in particular allowed mothers and their newborns to stay together during that important bonding period in a safe and structured environment. (6) The Stanislaus County Differential Response (DR) for children

6-18 years old was eliminated for a year. (7) The emergency Response Unit cut back on community presentation on child abuse, neglect, and mandated reporting.

As the economy improved, social work positions have been added back, however we have experienced significant turnover in social workers, thus reducing our capacity to work intensely with parents and family members. We also experienced defunding of community partnerships and referrals systems which undermined the capacity of parents already financially stretched to access needed services. Turnover in community professionals and supports relied on by families, especially for counseling, weakened the essential linkage between timely assessment and treatment. As the economy has improved many services in the community that were defunded are now funded including an additional three years of Family Resource Center funding to continue work with DR, beginning in Fiscal Year 10/11.

Referrals to the child welfare system have been on an overall downward trend since 2010 and general neglect continues to constitute the vast majority (80%) of referrals and substantiated referral. As we look at our most recent CSA Key Program reports, it shows referrals are steady and investigations have been on an upward trend. (CSA Key Programs Quarterly Report, FY 13-14 Third Quarter - 2014, January 1). Retrieved June 1, 2014, http://ollie/support/finance-and-operations/reports-folder/key-programs-report/fy-13-14/KeyProgramsReportFY1314Q3.pdf

The highest referral rate incidence per 1,000 (Jan 2013 to Dec 2013) were Black children at (205.1) followed by White children (80), Native American (69.7), Hispanic children (52.2), and Asian/Pacific Islander (35.9). (Needell, B., et al. 2014. *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 8/7/2014, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare

The substantiation incidence per 1,000 rate has a percentage increase of 13% since 2010 from 14.4 per 1,000 to 16.3. The highest foster care entry incidence per 1,000 (Jan 2013 to Dec 2013) were Black children at (13.6) followed by Native American (6), White children (4.2), Asian/Pacific Islander (3.8), and Hispanic children (2.4).

Stanislaus County has seen a significant increase in the number of children/youth entering foster care. A three year trend from Fiscal Year10/11 to 13/14 shows a 43% increase of children in Family Reunification. (CSA Key Programs Quarterly Report, FY 13-14 Third Quarter - 2014, January 1). Retrieved June 1, 2014, from http://ollie/support/finance-and-operations/reports-folder/key-programs-report/fy-13-14/KeyProgramsReportFY1314Q3.pdf).

As aforementioned, there were some key preventative services that were eliminated and reduced our ability to provide the same array of preventative services to families that prior to the funding downturn enabled ACFSD to mitigate risk and safety while keeping children in the home with their parents; thus, prevent placing children in foster care.

In addition to the change in economy and services, Stanislaus County is located in an area close to two major transportation routes I-5 and SR-99 that are used to transport illegal drugs to other regions of the state and country and there has been an increase of Marijuana grows and transportation in and through the area increasing the need to protect children who are around

the trade. The growth of marijuana grows in homes has increased the risk of violence and ingestion to children in homes.

Outcome measures for probation have been affected by a number of factors including the expanded use of out of state placements. During the past two years (2011-2013), the increase (20%) in the number of minors ordered into out-of-home placement has had a direct impact on the overall capacity of probation to assess placements, ensure that the necessary services are being provided for each youth, and plan for the return of the youth to the community and/or the youth's family. During the past two years, average caseload size has increased from 24 minors to 35 minors per probation officer. In response to this increase in caseload, the department recently (March 2014) increased the number of placement officers from three to four. The department currently utilizes five out of state placement facilities and as of the most recent reporting period, had 18 minors placed in these facilities. The limited ability to utilize the Department of Juvenile Justice for a number of high risk supervision cases has resulted in an increase in the number of minors being sent into out-of-state placements, which multiplies the time necessary to properly supervise each youth and his/her placement.

The challenges to both child welfare services and probation are securing and maintaining adequate budgets, funding a stable and trained workforce, and finding time to train staff on new practices and respond to new initiatives. Regarding service array and gaps in funding, funding the necessary continuum of community resources for children, youth and families and establishing a reliable referral network continues to be a challenge. Some but not all, of the resources which our families had utilized in prior years have been refunded in recent years.

By focusing on key outcomes and prioritizing resources, despite the turmoil of the past 5 years, both agencies have made improvements. Stanislaus County is performing well on most of the federal outcomes and state performance measures. The Adult, Child & Family staff is providing the best services possible with the resources we have and are dedicated to maintaining safety and well being for children in our system. ACFS prides itself on being a learning organization and are constantly evaluating and re-evaluating our practices to make sure that we are conducting business in a way that supports our values and mission. In those areas in which our progress has not been as strong or consistent as intended, the lack of stable work force in child welfare services, increased caseloads, budget cutbacks to operations, defunding of community resources and realignment for probation must be taken into consideration.

For the comparison period, Stanislaus County ACFSD performance exceeded eight national performance standards:

52.1 no maltreatment in foster care; five of the adoption and permanency related outcomes (C2.1, C2.3, C2.4, C2.5, C3.1, C3.2); and C. 4.2 (placement stability-8 days to 12 months in care).

The County performance was below the national standard on the remaining outcomes:

51.1 (no recurrence of maltreatment); C2.2 (median time to adoption); C3.3 (percentage of children in foster care for more than 3 years who were then either discharged to emancipation

or turned 18 while still in care); C4.3 (placement stability at least 24 months in care); reunification outcomes (C1.1, C1.2, C1.3, C1.4)

Possible outcomes for consideration in the County SIP are: are reunification within 12 months (CWS), children in care for three years or longer (CWS), placement stability (CWS) and median time for reunification (probation),

Peer Review focused on reunification for both child welfare services (reunification within 12 months (C1.3) and probation (median time to reunification (C1.2)

Possible SIP strategies for consideration for child welfare services are: developing prevention programs, full implementation of SDM; restoration of TDMs to facilitate placement stability, increasing the percentage of relative placements as the data shows that those children in relative placements are 63% less likely to reenter foster care and decrease placement changes as children in relative placement are 11% less likely to avoid experiencing more than 3 placements in the first 12 months of placement; expand collaboration with community resources to craft linkages for aftercare to support reunifying families; structured Family Finding for youth in care for more than 18 months. Probation strategies for consideration are: strengthening family engagement and general supports for out of county and out of state placements, improving communications for service needs between Probation Officers and parents, and developing structured transition plans and linkages for youth discharging from placement or returning to their families from placement.

Stanislaus County has made progress in the last SIP cycles despite major reductions in staff and resources and is committed to continuous quality improvement. Restoration of the agency's internal CQI process last year will greatly enhance our capacity to make significant progress toward meeting federal standards and state performance standards over the next five years. After decisions are made regarding outcomes, we are prepared to draft the SIP and will go before the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

Demographic Profile

General County Demographics (Summary)

The data reported in this section unless otherwise noted comes from the US Census Bureau Report, 2012 or the American Community Survey, 2012.

Stanislaus County is located in the Central Valley of California. Incorporated cities include Modesto, Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, and Waterford. The county seat is Modesto and constitutes 40% of the County population. The Stanislaus County economy depends on a well-established agricultural foundation. Stanislaus County has more than 800,000 acres of farmland and consistently ranks among the top 15 counties nationwide in agricultural production, generating approximately $ 2.5 billion in gross annual

income. Related industries are supported by the agricultural foundation including major industrial plants producing canned and frozen foods, dairy products, poultry and packaged meats, olive oil and nuts[1]. One of the world's largest wine producers (Gallo) is the largest private employer in the County. In addition to the large number of agribusiness related manufacturers, the central location of Stanislaus County has encouraged relocation of nonagricultural related manufacturers to the County. Nearly one fifth of the County's wage and salary workers are employed in manufacturing. The location of California State University Stanislaus, adds to the growing economy and the diversity of the workforce.

In 2012, Stanislaus County had a population of 521,726, which was a 20% increase since the 2000 (446,997) and slightly above the statewide growth rate. Over 40% of the County population was Hispanic. The median population age is 32.9 years. The adult population (21-61 years) is the largest demographic at 66.6 %.[2] Youth under the age of 19 comprise of 31.8% of the overall population. In 2012, among people at least five years old in the county, 40 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 77 percent spoke Spanish; 40 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."

In 2012, the median income of households in Stanislaus County ($46,405) was below the statewide household income level ($58,328). Fourteen percent of households had income below $15,000 a year and 6 percent had income over $150,000 or more. Seventy-eight percent of the households received earnings and 16 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Twenty-seven percent of the households received Social Security. These income sources are not mutually exclusive.[3]

In Stanislaus County, California, 51 percent of the "population 16 and over" were employed; 38 percent were not currently in the labor force, slightly above the state average. In considering labor force data, it must be remembered that the agricultural basis of the County economy has seasonal dimensions. Eighty- percent of the people employed were private wage and salary workers; 14 percent were federal, state, or local government workers; and 6 percent were self-employed in their own (not incorporated) business. (US Census Bureau, 2012, American Community Survey)

Regarding persons who were homeless at the time the Census data was collected in 2012, of the 1,201 homeless people counted, 12% (146) were children[4]. An additional 99 of the homeless were 18 to 24 years old, increasing the percentage of homeless youth to 20 percent. About half of the homeless people counted were living in emergency or transitional housing.

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[1] Modesto CA Chamber of Commerce County data report (2013) www.modchamber.org

[2] All the remainder of the data comes from US Census Bureau, 2012, American Community Survey or the US Census Bureau, 2012, American Community Survey

[3] Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

[4] http://www.modbee.com/2013/06/13/2762062/latest-stanislaus-county-homeless-html#storylink=copy

Sixty-three of the people counted reported being domestic violence victims. Eighty-seven of the people counted stated that they were veterans.[5]

In 2012, there were 167,000 households in Stanislaus County. The average household size was 3.1 people. Families made up 74 percent of the households in Stanislaus County, California. Of other families, 9 percent are female householder families with no husband present and have children under 18 years. 42 percent of all households had one or more persons under 18 years of age. 5.5% of County residents were receiving CalWORKS benefits in 2012, which was a decrease from 2011 (6%) but remained slightly higher than the state rate of 3.6%. 16% of all families in the County had incomes below the poverty level; among those families with children under 18, the percentage with incomes below the poverty level increases to 22.4%. Overall, Stanislaus County has seen a significant growth in CalFresh (+9%). There has also been an increase in Medical (+1.5%) as well (CSA Key Programs Quarterly Report FY 13/14-Third Quarter).There is no information to support exactly how this impacts child welfare.

The birth rate for live births in Stanislaus County (6.0%) was slightly lower than the state rate (6.8%). Teen mothers accounted for 10.3% (CA 8.5%) of all live births in 2011, 4.6% had no or late prenatal care. Total live births in the County reduced slightly from 2009 to 2011 (7737). Birth rate followed County ethnicity patterns with 40% of the babies being born to Hispanic mothers overall.

Regarding domestic violence, rates of reports have fluctuated over the data period (2008-2012 from 2524 (2008) to 2310 (2012). One third involved a weapon of some kind, not necessarily a firearm.

Over one half of all students enrolled in public school in the County (56%) were Hispanic. 43% of the students were enrolled in elementary school and 22.7% were enrolled in college or had graduated high school. Of the students participating in special education services, 46.6% were learning disabled. Overall, 77.8% of the population in Stanislaus County has graduated from high school.

POPULATION

TABLE 1: GENERAL POPOULATION OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

	2000	2010	2012
California	33,871,648	37,253,956	38,041,430
Stanislaus County	446,997	514,453	521,726
Modesto	183,019	201,165	203,547
Ceres	32,530	45,417	45,719
Newman	7,095	10,224	10,576
Oakdale	10,583	20,675	21,194
Patterson	11,409	20,413	20,659
Riverbank	15,896	22,678	23,298

[5] Retrieved from: http://www.modbee.com/2013/06/13/2762062/latest-stanislaus-county-homeless.html#storylink=cpy

Turlock	55,875	68,549	69,733
Waterford	4,791	8,456	8,559

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census; U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

Stanislaus County is a county located in the Central Valley of the U.S. State of California. Incorporated cities include Modesto, Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, and Waterford. The county seat is Modesto. The highest number of referrals comes from our largest city (Modesto) and specific neighborhoods within Modesto (See attached incidence rates by zip code). Turlock which is the next largest city has the next highest referral incidence.

TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHICS OF GENERAL STANISLAUS COUNTY, BY AGE AND GENDER

	All		Female		Male	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total population	514,453	100.0	259,964	50.5	254,489	49.5
Under 5 years	39,779	7.7	19,452	3.8	20,327	4.0
5 to 9 years	40,013	7.8	19,611	3.8	20,402	4.0
10 to 14 years	41,276	8.0	19,877	3.9	21,399	4.2
15 to 19 years	42,807	8.3	20,614	4.0	22,193	4.3
20 to 24 years	37,119	7.2	18,327	3.6	18,792	3.7
25 to 29 years	36,474	7.1	18,148	3.5	18,326	3.6
30 to 34 years	33,720	6.6	16,837	3.3	16,883	3.3
35 to 39 years	33,125	6.4	16,660	3.2	16,465	3.2
40 to 44 years	33,601	6.5	16,923	3.3	16,678	3.2
45 to 49 years	35,785	7.0	18,082	3.5	17,703	3.4
50 to 54 years	33,773	6.6	17,168	3.3	16,605	3.2
55 to 59 years	28,545	5.5	14,691	2.9	13,854	2.7
60 to 64 years	23,605	4.6	12,369	2.4	11,236	2.2
65 to 69 years	16,929	3.3	9,061	1.8	7,868	1.5
70 to 74 years	12,708	2.5	6,952	1.4	5,756	1.1
75 to 79 years	9,963	1.9	5,655	1.1	4,308	0.8
80 to 84 years	7,822	1.5	4,710	0.9	3,112	0.6
85 years and over	7,409	1.4	4,827	0.9	2,582	0.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

There are slightly more females than males. The median population age is 32.9 years. The adult population 21-61 years is the largest demographic at 66.6 %. Youth under the age of 19 comprise of 31.8% of the overall population. Twenty-eight percent of the population was under 18 years and 11 percent was 65 years and older.

TABLE 3: DEMOGRAPHICS OF GENERAL STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION, BY RACE

RACE	Total	Percent
One Race	486,666	94.6
White	337,342	65.6
Black or African American	14,721	2.9

American Indian and Alaska Native	5,902	1.1
Asian	26,090	5.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3,401	0.7
Some Other Race	99,210	19.3
Two or More Races	27,787	5.4
White; American Indian and Alaska Native [3]	4,673	0.9
White; Asian [3]	4,696	0.9
White; Black or African American	2,572	0.5
White; Some Other Race	8,438	1.6
Total population	**514,453**	**100.0**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

TABLE 4: DEMOGRAPICS OF GENERAL STANISLAUS COUNTY, BY RACE-HISPANIC/LATINO

	Total	Percent
Total population	514,453	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	215,658	41.9
Mexican	193,368	37.6
Puerto Rican	3,124	0.6
Cuban	386	0.1
Other Hispanic or Latino [5]	18,780	3.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	298,795	58.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census. Note: People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. Thus, the percent Hispanic should not be added to percentages for racial categories.

TABLE 5: STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2020

YEAR	TOTAL	WHITE	HISPANIC	ASIAN	PACIFIC ISLANDER	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN	MULTI-RACE
2020	699144	275186	348466	36225	2170	19540	5891	11666
As a percent		39.%	50.%	5.%	.%	3.%	1.%	2.%

Source: California Race and Ethnic Population Totals 2000-2050, https://opendata.socrata.com/Government/California-Race-And-Ethnic-Population-Totals-2000-/tdw2-bgt8?

TABLE 6: LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME, STANISLAUS COUNTY

	Total	**Percent**
Population 5 years and over	475,118	475,118
English only	282,024	59.4%
Language other than English	193,094	40.6%
Speak English less than "very well"	81,336	17.1%
Spanish	147,303	31.0%
Speak English less than "very well"	62,990	13.3%
Other Indo-European languages	20,291	4.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	7,544	1.6%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	14,627	3.1%

Speak English less than "very well"	6,181	1.3%
Other languages	10,873	2.3%
Speak English less than "very well"	4,621	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

Among people at least five years old living in Stanislaus County, California in 2012, 40 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 77 percent spoke Spanish and 23 percent spoke some other language; 40 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."

HOUSEHOLD INCOME, EMPLOYMENT, AND POVERTY

TABLE 7: INCOME FOR STANISLAUS COUNTY, (IN 2012 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)

	California		Stanislaus County	
Total households	12,552,658	12,552,658	167,497	167,497
Less than $10,000	794,831	6.3%	11,118	6.6%
$10,000 to $14,999	671,941	5.4%	11,862	7.1%
$15,000 to $24,999	1,268,861	10.1%	20,312	12.1%
$25,000 to $34,999	1,150,308	9.2%	19,845	11.8%
$35,000 to $49,999	1,585,035	12.6%	26,578	15.9%
$50,000 to $74,999	2,129,072	17.0%	30,052	17.9%
$75,000 to $99,999	1,500,192	12.0%	19,009	11.3%
$100,000 to $149,999	1,801,399	14.4%	18,322	10.9%
$150,000 to $199,999	794,583	6.3%	6,410	3.8%
$200,000 or more	856,436	6.8%	3,989	2.4%
Median household income (dollars)	58,328	(X)	46,405	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

The median income of households in Stanislaus County, California was $46,405. Fourteen percent of households had income below $15,000 a year and 6 percent had income over $150,000 or more. Seventy-eight percent of the households received earnings and 16 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Twenty-seven percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was $17,244. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.[6]

TABLE 8: EMPLOYMENT STATUS, STANISLAUS COUNTY

	California		Stanislaus County	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Population 16 years and over	29,884,983	29,884,983	393,712	393,712
In labor force	19,068,155	63.8%	244,370	62.1%
Civilian labor force	18,929,227	63.3%	244,052	62.0%

[6] Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

Employed	16,778,061	56.1%	202,047	51.3%
Unemployed	2,151,166	7.2%	42,005	10.7%
Armed Forces	138,928	0.5%	318	0.1%
Not in labor force	10,816,828	36.2%	149,342	37.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

In Stanislaus County, California, 51 percent of the "population 16 and over" were employed; 38 percent were not currently in the labor force. Eighty- percent of the people employed were private wage and salary workers; 14 percent were federal, state, or local government workers; and 6 percent were self-employed in their own (not incorporated) business.

TABLE 9: MEDIAN HOUSING COSTS, STANISLAUS COUNTY

	Stanislaus County	California
Median household income	$49,866	$61,400
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	$192,200	$383,900

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.

TABLE 10: STANISLAUS COUNTY HOMELESSNESS COUNT

Year	Count
2005	1,613
2007	1,593
2009	1,800
2011	1,434
2013	1,201

Source: Stanislaus Housing & Support Services Collaborative

Children made up 146, or 12 percent, of the 1,201 homeless people counted. An additional 99 of the homeless were 18 to 24 years old, increasing the percentage of homeless youth to 20 percent. About half of the homeless people counted were living in emergency or transitional housing. Sixty-three of the people counted were domestic violence victims. Eighty-seven of the people counted said they were veterans.[7]

TABLE 10: NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OF CALWORKS BENEFITS: 2009 - 2013

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
California	1,261,741	3.4%	1,381,280	3.7%	1,466,204	3.9%	1,399,677	3.7%	1,359,518	3.6%
Stanislaus County	27,748	5.4%	29,523	5.7%	30,926	6.0%	29,646	5.7%	29,083	5.5%

Data Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Dept. of Social Services, CalWORKs Data Trends. Accessed at http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG219.htm (Aug. 2013); California Dept. of Finance, E-4

7 Retrieved from: http://www.modbee.com/2013/06/13/2762062/latest-stanislaus-county-homeless.html#storylink=cpy

Historical Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 1990-2000, 2001-2010, 2011-2013. Accessed at http://www.dof.ca.gov (May 2013).

CHILD MALTREATMENT INDICATORS

TABLE 1: NUMBER AND PERCENT OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BIRTHS, CALIFORNIA COUNTIES, 2008-2010

	CA # of all live births	% of all live births	Stanislaus County # of all live births	% of all live births
2008	37,663	6.8	549	6.4
2009	35,835	6.8	520	6.6
2010	34,692	6.8	466	6.0

Source: State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records

TABLE 2: NUMBER AND PERCENT OF LIVE BIRTHS TO TEEN MOTHERS (AGED 15-19), 2008-2010

	CA # of live births	% of all live births	Stanislaus County # of live births	% of all live births
2008	51,704	9.4	975	11.4
2009	47,811	9.1	862	10.9
2010	43,127	8.5	807	10.3

Source: State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records.

TABLE 3: NUMBER PERCENT OF LIVE BIRTHS WITH LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE, 2010

	LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE	PERCENT OF ALL LIVE BIRTHS
California	15,995	3.2
Stanislaus County	359	4.6

Note: Late prenatal care is care beginning in the third trimester. Source: State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records.

TABLE 4: LIVE BIRTHS, CALIFORNIA COUNTIES, 2009-2011 (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

	2009	2010	2011
California	526,774	509,979	502,023
Stanislaus County	7,941	7,804	7,737

Source: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/VSC-2011-0218.pdf

TABLE 5: DEMOGRAPHICS OF LIVE BIRTHS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY, BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF MOTHER, 2010 (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

			Non-Hispanic							
	Total	Hispanic	2 or More Race Groups	American Indian	Asian	Black	Pacific Islander	White	Other Race	Unknown
California	509,979	257,269	10,285	1,910	60,654	27,704	2,235	140,670	345	8,907
Stanislaus County	7,804	4,166	210	13	415	154	44	2,694	2	106

Source: State of California, Department of Public Health, Birth Records.
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/VSC-2010-0233.pdf

FAMILY STRUCTURE

In 2012 there were 167,000 households in Stanislaus County, California. The average household size was 3.1 people. Families made up 74 percent of the households in Stanislaus

County, California. This figure includes both married-couple families (52 percent) and other families (22 percent). Of other families, 9 percent are female householder families with no husband present and own children under 18 years. Nonfamily households made up 26 percent of all households in Stanislaus County, California. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder. In Stanislaus County, California, 42 percent of all households have one or more people under the age of 18; 25 percent of all households have one or more people 65 years and over.[8]

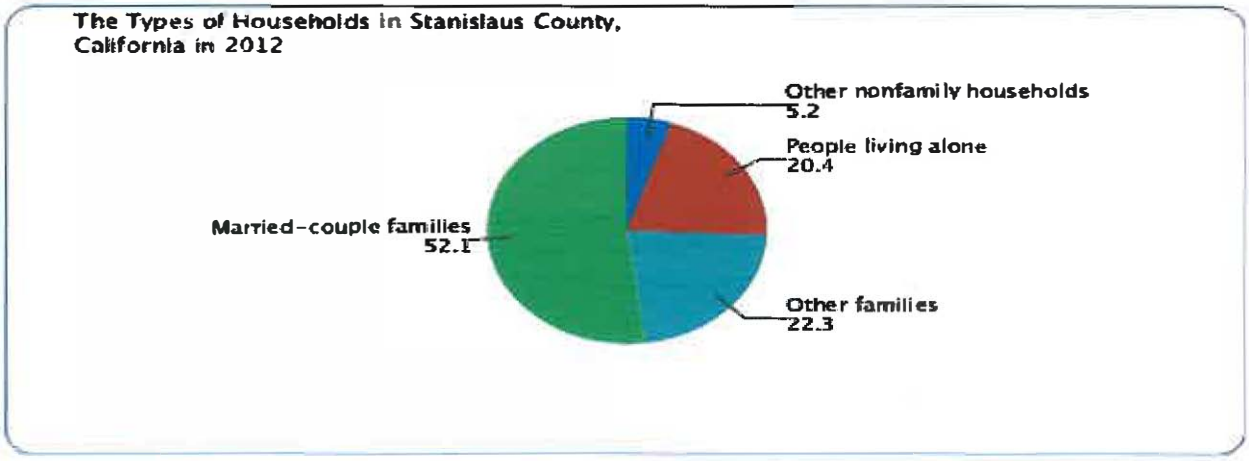


TABLE 6: MARITAL STATUS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY, BY GENDER

	Tot.	Tot.	Female		Male	
	CA	Stan. Co.	CA	Stan. Co.	CA	Stan. Co.
Population 15 years and over	30,416,010	401,164	15,397,459	205,418	15,018,551	195,746
Now married, except separated	46.1%	48.6%	44.8%	46.6%	47.4%	50.7%
Widowed	5.1%	5.1%	8.0%	7.8%	2.1%	2.2%
Divorced	9.8%	10.6%	11.3%	12.5%	8.3%	8.6%
Separated	2.4%	2.4%	2.8%	2.8%	1.9%	1.9%
Never married	36.6%	33.4%	33.1%	30.3%	40.3%	36.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

TABLE 7: PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL

	California	Stanislaus
All families	12.9%	16.0%
With related children under 18 years	19.3%	22.4%
Married couple families	7.7%	9.8%
With related children under 18 years	11.3%	14.1%
Families with female householder, no husband present	29.2%	37.1%

[8] Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

With related children under 18 years	39.4%	47.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

TABLE 8: HOUSING COSTS AND AVAILABILITY, 2012

	California		Stanislaus County	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
HOUSING OCCUPANCY				
Total housing units	13,708,197	13,708,197	179,199	179,199
Occupied housing units	12,552,658	91.6%	167,497	93.5%
Vacant housing units	1,155,539	8.4%	11,702	6.5%
Homeowner vacancy rate	1.6	(X)	1.4	(X)
Rental vacancy rate	4.5	(X)	4.3	(X)
HOUSING TENURE				
Occupied housing units	12,552,658	12,552,658	167,497	167,497
Owner-occupied	6,781,817	54.0%	93,081	55.6%
Renter-occupied	5,770,841	46.0%	74,416	44.4%
VALUE				
Owner-occupied units	6,781,817	6,781,817	93,081	93,081
Median (dollars)	349,400	(X)	159,800	(X)
MORTGAGE STATUS				
Owner-occupied units	6,781,817	6,781,817	93,081	93,081
Housing units with a mortgage	5,013,594	73.9%	69,968	75.2%
Housing units without a mortgage	1,768,223	26.1%	23,113	24.8%
SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS (SMOC)				
Housing units with a mortgage	5,013,594	5,013,594	69,968	69,968
Median (dollars)	2,119	(X)	1,579	(X)
Housing units without a mortgage	1,768,223	1,768,223	23,113	23,113
Median (dollars)	478	(X)	410	(X)
GROSS RENT				
Occupied units paying rent	5,593,677	5,593,677	70,703	70,703
Median (dollars)	1,200	(X)	959	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

EDUCATION

TABLE 9: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, STANISLAUS COUNTY, 2012

	California		Stanislaus County	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent

Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	10,678,252	10,678,252	146,253	146,253
Nursery school, preschool	591,188	5.5%	6,266	4.3%
Kindergarten	520,325	4.9%	8,671	5.9%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	4,064,573	38.1%	63,277	43.3%
High school (grades 9-12)	2,250,021	21.1%	34,906	23.9%
College or graduate school	3,252,145	30.5%	33,133	22.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

TABLE 10: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

	Hispanic or Latino of Any Race	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian,	Pacific Islander	Filipino,	African American	White	Two or More Races, Not Hispanic	Not Reported	Total
Stanislaus	58,966	628	4,272	808	932	3,264	32,609	2,417	1,692	105,588
State Total	3,282,105	40,414	536,970	33,958	154,891	394,695	1,589,393	149,806	44,757	6,226,98

Source: California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS).

TABLE 11: PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS, BY RACE/ETHNICITY, STANISLAUS COUNTY, 2010– 2011

	2010	2011
African American/Black	26.4%	24.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	24.4%	27.4%
Asian American	16.5%	12.9%
Filipino	LNE	LNE
Hispanic/Latino	22.2%	19.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	LNE	LNE
White	16.1%	12.4%
Multiracial	LNE	LNE

Source: California Dept. of Education, California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS). Accessed at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/filescohort.asp (May 2013). Note: LNE refers to data that were suppressed because there were 10 or fewer dropouts in a given group. County school districts are the primary provider and funder of dropout prevention and support services.

TABLE 12: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, STANISLAUS COUNTY, 2012

	California		Stanislaus County	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Population 25 years and over	24,779,784	24,779,784	321,347	321,347
Less than 9th grade	2,509,483	10.1%	40,106	12.5%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	2,077,250	8.4%	31,305	9.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	5,107,967	20.6%	92,492	28.8%
Some college, no degree	5,465,458	22.1%	81,094	25.2%
Associate's degree	1,959,097	7.9%	24,627	7.7%
Bachelor's degree	4,865,203	19.6%	34,008	10.6%
Graduate or professional degree	2,795,326	11.3%	17,715	5.5%
Percent high school graduate or higher	(X)	81.5%	(X)	77.8%

Percent bachelor's degree or higher	(X)	30.9%	(X)	16.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

HEALTH AND DISABILITIES

TABLE 13: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

	California		Stanislaus County	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Civilian non-institutionalized population	37,524,274	37,524,274	518,230	518,230
With health insurance coverage	30,814,688	82.1%	429,071	82.8%
With private health insurance	22,506,950	60.0%	279,372	53.9%
With public coverage	11,426,976	30.5%	194,326	37.5%
No health insurance coverage	6,709,586	17.9%	89,159	17.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

TABLE 14: DISABILITY STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION

	California		Stanislaus County	
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
Total Civilian non-institutionalized Population	37,524,274	37,524,274	518,230	518,230

TABLE 15: CHILDREN WITH MAJOR DISABILITIES (REGIONS OF 65,000 RESIDENTS OR MORE): 2008 - 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Stanislaus County	4,554 (3.1%)	6,661 (4.5%)	7,583 (5.2%)	6,333 (4.3%)
California	274,930 (2.9%)	272,691 (2.9%)	283,254 (3.0%)	289,003 (3.1%)

Data Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Accessed at http://factfinder2.census.gov (Nov. 2012).

TABLE 16: SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT, STANISLAUS COUNTY, BY DISABILITY: 2008 – 2012

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Autism	4.5%	5.3%	6.3%	7.2%	8.1%
Deaf	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Deaf-Blindness	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Emotional Disturbance	4.2%	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
Hard of Hearing	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Intellectual Disability	8.7%	8.2%	8.3%	8.1%	7.6%
Learning Disability	50.8%	49.5%	47.4%	46.9%	46.6%
Multiple Disability	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Orthopedic Impairment	1.8%	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%
Other Health Impairment	3.6%	4.3%	4.5%	5.5%	5.9%
Speech or Language Impairment	23.8%	23.9%	24.5%	23.8%	23.1%
Traumatic Brain Injury	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Visual Impairment	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

Data Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, Special Tabulation by the California Dept. of Education, Special Education Division; Assessment, Evaluation and Support (Oct. 2012).

MENTAL HEALTH

TABLE 17: PERCENTAGE OF DEPRESSION-RELATED FEELINGS, BY GENDER AND GRADE LEVEL: 2008-2010

California	Female		Male	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
7th Grade	30.8%	69.2%	24.7%	75.3%
9th Grade	36.4%	63.6%	24.2%	75.8%
11th Grade	37.2%	62.8%	26.5%	73.5%
Non-Traditional	47.0%	53.0%	29.4%	70.6%
Stanislaus County	**Female**		**Male**	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
7th Grade	34.0%	66.0%	27.8%	72.2%
9th Grade	41.7%	58.3%	25.8%	74.2%
11th Grade	41.0%	59.0%	27.1%	72.9%
Non-Traditional	48.1%	51.9%	25.3%	74.7%

Source: As cited on kidsdata.org, California Department of Education, California Healthy Kids Survey (WestEd). http://www.wested.org/chks. Note: "Non-traditional" students are those enrolled in Community Day Schools or Continuation Education.

TABLE 18: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE, STANISLAUS COUNTY 2008-12

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No Weapon Involved	1886	1758	1811	1579	1792
Weapon Involved*	638	565	509	484	518
Firearm	28	15	14	8	6
Knife or Cutting Instrument	48	39	20	24	22
Other Dangerous Weapon	109	88	73	58	82
Personal Weapon**	453	423	402	394	408
Not Reported	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CALLS	**2524 (1.5%)**	**2323 (1%)**	**2320 (1%)**	**2063 (1%)**	**2310 (1%)**
TOTAL CALLS CALIFORNIA	166343	167087	166361	158548	157634

* Penal Code section 13730 does not require that the type of weapon involved in a domestic violence-related call be reported. ** Hands, feet, etc. Source: http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/domestic-violence

TABLE 19: ADULTS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY WHO SOUGHT HELP FOR SELF-REPORTED MENTAL/EMOTIONAL AND/OR ALCOHOL-DRUG ISSUE(S), BY GENDER

	Needed help but did not receive treatment		Needed help and received treatment		All	
Gender	Est. N	%	Est. N	%	Est. N	%
Male - SC	4,000	30.4	13,000	61.4	221,000	42.9
Male – CA	857,000	44.9	908,000	37.0	18,227,000	49.4
Female - SC	9,000	69.6	8,000	38.6	294,000	57.1
Female CA	1,051,000	55.1	1,547,000	63.0	18,704,000	50.6
TOTAL SC	12,000	100.0	21,000	100.0	516,000	100.0
TOTAL CA	1,908,000	100.0	2,456,000	100.0	36,931,000	100.0

Source: 2011 - 2012 California Health Interview Survey, http://ask.chis.ucla.edu

TABLE 20: TEENS WHO NEEDED AND RECEIVED PSYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL COUNSELING IN PAST 12 MONTHS, STANISLAUS COUNTY

	Male		Female		All	
	Est. N	%	Est. N	%	Est. N	%
Yes needed help	6,000	37.1*	4,000	12.5*	10,000	20.8
No did not need help	11,000	62.9*	28,000	87.5*	39,000	79.2
Received counseling	3,000	15.7	6,000	18.8	9,000	17.7
Did not receive counseling	14,000	84.3	26,000	81.2	41,000	82.3
TOTAL	17,000	100.0	33,000	100.0	49,000	100.0

Source: 2011 - 2012 California Health Interview Survey. http://ask.chis.ucla.edu

TABLE 21: NON-FATAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT BY AGE AND CAUSE, STANISLAUS COUNTY AND CALIROFNIA, 2011

Age	All unintentional injuries		All self-inflicted injuries		All assault injuries		Other- Undetermined Intent	
	SC	CA	SC	CA	SC	CA	SC	CA
< 1	443	25,947	0	4	5	108	2	91
1-4	3,873	203,330	1	31	12	442	5	595
5-9	2,963	152,129	2	57	15	851	2	253
10-14	3,310	167,433	34	1,770	87	4,369	5	549
15-19	3,565	186,430	115	6,341	324	17,253	17	1,746
Total	14,154 (1.9%)	735,269	152 (1.8%)	8,203	443 (1.9%)	23,023	31 (0.9%)	3,234

Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Emergency Department Data. Prepared by: California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch. Report generated from http://epicenter.cdph.ca.gov

Child Welfare and Probation

All Data from CWS/CMS Quarter Q3 2013

STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION

TABLE 1: CHILD POPULATION BY AGE (2010-2013)

Age Group	Year-Interval			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Under 1	7,671	7,737	7,795	7,875
'1-2	15,833	15,343	15,278	15,474
'3-5	24,211	24,247	23,946	23,457
'6-10	40,057	39,910	40,003	40,252
'11-15	41,600	41,063	40,501	40,349
16-17	17,508	17,307	17,059	16,853
18-20	24,818	25,569	25,990	26,088
Total	171,697	171,175	170,571	170,348

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE OF CHILD POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2010-2013)

Ethnic Group	Year-Interval			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Black	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4
White	34.1	34.8	34.6	34.3
Latino	54.8	54.5	54.7	55
Asian/P.I.	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.2
Nat Amer	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Multi-Race	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7
Total	100	100	100	100

TABLE 3: CHILD POPULATION (0-17) AND CHILDREN WITH CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS, SUBSTANTIATIONS, AND ENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Age Group	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Children with Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allegations	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Substantiations
Under 1	7,795	744	95.4	289	37.1	38.8	73	9.4	25.3
'1-2	15,278	1,037	67.9	290	19	28	48	3.1	16.6
'3-5	23,946	1,742	72.7	392	16.4	22.5	61	2.5	15.6
'6-10	40,003	2,878	71.9	571	14.3	19.8	66	1.6	11.6
'11-15	40,501	2,555	63.1	481	11.9	18.8	67	1.7	13.9
16-17	17,059	902	52.9	150	8.8	16.6	15	0.9	10
Total	144,581	9,858	68.2	2,173	15	22	330	2.3	15.2

TABLE 4: CALIFORNIA CHILD POPULATION (0-17) AND CHILDREN WITH CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS, SUBSTANTIATIONS, AND ENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, BY RACE/ETHNICITY (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Ethnic Group	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Children with Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allegations	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Substantiations
Black	3,307	601	181.7	138	41.7	23	29	8.8	21
White	48,968	3,733	76.2	859	17.5	23	158	3.2	18.4
Latino	80,379	4,074	50.7	927	11.5	22.8	128	1.6	13.8
Asian/P.I.	6,062	231	38.1	31	5.1	13.4	5	0.8	16.1
Nat Am.	522	32	61.3	12	23	37.5	3	5.7	25
Multi-Race	5,343	0	0	0	0	.	0	0	.
Missing	0	1,187	.	206	.	17.4	7	.	3.4
Total	144,581	9,858	68.2	2,173	15	22	330	2.3	15.2

TABLE 5: CALIFORNIA CHILD POPULATION (0-17) AND CHILDREN WITH CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS, SUBSTANTIATIONS, AND ENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, BY GENDER (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Gender	Total Child Population	Children with Allegations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	Children with Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Allegations	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children	% of Substantiations
Female	70,252	4,963	70.6	1,114	15.9	22.4	172	2.4	15.4

Male	74,329	4,854	65.3	1,056	14.2	21.8	158	2.1	15
Missing	.	41	.	3	.	7.3	.	.	.
Total	144,581	9,858	68.2	2,173	15	22	330	2.3	15.2

TABLE 6: CHILDREN WITH ONE OR MORE ALLEGATIONS FOR JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012 (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Allegation Type	Disposition Type					Total
	Substantiated	Inconclusive	Unfounded	Assessment Only/Evaluated Out	Not Yet Determined	
	n	n	n	n	n	n
Sexual Abuse	103	63	303	309	.	778
Physical Abuse	78	50	659	396	.	1,183
Severe Neglect	71	3	12	5	.	91
General Neglect	1,717	585	1,908	2,457	.	6,667
Exploitation	.	1	5	1	.	7
Emotional Abuse	9	11	69	51	.	140
Caretaker Absence/ Incapacity	44	3	68	26	.	141
At Risk, Sibling Abused	151	40	392	268	.	851
Substantial Risk	.	.	.	.	.	.
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	2,173	756	3,416	3,513	.	9,858

TABLE 7: CHILD WELFARE- CHILDREN WITH FIRST ENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, BY AGE (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Age Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Under 1	7,795	73	9.4
'1-2	15,278	46	3
'3-5	23,946	55	2.3
'6-10	40,003	42	1
'11-15	40,501	56	1.4
16-17	17,059	10	0.6
Total	144,581	282	2

TABLE 8: CHILD WELFARE- CHILDREN WITH FIRST ENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, BY RACE/ETHNICITY (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Ethnic Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Black	3,307	23	7
White	48,968	143	2.9
Latino	80,379	105	1.3
Asian/P.I.	6,062	2	0.3
Nat Amer	522	3	5.7
Multi-Race	5,343	0	0
Missing	0	6	.
Total	144,581	282	2

TABLE 9: CHILD WELFARE- CHILDREN WITH REENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, BY AGE (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Age Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Under 1	7,795	0	0
'1-2	15,278	2	0.1
'3-5	23,946	6	0.3
'6-10	40,003	24	0.6
'11-15	40,501	11	0.3
16-17	17,059	5	0.3
Total	144,581	48	0.3

TABLE 10: CHILD WELFARE- CHILDREN WITH REENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, BY RACE/ETHNICITY (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Ethnic Group	Total Child Population	Children with Entries	Incidence per 1,000 Children
Black	3,307	6	1.8
White	48,968	15	0.3
Latino	80,379	23	0.3
Asian/P.I.	6,062	3	0.5

Nat Amer	522	0	0
Multi-Race	5,343	0	0
Missing	0	1	.
Total	144,581	48	0.3

TABLE 11: PROBATION- CHILDREN WITH FIRST ENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 TO DEC 31, 2012, BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Age Group	Ethnic Group						Total
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/P.I.	Nat Amer	Missing	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
<1 mo	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1-11 mo	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
'1-2 yr	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
'3-5 yr	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
'6-10 yr	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
'11-15 yr	.	8	12	.	.	.	20
16-17 yr	.	10	8	.	.	.	18
18-20 yr	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	.	18	20	.	.	.	38

TABLE 12: PROBATION- CHILDREN WITH REENTRIES, JAN 1, 2012 - DEC 31, 2012, BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY (STANISLAUS)

Age Group	Ethnic Group						Total
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/P.I.	Native American	Missing	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
<1 mons.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1-11 mons.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
'1-2 year	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
'3-5 years	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
'6-10 year	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

'11-15 year	1	1	2	.	.	.	4
16-17 year	.	5	2	.	.	.	7
18-20 year	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	1	6	4	.	.	.	11

TABLE 13: CHILD WELFARE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE, BY AGE (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

	Point In Time				
	1-Jan-09	1-Jan-10	1-Jan-11	1-Jan-12	1-Jan-13
	n	n	n	n	n
Under 1	40	47	49	38	49
'1-2	69	63	78	78	83
'3-5	98	93	90	107	98
'6-10	117	124	148	134	136
'11-15	147	147	152	146	145
16-17	97	109	100	100	81
18-20	11	13	21	17	43
Missing	.	.	.	.	.
Total	579	596	638	620	635

TABLE 14: CHILD WELFARE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE, BY RACE/ETHNICITY (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

Ethnic Group	Point In Time				
	1-Jan-09	1-Jan-10	1-Jan-11	1-Jan-12	1-Jan-13
	n	n	n	n	n
Black	81	78	77	82	68
White	276	277	301	314	303
Latino	196	213	240	211	243
Asian/P.I.	8	12	7	4	8
Nat Amer	6	7	5	5	4

Missing	12	9	8	4	9
Total	579	596	638	620	635

TABLE 15: PROBATION CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE, BY AGE

	Point In Time				
	1-Jan-09	**1-Jan-10**	**1-Jan-11**	**1-Jan-12**	**1-Jan-13**
	n	**n**	**n**	**n**	**n**
Under 1	.	.	.	.	.
'1-2	.	.	.	.	.
'3-5	.	.	.	.	.
'6-10	.	.	.	.	.
'11-15	19	13	32	34	29
16-17	30	34	38	69	66
18-20	2	.	1	1	1
Missing	.	.	.	.	.
Total	51	47	71	104	96

TABLE 16: PROBATION CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE, BY RACE/ETHNICITY (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

	Point In Time				
	1-Jan-09	**1-Jan-10**	**1-Jan-11**	**1-Jan-12**	**1-Jan-13**
	n	**n**	**n**	**n**	**n**
Black	6	4	8	6	3
White	15	20	18	38	42
Latino	26	21	38	50	49
Asian/P.I.	1	1	2	2	1
Nat Amer	.	.	1	1	.
Missing	3	1	4	7	1
Total	51	47	71	104	96

TABLE 17: CHILD WELFARE- CASELOAD BY SERVICE COMPONENT TYPE AND AGE, JANUARY 2013 (STANISLAUS COUNTY)

	Age Group							Total
	Under 1	'1-2	'3-5	'6-10	'11-15	16-17	18-20	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Emergency Response	7	4	3	13	7	3	.	37
Pre-Placement (FM)	54	50	60	110	71	20	1	366
Post-Placement (FM)	3	25	30	29	16	2	.	105
Family Reunification	43	61	60	61	45	20	.	290
Permanent Placement	5	18	27	65	94	61	3	273
Supportive Transition	.	.	.	.	.	.	40	40
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	112	158	180	278	233	106	44	1,111

TABLE 18: CHILD WELFARE- CASELOAD BY SERVICE COMPONENT TYPE AND RACE/ETHNICITY, JANUARY 2013

	Ethnic Group						Total
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Nat Amer	Missing	
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Emergency Response	3	11	21	1	1	.	37
Pre-Placement (FM)	25	174	155	5	1	6	366
Post-Placement (FM)	16	57	31	1	.	.	105
Family Reunification	14	143	126	5	1	1	290
Permanent Placement	44	131	88	2	2	6	273
Supportive Transition	3	22	10	1	1	3	40
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	105	538	431	15	6	16	1,111

These numbers do not seem correct. WE only had 37 ER cases in January of 2013?

TABLE 19: CHILD WELFARE- CASELOAD BY SERVICE COMPONENT TYPE AND VOLUNTARY STATUS, JANUARY 2013

	Voluntary Status			Total
	Court Ordered	Voluntary	Missing	
	n	n	n	n
Emergency Response	6	.	31	37

Pre-Placement (FM)	22	341	3	366
Post-Placement (FM)	100	4	1	105
Family Reunification	284	6	.	290
Permanent Placement	137	136	.	273
Supportive Transition	40	.	.	40
Missing	.	.	.	.
Total	589	487	35	1,111

CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION POPULATION PARTICIPATION

In 2013, Child Welfare Services in Stanislaus County received 9858 referrals for alleged child abuse and neglect, 2173 were subsequently substantiated. The highest incidence of substantiations per 1000 was for children under one year of age (38.8%), followed by children 6-10 years old (19.8%). Overall, 15.2% of all allegations were sustained. 927 allegations of abuse involving Hispanic children and 138 allegations regarding African American children and 859 allegations regarding Caucasian children were sustained. The rate of substantiation approximates the population distribution. Allegations of general neglect constituted the vast majority of the referrals (6667/9858). Approximately 80% of the substantiated allegations were for general neglect. Regarding children reentering the child protection system (73/282), 10% were under one year of age and ethnicity followed the overall pattern of referrals.

The Probation Department supervised 96 youth in out of home care in 2012. Two thirds were between 16-17 and over half (49/96) were Hispanic/Latino.

Point in time data January 1, 2013, shows little change from 2011-2013 in the total number of child welfare children and youth foster care in Stanislaus County; in 2013, 635 were placed in foster care of which slightly over one third (243) were Hispanic.

When the child maltreatment allegations rates are examined by zip code for Stanislaus County, there is a clear overrepresentation (See Charts above). Stanislaus County overall has a 69.4 per 1,000 Child Maltreatment Allegation rate. Filtering for Child Maltreatment Allegations by zip code, the allegations are concentrated in 4 areas: 95354 zip code has the highest incident rate (107.5 per 1,000); 95351 (102.3 per 1,000); 95350 (79.6 per 1,000); and 95358 (71.5 per 1,000) which account for 38% of the overall allegations in Stanislaus County. (*Needell, B., Webster, D., et.al. (2014). CCWIP reports. Retrieved July, 25, 2014, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)*

When the entries into foster care rates are examined by zip code for Stanislaus County, there is a clear overrepresentation. Stanislaus County overall has a 3.2 per 1,000 Foster Care Entry rate. Filtering for Foster Care Entry by zip code , the 95351 zip code has the highest entry rate (7.0

per 1,000) followed by 95350 (3.6 per 1,000) which account for 32% of the overall foster care entries in Stanislaus County. (*Needell, B., Webster, D., et.al. (2014). CCWIP reports. Retrieved July, 25, 2014, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/*)

These zip codes make up the downtown Modesto and Modesto West side areas of Stanislaus County.

Public Agency Characteristics

Political Jurisdictions

Stanislaus County is governed by an elected Board of Supervisors. The Board sets policy, enacts ordinances and regulations, and oversees activities of county departments. Each supervisor represents a specific district. However, both the courts and the schools function independent of the county government and the Board of Supervisors.

Federally Recognized Tribes

Stanislaus County does not have any federally recognized Native American Indian tribes.

Although there are no Indian tribes located in Stanislaus County, the Child Welfare and Probation Department's procedures are established to identify any youth that may meet the definition of an Indian Child at the referral process. If a child is of Indian heritage then notifications are mailed to the identified tribe or if a tribe has not been identified then the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The Child Welfare and Probation Department have successfully worked with tribes to identify appropriate services and placements for children of Indian heritage. Stanislaus County ACFSD and Probation departments comply with the legislative and legal requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act and we contract with an ICWA expert to guide us through the process of compliance as well as procuring appropriate services for children who are eligible as an ICWA child. When we have received information that a child is ICWA eligible, we notice the tribes to verify enrollment. If a child has been verified, we contact our consultant who then assists with the provision of appropriate services.

School Districts/ Local Education Agencies

There are twenty-five different school districts in Stanislaus County. A few of the school districts are small and foster homes are rarely located within their attendance district. The County Foster Care Liaison assists with coordinating educational services for foster children when they are placed in these districts. ACFSD offers an annual Mandated Reporter training to the community that is attended by many educators, as well as school-based presentations.

Child and Family Services have strong partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff's Office and local city police jurisdictions throughout the county. We

collaborate to provide the services at the CAIRE Center, child abuse investigations as well as a Drug Endangered Children (DEC) program.

Stanislaus County is known to value strong partnerships in the Community. ACFSD values strong partnerships as well, collaboration is the norm. Most recently, Stanislaus County was awarded the Challenge Award by the California State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties Achievement Award for our unique partnership with the business and faith community to support clean and sober living environments for child welfare families.

SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF AGENCIES:

The Community Services Agency, Adult, Child and Family Services Division, and the Probation Department are the primary providers of child welfare services in Stanislaus County. Adult, Child and Family Services (ACFSD) and Probation collaborate with other public and private agencies to serve families in the community. Such partnerships include StanWORKS (CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, linkages, and TANF), Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (Mental Health), Health Services Agency (Public Health), Stanislaus County District Attorney, local, State and Federal law enforcement and many private agencies. Some of the agencies providing services to families in Stanislaus County are co-located to ease client access. Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Mental Health professionals are collocated at the Community Services Agency where they can interact with Child and Family Services Staff on a daily or as needed basis for ease of referral and communication. There are co-located BHRS Substance Abuse Counselors that are dedicated to providing services to parents and families that are Child and Family Services involved. There are 2 CHDP Nurses, 2 Public Health Nurses, and one Sheriff Detective co-located within ACFSD. ACFSD has formed an alliance with Children's Crisis Center to co-locate and assist social workers in arranging, scheduling, and monitoring family visits for Family Reunification

a. County operated shelters: Stanislaus County does not operate a shelter, but instead depends upon foster family homes for the emergency placement of children who are removed from the parents due to abuse or neglect. Aspiranet Foster Family Agency is contracted to provide six beds that are available 24/7 as a receiving homes. Children are moved to relative or other concurrent planning home as soon as reasonably possible. Additionally, county licensed homes and other FFA certified foster homes will accept children when receiving home beds are unavailable.
b. County licensing: Stanislaus County ACFSD has an MOU with the State to conduct our own licensing of foster family homes. Stanislaus County provides foster home licensing services for interested families/individuals who wish to become foster parents. Stanislaus County has a collaborative relationship with a local Community College that has funding for conducting PRIDE and ongoing training, as well as relative caregiver orientation, and monthly foster parent orientations. The Stanislaus County Licensing Social Worker works with the Program Director of the Community College Foster &Kinship Care Education Program to coordinate these activities. 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 107

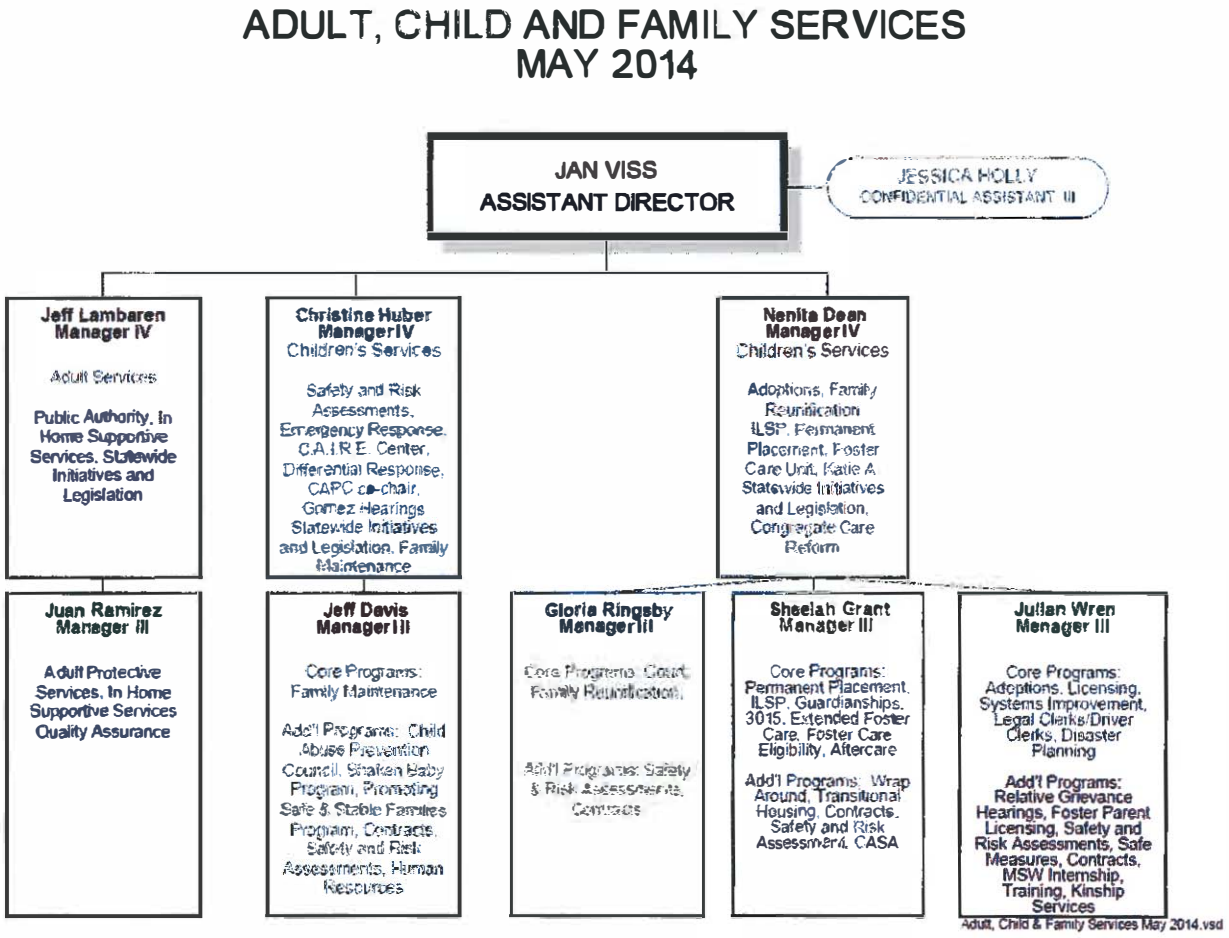
county licensed foster homes.

c. County adoptions: Stanislaus County ACFSD is licensed to provide adoptions services, including home studies, placement of children, and Post-Adoption services, and processing Adoptions Assistance Payments. There are a number of FFA and private agencies that are licensed for adoption. ACFSD partners with these agencies to identify adoptive families for children and youth.

County Government Structure

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Adult, Child and Family Services (ACFSD) is a division of the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency. StanWORKS, and Fiscal/Operations are also divisions within the agency.



STAFFING CHARACTERISTICS/ISSUES

As of June 2014, Child and Family Services Division have a total of 140 positions including support staff. The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved a Social Worker classification allocation of 119 for FY 13/14. Under the supervision of one Assistant Director, two Manager IVs, and four Manager IIIs, there are 17 Social Worker Supervisor II, 110 Social Worker III or IV, one Family Services Specialist Supervisor, eight Family Services Specialist (Foster Care eligibility), One Legal Clerk Supervisor, four Legal Clerk IV, One Confidential Assistant, 21 Administrative Clerk I, II and III, seven Driver Clerks, two ILP Interviewers and one Educational Liaison. Additionally, there are four Public Health Nurses, three Substance Abuse Specialists and 2 Sheriff Detectives. All staff is assigned to units with approximately ten staff per supervisor. The County recruits and selects staff according to County protocols.

Caseload sizes continue to be greater than that recommended by the 1999 SB 2030 workload study. Senate Bill (SB) 2030 required the California Department of Social Services to undertake an evaluation of workload and budgeting methodologies for child welfare. The goals of the study were to study and understand:

1. Routine activities of child welfare staff.
2. Time needed to complete all mandated practice activities.
3. Estimate the time required to engage in best practice.
4. Review budgetary methodology for Child Welfare Services.

The Adult Child and Family Services Division (ACFSD) over the last 3 years has had a difficult time maintaining a stable workforce. ACFSD has experienced a significant amount of attrition. Staff have left for other positions in and out of county, to other child welfare agencies, and other industries, as well as there have been multiple losses of line staff due to promotions. The attrition experienced in Stanislaus County has included social workers that would be considered seasoned and very experienced social workers which can affect Child Welfare outcomes because it is commonly accepted that a social worker needs at least 2 years on the job in order to become fully proficient.

Since the SB 2030 study has been completed, there have been extensive changes in the delivery of child welfare services as a result of numerous legislative mandates. These mandates, as well as additional factors including changing demographics, best practices and outcome standards, necessitate an updated review of caseload standards.

It is important to note that federal and state mandates have increased the complexity and amount of daily social work activities. The federal Adoption and Safe Family Act (ASFA) and California's Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (AB 636, Statutes of 2001) have resulted in new efforts to improve CWS outcomes across all service components, without sufficient new funding to support these efforts. For example, county performance is now measured by outcomes and indicators that include recurrence of abuse, number of foster care placement moves experienced by children, length of time to permanency, and siblings placed together. In response, counties have added responsibilities to current staff designed to achieve desired outcomes who are already conducting case-carrying activities. These activities

include increased planning and collaboration with community partners, enhanced prevention and early intervention efforts, utilization of research-based tools such as Structured Decision Making, and supports to foster parents and adoptive homes to maintain stable placements. There is also the focus on the first placement priority be in a relative or lifelong connection home which requires a home assessment similar to the standards of licensed foster homes as well as a focus on placing the child or children in a home within their same school district. Other initiatives and legislation such as AB 12 (After 18) and Katie A. lawsuit have increased requirements on paperwork, documentation, court requirements, and performance measures have been added to the social worker's responsibilities drawing attention from time for other case management activities.

The SB 2030 Recommended Caseload Standards takes into account the average available 116.10 hours per month and the average 21.65 days per month that social workers have to devote to caseload work. Training time and other non-casework activities are not included in the aforementioned averages.

The "SB 2030 Minimum Recommended Caseload Standard" is the level that is, on average, the workload recommended to maintain the minimal standard of caseload work. At this level, the social worker should be able to maintain the minimum level of standard of casework management for the amount of hours available per month.

The minimum standards reflect the experience of workers regarding the additional time needed to provide services on their cases. Workers need to perform multiple tasks simultaneously in order to keep up with the demands on their time. The consistent level of activity of this nature compassion fatigue or burnout may be experienced by social workers, supervisors, and other staff.

The "SB 2030 Optimum Recommended Standard" reflects the time needed for optimal case management so that each case would meet basic program requirements and allow for the follow-up that would result in improved outcomes for these cases.

These optimum standards reflect the expectation that cases would be served well enough to significantly improve the quality of services and improve outcomes for children families. Ideally, outcomes would be improved by implementing the minimum standards. However, implementation of the optimum standards provides the opportunity to address outcomes for specific programs by prioritizing service areas where significantly improved outcomes are desirable. Thus, increasing the standard for family reunification to the optimal level could be tied to the potential desirability of increasing the numbers of children who return home and are able to remain home safely.

If Child Welfare could achieve a full staffing level, it is believed that we could move toward reaching and maintaining the Minimum Caseload Standards presented in the chart below.

The columns in (**Blue**) are what the caseload study recommended as a caseload for a social worker to implement the minimal and the optimal best practice professional casework and case management.

The "Current Caseload" column is the current caseload average for calendar year 2013 for social workers in Child and Family Services now (**Red**).

CWS Basic Program Area	*Measured Caseload (1999)	Minimum Caseload Standard	Optimum Caseload Standard	2013 Caseload Average	Difference from Minimum Standard	Difference from Optimum Standard
ER Intake Hotline	149	116	69	84	-32	+19
Emergency Response	16	13	10	20	+7	+10
Family Maintenance	29	14	10	30	+16	+20
Family Reunification	23	16	12	24	+8	+12
Permanent Placement	49	24	16	37	+13	+21

*ER and ER Intake which is the count for number of referrals

Although ACFSD has resumed a continuous recruitment of social workers, the resignations and retiring of social workers has outpaced the addition of newly hired social workers to replace them. Stanislaus County is finding that retaining the newly hired social workers has become difficult as well. In addition to receiving the Chief Executive's Office approval to conduct continuous recruitment, the agency requested and was approved to overstaff by 5 positions (a level we have never been able to achieve due to attrition); conducted informational meetings in collaboration with a local university MSW program to recruit from within the agency; and sent out information about open positions to MSW program alumni email list serves. Also, the County has worked to expedite the background check process to increase the speed at which we are able to officially offer positions to those we have interviewed. The agency has also begun to recruit and hire Social Worker III's. Those positions require a Bachelor Degree as opposed to a Master in Social Work.

As a strategy to retain social work staff, ACFSD management team has worked with staff to identify ideas to support staff and we have implemented those ideas as follows: providing ACSW clinical hours and supervision on site, developed contracts with service providers to schedule and supervise family visits, hired extra help staff to assist with administrative duties, and hired experienced extra help social work staff to appear in court on behalf of social workers, and to assist with placement specialist duties (foster care placement case management).

One effect of attrition in Stanislaus County Child Welfare is that the agency has been losing more experienced social workers. That, coupled with the inability to attract experienced social workers from job seekers, causes the agency to hire social workers with little or no experience who are unable to carry a full caseload safely or carry a small caseload sooner than what would be optimal to assure legislative and policy mandates are addressed. Other effects that could be attributed to the staffing challenge can be on some of the outcomes on which we measure ourselves. Stanislaus County's recurrence of maltreatment was on a steady decline from June 2010 (11.4%) till March 2013 (9.8%) when we started to see a steady decrease in the recurrence rate to what it is currently (6.7%)-still above the national goal of 5%. From June 2010 - June 2013, Stanislaus County's foster care reentry rate has experienced a percentage increase of 105% from 7.2% to 15.2% reentry rate. From June 2010-June 2013, Stanislaus County has had a percentage decrease of 23.4% in the number of children reunifying within 12 months, and a percentage decrease of 20.8% in the timely investigation of 10 day referrals from Q2 2010-Q2 2013 (SafeMeasures: extract date 8-1-14). These areas where we previously were performing well on can be a symptom of the attrition, lack of experience, and staffing levels.

In March of 2013, our Accreditation through the Council of Accreditation lapsed as we did not have the capacity to meet the standards. Stanislaus County had been only one of two counties in California that were accredited for their child welfare programs and we held that honor since 1992.

Over the last 3 years the average social work caseloads for Family Reunification (44.18%), Family Maintenance (27.83%), and Emergency Response (12.36%) has increased. Permanent Placement average social work caseload has increased 19.62% and After 18 (46.15%) has increased over the last year. (CSA Key Quarterly Outcomes). Increased Child Welfare mandates continue to affect workload and our ability to recruit and retain Social Workers. Since the economic downturn some positions have been restored to address the caseload growth; however recruitment and attrition remain challenging, and staffing levels remain below 2007-2009 levels. Child and Family Services Division conduct a continuous SW IV recruitment and have been experiencing ongoing vacancies of approximately 7-9 SW IVs.

As you can see below, over the last three years all of the program areas in Child Welfare have seen increases in caseload size except for the Permanency Placement program.

Average Number of Children Served per Month, By Fiscal Year (12 month Avg.) CSA quarterly report								
Program	FY 10-11 (12 Mo Avg)	FY 11-12 (12 Mo Avg)	% change 10-11 to 11-12	FY 12-13 (12 Mo Avg)	% change 11-12 to 12-13	FY 13-14 (12 Mo Avg)	% change 12-13 to 13-14 (9 Mo Ave)	3 year Trend % change FY 10-11 to 13-14
ER Hotline	N: 653	N: 502	-23.12%	N: 604	+20.32%	N: 661	+9.44%	+1.23%
ER	N: 526	N: 629	+19.58%	N: 643	+2.23%	N: 587	-8.71%	+11.60%
FM	N: 345	N: 366	+6.09%	N: 485	+32.51%	N: 447	-7.84%	+29.57%
FR	N: 292	N: 271	-7.19%	N: 321	+18.45%	N: 416	+29.60%	+42.47%
PP	N: 339	N: 318	-6.19%	N: 260	-6.19%	N: 308	+18.46%	-9.14%
Support Transition	N: 0	N: 20	0%	N:39	+95.00%	N: 57	+46.15	*< than 3 years

Adult, Child and Family Services (ACFSD) has five emergency response units of which one includes the intake, or hotline staff, and two after hours social workers. The leadership and staffing of the CAIRE Center (Child Abuse Investigations Referrals and Examinations), the County's child advocacy center, is provided through one of the emergency response units. At present there are 20 social workers assigned to complete investigations as well as risk and safety assessment during normal business hours. Emergency Response social workers are responsible for in person contact, assessment and intervention for approximately 42 children per month. That equals approximately 14 investigations of child abuse or neglect per month per social worker, which exceeds the National Average in 2008 of 5.7 per month, as reported on the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families (ACF).[22] According to the ACF report, the average number of investigations per year in 2008 was 68.3 per worker. Each investigation can include multiple children. Our 2008 average investigation caseload was 125 per social worker. Our present 2013 average is more than 224 investigations per social worker for the year. This number can be attributed to the Social Worker attrition as well as the 9.7% increase in child abuse and neglect reports to our hotline since 2011. (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx, retrieved: 8-11-14) The increase in the allegations has coincided with a 12.4% increase in child abuse/neglect investigations over the last 3 years (CSA Key Quarterly report, 4th Quarter, 2014). When casework increases and workforce decreases, it created a higher load for those Social Workers left.

There are 6 social workers assigned to the intake/hotline to handle all reports of child abuse and neglect. In 2013, each intake social workers accepted and managed approximately 84 referrals for child abuse and neglect per month.

ACFSD has three pre-placement preventative services units called Family Maintenance. The Family Maintenance program consists of 18 social workers, 2 Family Services Specialist (TANF eligibility staff), 1 Public Health Nurse, 1 Substance Abuse Counselor, 2 Driver Clerks, and 2 Administrative Clerks. Each social worker has been responsible for an average of approximately 30 children each in 2013.

ACFSD has two Court units that manage the case from the point of detention to disposition. Due to the many responsibilities for timely court trials and paperwork, concurrent planning, placement, health and dental care of children, visitation with parents, notification of Indian Tribes, and a large array of other items; a team is assigned to each child. A court officer and a placement specialist work together to accomplish the multitude of responsibilities that are required during the initial weeks following foster care entry. Each of the court teams has been responsible for an average of 18 children per month.

ACFSD has three Family Reunification (FR) units with a total of 15 full time social workers. FR social workers are responsible for all aspects of a case following the dispositional hearing until the return of custody and dismissal of dependency, termination of parental rights or an order of permanent placement. In 2013, each FR social worker has been responsible for an average of 30 children each month.

Permanent Placement (PP) of children is divided into two units based upon the needs of the child. There are 2.5 social workers responsible for case managing children in foster care and for whom permanency has not been achieved. Each PP social worker is responsible for an average of 37 youth in 2013. There is 1 social worker that is responsible for children in a plan of guardianship with non-related persons and not under juvenile court supervision. State regulation requires that all children in a guardianship with a non-relative, and for whom the care giver is receiving a foster care payment, the child welfare agency is responsible for monitoring the placements. Children must be seen every six months, but otherwise the contact is limited to urgent needs only. There are 140 non dependent children in this category.

Another unit located in one of the Permanent Placement (PP) units is the Independent Living Skills /After Care/After 18 Unit. These youth, who have not achieved permanency, are more likely to experience placement instability, fall behind in their education due to placement moves, and have greater need for Independent Living Skills (ILSP) services. The objective is to prepare them to live independently upon turning 18 years old. There are 2.5 social workers that are responsible for supervising the After 18 youth and average 19 youth per month.

Also located in one of the Permanent Placement (PP) units is the 3015 program. There are 3 social workers in the 3015 unit. Children assigned to this unit are those placed in group homes or at risk of group home placement. Social workers collaborate with mental health clinicians from the Children System of Care, which is collocated with Child and Family Services. During 2013, each social worker was responsible for an average of 19 children. Youth within this caseload are primarily teenagers with significant emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges that require a great deal of social worker intervention to stabilize in placement. Many of these youth are chronic runaways which results in repeated placement attempts and

court appearances. Additionally, youth in group homes are often placed out of Stanislaus County, sometimes many hours away. That necessitates constant travel on the part of the social workers who must drive the many hours to see their youth as mandated.

As ACFSD also has its own licensed Adoption Agency, there is one unit responsible for the completion of adoptive home studies through finalization. There are presently 5 social workers assigned to the adoptions unit. Three adoptions workers take responsibility for the home studies of new prospective adoptive parents, as well as relative caregivers. The remaining two social workers carry cases of children post-termination of parent rights until the finalization of the adoption. Each of these social workers is responsible for an average of 25 children.

Child and Family Services also have seven (3) social workers designated to non-case carrying positions. They include a foster parent recruiter/trainer/licensing worker, permanency specialist, and a data analyst/QA/single point of contact social worker.

Law Enforcement Agencies:

Cities within Stanislaus County and the law enforcement agencies for which they are served are as follows:

CSU Stanislaus Police Department
California Highway Patrol
Modesto - Modesto Police Department
Ceres - Ceres Police Department
Newman – Newman Police Department
Oakdale – Oakdale Police Department
Turlock - Turlock Police Department
Patterson – Stanislaus Sheriff
Waterford – Stanislaus Sheriff
Salida – Stanislaus Sheriff
Hickman – Stanislaus Sheriff
Hughson-Stanislaus Sheriff
Empire-Stanislaus Sheriff
Denair-Stanislaus Sheriff
Knights Ferry-Stanislaus Sheriff
Grayson – Stanislaus Sheriff
Keyes – Stanislaus Sheriff
Riverbank – Stanislaus Sheriff
Crows Landing-Stanislaus Sheriff
Vernalis-Stanislaus Sheriff

The Probation Department works closely with law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Probation officers are co-located with the Sheriff's Department, Modesto Police Department and Turlock Police Department. This does not include the Department's placement officers. The Probation Department works with law enforcement to provide intervention services including working with first time offenders and school based probation officers.

The Probation Department does not have any formal relationship with cities other than law enforcement agencies to provide child welfare type services.

Stanislaus County Probation Infrastructure

The Probation Department is headed by Chief Probation Officer Jill Silva. Assistant Chief Mike Hamasaki oversees the Department's operations. The Juvenile Field Services Division, which includes the Placement and Special Services Unit is directed by Natascha Roof and supervised by Melissa Marley.

STAFFING CHARACTERISTICS/ISSUES

TURNOVER RATIO:

The Stanislaus County Probation Department human resource records indicate that during the 2009/2010 FY, staff who resigned, retired, or were terminated resulted in an overall turnover rate of 3.7%. Staffing reductions occurring during the 2010/2011 FY due to the no back-fill policy implemented by the County, resulted in the turnover rate dropping to 2.1%. For FY 2010/2011 department staff members agreed in accepting a 5% reduction in pay, in exchange for furlough days in an effort to prevent layoffs. For FY 2011/2012, the turnover rate was 6.1%, and staff again agreed to a 6% reduction in pay with continued furlough days. For FY 2012/2013, the turnover rate was 5.2% respectfully. For FY 2013 the County restored 1% of salary with the corresponding reduction of furlough days. These turnover rates are lower than the 9% turnover rate noted in the 2007 Self Assessment.

The turnover breakdown is as follows:

	FY 09/10	FY 10/11	FY 11/12	FY 12/13
Administration	0%	0%	19.4%	0%
Field Services	2.7%	0.9%	2.7%	5.8%
Institutional Services	4.9%	2.0%	8.0%	7.8%
JJCPA	10%	30.8%	0%	0%
YOBG	0%	2.1%	0%	0%
Totals	3.7%	2.1%	6.1%	5.2%

Since July 2012, the staffing turnover in the placement unit has included the replacement of Supervisor Dave Chapman, with newly promoted supervisor, Melissa Marley. In November 2012, one Deputy Probation Officer resigned. The position was filled with another officer; however, due to the needs of the department, approximately three months later, this officer was re-assigned. Another officer was subsequently assigned to the unit. In July 2013, the unit's

Deputy Probation Officer III, the lead line officer, was transferred from the unit resulting in an additional loss of placement experience. In March 2014, the unit was assigned a fourth placement officer possession which was subsequently filled by a newly hired Deputy Probation Officer.

Officers within the Probation Department are assigned caseloads based on vacancies and departmental need. A permanent status Probation Officer may submit a request for a specific position; however, there is no guarantee to any assignment. The Deputy Probation Officer is expected to be able to complete all duties as assigned within any position in the department, which includes both the Juvenile and Adult Divisions. All Deputy Probation Officers hired with the department are required to go through a thorough hiring process. The department requires the Deputy Probation Officer to have a bachelor's degree upon employment and prior experience within the criminal justice field is encouraged. Upon applying for a position within the department, a State required written exam must be completed. Afterward, the applicant must participate in a qualifications interview panel. If selected from the qualifications interview, the applicant will be invited to participate in a selection interview panel. Upon successfully passing the selection interview, the applicant must complete a through peace officer's background investigation. Applicants who successfully complete the background investigation are then offered a conditional offer of employment, pending the completion and passing of a medical evaluation, drug test, finger prints and psychological screening. The salary for a Deputy Probation Officer I/II ranges from $21.69 to 29.70 an hour.

PROBATION PRIVATE CONTRACTORS:

The Department's main source for service delivery continues to be provided through interagency agreements and collaboration with other county departments. Included are services to high risk wards of the Court to prevent out-of-home placement. Until July 2009, the Center for Human Services provided a behavioral intervention program. This service was replaced by a Cognitive Behavior Therapy program provided by certified in-house instructors. Collaborations continue with the Modesto Police Department, the Turlock Police Department, and the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department to assign law-enforcement officers to pair with probation officers to provide maximum levels of supervision to high-risk offenders. Additionally, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) provides intensive out-patient substance abuse treatment (*Moral Recognition Therapy*) for moderate-high-risk offenders. BHRS also provides this substance abuse treatment program to minors in custody.

DEPUTY PROBATION CASELOAD SIZE BY SERVICE PROGRAM:

The Juvenile Field Services Division caseload size varies depending on the level of supervision and specialty services needed. A review of caseloads and their sizes are as follows:

a. General Juvenile Supervision - provides services to wards of the court, informal probationers, and deferred entry of justice probationers in an effort to prevent removal from the home. The average caseload size: 45
b. Juvenile High Risk Offender - provides intensive services to high risk offenders at risk of removal from their home. The average caseload size: 38
c. Juvenile Placement Facilitator – a full time officer who provides transitional planning

for minors who have been court ordered into out-of-home placement. The average caseload size for this assignment is 10. This program was implemented in January 2007

d. Juvenile Placement - three officers provide reunification services to wards with court ordered out-of-home placement. The average caseload size: 27
e. Juvenile Drug Court - provides services to non-placement wards with substance abuse issues. The average caseload size: 26.
f. Gender Responsive Alternatives to Detention (GRAD)-provides services to non-placement female wards; a gender-responsive, culturally competent continuum of services that provides opportunities for girls. This program was implemented in 2010. The average caseload size: 29.

CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION BARGAINING UNIT ISSUES:

Child and Family Services staff is represented by two unions. SEIU Local 535 represents the social workers and SCEA AFSCME Local 10 which represents the Social Worker Supervisors, support and clerical staff. Overall, the unions maintain an interest based negotiation style with the County to work collectively to resolve and agree on a multitude of issues that can occur within the workplace. The unions affect staff in a positive manner, as their main purpose is to ensure consistency and fair and equitable treatment among all members.

The Stanislaus County Deputy Probation Officers Association (SCDPOA) represents Supervising Probation Officers, Deputy Probation Officers I, II, and III's, as well as Supervising Probation Correction Officers. The Stanislaus County Probation Corrections Officers Association (SCPCOA) represents Stanislaus County Probation Correction Officers I, II and III's. The Clerical Division is represented by the Stanislaus County Employees' Association, AFSCME – Local 10. The County has begun contract negotiations with eight of the County bargaining units, including the Stanislaus County Deputy Probation Officers' Association.

FINANCIAL/MATERIAL RESOURCES

Stanislaus County is still on a "hiring freeze" however, the issue that Stanislaus County ACFSD faces is stability in the workforce and maintaining a full staff level as aforementioned in the staffing section.

Child and Family Services continue to have seen an increase in foster placement, but a decrease in foster care costs which we are currently analyzing to understand the cause of this phenomenon. In addition to the population of children that experience abuse and neglect, the Department is responsible for youth whose parents "surrender" them to the Department due to specific behaviors that their caretakers are ill-equipped to manage. These youth can be a danger to themselves or their family and struggle with issues such as substance abuse, mental illness, and aggressive behavior. Wraparound and Family Maintenance services are two Foster Care preventions strategies that are planned to continue in Budget Year 2013-2014.

The ACFSD will continue to leverage Child Welfare Services (CWS) allocation funding with contributions of local match provided by various partners to support specific non-mandated but critical children's services program models. For example, the Child Abuse Prevention Council

(CAPC) uses County Children's Trust Fund resources to support children's program core services and allows for the continuation of Differential Response services; the CAIRE Center (Child Abuse Interview Referral and Evaluation) in partnership with the Stanislaus Family Justice Center; and private donations or contributions from local community partners for Sober Living Environment services for families with children.

There are no County General Funds supporting ACFSD. ACFSD is funded by 1991 and 2011 Realignment, along with contributions from partners to achieve mandates and protect children in the community.

1991 Realignment Revenue – The state sales tax includes a half a cent portion that funds local health and welfare programs; these funds represent a key financing source for social service programs local match costs not reimbursed by Federal and State allocations. Sales tax revenue fluctuates greatly from month to month with an upward trend experienced in Fiscal Years 2011 – 2012 and 2012 – 2013. The current year experience has been very positive with statewide sales tax receipts sufficient to repay the County for four prior years of outstanding growth funds originally earned in Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007 through Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010.

2011 Realignment Revenue – On September 20, 2011, the Board of Supervisors approved the Community Corrections Plan required by AB 109 Public Safety Realignment. AB 109 included realigned social services programs: Adult Protective Services (APS) and Child and Family Services (ACFSD) which includes case management, Child Abuse Prevention (CAPIT), as well as administration of the Foster Care (FC) and Adoptions (AAP) Assistance Programs. The 2011 Realignment replaced State General Fund allocations and monthly cash advances with monthly sales tax distribution based on statewide formulas established in the AB 118 legislation. Total 2011 Realignment is budgeted in Budget Year 2013 – 2014 at $10,902,233: APS at $748,419, ACFSD at $9,274,069, CAPIT at $165,980, FC Options Program at $89,302. The estimated 2011 Realignment revenue supports 83% of the total projected base Mandated County Match requirement for these programs.

The current CAPC/CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funds are used to fund the Center for Human Services Hutton House in the amount of $93,628 and to dedicate $150,000 of the CSA County Children's Fund resources to provide local match for children's program core services which allows funding support for Differential Response. Hutton House operates the teen runaway shelter in Stanislaus County and provides support and Differential Response Services for teens in conflict with their parents The County also helps support, Parents United and the Haven Women's Center. Parent's United provides groups for children who are victims of sexual abuse. Haven Women's Center is the County's only Domestic Violence Center which provides emergency shelter services, counseling and case management to victims of Domestic Violence and sexual assault.

Differential Response (DR) services provide an alternative response to reports of child abuse and neglect based on assessed safety and risk through the redirection of more flexible funding streams including, but not limited to Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) and Child Abuse

Prevention Intervention and Treatment CAPIT) Federal and Stated funds that do not require a match.

The Probation Department is funded through a variety of sources including Title IV-E, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, Juvenile Camp and Probation Funding, State Realignment, grants/contracts, and general fund dollars. The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funding makes it possible to provide a variety of programs to high-risk youth to prevent removal from the home. These programs have been proven to reduce juvenile crime throughout the State of California resulting in fewer children being placed in out of home care. It is not expected that there will be any reductions in funding or services during the 14/15 fiscal year.

Stanislaus County Probation Operated Services

The Stanislaus County Probation Department Placement and Special Services Unit provides supervision and care to minors who are ordered into out of home placement by the Stanislaus County Superior Court- Juvenile Division. The placement unit is represented by a Supervising Probation Officer, Deputy Probation Officer III (Lead Line Officer) and four Deputy Probation Officers assigned to placement caseloads. The unit has two specialty caseload assignments, the Juvenile Drug Court and Gender Responsive Alternatives to Detention (GRAD), which are supervised by a Deputy Probation Officer each. A Public Health Nurse is assigned to the unit for approximately 20 hours a week and she is responsible for the health and education passports for all placement minors. There is one clerical staff member allotted to the unit as well as a case manager assigned to the GRAD caseload.

Minors who are removed from the home and ordered into suitable placements by the Juvenile Court are generally placed in group homes. The minor's treatment need, delinquency history, and family issues dictate the appropriate placement program for placement. Placements could also be with relative/non-relative extended families (NREFM) upon the family member clearing the required compliance investigation. The Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) assessment is completed for each child within 30 days of incarceration with reassessment every six months thereafter. The goal is to identify the child's risk and needs in order to determine the best supervision practices prior to placement. If the Court orders the minor into placement the assessment provides valuable information regarding risks and needs in an effort to identify an appropriate placement program with the goal ultimately being 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 the minor will be successful in placement and in all aspects of their life, behaviorally, 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. Guardians and/or relatives are also contacted for input when parents are unavailable.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Supervising Deputy Probation Officer: The Supervising Probation Officer (SDPO) is responsible for supervising and overseeing the day-to-day activities of all DPO's assigned to the Placement and Special Services Unit. The duties of the SPO position include attending meetings with various collaborative agencies regarding the identification of placement resources as well as providing direction to staff regarding placement decisions and appropriate case management. The SPO participates in the Interagency Placement Committee, Interagency Resource Committee, Northern California Placement Committee (NCPC), Probation Advisory Committee, Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative Task Force (GJJI), Katie A., Stanislaus County WRAP Around, interdepartmental Resource Review Board (RRB), and the After 18 Transitional Committee.

The Supervising Probation Officer works collaboratively with the Counties mental health treatment team, Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health, as they play an instrumental role in providing mental health/counseling treatment needs to minors involved in the justice system, specifically placement minors, as well as minors participating in Juvenile Drug Court and GRAD. The Supervisor is responsible to the Court in providing guidance and assistance with Division 31 guidelines and Title IVE to ensure compliance with federal regulations; therefore, training is facilitated with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The Supervisor also participates in additional conferences and trainings available regarding placement resources, as well as trainings on Juvenile Drug Court and gender specific supervision.

The unit's lead line staff, the Deputy Probation Officer III is responsible for locating appropriate placement facilities capable of providing service needs for the department's placement youth. The Deputy Probation Officer III appears in Court regarding the 15-day review hearings and informs the Court of efforts taken to place minors within a custody setting. Upon a minor's acceptance into a program, the Deputy III is responsible for facilitating the release of the minor, including completing all of the appropriate paperwork and documentation. The Deputy III is responsible for completing all 241.1 W&I reports ordered by the Court and is the liaison with the county's Child Welfare Services Agency for completion of the reports as Stanislaus County is a dual jurisdiction county. The Deputy III is the contact person and in charge of submission of all Interstate placement requests when minors are placed out-of-state. The Deputy III is responsible for supervisory coverage in the absence of the unit Supervisor including attendance at various meetings.

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. There are four DPO's assigned to placement caseloads; however, one DPO is newly assigned to the unit and does not have a caseload assigned at this time as she is participating in the Probation Officer CORE training. The average placement caseload size at this time is 27 for three placement officers. With the addition of the fourth placement officer, caseload will decrease for each officer. The DPO's track all placement changes, update the case plan, JAIS

risk assessments and medical documentation as needed. Officers report the minor's progress to the Court every five and a half months by completing a status review report for the Court. The DPO's are responsible for all monthly face to face visits and contacts with minors, group homes, treatment providers, school officials, and parents. The department currently utilizes placement facilities throughout the State of California as well as facilities in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa and Pennsylvania. 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 treatment conditions. The Probation Officers are also responsible for monitoring the placement facilities to ensure compliance with Title 22 regulations and reporting any violations to the California's Community Care Licensing.

The Placement DPO's ensure all required documents are in order and submitted to the appropriate parties, as required by policy and State regulations. Other tasks include conferencing cases with the Supervising Probation Officer and completing monthly contact notes and entering them into the department's Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJIS-PB). Additionally DPO's are responsible for entering all information regarding a placement minor into the State's Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS/CMS) for foster care placement tracking and statistical purposes. Furthermore, DPO's attend various Court appearances and assist with transporting minors from juvenile hall to a placement, or vice-versa.

State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

At this time we are too early in the process of Katie A. implementation to know if there will be any links that can be made to outcome measures at this time. We will be collecting data at this time to establish a baseline to use as a starting point to measure our success in the future. Stanislaus County ACFSD has just begun implementing the screening process for potential Katie A. eligible children and Non-Minor Dependents.

KATIE A.

Katie A was a 2002 Federal class action lawsuit filed against the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Los Angeles (LA) County. The lawsuit sought to improve the provision of mental health services and supportive services for children and youth open in child welfare system, or at imminent risk of placement in foster care in California State to prevent placement disruptions, over-reliance on congregate care, and institutionalization. LA settled its portion of the lawsuit in 2003, and CDSS and CDHCS settled in 2011. The settlement agreement requires the CDSS and DHCS to provide comprehensive, community-based services and other Integrated services to class and sub-class members. It also ensured providing a framework for Child Welfare and County Mental Health

to work as a collaborative team to assess and provide prompt, appropriate, and individualized mental health services in the home or most homelike setting. This framework is represented in the Core Practice Model which is a guide for counties to implement this policy.

The settlement mandates the County's Child Welfare and Behavioral Health Services to implement the following:

- Coordinate effort to ensure that children and youth are receiving timely and appropriate mental health services to address their behavioral and mental health needs and also ensuring that transitioning youth are accessing services.
- Implement the Core Practice Model (CPM) for intensive coordination, intensive family engagement and case planning and transition services. This includes the implementation of Trauma-Informed Care and Practice.
- Establish a Child and Family team (CFT) and CFT meeting for sub-class members on cases open in Child Welfare (Family Reunification (FR),Permanent Placement (PP) and Family Maintenance (FM)) and Mental Health (dual cases).
- Completion of screening tools by FR, PP and FM social workers to do an initial determination for the need for mental health services.
- Tracking data and outcomes

The target population (or "class") is all children in open in Child Welfare, or at risk of foster care placement (Voluntary Family Maintenance), have a mental health illness or condition, and needs individualized mental health services to treat or ameliorate their condition. A sub-class of this population is also defined as a class member that has full scope Medi-Cal eligibility, have an open child welfare cases and meets medical necessity criteria for Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) as set forth in CCR Title 9 Section 1830.205 or Section 1830.210. (Medical manual, Glossary Appendix A). In addition the child is being considered for other services such as:

- Child is being considered for Wraparound services
- Child is being considered for Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- Group Home (RCL 10 or higher)
- Has been admitted to a psychiatric hospital or 24-hour mental health treatment facility
- Has experienced 3 or more placements within 24 months due to behavioral health needs.

This subclass population will be served through established Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), and Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC). Stanislaus County is currently in the development and implementation phase. A joint task force composed of leadership staff from both Child Welfare and County Mental Health is working as a team to effective ways to identify class and subclass members. The priority is engaging children and families through teaming (Child Welfare and County Mental Health working together with

the family), using strengths and focusing on underlying needs to provide individualized services while using formal and informal supports.

At this time, After 18 is still a program in its infancy and it has grown over the last two years to 61 participants as of July 2014. We have had one adult exit the program due to age so far. It is too early to know the effectiveness. We are currently collecting data on After 18 outcomes to establish a baseline to measure ourselves by in the future. What we have anecdotally found is that youth are choosing to opt into the dependency system at 18 and we foresee that participation will grow at a steady rate.

AB12 – now called After 18 Program

Stanislaus County ACFSD began the process of implementation of After 18 provisions in April 2011.

The California Fostering Connections to Success Act was signed into law September 30, 2010 through Assembly Bill (AB) 12. This bill was designed to align with the Federal Connections to Success Act. The goal of this bill is to fully prepare youth for the transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency rather than serve as an extension of traditional foster care. It contains two major changes to foster care in California: 1. Created a new Kin-Gap program and 2. Extended Foster Care (EFC) benefits for eligible youth.

Effective January 1, 2012, the bill allowed eligible 18 year olds in foster care to remain in foster care up to age 19 year. A cleanup bill AB 212 has allowed eligible 18 year olds to stay in foster care up to age 21. These foster youth are referred as "non-minor dependents."

In order to be eligible, the youth must meet the following requirements:

1. Must sign a mutual agreement (SOC 162); AND
2. Must continue to be under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court; AND
3. Agree to live in a licensed or approved supervised placement; AND
4. Must meet ONE of the following conditions:
   - Enrolled in high school or equivalent
   - Enrolled in college, community college, or vocational education program
   - Participating in a program designed to remove barriers to employment
   - Employed at least 80 hours
   - Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a mental health condition as verified by a licensed medical practitioner.

Goals and Benefits

Foster youth are now able to maintain a safety net for support while experiencing independence in a safe, and supervised independent living environment. They are also

afforded the extended time as provided in the "non-minor dependent" status to take the opportunity to become better prepared for a successful transition into adulthood and self-sufficiency through education and employment training opportunities.

Basic Eligibility Requirements

In Stanislaus County, the social worker starts providing information to youth at age 16 about the After 18 program and schedules a Emancipation Team Decision Meeting at age 17.5 to provide additional information on the benefits of the After 18 program and to discuss with the youth their Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). The youth has a choice to "opt in" or "opt out".

At the six month hearing prior to youth's 18th birthday, the social worker/probation officer will present to the court the youth's plan to stay or not stay in foster care and the youth's and what participation condition the youth will plan to participate

Youth in Child Welfare and Probation

Youth must sign an agreement to reside in an eligible placement location and agree to work with a social worker/probation offer to develop and meet the goals of a Transitional Living Plan. Remaining in foster care after 18 years old is voluntary. Foster youth can decide to exit at age 18, or at any subsequent time before them "age-out". Foster youth who exit foster care at 18 can change their mind and re-enter foster care at any time before age 21.

Case management of "Non-Minor Dependents (NMD)" is different from case management of minor dependents. NMD's are considered adults and have rights as adults. The NMD's are provided a voice in the development of their plan, decisions regarding placements, and are allowed for increased responsibility and as much independence as possible based on the NMD's needs and readiness for independence. In Stanislaus County, these specialized case loads are assigned to 3 social workers.

These social workers provide supports on an on-going basis in order to ensure the youth's success towards adulthood. They also engage the youth in their plan and monitors progress and areas for improvements.

Support for the transitional age youth is provided by specialized ACFSD social workers in collaboration with community partners. The trend has been over the last year (April 2013 to April 2014) an increase from 14 to 58 youth opting in as non-minor dependent status and as youth enter this age range transition through the child welfare system in Stanislaus County we are not experiencing many choosing to exit the system at age 18.

STRENGTHING FAMILIES

Strengthening Families is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. Strengthening Families is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors which include parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child

development, concrete support in times of need, and social-emotional competence of children. This prevention framework is currently being implemented in some form within 50 different counties throughout the state of California.

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and the Erikson Institute searched the evidence to find out what factors really reduce child abuse and neglect by conducting a literature review and dialogues sessions with practitioners around the country. Then CSSP explored the connection between factors that prevent child abuse and neglect and what quality early childhood programs do to build them by conducting a one year field study of exemplary programs. CSSP learned about policy and practice changes needed to infuse the model statewide through a partnership with 7 pilot states over two years. This created a structure for continuous learning with a network of implementing states (30). Finally, CSSP provided funding for continuing research and knowledge building. (*Center for the Study of Social Policy / Resources - The Research Behind the Work.* Retrieved July 25, 2014, from http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/resources/the-research)

The Strengthening Families approach has been adopted as a new framework for the Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council as a county wide approach to educate the community, increase county collaboration, and improve efforts to prevent child abuse and heal its effects. Community Services Agency has participates in a steering committee of the Child Abuse Prevention Council to introduce this framework to Stanislaus County and will be participating in the next steps in participating on how Strengthening Families will be implemented in this county. . We are optimistic Strengthening Families will have a positive impact on our foster care reentry rate, timely reunification, and recurrence of maltreatment outcomes.

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

The BOS-Designated Public Agency

The designated Local Government Agency as determined by the Board of Supervisors is the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency. (See Page 76)

Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)

The CAPC decides how CAPC funds will be allocated to achieve the goals of the project.

The Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) provides a local forum for interagency cooperation and coordination of services in the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. (See Page 59-60))

County Children's Trust Fund Commission, Board or Council

The Child Abuse Prevention Council functions as the governing body of the Children's Trust Fund and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the best use of these funds. (See Page 59)

PSSF

The PSSF are coordinated by the ACFSD and decides how PSSF funds will be allocated to achieve the goals of these Federal funds.

PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP funds are targeted on county wide prevention efforts. In partnership with the Children and Families Commission (First 5) and Family Resource Centers (FRCs), our county developed a differential response model of service using PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP funds and partnering with the Children and Families Commission which provided additional funding for this joint project.

Systemic Factors

Management Information Systems

Child and Family Services

Stanislaus County Child and Family Services (CFS) use CWS/CMS in all stages of a referral through the life of a case, for foster parent licensing and adoptions. For a number of years, Stanislaus County has fully utilized the system.

The information entered into the CWS/CMS system is reasonably accurate. Through the use of Business Objects reports and *Safe Measures*, Supervisors and Managers are able to work with staff to ensure accurate data entry and timely documentation. CFS has a System Improvement process which includes the Managers, Supervisors and a Data Analyst/Researcher/Quality Assurance worker.

Managers meet with their supervisors monthly to review SafeMeasures and in turn Supervisors review SafeMeasures with their social workers monthly to identify areas for improvement as well as acknowledging areas of strengths.

SafeMeasures is an analytic tool that helps improve agency staff effectiveness by taking raw data from CWS/CMS and turns it into useful, actionable information presented in an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand format. This information allows us to communicate and reinforce expectations, prioritize work, and identify gaps in service.

SafeMeasures allows us to focus on the most direct path to improvement by monitoring what is happening *now* by making specific, frequently updated indicators of current status available on all staff desktops.

SafeMeasures shows each person the current status of each and every case for which the social worker is responsible. This gives all social workers, supervisors, and managers the ability to check the results for each and every case. If a social worker believes that one of his/her cases are being misreported, the system improvement staff and SafeMeasures liaison team will work with him/her to determine why the case classified the way it was, modifying the analysis if appropriate. Not only does these give workers a vested interest in the accuracy of the underlying data and the way they are reported, it also helps the agency discover gaps in practice, plan training, and identify issues in the data going into the CWS/CMS.

The SafeMeasures tool helps us to identify problem cases before they turn into negative outcomes.

As part of the CQI process, the Child and Family Services Division management team reviews the Child and Family Services Review outcomes on a regular basis to evaluate the overall health of the child welfare system in order to identify any areas needed for further research. This is also shared with staff through presentations facilitated by the Outcomes Manager and the QA social worker is utilized to conduct case reviews to get more ground level information about outcome areas identified as a challenge.

CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF data from contractors is submitted to our agency electronically on a monthly/quarterly basis. Invoices are submitted on a monthly basis. Contractors submit their outcomes sheet on a quarterly basis. Our agency maintains a database where the outcomes and the invoices are stored and analyzed. Fiscal information is disseminated in public budget information that goes to the Board of Supervisors. Part of the information and results of the outcomes these programs are providing for families and children is also provided by way of annual reports to the community, vendors and other stakeholders. Additional information is also provided to the vendors and community at large through quarterly CAPC trainings.

PROBATION –

In January 2012 data entry into the CWS/CMS system became mandatory for the Probation Department. In April 2012, the Probation Department received initial training on the CWS/CMS system. A subsequent training was provided in July 2012 when a new unit supervisor was transferred into the unit. Initially there was some resistance from staff with data entry into the system. Staff felt the double data entry was tedious and the process by which entries had to be made into CWS/CMS was time consuming. With additional training on the CWS/CMS system, easier processes were identified in which staff could maximize their time and the necessary information was entered into CWS/CMS as required. From July 2012 through December 2012 the department focused on cleaning up back data entry of placement minors. Since January

2013 officers have maintained their monthly data entry into CWS/CMS as required. The CWS/CMS information is used for identification of compliance with process measures, such as 2F, timely probation officer monthly visits. Additionally, there have been three follow-up trainings provided on the CWS/CMS system as there have been staff changes within the unit and updates in data entry requirements.

The Probation Department utilizes an internal web-based Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJIS-PB) to keep track of a minor's demographics, court referrals, placement changes, status reviews, and placement contacts. Presently, the ICJIS-PB system is also used to create hard copy reports (e.g. SOC158a) which are entered into the CWS/CMS system by clerical staff. The forms are subsequently forwarded to the Child Welfare Services Eligibility Unit for payment processing.

Since January 2005 the Probation Department completed the required FC-23 report with submission to the State on a monthly basis. In March 2014 an update to the CWS/CMS system allowed for the information previously obtained from the FC-23 to be entered as data into the CMS/CWS system. Placement Officers received training on this data entry and have since been completing this requirement as well. The FC-23 is no longer required to be sent to the state.

County Case Review System

Child and Family Services

Case Reviews

SafeMeasures also allows us to review SDM usage as well. There is a specific case management section within SafeMeasures that focuses on each decision point where an SDM tool is to be used. When management and supervisors review SafeMeasures with their staff, this is one of the areas that is reviewed as part of the quality assurance routine to identify any challenges. When there is an area that is identified that needs more in-depth and further review, the QA social worker is tasked with identifying the cases and conducting a thorough case review to search for any specific areas in need of improvement.

Court/Structure Relationship

The Stanislaus County Superior Court has one Judge who presides over all Dependency hearings. Coverage is provided by other Superior Court Judges, including the two Juvenile Probation Judges. The Dependency Court has been relocated to downtown Modesto in the Superior Court building.

Court runs five days per week with non-contested hearings set at 8:30 am and contested matters set for 10:30 am or 1:30 pm. Families and social workers can often have long waits for court, as several are set for the same time and the wait depends upon the order in which the case is heard. Upon moving to the downtown superior court, a room was designated for social workers to wait prior to and between hearings. There is computer access for social workers which enable them to make good use of their time.

The Superior Court donated a room for foster youth and their foster parents/relatives to have a safe and child friendly place to wait before a scheduled court hearing. The room is not marked for the youth's privacy and it also has a combination lock that only court staff and social workers have access to. It has games, a TV and DVD's and other items to help keep the youth occupied while he/she waits. The room is not used for visitation with parents, but solely as a safe place before court. The Kiwanis Club donated funds and furniture to make the room functional.

The Judge, County Counsel, Public Defenders, private attorneys, CASA, Guardian Ad Litem, and Child and Family Services Supervisors and Managers meet quarterly to discuss issues and resolve problems. Issues such as continuances, visitation and new procedures are discussed in order to improve the relationship between the parties as well as the provision of services. This has been a long standing tradition and the relationship is very respectful and positive.

PROCESS FOR TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF HEARINGS

Social workers are responsible for submitting notices and information about recipients, including Indian Tribes, to legal clerks in Child and Family Services for processing. The court clerks process all notices and submit to all appropriate parties. Late noticing is an occasional problem that can at times contribute to continuances. Notification of Indian Tribes is one of the most challenging areas. Though there were at last report 5 children who are ICWA eligible, notifications of all tribes, alleged parents and legal parents is required until a court finding can be made. Continuances delay court hearings and delays decisions made by the court therefore lengthening the time to reunification.

PROCESS FOR PARENT-CHILD-YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CASE PLANNING

For Court ordered cases, the attorneys for parents and children as well as CASA representatives, if assigned, participate in the case planning along with parents and youth in determining what services will be included in the case plan. Though the social worker addresses rights and responsibilities, parents and youth are also educated by their attorneys. The social worker makes an initial recommendation based upon the SDM assessment and works with the family. Because of the nature of the initial court processes and the negotiation that occurs regarding case planning, parents are not always willing to communicate with social workers and openly express what services they may or may not need. Once the court orders a case plan, any changes to it must be submitted to court through a 388 petition and approved before implemented. This makes it difficult for social workers to have the latitude to change case plan services based upon family's needs. Caregivers' needs are considered when developing case plan services, such as visitation.

Parents and CASA advocates, as well as relatives and caregivers, are involved in the determination of placement needs and the lowest level of care.

Contact with parents and children by the social worker is no less than once monthly, as per agency policy, and often occurs as needed to address issues as they arise.

Visitation between parent and child, as well as with siblings and grandparents is coordinated jointly and integrated into the case plan. Visits are typically at least weekly for 2 hours between parent and child.

GENERAL CASE PLANNING AND REVIEW

The ACFSD case plan document is created and saved within CWS/CMS and the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA) is created and saved within the SDM system. This assures that all required elements are included in the case plan. Supervisors review and sign the written case plan, as do parents if willing, and supervisors approve the online documents. Updates of the ACFSD case plan are completed with the participation of the parents every six months or in conjunction with the status review hearings at court. SafeMeasures is used by social workers, supervisors, managers and quality assurance to make sure that case planning is done timely.

Concurrent planning has been in place and is a strong practice of ACFSD. When children are removed from home, the Placement Specialists are assertive in looking for and finding relative placements. The agency Application Specialist complete a comprehensive family-finding which is documented in a stand-alone database accessible by all social workers. All known relatives are identified with potential contact information and are mailed a letter of interest for possible placement. Parents, and relatives or support persons of their choosing, are invited to contact the Placement Specialists and complete an application for placement. Joint Assessment Meetings (JAM) is held between Court staff and Adoptions weekly to discuss permanency for every child who enters care. An Adoption Worker is assigned as a secondary so that home studies on relatives can be accomplished or permanent homes found.

For children without a permanent home identified while in the court unit, their case is reviewed at a Joint Assessment Meeting (JAM) and assigned to an Adoptions Social Worker to assist in finding an adoptive home for the child/youth. Reunification Social Workers also take responsibility for discussing adoption and permanency with care providers throughout the life of a case for every child without an identified adoptive parent.

Every effort is made to identify a concurrent home at the beginning of the reunification case or as soon as possible thereafter. Although there are instances in which we are not successful in finding a permanent home at the time of removal, the effort to search does not wait until after reunification is terminated. Stanislaus County has made it one of our priorities to continually search to identify a permanent home for all children who do not return home.

Documentation of the concurrent plan is made in the case plan and the court reports. Specifics about the steps taken are noted in contact log narratives. While the log notes are typically a wealth of information about the social workers' efforts, it is often difficult for a new social worker to sort through the many pages of notes to locate pertinent information. This is one reason that the family finding database created in Stanislaus has fields for entering relative information.

PROBATION

COURT STRUCTURE/RELATIONSHIP

Maintaining a positive working relationship between the Court, the District Attorney's office, the Public Defender's Office, and defense counsel is a priority for the Probation Department. The Juvenile Delinquency Team has a monthly meeting to discuss issues and concerns within the juvenile justice system. The team includes the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, a second Juvenile Court Judge, Deputy District Attorneys, Deputy Public Defenders, defense counsel, staff from the Court Clerk's office and Probation supervisors.

PROCESS FOR TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF HEARINGS

The Probation Department sends notifications to each party 14 days in advance of each court hearing. The department works with Child and Family Services to keep current information on family members and/or dependents.

PROCESS FOR PARENT-CHILD-YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CASE PLANNING

The information gathered during the initial intake process from the minor, parent or guardian is utilized to develop and prepare the case plan. A case plan is developed at the intake phase on all youth that will likely receive services through the Probation Department. (Some youth are referred to the District Attorney and the charges against them are found unsubstantiated.) The case plan is developed with both the minor and his/her parents and/or guardian. The Intake interview is an extensive interview which covers all aspects of the child's life. The minor, parent, and guardian are all encouraged to participate so adequate information can be obtained to develop a unique case plan to meet each child's needs. The department began utilizing the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) risk-needs assessment tool on each minor upon adjudication. This is an evidenced-based instrument designed to identify a minor's risk of re-offending and needs to prevent future criminality. The outcomes of the assessment assist in designing an individualized case plan to address the minor's needs and prevent out-of-home placement. The case plan is an active document that is reviewed monthly during placement visits and is updated as necessary and reported to the court every six months to meet the needs of the minors and their families. The department tracks the case plan dates in the automated ICJIS-PB system. Each officer has the ability to query their case load list to determine the date a case plan requires updating or to provide a listing of the case plans that are nearing their six month review deadline.

GENERAL CASE PLANNING AND REVIEW

During the initial intake process, information that is gathered from the minor and parent/guardian is utilized to develop and prepare the case plan. A case plan is developed at this intake phase for all youth that are likely to receive services through the Probation Department (some are referred to the District Attorney who may not file charges or the charges are unsubstantiated).

The case plan is an active document that is updated as needed to meet the needs of both the minor and their families. The department tracks the case plan dates in the automated ICJIS-PB system. The program design allows each officer the ability to query their case load list to

determine the date each child's case plan was prepared or they can run a monthly list to determine the case plans that need updating during that particular month.

The case plans are reviewed with the minor, parent and guardians each month during visits. The JAIS assessment is completed every six months or subsequent to an arrest and adjudication of a minor to ascertain risks and needs of the minor as well as track the minor's progress areas identified on the prior assessment. This can provide additional guidance to assist with case plan revisions.

The Probation Department schedules its Status Review Hearings at 5 1/2 months (Pre-Permanency Hearing) and 11 ½ months (Permanency Hearing). These hearing dates are set as the youth is initially ordered into out-of-home placement. Probation hearings are consistently held in the timelines ordered by the Court. In the case of a child entering the 602 WIC systems from the 300 WIC systems, the Pre-Permanency and Permanency dates would remain consistent with those previously ordered by the Court.

When a minor is referred to the Probation Department for a Dispositional Social Study, the investigation officer conducts the search for relatives prior to the Dispositional hearing. Any relative search needed after this time is conducted by the placement officer. ICWA forms are completed on each case that is referred to the District Attorney and submitted to the Court as necessary and or required. For children not already enrolled in a tribe, the referral is mailed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This is a lengthy process that can take several months to receive a response. On the rare occasion when ICWA is found to apply, the agency works with the child's tribe to determine the appropriate placement for the child. There has been one (1) ICWA placement case in the last three years. This minor was placed with relatives in the state of Washington in November 2005. This minor terminated probation successfully in June 2007 when he graduated from high school with his diploma.

For minors placed in out of home care by the Probation Department, an internal Resource Review Board conducts a review of the minor's background for concurrent planning purposes. Staff from the Juvenile Justice Mental Health Program work with the placement minors to address their mental health needs.

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Stanislaus County has an MOU and licenses foster family homes. The Family to Family Pride curriculum is used for training prospective families. Foster families, or Resource Families, as they are known participate in 27 hours of training prior to licensure. An additional eight hours of training is required per year, but many more hours of training are available through Modesto Junior College and agency provided training. Foster parents and foster youth participate in training new foster parents.

Staff at the Foster Parent Association are available to offer support and assistance to all members. Support groups had been offered periodically in the past but were generally poorly

attended so although efforts are made to reinvigorate the groups from time to time, they have not always been successful.

The number of foster parents licensed by the county has remained steady. ACFSD has increased our efforts through media campaigns for recruitment and holding more frequent orientations for the community to attend, ask questions, and receive information about becoming a licensed foster parent. An additional effort has been attending and presenting at community events to garner awareness about foster parenting. These efforts have increased the number of people attending the orientations and inquiring about foster care. A number of families exit the foster care system due to adoption and/or guardianship. Many of the families who seek licensure are interested in having or expanding their family through adoption and are unwilling to take older youth and/or risk reunification and the associated loss.

Although the goal is to increase the number of available families, there are various challenges faced in accomplishing this goal. A factor that contributes to the challenge is the pay and support received by county foster parents versus FFA foster parents. FFA foster parents receive a higher rate of pay for caring for foster youth. County social workers often turn to FFA placements not because of behavior or medical problems but the lack of available homes. In particular, placement of sibling groups together is exceedingly challenging in county licensed foster homes. FFA homes are much more willing and able to accept placement of older children and groups of siblings.

Fortunately, many of the Foster Family Agencies (FFA) in Stanislaus County have embraced the Family to Family approach and seek to prepare foster parents to meet the needs of children and youth in their own community as much as the county would have.

There are two main sources for support for caregivers in the community. The first is the Foster Parent Association which works collaboratively with ACFSD to support all resource parents in the community. Second, the Family Partnership Center, funded in part by county KSSP funds, supports relative caregivers of dependent children as well as those informally placed with them.

PLACEMENT RESOURCES

Locating placement resources for children and youth depends upon a variety of factors such as age, sibling group size, medical, developmental and behavioral challenges. The children with the most placement changes and challenges finding homes are the children 9 – 12 years and teenagers. Sibling groups of three or more children present challenges in finding homes for as well. Not only does home capacity contribute but many foster parents and relatives find caring for a large number of children all at once too overwhelming. Challenging populations to find an appropriate home to match the child's needs are those children with behavioral, special medical needs, or developmental challenges. Additionally, children also served by the Regional Center, the challenges can be staggering when it comes to finding suitable homes in or near Stanislaus County. Additionally, the special needs of children can result in very expensive placement costs. For example, Child and Family Services had one mentally health and

behaviorally challenged youth in the only placement option available, but this placement costs $30,000 per month.

PROBATION

PLACEMENT RESOURCES

Developing adequate placement resources is an on-going problem. Some of the areas greatest difficulty is finding homes for teenagers, pregnant or parenting teens, and children and youth with mental health issues. Limited options are available for placing youth with severe mental health issues. The Probation Department continues to utilize various committee meetings in which officers from probation departments throughout the State convene to discuss appropriate group home programs for probation youth. Currently the Probation Department participates in the Northern California Placement Committee, the Probation Advisory Committee and the Central California Placement Committee. These groups meet monthly and in addition to discussing programs available, the meetings are utilized for networking, locating additional resources and identifying trends throughout the state.

In addition to utilizing in State programs, the Probation Department has been using out of state programs which have proven successful in rehabilitating our youth. Currently the Probation Department uses, Mingus Mountain in Mingus, Arizona, Clarinda and Woodward Academies, in Clarinda and Woodward, Iowa, Excelsior Youth Center, in Aurora, Colorado, and Glen Mills Schools in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. These out of state programs have been used for minors needing a highly structured program and who have not been successful in a placement within California.

Staff, Caregiver and Service Provider Training

Stanislaus County Child Welfare Services works closely with the Central Training Academy to provide the majority of staff training to social workers and service providers. Social workers are required to complete the required 164.5 hour CORE training with the first 24 months of employment. Each CORE training is standardized by the Central Valley Training Academy and each training is required to have training elements on "underserved" populations. Additionally, new supervisors are required to complete Supervisor CORE training within the first year of their employment as a supervisor. The majority of tralnings are offered at the agency where a regular focus is on cultural competency and "underserved" populations.

The training is based on the outcome goals identified in the County's SIP program but, also identified throughout the year on a real time basis as staff turns over and as challenges arise from the regular review of cases and CFSR outcomes dictates. When there is a link to the challenge or lack of knowledge to agencies that collaborate with ACFSD, those agencies are invited to participate.

Each year, the management team identifies a training plan for the Agency. As areas of need for training arise, the ACFSD management team and the Staff Development Supervisor, coordinates training provided by Stanislaus County Counsel regarding various Court challenges like: testifying in court, redacting of personally identifying information, and petition documentation.

Also, the Cultural Heritage Committee coordinates a training and cultural heritage event at the Community Services Agency on an annual basis to teach and create awareness about the diverse underserved populations. Additionally, Stanislaus Count coordinates a health and safety faire annually with a variety of topics related to the work of CSA staff and we have added a Staff Developer Supervisor position to coordinate and provide internal training.

Foster parents and caregivers participate in Parent Resource for Information, Development, and Education (PRIDE) training.

ACFSD partners with a local junior college's Foster Care and Kinship Care Program to coordinate ongoing training for county licensed foster parents on various issues involving placement including diversity and challenges particular to the child welfare population.

Probation Officers are required by law and regulations to receive a designated amount of training yearly. The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) regulates the training and ensures annual compliance with all requirements. Newly hired probation officers receive over 179.3 hours of mandatory training during their first year of service and a minimum of 40 hours of training each year thereafter. Upon being transferred to the Placement Unit, officers also attend a 72-hour Placement Core training. Furthermore, as additional training needs are identified, placement officers receive those trainings, for example AB12.

Various continuing and professional educational training is offered through the UC Davis Extension Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice regarding foster youth. This training is offered for free and includes certification hours from the Corrections Standards Authority for Probation Officers. Upon identifying a needed or a new training being offered, a probation officer assigned to the Placement and Special Services Unit will be directed to attend and then return and provide training to the unit. Routinely training is offered involving developing case plans, fostering connections toward reunification and the After 18 program. Additionally, contact is maintained with the Administrative Office of the Courts for yearly training on maintaining Title IVE compliance and the submission of appropriate documentation to the Courts.

Agency Collaboration

Stanislaus County is rich in collaborations; partnerships and reciprocal consultation. This includes agencies within the county structure and with many of the community based organizations in the county. The county's history of collaboration amongst public and private agencies is strong and long standing. It has been the value of the Board of Supervisors that agencies work together to serve families in a cost efficient and streamlined manner. Differential Response, for example, has been a collaborative effort of many public and private agencies which has resulted in a shared responsibility for child abuse and neglect by all partners. Agencies work together to address unmet needs for prevention and intervention services. When financial stresses occur, as has been the case for the past few years, departments work together to blend or braid funding streams in order to develop/support services for families and children in the community.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL

The Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) provides a local forum for interagency cooperation and coordination of services in the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The Stanislaus County CAPC is made up of a broad array of community-based organizations, public agencies, and also includes parent partners. Members may include:

- Behavioral Health
- Medical/Health Care professionals
- County Child Welfare/Children's Services
- District Attorney's Office
- Law enforcement
- Probation
- Courts
- Domestic Violence
- Community Based Organizations
- Children's Council
- Parents
- Schools
- Child Care Services
- Civic Organizations
- Multidisciplinary Interview Team member
- Community at large
- Family Resource Representative
- Faith Based organizations
- Regional Service

The purpose of the council is to actively develop, support, and coordinate community efforts and awareness to prevent child abuse and heal its affects in Stanislaus County.

Historically, Stanislaus County has defined itself by having excellent relationships between the various government agencies and community partners. This collaborative spirit is exemplified in the Child Abuse Prevention Council which functions as the governing body of the Children's Trust Fund and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the best use of these funds. Council membership is comprised of community members, public and private not for profit agencies that have a connection to the array of services described above and provided to children and families in our community.

The Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) is structured under Welfare and Institutions Code Chapter 12.5. to coordinate the community's effort to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect (W &I Code, Chapter 12.5, Section 18982). This has allowed the CAPC to function as an independent entity as required under the above cited code section.

CWS and the CAPC in Stanislaus County have always enjoyed a close working partnership. CWS is aware of the important role that community partners play in the prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Stanislaus County has learned from experience, that better outcomes for children in our community are achieved only when both government and community based organizations work collaboratively. An example of this collaborative spirit would be the partnership that was developed between CWS, which includes CAPC members, and the Children and Families Commission in the joint venture to fund Differential Response and Family Resource Centers throughout the county.

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Stanislaus County (CASA)

CASA of Stanislaus County developed as a result of a collaboration initiated by the Superior Court. Trained CASA advocates may be appointed by the court and act as a voice for the child, providing information and reports to the court regarding the child's best interests. CASA appointment in Stanislaus County is prioritized for cases involving children in out-of-home care with special medical, mental health, educational, developmental, or other special needs.

Drug Endangered Children/Elder/Dependent Adult Program

The purpose of this program is to provide a cooperative effort between the Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency (SDEA), Community Services Agency (CSA), Health Services Agency (HSA), and the District Attorney's Office (SCDA) to facilitate a coordinated response to families involved in drug manufacturing, when children and/or elder/dependent adults are present and found in the home. In addition, we enact this protocol on drug involved cases in which children are found in unsafe environments or are in dangerous situations. An ACFSD social worker teams up with a SDEA agent and SCDA to assess, document and photograph the conditions of the home and the children/elder/dependent adult. The SDEA takes temporary custody of the children if there is no caretaker and the conditions of the environment appear to be hazardous and/or unfit. The CSA social worker may seek emergency Juvenile Court Jurisdiction of the children. The ACFSD social worker coordinates assessment, transportation, treatment and if needed placement of the children. Information is exchanged relevant to possible prosecution.

Children's System of Care

The Children's System of Care (CSOC) is fully co-located within the ACFSD.

The Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Children's System of Care (CSOC) / Adult, Child, and Family Services (ACFSD) team has been in existence for approximately 16 years. The program has mental health clinicians and substance abuse counselors with substance abuse expertise that are co-located at ACFSD. The program provides services to all dependent children of Stanislaus County who meet medical necessity. CSOC has one clinician that completes a mental health assessment on all dependent children who have entered into the CWS system. There are clinicians that specialize in children 0-5; pre/post adoption; youth permanency and aftercare. All referrals come directly from the child welfare staff. The CSOC team also provides psychiatric services for medications with a psychiatrist and nurse on site. The team is co-located in the Community Services Agency building and is fully integrated within

the Child Welfare Services system. CSOC works closely with the 3015 team. The 3015 initiative goals include: reducing the number of youth placed in group home care, decreasing the level of care and/or successfully transition youth back home, decreasing youth requiring psychiatric hospitalization, improving school attendance, etc. This collaboration with mental health also provides significant support to our California Connected by 25 Initiative, Extended Foster Care and in the implementation of Pathways to Well-Being (Katie A.).

On July 18, 2002 plaintiffs filed a class action suit (named Katie A.), alleging violations of federal Medicaid laws, the American with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and California Government Code Section 11135. The suit sought to improve the provision of mental health and supportive services for children and youth in, or at imminent risk of placement in, foster care in California. On December 2, 2011, Federal District Court Judge A. Howard Matz issued an order approving a proposed settlement of the case. The settlement agreement seeks to accomplish systemic change for mental health services to children and youth within the class by promoting, adopting, and endorsing three new service array approaches for existing Medicaid covered services. The California Department of Social Services and Department of Health Care Services will work together with the federal court appointed Special Master, the plaintiffs' counsel, and other stakeholders to develop and implement a plan to accomplish the terms of the settlement agreement.

In late 2012, the CDSS released the settlement deliverables to the County Child Welfare Agencies with instructions to begin implementation.

The settlement has expanded the possible pool of eligible children/youth/ and transitional age youth for intensive mental health services and also prescribes that all children who meet specific criteria are initially screened and routinely screened by social workers for a mental health assessment as well as all children who are open to child welfare, are Medi-Cal eligible, and/or at risk of removal from their homes be screened at any time the social worker assesses that there are any mental health needs that need to be addressed.

As Stanislaus County values strong partnerships and has been co-located, shared information, and already been co-located with CSOC the transition and implementation of this new initiative has been a natural process to include and fold into our current practices.

JUVENILE JUSTICE MENTAL HEALTH

The Juvenile Justice Mental Health (JJMH) team is part of the BHRS CSOC providing Mental Health treatment to juveniles in the Juvenile Justice system. When jurisdiction changes with the juveniles and families enter the Child Welfare Services (CWS) system referrals are made to the CSOC program at CWS for ongoing mental health treatment for juveniles in need of these services.

INTERAGENCY RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The Interagency Resource Committee is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency committee where staff can bring challenging cases for review and recommendations from the committee. These cases often are in need of more resources than any one agency can provide. Often agencies

that are present at the meeting may have services or other resources that could be helpful to the family, and they commit to facilitate those services with the staff for the presenting family. Agencies involved in this process include BHRS/CSOC, Education, CSA/ACFSD, Probation, and numerous public and private partners providing services for children and families in our community.

Interagency Placement Committee

The Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) is a multi-disciplinary/multi-agency panel of representatives from ACFSD, Probation, BHRS/CSOC, and Education. All level 12-14 group home placements of children from the mentioned agencies and Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) requests are presented at this committee for approval. This helps to ensure that every resource and avenue for meeting the child's needs at a lower level of care occurs and group home placement occurs, only when it is necessary and appropriate. Once placed, these cases are reviewed every 6 months. The panel not only provides approval related to the placement, but offers suggestions of directions to take on the case as appropriate. Individual panel members may be called upon for assistance in facilitating their specific program to meet the needs of the child or family.

Partners' expectations and concerns are heard before reaching consensus. IPC has assisted CWS in gaining a different perspective on cases and has also helped in keeping track of youth that have benefited from the current high level of care and may be ready for a lower level.

The IPC also reviews and approves referrals of families and youth to the county's Wraparound program. Wraparound program provides community based intervention services, highly intensive, individualized and coordinated. This program allows children to either: return home with their families; or step down to a lower rate classification level; and live in the least restrictive family setting.

Family & Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

The Family and Domestic Violence Coordinating council (FDVCC) of Stanislaus County is a working group of professionals and community members dedicated to fostering collaboration and creating effective services for couples and their families. The purpose of the Council is to facilitate and support collaboration and partnerships that build and sustain healthy families and communities. This is accomplished by analyzing legislation, educating the public, and evaluating ways that responses from various agencies to DV can be improved. The FDVCC also coordinates an annual event to educate the public and professionals on pertinent issues related to the impact of violence in the family, prevention, intervention and treatment.

Family Violence Death Review Committee

The Family Violence Death Review Committee is a subcommittee of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. The purpose of this committee is to improve overall county and community services and response so as to prevent deaths such as the cases that are reviewed. The hope is to understand what has resulted in a death and to recommend changes or additional services to prevent similar situations that have resulted in a fatality. Public Health Is

the lead agency. The core committee is comprised of Public Health, the Coroner's Office and Child and Family Services. Anyone who attends this committee is held to a strict level of confidentiality. Nothing discussed there can be used for prosecution or any other legal action. Participants include the DA's office, Law Enforcement (especially with regard to the jurisdiction of the case under review), Adult Services, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, The Haven Women's Center, Probation, the Coroner's Office, Child and Family Services, and Public Health.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY QUARTERLY MEETING

The Community Services Agency coordinates and hosts a quarterly meeting involving Foster Family Agencies (FFA's) that serve Stanislaus County youth. The supervisor from the placement unit and our CSOC Coordinator co-facilitate the meeting. The goal of the FFA quarterly meeting is to provide a forum for open communication and dissemination of information. There are several FFA's in Stanislaus County and the surrounding area. They are all invited to these scheduled meetings. Topics addressed during the meeting include: AB636 outcomes, budget impacts, mental health services, Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) issues, CC25 Initiative, Wraparound Program, new initiatives and best practices, receipt of quarterly reports from FFA's, TDM meetings, transportation issues, as well other issues for discussion brought by the FFA and/or CSA staff. The FFA's are also encouraged to share during this time any changes in their agency or any special projects they may be working to implement. The meetings have proven to be very effective in fostering positive working relationships between our agency and the FFA's we work with and allow for a forum to address and resolve issues as they arise.

FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION AND FOSTER PRIDE TRAINING

ACFSD has a very active partnership with Modesto Junior College (MJC) Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) Department. The program Coordinator of the FKCE and ACFSD Licensed Program Analyst social worker co-facilitate the Foster Pride Training which is 27 hour training provided to the general public and potential foster parents. The Program Coordinator at MJC coordinates and provides additional training for all County, FFA, and kinship caregivers. Collaboration occurs on several levels as ACFSD staff discuss ongoing training needs for care givers who are involved in the FKCE program. ACFSD staff provide "rights and responsibilities" as an in-service through MJC.

COLLABORATIVE CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS WITH BEHAVIOR HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

ACFSD has two collaborative substance abuse treatment and sober living agreements with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. The partnership grew from the majority of the client base being CSA linked through ACFSD and/or Welfare-to--Work and BHRS being the lead in substance abuse treatment. Both agencies recognized the importance of having treatment for women with their children and sober living facilities to help clients be successful in their recovery. The women receiving outpatient services may live in one of the various sober living houses.

From January of 2003 until 2011, the Redwood Family Center provided support and a model of collaboration between the faith-based community, private organizations, and county

government delivering clean and sober housing services and collaborative drug and alcohol treatment services for the women and children in our community that we serve.

Due to the economic downturn, there were some financial difficulties with the continued funding for clean and sober living environments in Stanislaus County. The community responded to the need.

Valley Recovery Resources (VRR) Board was formed in 2011 in response to the recovery needs in our community. The community recognized that it would be a significant loss to the community if the Redwood Family Center was not able to continue providing clean and sober housing services and the Board set out to help. The Board raised $159,000 which they donated to Stanislaus County. In turn, Stanislaus County leveraged the $159,000 to obtain up to $3.3 million in State and Federal grants for social programs. These funds enabled Stanislaus County to re-hire many social services employees who had recently lost their positions and provided necessary funding toward social services programs. The Redwood Family Center was able to receive the necessary funding to continue providing services and Valley Recovery Resources was able to assume clean and sober living services provided at Redwood Family Center.

In July of 2011, Valley Recovery resources opened a second Redwood Family Center facility and both facilities continue to thrive. Both Redwood Family Centers together house an average of 50 to 60 women and their 60 to 80 children.

These unique collaborations provides for effectiveness in moving through the treatment/recovery process.

Kinship Services

A local kinship support services program was developed in 2001 through the collaborative efforts of CSA and BHRS. The Family Partnership Program is a community-based facility near downtown Modesto that offers both the Kinship Support Services program and BHRS's Parent Partnership Program. The agencies currently working collaboratively to provide family and kinship support services are CSOC, CSA, The Center for Human Services, and other community-based organizations. The center provides support groups, community outreach and education, mental health services, recreation, mentors, family visiting services, legal services, and respite childcare.

Community Services Agency / Children and Families Commission (First 5) Family Resource Center & Differential Response Partnership

In June 2005, the Community Services Agency and Children and Families Commission (CFC /First 5) entered into joint contracts with Family Resource Centers in a number of communities in Stanislaus County. Family Resource Centers (FRC) are neighborhood based and community or school run sites that offer preventative services and supports to families in their community. Through the joint RFP, CSA and CFC funded four contracts that supported eight FRCs that served 14 geographic communities throughout the county. The contracts enabled FRC partners to offer strength-based assessment, case management, mental health and developmental screenings, linkages to health and prenatal care, and school readiness services to children and

families referred through Differential Response and/or with children 0 – 5 years of age. Subsequent bids and contracts have been established to support FRCs and the implementation of Differential Response in all communities of Stanislaus County. The final communities started receiving DR services in January 2007.

COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN WORKGROUP

In recognition of a growing concern and legislation passing through the State of California legislative branch regarding sexually exploited children, a collaborative workgroup, including Probation and ACFSD, has been established and regularly meets to discuss how to provide services to children and families that have sexual exploitation or human trafficking affect their lives. This population provides a unique challenge for agencies responsible for children/youth have been abused in this way. The central valley in particular is challenged as two main transportation arteries Highway 99 and I-5 transect our communities providing quick and easy access to transportation routes.

> "Without specialized placements and other essential protective services and resources our hands are tied – we are learning to identify victims but have nowhere to turn when they ask for help. It Is a crisis."
>
> (Leslie S. Heimov, Executive Director, Children's Law Center ofCalifornia, to author (Jan. 16, 2013 10:41 PST)

An alarming number of children who are commercially sexually exploited have prior histories of abuse and neglect. A recent study of Bay Area commercially sexually exploited youth found more than 75% of the 113 youth studied had experienced child abuse or neglect, and nearly seventy percent had a history of trauma. Researchers have found that child sexual abuse increases the risk of exploitation and is the most common characteristic of commercially sexually exploited girls. (California Child Welfare Council-CSECWork Group, retrieved 6-20-14)

Additionally, these youth have a history of frequent family disruptions during their childhood—exposure to alcohol and substance abuse, witnessing domestic and community violence, and/or the loss of a parent. These factors often result in child welfare involvement and placement in foster homes, group homes or residential treatment settings. Out-of-home placement may trigger patterns of running away, which increases youths' vulnerability to exploiters who target this population. "Exploiters know where foster care group homes are and they directly recruit girls from these settings—they prey on the kids they know are the most vulnerable. Exploiters also use coercion and threats to force these young girls to recruit other youth living in the group home." (E-mail from Susan Drager, Program Director, Transition Age Youth Services, WestCoast Children's Clinic, to author (Jan. 29th, 2013 11:17 PST)

CHALLENGES FOR CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS

- Lack of systematic approach for screening and identifying CSEC and those at-risk, especially LGBTQ youth and boys.
- Inadequate data systems and mechanisms for tracking CSEC.
- Lack of safe and specialized placements
- Lack of training for agency staff who interact with CSEC, including schools, health care, hospital emergency rooms, mental health, courts, community partners, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, child welfare, probation, placement providers, youth and families.
- Inconsistency in language used across child-serving systems with respect to CSEC.
- Lack of specialized placements that include stabilization, support, trauma-informed care, transition planning, and after-care.
- Insufficient cross system collaboration including information sharing for youth who are multi-system involved.
- Inadequate funds and funding strategies to leverage existing resources, e.g., funding to maintain placements while youth are missing, or "AWOL."
- Lack of evidence based prevention and intervention strategies.
  (California Child Welfare Council-CSEC Work Group, retrieved 6-20-14)

CONCLUSION

Through the County's many collaborations and partnerships, services are coordinated in order to develop a successful service delivery system that is not duplicative and services our mutual children and families. Annual reports of progress and services are generated by the Community Services Agency and the Children and Families Commission (First 5). In addition, our community and agency partners, consumers, and other key stakeholders are invited to monthly self-evaluation meetings to review progress and contribute to the creation of the County Self-Assessment and System Improvement Plan (SIP).

Child and Family Services have strong partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff's Office and local city police jurisdictions throughout the county. We collaborate to provide the services at the CAIRE Center, child abuse investigations as well as a Drug Endangered Children (DEC) program.

Stanislaus County does not have any local tribes and only services a small number, presently 5, children identified as Native American and qualified for ICWA services. As a result, a consultant is brought in on ICWA matters and to contribute to this Self-Assessment in order to develop culturally sensitive services for children and families.

Child and Family Services and Probation work very collaboratively on many different facets. We partner in implementing Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR) and the Self-Assessment by meeting regularly and combining efforts and resources to develop a shared experience. At PQCR, reviewer teams consisted of both probation officers and social workers from other counties. In addition, supervisors and stakeholders from both dependency and delinquency systems were

included in focus groups. Probation and Child and Family Services coordinate in many joint efforts such as completion and filing of 241.1 reports which assist the Court in determining the best system to serve a child that touches both systems.

Overall, Stanislaus County is known to value strong partnerships in the Community. ACFSD values strong partnerships as well, collaboration is the norm. Most recently, Stanislaus County was awarded the Challenge Award by the California State Association of Counties for our unique partnership with the business and faith community to support clean and sober living environments for child welfare families.

Service Array

Stanislaus County implements an array of services for children, youth and families in an effort to meet the needs of the family in the area of safety, well-being, and permanency. Initial contact with the Child Welfare system is frequently though the emergency response hot line. The intake social worker completes the Structured Decision Making (SDM) assessment and will either provide resources to the caller, assign for Differential Response, or traditional emergency response investigation. Path 1 Differential Response services are provided solely by the community partners, whereas with Path 2 and 3 a determination is made about the best service delivery modality, either community services or child welfare services.

The Differential Response program is an alternative, intake, assessment and service delivery structure that allows a child welfare agency to respond in a more flexible manner to referrals of child abuse or neglect. There are three paths of response which may include an agency social worker and a community partner.

Community Partners providing Differential Response services, such as Public Health and Family Resource Centers, offer strength-based assessment, case management, parenting education and support, depression screenings, linkages to other health services and developmental screenings. Differential Response is a joint venture between the Community Services Agency and the Children and Families Commission. Differential Response services are funded in part with PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP funding primarily to support services to children 6 – 18 years of age. The Children and Families Commission (First 5) provides the majority of the funding for Differential Response for children 0 – 5 years of age.

The level of services provided to families is determined upon the safety and risk assessment, safety plans, and the willingness of the parents to engage. Further intervention may include a Family Engagement Meetings (FEM) meetings, Team Decision Meetings (TDM), Family Maintenance services (FM), or Court ordered services.

When an allegation of sexual abuse is being investigated children are interviewed at the CAIRE center. The County of Stanislaus, in partnership with the District Attorney, all local law enforcement agencies, child protection agencies, the mental and medical health community, schools, and others concerned with the care and protection of children, seek to protect child victims and witnesses who are exposed to abuse. The Child Abuse Interviews, Referrals, and Evaluation (CAIRE) Center is child friendly, provides a single point of access for forensic

interviews, and medical examinations and therapeutic services to young victims of crime. The CAIRE Center is located in downtown Modesto, California. A trained forensic interviewer interviews the child while professionals associated with the case are informed and present behind a one-way mirror, listening to the child's report. Observers can ask questions via an earpiece in the interviewer's ear, enabling information to be shared without further traumatizing the child. The CAIRE Center interview, in most cases, will be the final interview of the child, thereby minimizing further trauma to the child. The family is also introduced to Mental Health Clinicians who can provide therapy and support until the family gets connected with an ongoing therapist.

Law enforcement, the district attorney, and an emergency response social worker observe the interview. An advocate from the Haven Women's Center and a representative of the District Attorney's Victim Witness program meet with the family to explain their services. The Haven Women's Center is our county's domestic violence program whose goal is to empower victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to act as their own advocates for safety for themselves and for their children.

To determine the best match of services for family, the Emergency Response social worker utilizes a multidisciplinary team decision process. They will either engage a voluntary services worker from either FM to conduct a joint assessment of the family's needs and program capability or utilize a Team Assessment Planning meeting (TAP) for discussion of other options for the family. Other multidisciplinary meetings occur throughout the Child Welfare system such as Differential Response MDT, Joint Assessment Meetings (JAM), Interagency Resource Committee (IRC), Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) and Coordinated Case Planning (CCP) in an effort to continue to promote these ideals.

When a family engages with voluntary services the children are usually in the home, however voluntary placements can be utilized in an effort to expedite treatment or facilitate a safe environment for the children while the parents engage in services.

> Family Maintenance provides voluntary supportive services to families who have been assessed by ER to need continued services as a result of a substantiated CPS investigation or rating of high or very high on the SDM assessment. Family arrangements or voluntary placements enable resources to be implemented while children can remain in a safe and stable environment.

Child Welfare has a contract based encumbrance system to provide community services to children and families. Encumbered or community services include but are not limited to:

- Kinship Supportive Services which offers respite, support groups,
- Tutoring, counseling, medical support, and legal support
- Clean and Sober living environments (Men & Women with children)
- Local parenting programs
- CalWORKS
- In-patient and outpatient drug treatment programs

- Domestic Violence (Victim and Abuser), family and individual counseling, anger management,
- Pro-families (Parent Mentor Program)
- Sexual Abuse Counseling
- Respite Child Care for children at risk of abuse or neglect
- Parenting
- Mental Health Treatment
- Family Unification Program (Section 9 Certificates)
- Substance abuse treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Independent Living Skills program

When a child enters the dependency system a number of assessments and services are put into place to meet the needs of the children. An assessment is conducted by Children's System of Care, a component of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, to determine the mental health needs of the child.

When children are removed from their parents/caretakers, the **Court** unit presents the information to the Juvenile Court as well as provides services to families and children when allegations of child abuse and neglect are found as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code Section a-j. A Court Worker provides information and resources to the parents while Placement

Specialists focuses on the children's needs while they are in foster care or relative placement.

After the court sustains a petition and develops a case plan, the family is transferred to **Family Reunification** for up to 18 months. A social worker provides resources and monitors the parent's progress with their court ordered case plan, while supporting the children and their needs in foster care. In the event a child is unable to reunify, a permanent plan is established. In addition to the Family Reunification program there are areas that target the specific needs of youth. Through a partnership with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (county mental health department), the Children System of Care provides mental health assessments and services to dependent children.

Joint Assessment Meetings determine the best plan for placement, services, and permanency for the children. A placement specialist is a member of the court team. A placement specialist maintains the placement needs of the children including: arranging transportation, referrals to services, visitation, and maintaining the health and education passport. During the family reunification process Children System of Care clinicians continue to be available to assess and provide counseling for children. The primary social worker continues to make referrals to and maintain communication with services in the area to meet the needs of the Court ordered case plan, the parents, and children.

For youth who are unable to reunify and do not have a permanent plan for guardianship or adoption the **Permanent Placement** unit provides ongoing case management services and facilitation of lifelong connections. **Independent Living** skills for youth 16 and older, After 18,

and **Aftercare** services for youth transitioning/transitioned from dependency to adulthood are also provided by social workers.

When a child is placed in foster care a concurrent plan is established to ensure that a child has an alternative if the parents are unable to reunify. **Adoption** is the most permanent of these plans. Adoption Social Workers screen, train, and conduct home studies of concurrent homes prior to placement. They monitor perspective adoptive homes and guide the children through the adoption process.

STANISLAUS COUNTY IS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN THE CALIFORNIA CONNECTED BY 25

Initiative (CC25I). The California Connected by 25 Initiative is a strategy helping public child welfare agencies and their communities to build comprehensive supports and services for transitioning foster youth. The goal of the initiative is to connect foster youth to opportunities, experiences and supports that will enable them to succeed throughout adulthood. As part of this initiative Stanislaus County developed the following three programs:

A LIFELONG CONNECTION MODEL OF TRANSITIONAL HOUSING WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:

MY HOME THP+

Stanislaus County has two models: My Home is a caregiver model of transitional housing and scattered site model (living in an apartment on their own). The program provides financial assistance for housing to foster youth between the ages of 18 and 24 to enable them to reside with adult connections (My Home) who have committed to provide emotional permanency, or lifelong caring and emotional support, for the youth. The youth contributes to the cost of room and board in gradually increasing amounts. Those youth who are eligible and ready for independent living are approved to move into an apartment (scattered site model).

GATEWAY BRIDGE PROJECT:

The Gateway Bridge Project is a partnership with Modesto Junior College with linkages to California State University, Stanislaus and a partnership with *Alliance Worknet* (Formerly department of Employment and Training). The goal is to link former foster youth to postsecondary education with job training and employment opportunities. The Gateway Bridge Project is a learning community program with MJC that offers one semester of 12 college units. The classes are a combination of former foster youth and other disadvantaged youth and adults that are eligible for EOPS services. The former foster youth are provided wraparound case management services by a CSA aftercare social worker. In addition there are counselors in the classroom, tutoring is available and ongoing academic support from their teachers and financial support and services through EOPS. Once the youth completes the one semester of Bridge they are supported and encouraged to continue their education by choosing a vocational and/or career path offered through MJC.

THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS (IDA) WAS IMPLEMENTED IN YEAR 2, 2006/2007.

The IDA is a goal oriented savings account for emancipated foster youth 18-24 years of age. The accounts are held at a financial institution. Contributions are matched for qualifying

purchases ($1-$1 match) up to $2000 during a 24-month period. The program will serve up to 20 foster youth. By continuing our commitment to community collaboration between agencies, CSA made and entered into an agreement with Center for Human Services to provide Asset Management services to our youth who enroll in the

IDA program. CSA also entered into a partnership with Bank of the West who holds the matching monies in their financial institution.

Other areas that CC251 has enhanced are Independent Living Skills Program and Education Services to Foster Youth.

OTHER UNIQUE PROGRAMS OR SPECIAL PREVENTION SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE:

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILD/ELDER DEPENDENT ADULT MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

is a collaborative between the Community Services Agency, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Stanislaus County Drug Enforcement Agency, California Multijurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team, and Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office. They provide a coordinated response to families involved in clandestine manufacturing, sales, and/or possession of controlled substances when children, elderly, and/or dependent adults are

HAVEN WOMEN'S CENTER: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Haven Women's Center Advocacy Program's goal is to empower victims of domestic violence to act as their own advocates for safety. The broader goal of this program is to protect children and adults who are at risk and to reduce the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect. The Haven Women's Center provides counseling services to individuals for both domestic violence and sexual assault issues, provides support groups for adults and children, assists as legal advocates in retaining restraining orders, and provides case management services in developing personal goals towards a violence free life. Kids Count!, a program that The Haven Women's Center runs is funded by CBCAP funds ($30,885). Kid's Count is a school based group therapy program that focuses on violence prevention. Each week of the eight week program includes instruction and group process of what violence is and how it affects the children, what feelings they have and how to appropriately express those feelings, dealing with anger, and finding out what makes each one of them special.

PARENTS UNITED

Parent's United of Stanislaus County is a non-profit agency in the community that provides individual and group counseling for victims of sexual abuse. It also provides treatment for family members as well as the offender. Aspira Foster and Family Services: Pro-Family Program. This program is an intensive family reunification program that utilizes a short-term paraprofessional mentoring component. Services include family centered service planning, home visitation and parent specific education. The service population is families that have had children removed from their care and are in the process of reunification. Referrals are made by social workers from the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Child Family Services Division. The service site will be at the home of the family being served.

ASPIRA FOSTER AND FAMILY SERVICES: PRO-FAMILY PROGRAM

This program is an intensive family reunification program that utilizes a short-term paraprofessional mentoring component. Services include family centered service planning, home visitation and parent specific education. Referrals are made by social workers from the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Child Family Services Division. The service site will be at the home of the family being served, or in the community.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER: ADULT PARENTING PROGRAM

The mission statement of the Parent Resource Center is to build stronger, healthier families by offering volunteer in home mentoring and education support services to parents who are at risk for child abuse and neglect. This program provides two weekly 20-week parenting support and education classes, four classes a year including two Spanish speaking classes. The program provides case management and referral services to 80 parents annually and provides in-home volunteer mentors to 20 high-risk parents annually offering emotional support/parent education.

CHILDREN'S CRISIS CENTER: RESPITE CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The Children's Crisis Center is the only shelter service for abused, neglected and at-risk children in Stanislaus County. It is a safe place for parents to bring their children when they need a "break" from parenting. The Center focuses on prevention, intervention and crisis counseling through the Respite Childcare Program, the Family Nurturing Program, Family LINE and the Family Advocacy Program. It also provides crisis counseling and case management support services to families needing child abuse prevention/intervention services.

THE SERVICE ARRAY LINKED WITH CHILD WELFARE SPANS PAST THE COMPLETION OF SERVICES. THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES AND YOUTH THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM:

MENTAL HEALTH AND FINANCIAL) SERVICES FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.

Adoption support group, Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) and Medi-Cal. The Adoption Assistance Program is available to both relative and nonrelative families who adopt children from foster care. AAP reduces financial barriers to the adoption of children who might otherwise remain in foster care. Eligibility is not based on family income, but rather on the eligibility of the child. The AAP rate is negotiated with each family, and is based on the child's basic and special needs and the circumstances of the family.

ADDITIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE ARRAY

PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP funds are utilized and targeted to county wide prevention efforts. In partnership with the Children and Families Commission (First 5) and Family Resource Centers (FRCs), our county developed a differential response model of service. Our county has utilized PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP funds and partnered with the Children and Families Commission which provided additional funding for this joint project. The partnership enables Stanislaus County to provide Differential Response services in all geographic regions including those areas that are geographically isolated. This model provides for a single point of entry to an integrated service system that provides local access to information, education, and services that improve the lives of families. These activities are accomplished through the use of strength based assessment,

case management, parent education and links to health care providers. The delivery of these services is targeted to children at risk of abuse or neglect.

The Family Resource Centers (FRC) provide families with case management services, linkages to community resources, parenting classes, support groups, strength-based assessments, counseling, children's social skills groups, clothes closets, and home visits. Strength Based Assessment is completed as part ofthe caregivers' intake process; it is used to gather information about the families' strength and needs. Case management services, intensive and on-going, are provided to families at the Family Resource Center and in the home of the family. The family support services are designed to provide parents an opportunity to strengthen the family unit and to move towards self- sufficiency. Parent education and support includes informational workshops regarding discipline, children's health, prenatal care and other topics relevant to improving the lives of children. The FRC's also complete a Family Development Matrix (FDM) with the family to have the family rate their improvement in standard areas every three months. It helps the family see how they have improved while they have worked with the FRC.

A critical strategy is establishing and building on collaborations and partnerships with all facets of the community to improve the outcomes of both the families and the community. The Stanislaus County Family Resource Centers have spent significant time and energy developing relationships with other agencies and organizations within their own communities as well as throughout the county.

The FRCs has also strengthened ties with each other, sharing successes as well as challenges. The Multi-Disciplinary Team, which consists of providers of Differential Response services on all levels in the county, meets two times a month to discuss cases, protocol, and best practices.

These bi-monthly meetings have facilitated information sharing and collaboration, and the FRC's have nurtured the relationships outside of those meetings as they have proven beneficial for all parties, including the families. CWS and the Children and Families Commission have also hosted speakers and presentations from local organizations to assist in forming linkages.

The Differential Response services provided in partnership with the FRC's have a direct impact on the children in our community who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Without these services, it is believed that more children will experience a higher risk of child abuse or neglect due to escalating family stressors. Differential Response in partnership with Family Resource Centers allows families to get support early, from someone in their neighborhood community, before circumstances escalate. This is clearly a best practice approach to providing prevention and intervention services at the local level.

Sierra Vista Child and Family Services is an organization that offers many community services including individual, group counseling, family counseling, and psychiatric evaluations regarding issues of anger management, trauma, mental health, and school age issues. Services also include a school for children with special needs who are not successful in a regular day school and an ADHD clinic. Their clients may include children and their families that are being served

by County child welfare departments, and other children who are referred for services by legal, medical, or other social services agencies. Individual and group counseling services for adults and children are available to help break the cycle of abuse and neglect. Individual and group counseling for children are available to help heal the damage of past abuse and neglect and increase their personal safety. Domestic violence and anger management treatment as well as co-dependency classes are available. Parent education and support is offered through individual sessions, group sessions, parent labs and activities that strengthen and support timely reunification. Sierra Vista Child and Family Services offer services in Spanish. Priority is given to children who are being served by the county welfare departments for being abused and neglected and to their families who are participating in time limited reunification services.

Haven Women's center is contracted to provide a program called Kids Count! Haven Women's Center provides counseling, advocacy, and shelter for women and children impacted by domestic violence. Kid's Count is a school based group therapy program that focuses on violence prevention. Each week of the eight week program includes instruction and group process of what violence is and how it affects the children, what feelings they have and how to appropriately express those feelings, dealing with anger, and finding out what makes each one of them special. The children in the group also learn about themselves, the good things and the bad things that they would like to change, ways to help create a peaceful and non-violent world, ways of supporting each other in doing so, and creating their own safety plan. Parents are included through information that goes home with the child and once engaged are referred to Haven's main site for additional services. Outcomes are measured by children participation, increased knowledge, and parental interaction and support. Through the groups and parent involvement in the skill building program, Haven Women's Center provides services and treatment to children and their non-abusing caretakers.

The Kids Count! Program is a school based program providing children, grades 1-6, who have experienced any form of violence an opportunity for healing, growth, and a sense of safety in their lives. Children are often overlooked as having felt adverse effects to the violence that they have witnessed, whether the violence took place in the home or in the community. The coordinators of this program believe that the children deserve a chance to work through these issues. They work with this population to identify violence, express their feelings appropriately, how to deal with their anger and to create their own personal safety plan.

Lastly, AASK has over 40 years of adoption, foster care, and family support experience with over 30 counties in California. On occasion and on an as-needed basis Stanislaus County (PSSF) has contracted with AASK provides Stanislaus County with adoption home studies for families who live outside of the county that are adopting Stanislaus County dependents.

AASK also has partnered with Stanislaus County to provide the opportunity for our families to attend Camp ALWAYS (A Life With Adoption Yields Success), an annual five-day program for families with a child in an adoptive placement or a finalized adoption. AASK facilitates Camp ALWAYS and takes place every June. At the five-day camp, the families are provided with parenting classes covering a range of topics, from attachment issues to parenting teens.

Families also participate in bonding activities including arts and crafts, nature walks, dances, and relaxation time. The purpose of this camp is to meet the populations' needs for a positive, psycho-social educational bonding experience for youth who come from difficult circumstances who are fortunate enough to find a forever family.

CWS AND CAPC PREVENTION EFFORTS:

Stanislaus County has provided child abuse prevention and education via several established programs and venues, including the Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Prevention Program, "Through the Eyes of a Child" annual children's art contest, the Lisa Project, the Annual Conference on Women, Babies, Drugs, Domestic Violence Conference, and now the adoption of the Strengthening Families framework. These programs/conferences were developed targeting specific child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. The Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) was instrumental in implementing the Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Prevention program, which included a public kickoff event and an organized media and marketing campaign, which included bus advertisement. Every April, during child abuse prevention month, the bus advertisements are repeated to educate the public on the continued need for prevention of SBS, a form of child abuse. Implementation of the SBS program would not have been possible without the support of many partners, including the four birthing hospitals, The Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission (First 5), the Health Services Agency Healthy Birth Outcomes (HBO) program, the American Red Cross of Stanislaus County, the Stanislaus County Office of Education prevention programs, and our local domestic violence counseling groups. On an annual basis, the SBS program currently educates an estimated 7,000 parents on SBS prevention at the time of the birth of their child. Annually, the SBS bus advertisement/educational campaign reaches over 75,000 people in Stanislaus County. The Shaken Baby Syndrome campaign was developed after 7 deaths/near deaths that were reported in Stanislaus County from SBS during an 18 month period prior to program implementation. Since 2011, there has been no more than 1 reported incident of Shaken Baby Syndrome annually.

For the past 10 years, the Stanislaus County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) has organized an annual art contest for children, which ended this year. Over 250 Students from grades K-12 from both public and private schools throughout the county participate in this art contest that promotes child abuse awareness. The calendar included information on organizations in the community that provide intervention and treatment to children and families. The CAPC has retired this initiative and has started a campaign on Strengthening Families. This research-informed framework is based engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors within families.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION STRENGTH AND NEEDS

Family Resource Centers (FRC) are a key provision of outreach activities and services which are available to meet the needs of ethnic and/or minority populations in the County. Several of the FRC centers have staff that are fluent in languages other than English and always have at least one Spanish speaking staff member. Several FRCs have staff that speak Spanish and Assyrian and there is one FRC that has staff that are fluent in Punjabi. Families partner with community

based outreach workers to complete a comprehensive strength-based family assessment at the FRCs. If the family continues to work with the FRC, they complete a Family Development Matrix in cooperation with the family and prioritize the top 2-3 needs for the family to address.

The partnership with the FRCs has allowed the County to provide services in all geographical areas of the county, thus ensuring that no family is left without services or resources. Because of FRC joint funding with the Children and Families Commission, services beyond Differential Response are available to all families. FRC's provide services to their community based upon their own community needs assessment, but all provide developmental screenings, school readiness, depression assessment, resource and referral, case management, and parenting education and support.

FRC services are one of the primary resources for child abuse prevention in our community, and depend upon our prevention funding along with donations and other private funds for sustainability. During the assessment process, the FRC's reported they enjoyed the relationship with Adult, Child, and Family Services (ACFSD). They indicated that the ACFSD partnership allows them to better engage families in the community. There is more engagement and follow through when families know that the FRC and ACFSD are working together. Transportation continues to be a concern for our clients living in outlining areas of our county; having substance abuse service and mental health counseling services more readily and locally available for their families is also a need in our Court. ACFSD assists families by providing bus passes and supportive staff if possible to provide transportation to needed services locations. Staffs at the Family Resource Centers have also identified the need for some type of after care or mentoring service for families who are no longer involved with the courts or the child welfare system. It could be described as a support program for all closed family reunification cases to assist them in the transition process. Children and families with disabilities are served by our community partners in collaboration with Valley Mountain Regional Center and/or the child's local school districts special education program. Due to geographical and economic trends particular to our county, which currently includes a 15.2% unemployment rate (Employment Development Department, June 2013) and other poverty issues, families are facing many challenges to meet their basic needs, including housing, food (39.2% children receiving food stamp benefits (UCLA Policy Research center, 2011), child care, and basic medical and dental care. Not meeting our families' basic needs can have short and long term consequences for the families and children in our community. We believe these types of challenges facing our families will eventually negatively impact our child abuse and neglect outcomes in the foreseeable future.

Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Prevention Programs and Practices

Family Resource Centers and Differential Response are strategies that are increasingly being researched and there is evidence suggesting the positive effects of both strategies. According to the California Family Resource Center Learning Circle, evolving research and evaluation indicate that family resource centers are promising strategies for addressing child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, family violence, isolation, instability, community unity and health, and educational outcomes. FRCs shares the common principles of family support, resident

involvement, partnerships between public and private, community building, and shared accountability. Effective FRC's also exhibits the key characteristics of being integrated, comprehensive, flexible, and responsive to community needs. All of the Stanislaus County FRC's share common principles and characteristics with varied services and approaches determined by the needs of their respective communities. The American Humane Society defines Differential Response broadly as "an approach that allows child protective services to respond differently to accepted reports of child abuse and neglect, based on such factors as the type and severity of the alleged maltreatment, number and sources of previous reports, and willingness of the family to participate in services."(http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-children) Evaluation of DR services has largely suggested positive results from the implementation of DR programs nationally.

Evidence also indicates that parents are less alienated and much more likely to engage in services and assessments, resulting in the focus on families' issues and needs. For additional information, please refer to the following citation: Schene, P. (2005). The emergence of differential response. *Protecting Children, 20* (vol.# 2-3) pp.4-7. In Stanislaus County, the DR protocol was developed by the Child Safety Team and Differential Response Team, a group consisting of CWS and other county stakeholders after researching other successful DR plans. Further, the FRC's utilizes tools and methods that are research based. FRC's consistently use the Ages & Stages Questionnaire and Burns Depression Screening, both widely accepted screening tools. The FRCs also utilize the Family Development Matrix (FDM) which as comprehensive, strengths-based assessment tool that enhances the community based program's commitment to supporting families and children while improving data collection methods. The FDM facilitates a comprehensive assessment and provides reliable information so that workers are more effective in understanding family strengths and areas of concern. It builds on the family strengths to address problems identified, facilitates goal setting with empowerment plans, and tracks changes in the family's status for as long as they are engaged with the program providing tables/graphs of family progress. The weekly collaborative meetings encourage the FRCs to share research and evidence- based practices that are working for families. As the FRCs continue to serve the Stanislaus County community, they are encouraged to draw from each other and the research and improve practice.

Wraparound

The Stanislaus County Adult, Child, and Family Services Division implemented a wraparound program for foster care and Adoption programs, Senate Bill 163 allowed the use of State Foster Care dollars to provide eligible children with family-based service alternative to group home care using Wraparound as the service alternative. The California Wraparound Program is a family-centered, strength-based, needs-driven planning process for creating individualized services and supports for children and their families. Counties are assigned service allocation slots. A 'wraparound slot" means a specified amount of funds available to the county to pay for an individualized intensive wraparound services package for an eligible child. A slot maybe used for more than one child on a successive basis. Stanislaus County implemented the current Wraparound program in January 2011. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to the

community and awarded to Aspira Net. In 2013, the program added families in Family Maintenance using realignment dollars to enhance preventative services.

In the Wraparound program, the family is fully engaged, has a voice and is an active participant in case/service planning. The family identifies their own needs, and is provided with support in accessing an individualized array of informal and formal services and resources to meet their needs. The delivery is seamless because the family, youth, and providers are working together as a team.

Quality Assurance System

Child and Family Services

The Performance and Quality Improvement process is a multi-layered process with many diverse components intended to provide the most thorough and accurate assessment of quality service delivery and performance compliance from a variety of perspectives.

The County Strategic Plan is the overall vision that directs the Community Services Agency's Strategic Plan. Strategic Planning is interwoven with the Federal and State performance and outcome improvement requirements to develop system improvement goals and plans for Child and Family Services. Quarterly Outcome and Accountability Reports from UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project provide performance measures on State and Federal outcome indicators.

Child and Family Services are committed to the on-going evaluation, assessment and improvement of all aspects of our performance and for meeting the standards for Quality Outcomes. It is our commitment that all children and families served by our programs are provided with quality services that promote best practice, keeping families together while assuring the safety and well-being of the children. To ensure that these goals are met a system of Performance and Quality Improvement activities, evaluation and decision making processes are in place. It is the expectation of the leadership of Child and Family Services, that staff at all levels participate in efforts of continual performance improvement. Additionally, the input of key stakeholders, including persons served and community partners, is essential in a continuous performance and outcome improvement system.

California SafeMeasures is a computer software program that is designed as a Compliance and Quality Improvement Tool. It extracts data out of the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System, the California computer system in which all case record information is documented. SafeMeasures allows Social Workers, Supervisors and Managers immediate access to information needed to:

- Assess performance on Federal outcome measures.
- Assess whether federal, state and local requirements are being met.
- Track agency, unit and worker performance over time.
- Monitor workload.
- Identify out-of-compliance cases.
- Monitor the quality of services at various stages of a child welfare case.

Child & Family Services Social Workers, Supervisors and Managers:

1. Access SafeMeasures at least monthly to conduct quality assurance reviews on 100% of their own referrals or cases or those under their area of responsibility.
2. Use the results from SafeMeasures reviews in on-going individual supervision and evaluation of quality service delivery.
3. Conduct training and/or report training needs to Manager as needs are identified.
4. Supervisors and Managers use the information, individually and/or through Self Evaluation and regular Supervisor/manager meetings, to track trends and identify areas of accomplishment or needed improvement.

In addition to on-going supervisorial review, cases are randomly selected for review by Quality Assurance Social Workers. Open and closed cases are reviewed on a continuous basis for compliance with State 31 Regulations, County Policy, Court Orders, and Welfare and Institutions Codes.

CASE RECORD REVIEW PROCEDURES:

1. MONTHLY SUPERVISION:

It is the policy of the agency that Supervisors provide on-going quality assurance reviews of cases/referrals under their supervision. Supervisors meet with their social workers at least once per month, with the exception of probationary employees with whom they meet weekly until it is determined that this is no longer necessary.

2. QUARTERLY CASE MONITORING:

Additionally, each case is reviewed a minimum of one time per quarter, and is documented in the contact logs. Supervisors document quarterly supervision in the Contact logs of CWS/CMS.

3. COMPREHENSIVE CASE/REFERRAL REVIEW:

In addition to on-going case conferencing, each supervisor selects one (1) case/referral per social worker in his/her unit every quarter for a three (3) part **comprehensive review that includes:**

Part I: Contact Verification / Customer Service Review

The Social Worker Supervisor II (SWSII) completes the contact verification form prior to the case review. The SWSII makes at least two (2) attempts to contact the parent/caregiver before substituting another case/referral. The Supervisor introduces him/herself and explains the reason for the call as indicated on the contact verification form. He/she asks all questions as indicated and sign/date the form upon completion.

Part II Case/Referral Review

Using the Case Review forms appropriate for the program, the Social Worker Supervisor II completes a thorough review of the sampled case/referral and answer all questions on the form. Content includes:

INTAKE

1. Referrals that are evaluated out (no assigned for in person response) or Path 1 are reviewed by Intake Supervisor
2. Evaluated out / Path 1 referrals are reviewed for the following:
   a. Search in CWS/CMS search for prior history
   b. Completion of SDM Hotline tool ***prior*** to making the assignment decision.
   c. Decision to Evaluate out/ path 1 consistent with agency policies.
   d. Evaluated out / Differential Response Path 1 decision was appropriate.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

1. Referrals open for on-going services and closed after initial in person visit, are reviewed.
2. Emergency Response referrals are reviewed for the following:
   a. Timeliness of the in person response, in accordance with regulations/policy, e.g. Immediate and 10-day.
   b. The required number of in person visits with the child within the first 30 days of the initial in person contact.
   c. Interview of the child conducted individually
   d. Interviews at school without parent knowledge/consent; child is allowed a school employee, interview is voluntary and kept at 30 minutes or less.
   e. Collateral Contacts completed and documented, including mandated reporters, medical providers if needed, etc.
   f. Joint visit with FRC completed for Path 2
   g. SDM safety assessment completed within 48 hours of first child contact and safety threats documented clearly.
   h. SDM Risk Assessment completed within 30 days, prior to making the decision to promote or close the referral, and factors reflected in the documentation.
   i. The Mandated reporter, if any, was notified of the outcome of the investigation.

OPEN CASES, VOLUNTARY AND/OR COURT-INVOLVED (COURT, FAMILY MAINTENANCE, FAMILY REUNIFICATION, 3015, PERMANENT PLACEMENT AND ADOPTIONS) ARE REVIEWED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. Documentation in the Contact Logs that the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (SDM FSNA) completed with the family prior to completion of the case plan.
2. Evidence of parent and/or youth engagement in case planning and signature on the case plan.
3. Initial Case Plan completion within the required 30 day time frame, unless there is documented evidence of a Family Engagement Effort (FEE) in the associated services page of the contact notebook. If FEE is documented, the case plan was completed within 60 days.
4. Updated case plan is completed in required timeframe, with a prior FSNA.
5. Case Plan for children in out of home care, includes concurrent planning.
6. A relative search was completed prior to placement and/or at any change of placement.

7. After the initial 30 days, there are a minimum of monthly in person contacts with all children and parents, and the majority of those visits occur in the home.
8. Children in placement are interviewed privately and separately.
9. Children over 15 ½ years of age have a TILP.

Part III: SDM Case/Referral Reading

Using the appropriate SDM case/referral reading tool (available in SDM or Ollie) the Supervisor I reviews the case/referral for accurate and timely completion of all required SDM assessments. The supervisor reads the case/referral and ensure that the items scored match the documented facts, the decisions match the recommendation or adequate explanation is documented to explain a decision contrary to the recommendation. The Supervisor adheres to the Case Review Procedures as outlined in SDM.

It is the expectation of the agency that a peer review process be utilized such that Supervisors complete the SDM case/referral reading portion of his/her peer's cases/referrals. The rationale for this expectation is to ensure that the facts and observations that safety and risk decisions are based on, are clearly, thoroughly and objectively documented such that a party whom is unfamiliar with the case/referral can follow the logic/rationale of the safety and risk decision-making.

SPECIALIZED REVIEWS:

Records will be sampled separately and reviewed for specialized topics as identified in the Self Evaluation process and/or as the result of other audit process. These include but are not limited to:

1. Relative/NREFM (1695) Assessment & Reassessment process.
2. CLETS criminal background documentation

CASE RECORD REVIEW REPORTS

a. Supervisor Responsibility: The Supervisor submits the comprehensive case/referral packet (Parts I, II, & III) to the manager by the end of the quarter deadline. Each social worker is provided with a copy of review packets pertaining to his/her case/referral and the elements of concern shall be discussed with the social worker during conference time. The supervisor works with the social worker to ensure that any concerns or corrections needed are resolved within 30 days (or sooner based upon the issue identified). Remediation can include additional training, coaching, more frequent case conferencing, more frequent case/referral reviews, etc.
b. Social Worker Responsibility: the social worker discusses any areas for remediation/correction with his/her supervisor, participate in any training, additional case conferencing and/or other agreed upon strategies to ensure that the social worker is able to meet the standards. Any corrections must be completed within 30 days, or sooner as determined by the Supervisor.
c. Manager Responsibility: the manager reviews their programs "review packets" to identify trends in case management activities, the need for additional training or feedback, and to provide suggestions for resolution of any identified concerns.
d. Data Analyst/QA social worker consolidates reports and evaluate for common trends

and issues across programs. A comprehensive summary document will be provided to the Management Team for review quarterly.

Aggregate data from Quality Assurance reports, data, outcomes, customer satisfaction surveys, and other types of information are evaluated reviewed and discussed at Manager Meetings, Leadership meetings and in the monthly Self Evaluation team meetings, peer review team meetings, and other staff and/or community forums and/or focus groups. As a Family to Family county since 2001, Stanislaus embraces data and outcomes. It is the local culture in Adult Child, and Family Services Division to use objective measures and information for all decision making, rather than simply relying on conjecture and speculation. Given the complex nature of child welfare services outcomes, that is not always easy, but the effort to depend upon thorough analysis continues despite budget cuts and difficult financial times.

Outcomes baselines identified at the time of initial funding are analyzed by a CWS manager in partnership with Children and Families Commission. If there are any concerns regarding contractors not meeting their stated goals or outcomes, a meeting is coordinated to address any issues and to develop corrective actions plans. The contractors develop the corrective action plan and the manager verifies that the plan is in line with the contracted services. If no improvements are forthcoming, other meetings are arranged until the contractor is able demonstrate outcome improvements. Site visits are conducted for all contractors annually by a team which could consist of: CWS manager, CSA fiscal team member, and/or the PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP liaison as well as members of the Children and Families Commission. Following a site visit, staff may develop a corrective action plan with time specific and measurable goals or activities for the Contractor to perform in order to correct operational or contractual deficiencies. Any such plan developed will focus on activities and services provided by the contractor and changes needed in order for the contractor to meet planned contractual obligations. Monthly invoices are also submitted by contractors which are analyzed by our fiscal team.

Other contractors for PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP funded programs provide customer surveys, pre and post testing and/or quarterly reports. The reports are reviewed by the program managers, PSSF/CAPIT/CBCAP liaison, and the accounting manager.

Fiscal oversight is provided for all contracted services to make sure that expenses are appropriate and in line with the contract. Customer satisfaction surveys by the vendor are part of the requirements of providing contracted services. As part of this requirement, our vendors access customer satisfaction by providing a customer satisfaction survey to the clients they serve. The customer satisfaction surveys are analyzed through our quality assurance process. This is done to ensure that vendors are fulfilling this part of the contract. The surveys are also analyzed for accurate statistical demographic representation. At the end of the year the contractor submits an annual report outlining the goals and progress achieved during the contracted period. Ongoing contact with our vendors allows our county to assess service delivery to identify strengths and needs. We have ongoing contact with our vendors by way of e-mail, phone or meetings. Through these ongoing contacts, strengths as well as areas for improvement are evaluated/discussed.

Monitoring of quality has been a long standing practice in Stanislaus County. The process has evolved over the years; however, every time the monitoring system has changed, our service providers are provided with training and technical assistance. Part of the implementation process allows contractors the opportunity to fine-tune their outcomes, customer surveys and pre and post testing. The quality monitoring system has been a great asset in educating our providers that in order to provide PSSF/CAPIT contracted services, they must pay special attention to quality and clearly demonstrate how their services are impacting the families and children being served.

This program monitoring system also requires most contractors to submit a quarterly report to the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency contract administrator describing their progress on the completion of their planned outcome. The report also includes the following statistical reports: the Age, Language and Ethnicity Report. All contractors are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis throughout their contract period. Other activities that are used to monitor and evaluate Contractor performance include:

a. Site visits, onsite reviews, and observations; At least annually, this may include some or all of the following: interviews with contractor staff, interviews with clients about services received, reviews of key systems and service documentation, review of case records, reviews of scope of work and outcomes. In addition to formal contract auditing, a strength-based approach to visiting an agency improves customer service with agencies as well as ensuring that their services are meeting the stated outcomes.
b. Review of Contractor's audit reports: Invoice reviews - Ensures the cost being charged are within the contract parameters.
c. Customer Satisfaction Surveys: Concerning contract service delivery and quality.
d. Contractor assists in the monitoring and evaluation of the program according to the scope of work and supporting evaluation documents.

PROBATION

The Probation Department, Placement Supervisor and Deputy Probation Officer III review each placement case prior to each Status Review (usually each 5 ½ months) for compliance with Division 31 regulations. This includes review of the findings and orders, an updated assessment, case plan, and additional case plan, as well as review of the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) if applicable. The review also takes into consideration the forms and documentation regarding minors electing to participate in California's After 18 program, formerly Extended Foster Care. The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission annually tours group homes utilized by the Probation Department to analyze programs and services. If applicable, the JJDPC submits a report to the Probation Department if a corrective action plan is warranted after conducting an inspection. No corrective action plans have been warranted during the last five years.

Critical Incident Review Process

The Stanislaus County ACFSD management team reviews all fatalities/near fatalities if the family had a history of Child Welfare involvement. Stanislaus County Adult, Child, and Family Services Division works closely, as a death review team, with law enforcement and other community agencies that include, but are not limited to Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, Public Health, Probation, District Attorney's Office, Haven Women's Center, and Children's Crisis Center in which fatalities have occurred due to abuse and neglect. Information is shared in a multi-disciplinary team approach to evaluate and assess the incident. Results of both these 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 Stanislaus County does not receive any NRC training or technical assistance. Training and Technical Assistance is provided primarily through the Central Training Academy.

Peer Review Results

Stanislaus County Peer Review

As part of the County Self-Assessment process and of the development the System Improvement Plan, a Peer Review was conducted in Modesto from March 11th-13th, 2014. Staff and supervisors from eight counties were invited to participate. For Child Welfare, staff from Madera, Tulare, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and San Joaquin Counties attended and for Probation, staff from Sonoma, San Luis Obispo, and Riverside Counties attended.

Focus Area

Both Child Welfare and Probation focused on Timely Reunification: for Child Welfare outcome (C1.3) Reunification within 12 months (Entry Cohort) and for the Probation Department, Median Time to Reunification (C 1.2)

Of all the children who entered foster care for the first time during the period April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012, 14.4% of the children discharged from foster care to reunification reunified within 12 months of their latest removal from their home (17/118). The national standard is 48.4%. Probation focused on median time to reunification (Outcome C 1.2). Regarding median time to reunification (Outcome C 1.2), Probation had no reunifications out of seven youth in placement during that 12 month period. Comparison performance was calculated at 19.6 months; the national standard is 5.4 months.

Methodology

The review began with a conference call with probation staff and a "Ready Talk" orientation to Peer Reviewers. We discussed the purpose of the peer review, expectations of the review and overview of County demographics and tools that would be used during the review. Child Welfare conducted their orientation internally.

At the beginning of the Peer Review on March 11th, the California Department of Social Services consultants, Shared Vision Consultants (facilitator for the review period), Central Training Academy staff, and representatives from Stanislaus County conducted an overview of the County. This presentation was followed by training on the interview process and tools. During a two and one-half day process, five (5) interview sessions were held with debriefing following each interview. Thirteen (13) social workers (including two social workers on three families) and four Probation Officers were interviewed. After the interviews were completed, a group debriefing was conducted and a report summarizing the findings regarding promising practices, challenges, and recommendations was compiled.

For CWS, 11 cases reflective of the ethnicity and demographics in Child Welfare were chosen and reviewed, including three with timely reunification and eight where reunification was untimely and did not occur within 12 months from date of latest removal. For Probation, four cases across placement officers, two with timely reunification and two involving youth who did not reunify, were chosen and reviewed.

Summary of Child Welfare Review

Peer reviewers were asked to identify and assess promising practices and challenges. The Peer Reviewers observed that the social workers appeared to be very knowledgeable about services available to families through the Department and in the community and that the social worker worked consistently with families to encourage reunification. The challenges expressed by the social workers were feeling overworked, not appreciated for work done on cases, and being influenced by low morale in some parts of the Department

In the course of working with the parents towards reunification, the social workers focused on maintaining connections by meeting with the parents, the child and the foster parent each at least once a month if not more. The foster families also supported maintaining connections when they were committed to the reunification process. In addition, the social worker was able to help the children maintain connection to each other by placing them together in one home where they were able to support each other. More strengths were seen in the social worker's commitment to do whatever could be done to support frequent visits.

Challenges in maintaining connections occurred were when siblings could not be placed together for a variety of reasons, parents being incarcerated and having subsequent incarcerations, family members or members of the relative care provider's family who created obstacles for parents based on their negative attitude toward a parent. It was also noted that Codependency distracts a parent from focusing on reunification to focus on the needs of the other parent, instead of the child.

Regarding engagement with children, youth and parents, the social workers try to ensure that there is a seamless transition of families from one social worker to another. When transitions occur, the two social workers meet with the family to discuss the case plan and share information. Monthly meetings to discuss the case plan are used to identify barriers faced by the parent, program participation, and to remind the parents of the impact on likelihood of reunification if they do not show progress on their case plan goals. A challenge to reunification was noted when social workers were unable to meet the parents in their home and relied on office meetings. With some parents, full engagement is limited by substance abuse, the parent's negative feelings toward their child, and the unwillingness of a parent(s) to take responsibility for their actions. It is also difficult to maintain full engagement with parents when a seamless transition ofthe families from one social worker to another does not occur.

Social Workers use early and regular assessment and referral to services as the foundation for case planning. Social workers do not report that there are barriers to the parents receiving services. Multiple referrals are provided at detention and the referrals are open-ended. Referrals for mental health assessments are made where special needs are identified. Social workers "do not give up" and often provide transportation to parents; FFA staff as well will provide transportation to parents to support visits. Services available to parents to help them establish a solid living environment include access to Section 8 housing and a sober living program funded by the County to support transition after residential treatment. Regarding children in care, dental and medical examinations and services are provided timely. There have been challenges for some parents in getting to services, e.g., drug treatment or mental health services. There have been long waiting lists for AOD and mental health treatment. Access to certain mental health services depend on medical necessity. Regarding obtaining a CASA volunteer for a child or youth, the number of volunteers in the Stanislaus County CASA program has been inadequate to meet the need and as a result, there has been a long waiting list.

Peers recognized the Department for working diligently to keep siblings together after removal and that social workers move siblings after their initial placements if a single placement could be located. Social workers also emphasize finding the best placement initially and keeping the child or youth in that placement. In one reviewed case, the youth had experienced only one placement. A barrier to placement matching is placement out of County unless that supports reunification, as in one case discussed.

Peers reviewed a case where reunification was successful and the strengths observed were that the parent was open to the process and services and wanted to reunify and that the foster parents were actively supporting the parent during reunification. Where a parent has been incarcerated, social workers contact the parent as soon as possible to connect with services.

The following section documents the recommendations from Stanislaus Social Workers that were interviewed to improve reunification.

The social workers made recommendations regarding training, resources and policies and procedures. Regarding training, the first recommendation was that new social workers be trained prior to being assigned a caseload. An agency practice of assigning a caseload to new

social workers prior to attending CORE was identified as a practice that merited review. It was recommended that during the interim period between hiring and CORE training, that new social workers "shadow" an experienced worker and that a mentor be provided for each new social worker. Social Workers recommended that the mentor assigned to the social worker accompany the social worker for the first few weeks in meeting with parents, children, and going to court. More training on stress management and caseload management for social workers was recommended. It was also recommended that training for the management and supervisors should be provided on the responsibilities of being a social worker. When new policy is generated, it was recommended that some training be provided on the policy prior to implementation.

Regarding resources, the social workers recommended that in instances where it doesn't happen, referrals should remain open so that parents could access services when the parent was ready to do so. Specific programs were also recommended to add to the services available to children and families, e.g., grief and loss counseling for younger children, a family sober living environment, and more options for AOD services.

It was recommended that all Department policy and procedure be organized into a single manual that is accessible to all staff to ensure consistent practice. Additions and modifications to current policy were also recommended. Social Workers recommended that the Department adopt a clear policy requiring the FFAs to provide transportation to children to visits with their parents and a policy and procedure on the transfer of cases to improve communication about the case and maintain strong connections with the parents and children/youth. Closely monitoring the timeliness of required notices to parties, foster parents and the court was also recommended as means of reducing continuances and improving practice.

Summary of Probation Department Peer Review

Peer reviewers noted many promising practices in Stanislaus County Probation Department regarding reunification of youth and families, including that the placement probation officer had received Placement CORE training and training on Title IVE and After 18. Probation placements were limited to 1 or 2; a single probation officer was assigned to a family; community resources and WRAP were available to most families; and, parents had strong support from the immediate family. Barriers to reunification were drug abuse among parents and youth, and mental health issues.

Probation Officers are required by Department Policy to visit with the parents and youth monthly. In many cases, maintaining connections is limited by the parents not meeting with the probation officer and inconsistency in the visits between the youth and his/her parents. In other cases, the parents are highly motivated to reunify. Repeated incarceration of the parent limits the capacity of the probation officer to help build connections between the youth and his/her family. The transition of cases from one probation officer to another does not always allow sufficient time for personal communication with the youth and family members and sharing of information.

Regarding assessments and services, dental and medical assessments are timely and there were no gaps in mental health and AOD services for the youth in the cases reviewed. A challenge was noted in the lack of follow-up between the group home staff and service provider. The placement matched the minor's needs and the parent was engaged in the reunification process and use of services. The minor was also motivated to reunify and return to the family. The challenge however, was that the Probation Officer was not advocating for the youth being returned home to the same community they were removed from.

STANISLAUS COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING TO SUPPORT TIMELY REUNIFICATION.

The peer reviewers recommended that training be provided to Probation Officers to strengthen their skills around engaging parents, that the intake unit be trained on making placements, and that more training for parents on how to improve their parenting skills be provided. The need to reduce caseloads was requested by hiring more Probation Officers. To strengthen placement efforts, it was recommended that the Department work more closely with Child Welfare, use Family Finding resources, and strengthen family connections during reunification by insuring that there is a drug free environment when youth go home with passes, e.g., by requiring that the parents' drug test prior to the visit. Reviewing policies and procedures regarding how Probation Officers can help fully implement After 18 , working with the challenges associated with reunifying the youth into the same environment that he/she left, and timing reunification to minimize disruption of education and reduce gaps in education was also recommended. Designing an orientation for parents on the purpose of out of home placement and how parents and families maintain connections during placement to prepare for reunification and successful transition home was also recommended.

Child Welfare Peer Recommendations

MONTEREY:

Family Reunification Partnership (FRP) - Collaborative Behavioral Health and Child Welfare program Team approach staffed by Social Worker & therapist cross-trained and assigned to identify specific cases with dual diagnosis consisting of heavy mental health component and AOD issues. The team carries a lower caseload and offers intensive therapeutic and support services and case monitoring to birth families and foster families.

Families Offering Children United Support (FOCUS) - FOCUS meetings are coordinated by the social workers that takes place early in a child's placement that provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to talk about the needs of the child. The parents and caregivers are able to share information about them and their parenting practices. Meetings last about 30-60 minutes.

Parent Education Group (PEG) – Classes for FR parents providing topics such as Court, Visits, Trauma, Service Providers

Other Services - Mentor Mom & Mentor Dad programs, TDM, WRAP Meetings

SAN LUIS OBISPO:

Secondary Assignments – When a case first come into the system, a secondary FM/FR worker is assigned by jurisdiction and an adoptions worker is also assigned by jurisdiction as well. Social worker(s) and supervisor's names are included in all reports so families know who their contacts are. A warm hand off meeting takes place before disposition so social worker providing FM/FR services has knowledge of case plan and all pertinent issues in the case. Adoptions worker work concurrently with FM/FR SW around family finding.

Safety Organized Practice (SOP) – Entire county attended 10 week SOP training program. SOP implementation has been successful in SLO in helping workers engage families. SOP language and jargon is just beginning to spread to community partners and providers.

TDMs – Full Use of TDMs, TDMs for 30 trial visits, helps put together good transition plans, etc.

WRAP – Full use of WRAP services to help keep children out of high level of care and return home quicker.

TULARE:

Family Engagement Staffing – A meeting that takes place for a family a few days after the Juris/Disposition hearing has been established to help empower and engage parents going through reunification process. Meeting consists of the family, CWS manager, CWS nurse, AOD rep, & CASA worker to discuss additional services that may be helpful for family.

Structured Decision Making (SDM) – Utilization of SDM tool at detention and right before reunification has been a helpful process.

TDM - 60 days before reunification or before 12 month review a TDM takes place to help with transitioning children back to home; a representative from family resource center is invited to the meeting to help with any possible reunification barriers for a successful reunification process.

Resource Center Referrals – SW submits referrals to FRC for services for families including child care, transportation, etc. to foster reunification process. Supervisors &management meet with FRCs quarterly to discuss potential families who can benefit from Resource Center services and/or services that have been offered to.

MOUs - County has MOUs with FFAs to transport children for visits.

Placement Unit – Workers assigned to search and identify placement for child or children.

Additional Staffing - County recently implemented additional staffing to engage families to support successful reunifications.

SAN JOAQUIN:

Streamline Court Process – Instead of filing a 388 for any changes in case plan, SW will contact parents to discuss changes (i.e., if parents are sober, they want to live together and no child is involved) SW will notify attorneys involved in the case of changes to circumstances, notify

attorney that SW will be putting it on calendar for court, a date is set on calendar (this takes place within a day or two), SW will then get feedback from attorneys, put it on calendar, SW explain to judge as to why request is being made , an informal process takes place and if no objections by attorneys, a minute order is issued without a formal hearing or additional paper work. For example, if a child needs Psychotropic Medication, the JV 220 process does not require everyone to go to court as long as the entire packet is filled out, attorneys are notified, and there are no objections. The completed packet goes to judge, the judge signs it and he issues the orders.

Dependency Drug Court – 1 year program. This process adds a layer of support and monitoring and accountability for clients. This process is successful because Drug Court judge is the same as the Dependency Court judge so they know who clients are and the progress that they are making. Clients also agree and buy into process. Drug Court social worker is assigned to the court and is the link between clients, AOD services, Courts, and CWS.

VENTURA:

County is very strength based and family oriented messages, community partners know the county to be very strength based.

Therapeutic Visitation Center – New visitation enter to be opened in the evenings and weekends. A clinician will be assigned to each family. The visits will be visits but very therapeutic. County is part of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) and the visitation center is part of the initiative.

TDMs – started TDMs again to help improve reunifications.

MADERA:

Meetings with County Counsel - SW meets with County Counsel once a week to discuss cases heard the following week to prevent continuances.

TDMs - Families and support systems and service providers are all invited to TDM.

Safety Organized Practice (SOP) –SOP scaling question is used in the staffings to determine parents' readiness or progress in reunification process. For example, in determining parents readiness for a child to be returned home, SW would ask parents "On a scale of 1-10, how ready are you for your children to return home", if they're at a 3, "what will it take for you to get to a 4".

Probation Peer Recommendations 3/14/14

RIVERSIDE/SAN LUIS OBISPO/SONOMA

Court Officer (All 3 Counties) – County Probation Officers do not have to go to court for their own cases; each county has a designated "Court Officer" who goes to court for any and all court matters (i.e. AB12, Placement, Probation, etc.).

Cases with No Teeth (Riverside) - For cases that POs feel they do not have any *teeth* in getting parents comply with case plan, the Probation Officer will ask judge to order parents to participate in programs and reflected in the minute order (i.e. Judge will order the parent to participate in a 10 week Parenting Program or to continue participating in substance abuse program, etc.).

Case Plans (All 3 Counties) – All case plans are developed in collaboration with the parent(s) to discuss strengths and weakness and more importantly to get parents' buy in. Monthly visits are made with parent(s) to discuss case plan components and progress; concurrent planning should take place at initial intake if possible, if not, concurrent planning is discussed with family during monthly visits and included in case plan as soon as possible. Case Plan is a living document to be updated as needed.

Face to Face Contacts (All 3 Counties) – All face to face contacts MUST be made with minor and parent every month. (SLO) If 2 parents not living together, both parents must still be visited face to face monthly. (Riverside) If 2 parents not living together, face to face visits with each parent can be alternated every other month followed by a phone call to the other parent who does not get the f/f visit. (Riverside) If Incarcerated Parent(s) is the only viable source for minor, PO will make visits to jail or prison if necessary, if not, phone calls are made.

Placement Orientation- (Riverside) before minor goes into placement, a team meets with the minor and parents as a group in the evening to discuss expectations of all parties (PO, minor, parent, & group home). (SLO) Immediately after order of placement, Placement Supervisor conducts placement orientation if possible, if not, supervisor schedules meeting with minor and parent(s) to discuss case plan & solidify concurrent plan.

Caseload Size- (All 3 counties) currently around 20 per PO

Monthly Case Conferences w/ Supervisor (SLO) – Monthly meetings between PO and supervisor to case review and help PO assess any potential barriers that may prevent reunification from taking place.

Parenting Classes (Riverside) - Probation Officers are sent out to be certified by the Parent Project to teach the 10 weeks Parenting Classes. PO will get overtime pay to offer classes in the evening. Priority is given to placement parents. Classes are closed-ended. (Placer) Parents set up their own support group with the help of PO finding meeting space, being available to unlock & lock meeting rooms.

Outcome Data Measures

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. The percent change indicated in the outcomes to follow represents the percent change over 5 years.

All of the 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

Safety

S1.1 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, 90.2% 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	1,081	1,198	90.2%	↓	-2.3%

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, 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 decreased from 92.3% to 90.2%.

Children under 1 (88.4%); 1-2 years (84.7%), and African-American children (75%) are less likely to avoid a subsequent substantiated maltreatment allegation within the next 6 months.

Current performance is below both the Federal Standard (94.6%) and the CA statewide performance (93.4%).

Stakeholders' Discussion:

Agency policy and supervision requiring documentation of monthly face to face visits, in placement, primary reliance on FFAs which include another level of support for foster parents and attention to the needs and safety of children and youth has established a firm infrastructure for safe placements. Foster parents report that there is regular communication with social workers, that they receive training, and feel that the agency is responsive to their needs and that their input is solicited by social workers, communicated to the court, and included in the ongoing assessment and planning for the children in their care.

ANALYSIS-CWS

Safety continues to be the top priority for Stanislaus County child protection. At the same time, Child and Family Services have been challenged by severe budget reductions over the past 5 years which negatively impacted both internal capacity and the community resources for parents. With gradual restoration of the budget over the past two years we expect to be able to restructure in ways that will restore some or all of the supports that had been in place for our families. In addition to requiring ongoing and specialized training, the agency is committed to maintaining caseloads and supervision levels that support regular and frequent interaction between the social worker, every child in care and with the caretakers. Social worker attrition has been a challenge in Stanislaus County. Having a more stable social worker workforce would allow for consistent supervision and prevent the need to transition families among social workers. When a transition is needed, having a fully staffed workforce allows staff to devote time to more fully staff case concerns between social workers. Monthly case review where noted during the peer report as a significant asset to ensuring child safety.

Since the last approved System improvement plan in 2010, Stanislaus County has seen a change in the Child Welfare caseload population. There was an 2.30% increase in the number of allegations reported to the Emergency Response Hotline. Children entering foster care has increased 42.5% while the foster care exits decreased by 14.3%. (Needell. B. et al., Child Welfare Services Report for California. Retrieved 8-7-14, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services research website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

Further evidence of this change is a shift upwards of 38% in the Family Maintenance caseload and a percentage change in the Supervised Foster caseload of 29% since 2011. Since then we have been able to add back staff positions, however the staff attrition rate has created an unstable work force making it challenging for initiatives to take hold. Staff have left for other positions in and out of the county, to other child welfare agencies, and other industries as well as there have been multiple losses of line staff due to promotions.

The attrition experienced in Stanislaus County included social workers considered seasoned and very experienced social workers. While our budget situation in child welfare has improved significantly due to state realignment of child welfare funding, we have struggled to reach the funded staffing levels. Although we have many applicants to screen and interview, a large number of them decline the offer and/or resign shortly after starting in order to accept a child welfare position in a county nearer their home. Competition with our peer counties for Title IVE and other trained social workers has resulted in significant attrition and a struggle to recruit qualified candidates. Our county continues to experience a 5% pay reduction which renders us less competitive with our peer counties who do not either have reductions and/or offer a more competitive wage.

S2.1 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 (99.89%) 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	877	878	99.89	↑	+.3

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, the percentage of children who were in -out-of home care that were not victims of substantiated maltreatment showed slight improvement (99.59% vs.99.89%)

Current performance is above the Federal Standard (99.68%) as well as the statewide performance (99.67%).

⇒ ***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	130	130	100.0%	=	0%

From the baseline ending September 30, 2008, 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:

Regarding foster parents who had children in their care who were dependents of the court, those stakeholders reported that they generally feel included in the planning for the youth in their care and have good communication with social workers who are accessible and regularly visit. There was agreement that they would benefit from more child specific information both when the child is placed and during the placement, and would benefit from more training. Many of the foster parents who participated were very experienced. There was a sentiment among the experienced foster parents that the problems of the children coming into care have become more complex over the past 5 years and it was recommended that more specialized training be provided to all foster parents. The turnover in social workers was described as

challenging for some foster parents, especially when information was not exchanged. Biological parents described their interaction with foster parents generally as positive and described many instances of strong relationships and additional guidance and support coming from the foster parents.

ANALYSIS –CWS

Although performance continues to be above the national standard and has improved from the previous high standard, foster parents are impacted by the turnover and high caseloads in the agency. Improving communication around resources and when social workers change is required to maintain this level of performance and protection for youth in foster care. High turnover, losing experienced social workers, and the requirements of training, supervision, and data reporting directly impacts the capacity to provide the type and quality of support that foster parents require especially in difficult cases.

ANALYSIS –PROBATION

Probation placements are largely in group home or high level structured facilities out of county. These structured placements as well as the ongoing and direct contact with probation officers help ensure that youth are kept safe from abuse. The emphasis by Probation Administration on monthly 1:1 visits between the youth and probation officer and helping family members maintain contact with the youth while the youth is in placement adds another layer of communication and information gathering that helps the probation officer better supervise the placement.

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, 95.7% 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	221	231	95.7	↓	-4.3%

From the baseline of July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008, the percentage of children that received a child abuse/neglect immediate in person response decreased from 100% to 95.7%.

Current performance is above the CA State Standard (90%) but is below the CA statewide performance (98.0%)

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

From July 1, 2013- September 30, 2013, 87.3% 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	528	597	88.4	↓	-4.4%

From the baseline of July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008, the percentage of children that received a child abuse/neglect immediate in person response in a timely manner was 92.5%

Current performance is below the CA State Standard (90%) as well as the statewide performance (94.8%)

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION:

ANALYSIS

The past five years of population growth in Stanislaus County coupled with economic downturn, including a high home foreclosure rate, has significantly impacted the agency's capacity to meet these two outcomes (and many of the others below) and meet the needs of families in our County. The County is under a hiring freeze. The past five years have seen high turnover among social workers, assigning caseloads to new social workers who may or may not have completed CORE, frequent social worker reassignment, revolving and larger caseloads, a lower level of case supervision, inexperienced social workers, and persistent challenges in providing important in-service training.

2F: SAFETY OUTCOME MEASURES- TIMELY MONTHLY CASEWORKER VISITS WITH CHILD (OUT OF HOME)

This measure calculates the percentage of children in placement who are visited by caseworkers. Each child in placement for an entire month must be visited at least once. The reports summarize monthly data by 12-month periods.

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

For CWS: during the 10/2012-09/2013 period, we had a 92.3% compliance rate on timeliness of monthly social worker VISITS.

For the 10/2012-09/2013 time period, we had a 79.6% compliance rate on timeliness of monthly social worker visits IN RESIDENCE.

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent performance Visited	Most recent performance In Residence	Direction?	Percent change
10/2012	09/2013	*	79.6%	↑	+23.4%
10/2012	09/2013	92.3%	*	↑	+5.7%

From the baseline of 10/2007-09/2008, the percentage of children that received a timely monthly social worker visit increased from 87.3% to 92.3%.

From the baseline of 10/2007-09/2008, the percentage of children that received a timely monthly social worker visit IN RESIDENCE increased from 64.5% to 79.6%.

Current performance for children VISITED timely has improved and slightly exceeds the Federal Standard (90%) and is slightly below the CA statewide performance (94%).

Current performance for children contacted in RESIDENCE has improved and greatly exceeds the Federal Standard (50%) and slightly exceeds the CA statewide performance (77%).

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION:

CWS stakeholders reported that instituting a number of internal accountability practices had improved the timeliness of monthly social worker visits and monthly in residence visits. On a quarterly basis, supervisors select random cases to review and the supervisor will contact parents, children and foster parents. Foster parents and focus group youth confirmed the accessibility of their social workers and frequent contacts and visits in residence.

For Probation: For the 10/2012-09/2013 time period, we had a compliance rate of 86.3% of timely monthly visits by our Probation Officers. (No data was required for the previous comparison period of Probation Departments.)*

Most recent start date	Most recent end date	Most recent numerator	Most recent denominator	Direction?	Percent change
10/2012	09/2013	659	784	↑	86.3%*

ANALYSIS – CWS

Despite the serious challenges to agency operation over the past five years, the agency has made social worker visits directly with the youth and with the youth in placement a priority which has been reinforced in policy and through supervision. Our significant and regular improvement over the past five years, especially with visiting the youth in his/her residence, is reflected in the data showing that performance exceeds both the federal and state standard. Although the agency has improved in timely monthly visit and slightly exceeds the federal standard, we are committed to meeting state performance for each child. The critical importance of direct 1:1 contact between the social worker and the youth is reinforced in policy, case review and supervision.

Analysis – Probation

Probation is committed to active interaction with youth under supervision, including monthly personal meetings with the youth while in placement including placements out of county; Probation Officers keep in contact with youth placed outside of California through telephone

calls, regular communication with program staff, use of skype, and periodic personal visits by the probation officer.

PERMANENCY:

REUNIFICATION OUTCOMES: **ANALYSIS OF OUTCOMES (C1.1-C1.3) FOLLOW C1.3**

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? (Permanency Measure C1.1 reunification within 12 months was the focus area of the stakeholder focus groups in 2013. 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, 60% 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	73	119	61.3%	↓	-9%

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, 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 67.4% to 61.3%.

Children ages 3-5 (40%), White children (41.3%), and those children who were in a Kinship Placement (47.2%) were less likely to reunify in less than 12 months of their first out of home placement.

Current performance is below the Federal Standard (75.2%) as well as the statewide performance (63.9%).

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

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 16.7% 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
010/01/12	09/30/13	2	12	16.7%	No	83.0%

From the baseline ending September 30, 2008, the percentage of children who were discharged from foster care to reunification has decreased from 25% to 16.7%.

Current performance is below 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, 8.8 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	119	8.8 months	=	0 months

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, the median time to reunification of children who discharged from foster care to reunification has remained stable and has not changed.

Children ages 3-5 (12.5 months), White children (12.5 months), and those children in a Kinship Placement (12.5 months) who discharged from foster care to reunification during the year experiencing the longest median time to reunification. Additionally, Black children who are in Kinship placements experienced the longest median time to reunification (17.1 months).

Current performance is below the Federal Standard of 5.4 months and below the statewide performance (8.5 months).

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

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 19.2 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	12	19.2 months	↓	-3.5 months

From the baseline of September 30, 2008, the median time to reunification of children who discharged from foster care to reunification has decreased from 19.9 months to 19.2 months.

Current performance is above the statewide performance (9.7 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, 14.5% 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	17	117	14.5%	↓	-69.9

From the baseline of April 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007, there has been decrease from 47.7% of children to 14.5% of children discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months.

Children 0-3 (average 9.5%), White children (7.8%), and those children in Kinship Placement (4.2%) that exited foster care between 4/01/12 and 9/30/12 were least likely to exit to reunification within 12 months from the date of first removal.

Current performance is below both the Federal Standard (48.4%) and the statewide performance (38.1%).

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

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, 6.7% 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	1	15	6.7%	↓	-79.9%

From the baseline of April 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007, there has been decrease from 33.3% of children to 6.7% of children discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months. Current performance is below both the Federal Standard (48.4%) and the statewide performance (34.9%).

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION

At the Countywide Stakeholders meeting on April 22, 2014, stakeholders agreed that the dismantling of the Families in Partnership, intensive treatment program, has produced an increase in the number of children entering the child welfare system and more children in placement. WRAP, mental health services (especially for parents with dual diagnosis), and AOD services have decreased, including the number of residential treatment beds. It is important to evaluate the resources available across the County to address the different needs/resources for each city in the County. Poverty impacts the capacity of parents to access the services necessary to complete their treatment plans and establish a stable home for reunification

Youth in foster care stressed the importance of the relationship of the social worker to their parents in encouraging and facilitating their parents accessing services and fully understanding the impact of their actions on their family. Foster care should help parents with the cost of transportation, paying for their classes and paying for family counseling. Youth wanted more participation in their team meetings, believing that they had important information that could help the social workers identify the services that would make a difference to their parents. WRAP services were cited by some of the youth in helping to improve communication within the family to encourage more investment in reunification by parents and youth.

Regarding probation, parents in the focus group commended the probation officers for good communication, setting clear expectations for children and parents, and being strong advocates for them and their children. Probation officers were described as trying many different strategies, e.g., electronic monitoring, house arrest, intensive supervision, group homes, out of state placement, "whatever the youth needs". Having frequent contact with the youth and building relationships was noted by some parents as characteristic of the probation officers who had worked with their family. Stakeholder parents agreed that exit planning needed to be strengthened. Some parents expressed that they were unaware of an exit strategy, had not been involved and did not understand when the youth was expected to return home. Inadequate extracurricular activities for youth generally and for Spanish-speaking youth specifically, lack of community counseling for youth to help them avoid using drugs or alcohol, and community mental health for youth and families were all mentioned as contributing to delinquency and undermining successful reunification. Parents agreed that the County should establish Youth Centers that would provide activities and services specifically for children and youth that were safe. Parents wanted exit plans that included a structured aftercare program, with counseling and monthly monitoring.

ANALYSIS- CWS

Regarding the reunification outcomes, the inability of our agency to maintain stable and full staffing compounded by the economic downturn in the past 8 years has impacted our efforts to improve agency performance in reunifying families. The role of the court in determining permanency has impacted these outcomes. Court reports require additional and detailed information (e.g., Katie A, educational wellbeing), delays in disposition, multiple continuances, and more contested hearings result in delayed permanency which extends the time that children are in care before reunification. Challenges with large caseloads (av. 35), turnover and

assignment transfers disrupts the normal process of seeking and engaging relatives who might be available for placement which could impact timely reunification. Access and utilization of services for parents and youth also contributes to delays in reunification in cases generally and especially, in complex cases. Resources for parents seeking treatment for alcohol or drug abuse have shrunk during the past five years, including a reduction of a clean and sober living treatment program, decrease in number of residential treatment beds, dismantling of the Families in Partnership intensive treatment program, reduced mental health services for youth, lack of integrated services for parents and youth with dual diagnosis, inadequate range of services for Spanish-speaking parents, and limited resources for youth with disabilities.

In 2010, when our System Improvement Plan was developed, 69.2% of children who exited to reunification did so within 12 months. In the most recent data extract (October 2013, data extract Q2 2013, 10/01/12 – 09/30/13), our performance on the federal measure was 60%. Analysis of the data by age showed that reunification is best for children under 1 year of age who reunify within 12 months 100%. Our performance is above the National Standard (75.2%) for children 1 – 2 years of age with a performance of 57.1%. We surpass the national standard for children 16 – 17 years of age with a reunification within 12 month rate of 87.5% (a 44.6% increase). Our greatest area of challenge to timely reunification on this measure is children 3 – 5 years of age (38.7%), 6-10 years of age (65.4%) [a 29% increase however]), and 11 – 15 years of age (63.6%).

Review of the entry cohort measures reunification within 12 months for children who entered foster care for the first time (October 2013, data extract Q2 2013, 04/01/12 – 09/30/12), shows that only 13.6% of these children reunify within 12 months. This is significantly short of the Goal of 48.4%. Of all children who entered foster care for the first time during 04/01/12 and 09/30/12 that were discharged to reunification within 12 months were in care a median of 77 days (2.5 months) in care before discharging. Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the selected six-month period, that failed to discharge to reunification within 12 months, were in foster care a median of 425 days (14 months).

Although Stanislaus County is not meeting the national standard of at least 48.4% reunifying, the data shows that children in Stanislaus County who do reunify do so very quickly and those who do not do so only 2 months longer than the 12 month period. When one looks deeper at this data and then looks at Stanislaus County's re-entry rate during this time period 7.9% above the national standard by 2%, one can surmise that those children staying 2 months longer in foster care does not adversely affect the rate of reunification and that the extra 2 months of reunification time provides the parents the ability to complete case plan requirements and possibly solidify natural supports that keep them from re-entering the children welfare system.

Regarding reunification within 12 months, having a 10% decline rather than a more significant decline, reflects the commitment within our agency from management to the newest social worker to meet the needs of children and families in Stanislaus County.

Stanislaus County has a strong commitment to providing services to families through preventative pre-placement services prior to removal, therefore, families where children are

removed from the home may be higher risk families with multiple challenges making reunification a longer process

ANALYSIS- PROBATION

Probation has been impacted by many of the same factors as the child protection system in terms of the weakened economy and contracted service delivery system which impacts the capacity of parents to work with probation on reunifying with their children who are under probation supervision and in placement. Youth on probation are generally older (15-17). With the focus on working with youth in the community and engaging parents, those youth who cannot be supervised in the community present an array of needs and risks that require intensive treatment and often placement out of the County. Following best practices and policy, probation officers work very hard to establish good relationships with parents and family members. Providing family and individual counseling, subsidizing transportation for visits, facilitating ongoing communication between the youth and the program counselors with parents are essential components of the exit strategy for each youth in placement. Often however, parents have or have a history of substance abuse, behavioral health issues, or incarceration. In some cases, youth prefer to age out (or participate in AB12) rather than reunifying with their parents and sometimes, parents are not interested in reunifying.

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, 7.9% 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	10	126	7.9%	↑	+2.6%

From the baseline of October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, there has been an increase in the number of children who exited to reunification within the year and re-entered foster care from 7.7% to 7.9%. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (9.9%) as well as the statewide performance standard (12.4%).

Children under 1 (28.6%), 1-2 years old (12.5%), Black children (20%), and White children (11.1%) who exited to reunification during the year 10/01/11-09/30/12 were more likely to re-enter foster care in less than 12 months from the date of the earliest discharge.

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

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	1	12	8.3%	↓	-11.7%

From a baseline of January 1- December 31, 2007, the percentage of youth exiting reunification who reentered foster care within the following 12 month period, was reduced from 20% (2/10) to 8.3 % (1/12) for the comparison period. Current performance exceeds the Federal Standard (9.9%).

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION:

Stakeholders recommended establishing county-private partnership to provide housing and treatment programs that would strengthen child abuse prevention and reduce reentry after reunification. Residential treatment programs that link family reunification with transitional housing and support was identified as one strategy for reducing re-abuse and reentry into foster care. Some parent stakeholders expressed the concern that readiness for reunification was not always accurately assessed. Missing the support system provided by social workers and other professionals as well as the service network when faced with the pressure of a history of substance abuse increased the challenges of returning to fulltime parenting after lengthy separation between the child (children) and parent, who is often a single parent.

Probation parents related successful reunification to strengthening the family and providing direct services to both the parents and youth. "Success doesn't happen until a village is built around a family...it is hard to do that".

ANALYSIS – CWS

Stanislaus County does not have an integrated system of aftercare and child abuse/neglect prevention services for families that successfully reunify. The absence of such a system relates directly to reentry into foster care. Social worker turnover, high caseloads, and transition among social workers may weaken the capacity of the assigned social worker to accurately assess readiness for reunification. Lacking ready linkage to aftercare requires parents to rely on whatever foundation or skills were developed during reunification without ready access to personal supports. In the face of recent years of defunding of programs, this has been particularly challenging for parents. Specifically, case review shows that reentry directly linked to substance abuse and relapse. Inability to maintain stable housing is also a contributor to family instability and in some cases failed reunification, in our County. Despite our efforts to improve our assessment of readiness for reunification and to formulate case plans and services and linkage that would prepare families for successful reintegration, we have not as yet implemented what we consider to be a major component of our plan, full implementation of SDM. The agency began implementing SDM in April 2011. During the fall of 2011, we provided advanced training to our on-going social workers. New staff is trained in SDM use via the academy. Many of these staff has yet to receive advanced SDM training as a result. Our goal for SDM was to use the tools to guide our safety and risk decision-making 90% of the time by

September 2013. Although that goal was not met, we are committed to full implementation of SDM as a means of further reducing the rate of reentry into foster care.

ANALYSIS-PROBATION

Reentry in probation is a combination of factors. For probation, working with the family is a different focus from working in a 1:1 relationship with a youth as a probation officer trying to assess his/her needs and helping the youth learn to make healthy decisions. The fact that the age of youth under supervision had increased over the years has shifted emphasis to some extent so that preparing the youth for adulthood and to function in the community as an adult became more important. The role of the family as a base and network for the youth as a young adult has required more work with the parents and direct assistance to the family.

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

(Outcomes C 2.1-2.3 are analyzed after Outcome C2.3)

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, 62.3% 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	43	69	62.3	↑	5.9%

From the baseline period October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, there has been an increase in the percentage of children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption, from 58.8% to 62.3% Current performance is above the Federal Standard (36.6%) as well as the statewide performance (37.3%).

⇒ ***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.

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 Performonce:***

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 19.1 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.	69	19.1 months	↓	-12.4%

From the baseline period October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, there has been a decrease in median length of an open case of those children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption from 21.8 months to 19.1 months. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (27.3 months) as well as the statewide performance (27.8 months).

ANALYSIS - CWS

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, 22.0% 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	29	132	22.0%	↑	+23.6%

From the baseline period October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, there has been an increase from 17.8% to 22.0% of children in foster care for 17 continuous months being discharged to a finalized adoption. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (22.7%) but above the statewide performance (21%).

STAKEHOLDERS

Within the caregiver stakeholder focus group were many parents who had been foster adoptive parents or who had adopted in the past. In their experience, adoption had been smooth. Adoptive parents had different experience in terms of the amount of support that they received from child welfare, from a "lot of time" to only monthly visits. All participants recognized that the agency was short staffed and that turnover was significant

ANALYSIS-CWS

Performance on the adoption outcomes has been steadily improving over the past five years despite the demands on agency staff caused by the hiring freeze, staff turnover and high caseloads. WRAP services for adoptive parents have made a difference in both the recruitment of adoptive homes and avoiding adoption disruptions. Post adoption agreements with adoptive parents are sometimes used to avoid conflict with biological families and establish formal ways of linking the adopted child with the biological family as appropriate. Increased adoption subsidy based on the child's needs encourages more timely adoption in some cases. Our performance on adoption when a child has been in foster care continuously for 17 months or more has improved more than 20% during the comparison period and we exceed the state standard and are close to meeting the federal standard through diligent efforts to generate more adoptive homes.

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 October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 10.7% 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	13	108	10.7	↑	+28.9%

From the baseline period October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, there has been an increase from 8.3% to 10.7% of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer become legally free within 6 months. Current performance is slightly below the Federal Standard (10.9%) but above the statewide performance (8.7%).

ANALYSIS

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, 100.0% 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	91	91	100.0	↑	16.7%

From the October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007 baseline, there has been an increase from 85.7% to 100.0% 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 significantly above the Federal Standard (53.7%) as well as the statewide performance (64.6%).

ANALYSIS-CWS: SEE C2.1- C2.3 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, 23.2% 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	19	82	23.2%	↑	+53.6%

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to March 30, 2008, there was an increase from 15.1% to 23.2% 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 below the Federal Standard (29.1%) and above the statewide performance of 25.3%.

Analysis – CWS

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 that 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	68	68	100.0	=	0%

Performance from the baseline year of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008 (100%) remained constant through the current period. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (98%) as well as the statewide performance (97.7%).

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION

Although progress has been made, the rate of relative placements remains low. Court stakeholders recommend that the court worker complete the family finding forms with the family while waiting in court. By doing so, the work ofthe placement specialist could be streamlined and they could focus on connecting with the relatives regarding the youth and possible placement, collecting additional information if necessary, and identifying any supports which could be provided.

ANALYSIS-CWS

Over recent years, we have made a broad commitment to identify, locate, and reach out to relatives regarding establishing or renewing connections with youth in care and to explore the possibility of a permanent placement. Although we have made progress, obstacles remain, including generational issues, difficulty in maintaining contact, and improving internal processes around background checks.

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, 31.8% 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	14	44	31.8%	↓	-27.9%

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, 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 decreased from 44.1% to 31.8%. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (37.5%) and below the statewide performance (53%).

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION

Stakeholders generally agreed that the needs of the children remaining in care for multiple years are more complex than in prior years and that the challenges with permanency planning are compounded by the financial and personal challenges faced by the families and extended families of youth in care. Affordable housing remains a serious issue in the County. The willingness of older youth to reunify or agree to a specific placement is also a factor.

ANALYSIS-CWS

Obtaining the correct mental health assessment and establishing a case plan that follows that assessment in our County depends on meeting the medical necessity requirements of the county children system of care, since Katie A. We are working with mental health to clarify the requirements for complying with the requirements of Katie A and obtaining necessary funding for counseling. The inability in some cases to satisfy the 'medical necessity' requirement is an impediment to meeting the needs of youth as they get older and prepared for emancipation. Staff turnover and inexperienced social workers also impacts our capacity to conduct thorough case reviews and locate new resources for permanent placements for older youth.

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, 85.5% 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	343	401	85.5%	↑	1.4%

From the baseline of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, the number of children who had two or fewer placement settings increased from 84.3% to 85.5%. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (86.0%) and below the statewide performance (86.7%).

Black children who are in care for at least 8 days and less than 12 months are least likely to avoid 3 or more placements (74.1%).

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION

Increased support for relatives has made a difference with providing youth with a stable home. The Kinship Center provides services for relatives. Relatives can enroll in the Pride Training which is provided for foster parents but this training is not mandatory and does not include material focusing on the special role of the relative as the caretaker of a related child or youth. Caregivers reported that social workers were generally accessible, responsive to scheduling issues regarding visits with parents and relatives, and visiting regularly. Caregivers also noted that the County was "short staffed" and don't have enough supports and caregivers are often not informed when social workers are changed.

ANALYSIS – CWS

Despite the budget reductions of the past five years, through diligent effort, social workers have steadily improved placement stability. Policy, procedure and ongoing training reinforces the importance of stability in placement after children have been removed from their home and family. Although agency personnel work very hard to find the best placement first, under the circumstances of removal, this is not always possible. However, we have been able to maintain a high level of placement match and placement stability after the initial placement and are very close to meeting both federal and state performance measures. The agency is also committed to identifying and recruiting relatives and providing specialized support for relative placements. The agency uses Family Finding tools to locate relatives but as of yet, we have not had the capacity to make these efforts ongoing rather than primarily at ER or when a placement change occurs. We foresee a continuation of the improved performance in this are due to the fact that we are implementing Katie A. deliverables that are ensuring we are systematically assessing the mental health needs of all children in an open child welfare case. When staffing has stabilized, Stanislaus County intends to reinstate Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings to make removal and placement decisions.

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 that 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, 67.2% 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	166	249	66.7%	↑	28%

From the baseline, October 1, 2007 – 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 52% to 66.7%. Current performance is above the Federal Standard (65.4%) and slightly below the statewide performance (68.4%).

Those children in foster care who were in care between 12 and 24 months who were in a Foster Family Agency placement (58.1%) were more likely to experience more than two placement changes. Sixty-one percent of the White children followed by Hispanic children (67.4%) in foster care between 12 and 24 avoided 3 or more placement changes-below the federal standard. The children in the following age groups 6-10 (62.5%) and 11-15 (56.1%) fall below the federal standard on avoiding 3 or more placement changes.

ANALYSIS – CWS

Significant improvement in placement stability for children in care between 12 and 24 months is an extension of the efforts in the initial phases of the cases to identify and support the best possible placement for each child. Universal, early assessment helps social workers generate a more tailored case plan, improves our monthly case reviews and helps treatment teams put supports in place that avoid or minimize placement disruption.

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 that were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

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

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 31.0% 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	53	171	31.0	↓	-4%

From the baseline, 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 decreased from 32.3% to 31.0%. Current performance is below the Federal Standard (41.8%) and the statewide performance (37.5%).

Those children who were in a Foster Family Agency placement (13.5%) or a Kinship placement (33.3%) and were in foster care at least 24 months were more likely to experience more than 2 placement moves then the rest of the foster care population. The ethnic groups of children in foster care at least 24 months that appear to be adversely affected by placement changes are: Black (15.4), Hispanic (33.3%), and White (35.1%)-all of which are below the federal standard. Those youth in foster care for at least 24 months and were in the 16-17 (15.8%) and 11-15 (25%) age groups are least likely to avoid 3 or more placement changes.

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

From October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, 44.1% of all children in foster care under juvenile probation supervision who 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	15	34	44.1%	↑	+267.5%

From a baseline of September 30, 2008, the percentage of children in foster care during the year who had been in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placements increased from 12% to 44.1% (above the federal standard)

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION:

For youth participating in the probation focus group, feeling that they had a meaningful relationship with their probation officer was key to their capacity to participate in programs and maintain emotional stability.

Other stakeholders noted that "Teens will test boundaries" and that providing foster parents with specific training about teens would equip foster parents to cope with teens who push boundaries rather than demanding that the youth be removed. Stakeholders stressed that youth in foster care confront the same stresses and developmental adjustments as youth not in foster care and need understanding not another experience of abandonment. Service provider stakeholders reported that Stanislaus County lacks AOD services for youth and has no AOD program that will accept Medi-Cal for youth AOD.

ANALYSIS – CWS

Performance for those children/youth that have been in care for 24 months or more continue to present challenges to the agency. Social worker attrition and high caseloads make it difficult to establish and maintain relationships with youth who have been in care for an extended period of time. Placements either in foster homes or relative homes do not always have the capacity to meet the changing developmental needs of youth, including sibling group placements. Caseload reassignments reduce familiarity with the youth and the family which reduces the new social workers' capacity to problem solve. This is particularly true in situations where a 7 day notice has been submitted and a new placement must be located. Additionally,

youth who have been in care for 24 months or more, typically suffer the most with emotional and mental health issues, behavioral problems and locating a permanent home is especially challenging. Our continued effort with our "3015" program, which pairs mental health clinicians with social workers to stabilize children in or at risk of group home placement, is a tremendous asset to our county.

ANALYSIS – PROBATION

Improvement on this outcome is due to a number of factors including more emphasis on relationship building with the youth, monthly visits, and supporting family connections and interaction. The requirement that placement be in the least restrictive alternative has reinforced our efforts to find relatives before a referral for placement is made. Although Probation does not have a formal family finding capacity, at intake a relative notification form is completed by the youth asking which relatives he/she might be able to live with for a limited period of time. Due to the requirement that placement meet the needs of youth, our youth who are older (15-17) and often present with high risk factors including dual diagnosis, sexual offenses, and personality disorders are primarily placed in therapeutic settings or group homes. Where the needs of the youth require placement in such structured settings out of county, youth supported by probation officers in maintaining connection with their family. The Probation Officer offers SKYPE as a way to assist with reunification between the minor and family. In many cases the Probation Officer encourages the family to participate in family counseling to help prepare for return home or discharge. Furthermore the Probation Officer will provide a referral to WRAP services to facilitate successful transition home.

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

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

⇒ ***County's Current Performance:***

On October 1, 2013, 56.3%% 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	282	501	56.3%	↓	-4%

From the baseline of October 1, 2008, the percentage of siblings in out-of-home care that are placed together has decreased from 58.5% to 56.3%.

There are no Federal Standards for this outcome at this time. The state performance is 52.3%, we are performing at the statewide level.

Asian/Pacific Islander children are most likely (N=7) to be placed with all siblings (87.5%) followed by Hispanic (59.8%), White (58.8%), and Black (54.8%) children.

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, 76.4% 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	383	501	76.4%	↑	+1.6%

From the baseline of October 1, 2008, the percentage of siblings in out-of-home care that are placed some or all of their siblings increased slightly from 75.2% to 76.4%.

There are no Federal Standards for this outcome at this time. The state performance is 72.3%; we are performing above the statewide level.

Native American children (N=2) are most likely to be placed with some of their siblings (40%) followed by Black (23.8%), White (15.3%), and Hispanic (14.6%) children.

ANALYSIS – CWS

Stanislaus County maintains a strong value on placing siblings together. That, and good communication with foster parents and increased relative outreach, we have continued our steady progress towards placing all siblings together. Although we exceed the state performance standard, increasing numbers of youth and older youth entering CWS present problems and service needs that require specialized therapeutic placements which can result in separation from siblings. Other factors impacting sibling placement include siblings entering care at different times; siblings with different fathers placed in different relative homes; and, behavioral challenges such as school truancy, drug and alcohol use, mental health issues, and frequent runaway.

Even in these cases, our social workers directly and with the assistance of foster parents and providers, make every effort to arrange visits, family gatherings and regular personal communication. Reports to the court include a summary of our efforts to maintain sibling connections.

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

Point in time placement: As of October 1, 2013, 804 children/youth were in placement by Stanislaus County.

Kinship		Foster		FFA		Group		Guardian/ Dependent		Guardian /other		Other		Runaway	
N 804	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
131	16.3	69	8.6	273	33.9	25	3.1	4	.5	143	17.8	14	1.7	12	1.5
CALIF															
	35.5		9.1		25.8		6.2		2.6		8.7		1.5		1.3

Point in time placement: As of October 1, 2008, 582 children/youth were in placement by Stanislaus County.

Kinship		Foster		FFA		Group		Guardian/ dependent		Guardian /other		Other		Runaway	
N 582	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
135	23.2	74	12.7	149	25.6	21	3.6	17	2.9	113	19.4	17	2.9	7	1.2
CALIF															
	33.5		9.8		27.3		7.0		5.6		7.7		1.3		1.6

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

Point in time placement: As of October 1, 2013, 81 children/youth were in placement by Stanislaus County.

Kinship		Foster		FFA		Group		Non – Foster care		Other		Runaway	
N 81	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	1.2	0	0	0	0	51	63	12	14.8	4	4.9	6	7.4
CALIF													
	4.8		.2		1.0		51.7		6.3		12.4		12.0

Point in time placement: As of October 1, 2008, 51 children/youth were in placement by Stanislaus County.

Kinship		Foster		FFA		Group		Non – Foster care		Other		Runaway	
N 51	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	2.0	0	0	0	0	35	68.6	0	0	2	3.9	13	25.5
CALIF													
	2.4		.8		1.2		53.0		.1		25.6		13.5

STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION

ANALYSIS – CWS

The percentage increase in the number of children in each placement category approximates the increase in the total number of children in foster care over the five year comparison period (582 v 804) with the exception of the expanded reliance on FFAs (273 v 149) and the decreased number of foster home placements. Over one third of the children and youth are placed with FFAs currently in contrast to 25.6% in 2008 and 8.6% vs. 12.7% are placed in county foster homes. The percentage of relative placements slightly decreased over that period but such data is reliant primarily on the circumstances of the individual cases. Social workers make every effort to locate, notice and engage relatives and we work to diligently process the necessary background checks.

ANALYSIS – PROBATION

The number of youth in foster care under probation supervision from 51 to 81 over this period. Because of our efforts to use the least restrictive alternative, those youth who must be placed out of home generally high risk and often with serious developmental issues and substance abuse and/or gang history. Finding the appropriate services and program for these youth requires a structured setting such as group homes. With the exception of placement with kin, the current placement distribution is consistent with statewide data.

WELL BEING:

The wellbeing 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 SA: Health and Education Passport

Percent of children entering foster care that has an initiated health passport (health record).

Data: Has Passport Services – 92.5%

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

We continue to improve in initiating health passports for each child entering foster care; reduction in support staff and turnover is an ongoing impediment.

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 – 434/500 (86.8%)

5B (2) Dental Exams – 142/360 (39.4%)

ANALYSIS - CWS

Since the previous CSA, we have worked diligently with our foster parents and specifically our relative caregivers to make sure that all exams are current, that each of the exams/appointments is properly scheduled including follow-up exams and documented. Likewise, we continue to need improvement with data entry and provide additional support for our social workers as needed.

Measure 5F: Psychotropic Authorization (7/01/13-9/30/13)

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 81/717 (11.3%)

ANALYSIS – CWS

The Stanislaus County Juvenile Court Judges are diligent in their oversight of applications for psychotropic authorizations and the stress the importance of trying alternative interventions. As a result, the percentage of children who are receiving psychotropic medications in Stanislaus County is much lower than in other counties and only slightly above the rate reported in our 2010 CSA (10.2%)

6B INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

ANALYSIS

The prior CSA (2010) reported that 5.4% of the children in foster care had current IEPs. We were not satisfied with the accuracy of the data being entered into CWS/CMS for this outcome. The educational liaison which our agency has contracted with since that time has been of significant help to our social workers in obtaining needed information from schools and improving communication overall between our agency and the schools.

Current reported data indicates that only 41/609 children and youth in foster care had an IEP (6%)

8A Emancipation: (7/1/13 to 9/30/13)

Completed High School or equivalency: 1/6 - 16.7%

Obtained Employment: 1/6 – 16.7%

Have Housing Arrangements: 5/6 – 83.3%

Received ILLP Services: 3/6 – 50%

Permanency Connection with an Adult: 6/6 100%

Education:

ILP graduation data May 2013

32 youth graduated from ILP

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013	CWS	Probation	Total
Number of youth emancipated	3	0	
High school graduation or equivalency	0	0	
Percentage	0%		

4E ICWA & Multi-Ethnic Placement Status

Analysis

As of January 1, 2013,point in time, there was one ICWA eligible child. (Needell, B., & Webster, et. al. (2014). *CCWIP reports.* Retrieved 7/25/2014, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)

8A Completed High School Equivalency

Analysis

In the 2010 CSA, 60% of the youth reported had completed high school or equivalency. During the current CSA reporting period, one of the six eligible youth had either completed high school or equivalency. The data collection period may skew the data. With the addition of an education liaison in the agency and the newly passed state statutes regarding partial credits and adjusted graduation requirements for youth transferring schools in the 11th or 12th grades, we expect that we will be able to ensure that all youth graduate from high school or equivalency in future years.

8A Obtained Employment

Analysis

40% of all youth had employment at emancipation in the 2010 CSA data, as of the current data collection period only 16.7% (1/6) had employment. Finding employment for young people is always challenging and we anticipate that as the economy continues to grow that more employment will be available to youth leaving foster care as well.

8A Housing Arrangements

Analysis

Almost all youth had housing arrangements as reported in the prior CSA (93%), only slightly fewer (83%) had arranged for their housing during the data collection period for this report. This decrease likely reflects a specific case and may have resolved at the time this report is written. Housing is an essential part of our transition planning and with expanding After 18 resources, more resources are available during transitions as well.

8A Received ILP Services

Analysis

During the 2010 CSA reporting, 93% of all eligible youth completed ILP. The small number of eligible youth during the current reporting period colors the data. Our ILP and social workers collaborate closely on implementing transition plans and specifically, encouraging participation by each youth in ILP.

8A Permanency Connection with an Adult

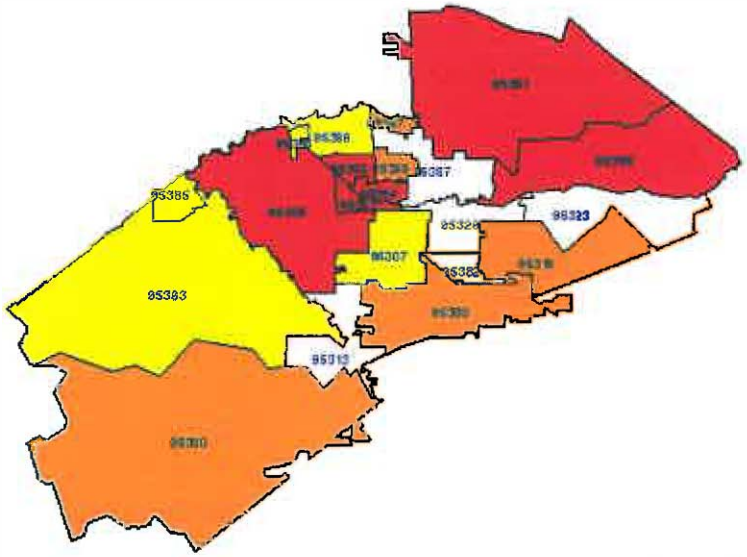
Analysis

As reported in the 2010 CSA, 100% of all youth had a permanency connection with at least one adult during the reporting period for our current CSA. Diligent work by our social workers and the attention of the court to youth approaching emancipation reinforced the mandate that all youth leave care with a lifelong or permanent connection to at least one adult.

Graphic for Page 11-12, Population Table #1.

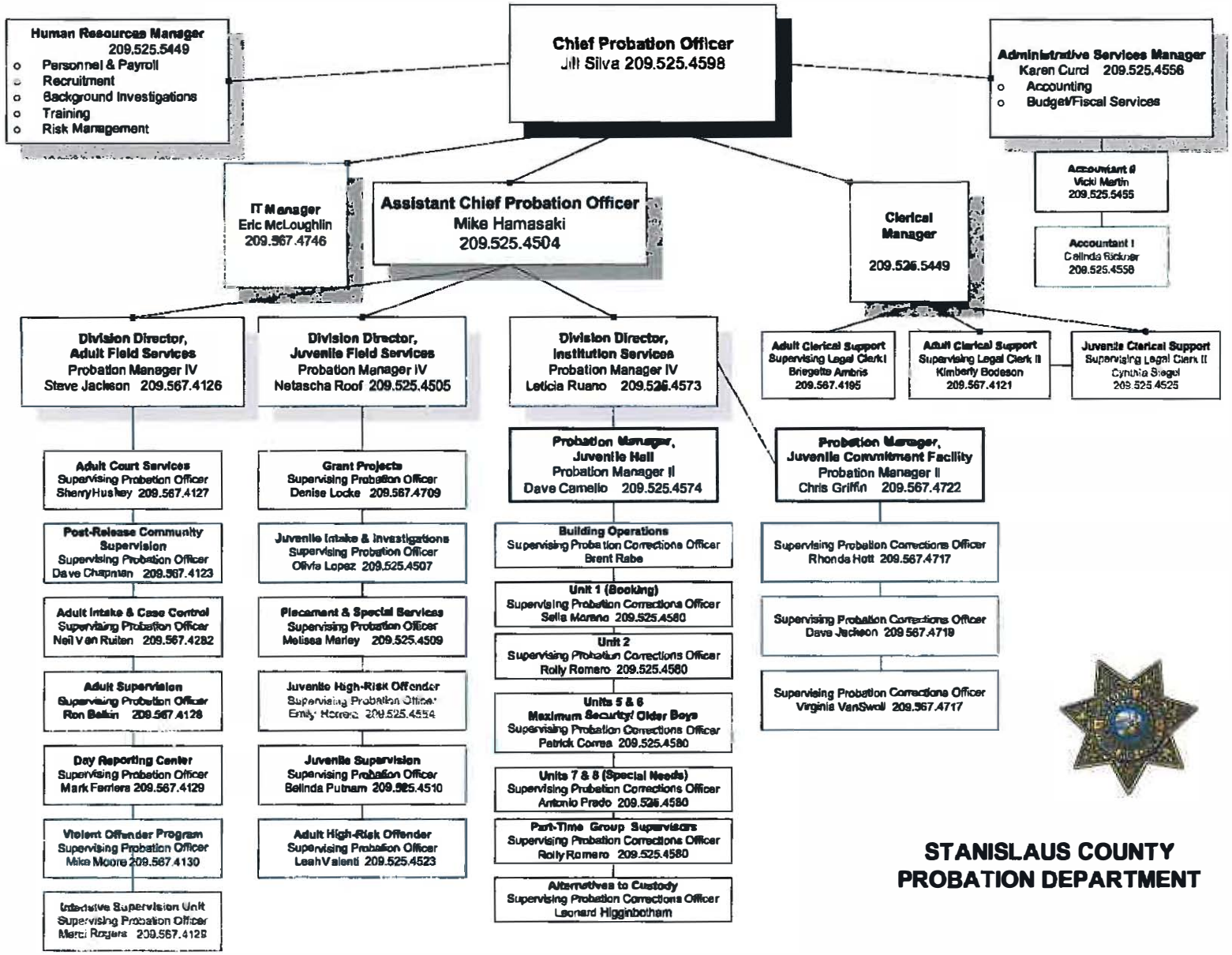
California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) at University of California Berkeley

Children age 0 to 17, with an Allegation of Maltreatment: Incidence Rates per 1,000
Ethnic Group: All
Agency Type=Child Welfare
Stanislaus
Jan 1, 2013 to Dec 31, 2013



Incidence per 1,000 children | 0–24th percentile | 25th–49th percentile | 50th–74th percentile | 75th–100th percentile

Based on unduplicated count of children with one or more allegations during time period
Data Source: CWS/CMS 2014 Quarter 1 Extract
Population Data Source: Claritas Inc. population projections (based on the 2000 U.S. Census)
Program version: 1.00 Database version: 666EEB4A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Jill Silva 209.525.4598
Human Resources Manager
209.525.5449
Personnel & Payroll
Recruitment
Background Investigations
Training
Risk Management
Administrative Services Manager
Karen Curci 209.525.4556
Accounting
Budget/Fiscal Services
Accountant II
Vicki Martin
209.525.5455
Accountant I
Celinda Eckner
209.525.4558
IT Manager
Eric McLoughlin
209.567.4746
Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Mike Hamasaki
209.525.4504
Clerical Manager
209.526.5449
Adult Clerical Support
Supervising Legal Clerk I
Briegette Ambris
209.567.4195
Adult Clerical Support
Supervising Legal Clerk II
Kimberly Bodeson
209.567.4121
Juvenile Clerical Support
Supervising Legal Clerk II
Cynthia Siegel
209.525.4525
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Adult Field Services
Probation Manager IV
Steve Jackson 209.567.4126
Adult Court Services
Supervising Probation Officer
Sherry Husley 209.567.4127
Post-Release Community Supervision
Supervising Probation Officer
Dave Chapman 209.567.4123
Adult Intake & Case Control
Supervising Probation Officer
Neil Van Ruiten 209.567.4282
Adult Supervision
Supervising Probation Officer
Ron Belkin 209.567.4128
Day Reporting Center
Supervising Probation Officer
Mark Ferriera 209.567.4129
Violent Offender Program
Supervising Probation Officer
Mike Moore 209.567.4130
Intensive Supervision Unit
Supervising Probation Officer
Merci Rogers 209.567.4125
Division Director,
Juvenile Field Services
Probation Manager IV
Natascha Roof 209.525.4505
Grant Projects
Supervising Probation Officer
Denise Locke 209.567.4709
Juvenile Intake & Investigations
Supervising Probation Officer
Olivia Lopez 209.525.4507
Placement & Special Services
Supervising Probation Officer
Melissa Marley 209.525.4509
Juvenile High-Risk Offender
Supervising Probation Officer
Emily Herrera 209.525.4554
Juvenile Supervision
Supervising Probation Officer
Belinda Putnam 209.525.4510
Adult High-Risk Offender
Supervising Probation Officer
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Institution Services
Probation Manager IV
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Probation Manager,
Juvenile Hall
Probation Manager II
Dave Camello 209.525.4574
Building Operations
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Brent Rabe
Unit 1 (Booking)
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Sella Moreno 209.525.4580
Unit 2
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Rolly Romero 209.525.4580
Units 5 & 6
Maximum Security/ Older Boys
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Patrick Correa 209.525.4580
Units 7 & 8 (Special Needs)
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Antonio Prado 209.526.4580
Part-Time Group Supervisors
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Rolly Romero 209.525.4580
Alternatives to Custody
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Leonard Higginbotham
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Juvenile Commitment Facility
Probation Manager II
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Rhonda Hott 209.567.4717
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Dave Jackson 209.567.4719
Supervising Probation Corrections Officer
Virginia VanSwoll 209.567.4717
STANISLAUS COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT