

California - Child and Family Services Review

Butte County Self-Assessment

Review Period: January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015

Due Date: July 15, 2015

**Department of Employment and Social Services
(Children's Services Division)
and
Probation Department (Juvenile Division)**



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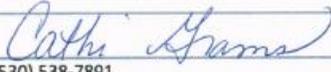
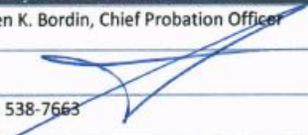
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California – Child and Family Services Review Signature Sheet	
For submittal of: CSA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIP <input type="checkbox"/> Progress Report <input type="checkbox"/>	
County	Butte
SIP Period Dates	December 15, 2015 through December 14, 2020
Outcome Data Period	CWS/CMS Quarter 4, 2014
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Mail the original Signature Sheet to:	Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau Attention: Bureau Chief Children and Family Services Division California Department of Social Services 744 P Street, MS 8-12-91 Sacramento, CA 95814
*Signatures must be in blue ink	

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	Agency	
	Phone & E-mail	
	Mailing Address	
CAPIT Liaison	Name	Same as Child Welfare Agency Contact
	Agency	
	Phone & E-mail	
	Mailing Address	
CBCAP Liaison	Name	Same as Child Welfare Agency Contact
	Agency	
	Phone & E-mail	
	Mailing Address	
PSSF Liaison	Name	Same as Child Welfare Agency Contact
	Agency	
	Phone & E-mail	
	Mailing Address	

Executive Summary

The 2015 Butte County Self Assessment (CSA) was a collaborative process between the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services (Children's Services Division) and the Butte County Probation Department (Juvenile Division), in partnership with the California Department of Social Services.

This County Self Assessment (CSA) is an accumulation of the three activities mandated by the California Children and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) that helps assess the effectiveness of child welfare services across child safety, permanency and well being. It incorporates the Peer Review process, the state-administered Child Welfare Services (CWS) Qualitative Case Reviews and the development and implementation of the System Improvement Plan (SIP).

This CSA provides a comprehensive review of child welfare and probation placement programs in Butte County; from prevention and protection through permanency and after care. The CSA includes an analysis of Butte County's outcomes in the three federal goals (Safety, Permanency and Well-Being), current and in comparison to outcomes that were in place when the last CSA was completed (2010).

This report provides a history of all that has been accomplished during the current SIP (implemented in April 2011), and provides a road map for planning the next SIP, which is due in December 2015. Both departments have experienced significant program development and have accomplished most goals identified in the last SIP. This CSA addresses both the successes and the areas that are still challenging as the County moves forward in its commitment to improving outcomes for children and their families. This comprehensive review provides Butte County the tools to monitor, evaluate and revise strategies where improvement is needed.

When reviewing measurements, it is noted that there may be a correlation between some areas that are measuring well, and others that are not. While Children's Services Division has improved outcomes in timeliness to reunification, and permanency, yet there is still room for improvement. Butte County falls slightly below the federal goal in some of these measures, but there has been a huge improvement in reducing the reentry following reunification, indicating that the extra time provided for parents to prepare for their children to return home has been beneficial. Placement stability continues to be a struggle in that too many children still experience more than two placements; however, the overall number of children in out of home care has declined, and more children are being placed with relatives.

Children's Services chose the Outcome Measure "No Recurrence of Maltreatment" as the focus area in the Peer Review as this is an area that has not seem much improvement. The current rate remains comparable to the prior CSA, despite the fact that this outcome measure was included in the current SIP.

The Probation Department has worked diligently in the last five year and has significantly reduced the population of youth in out of home care. Therefore, the Probation Department chose the focus area "Exits to Permanency" as the focus for the Peer Review. This focus area was selected in order to identify gaps in services that hinder successful, permanent placement outcomes, to ensure they receive the appropriate services to assist in a successful reunification and/or permanency/transition to adulthood.

The CSA was accomplished utilizing various methods – the Peer Review, staff meetings, stakeholder meetings, surveys and focus groups. New to this CSA process was an enhanced outreach to parents and youth in the child welfare system and Probation. Surveys were completed by parents in various groups and classes, and focus groups were provided. Input obtained throughout the CSA process is highlighted throughout this report and was included in the analysis of the federal and state outcome measures and recommendations for improvement.

The Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services and the Butte County Probation Department would like to thank and acknowledge all of the participants in the 2015 CSA, including the CSA Core Team and the stakeholders for their hard work, dedication, expertise and important contributions to this effort. The 2015 CSA and this report would not have been possible without their expertise, experience and commitment to improving outcomes for children and families in Butte County.

Introduction

The goal of the California - Child Family and Services Review (C-CFSR) is the identification and analysis of the current child welfare system and the implementation of solutions that are tested to determine if they improve outcomes for children and families in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being. This County Self Assessment is the comprehensive review of the child welfare and probation placement programs, from prevention and protection through permanency and after care.

Butte County's Self Assessment was completed using several different methods of review and analysis, including the analysis of the current federal outcome measures. Additionally, the following methods were utilized to obtain stakeholder input:

- Peer Review: April 3 – 5, 2015
- Children's Services Division: All staff CSA Meetings held on April 2, 2015 and April 11, 2015
- Children's Services Division and Probation Stakeholder Meetings held on April 22, 2015 and April 29, 2015 (including former foster youth)
- Surveys: Probation staff
- Surveys: Probation youth and their families
- Surveys: Parents in the Child Welfare System
- Surveys: Foster parents
- One focus group with foster parents
- Six focus groups conducted with parents in the Child Welfare System
- One focus group conducted with youth participants

This CSA, the fourth for Butte County, is a continuation of prior CSA processes. Butte County continues to focus on obtaining extensive input from community partners and service recipients, understanding that their knowledge and experience is critical in helping Children's Services Division and Juvenile Probation identify the strengths, needs and gaps in service delivery. The key participants in this process are referred to as the C-CFSR Team for Butte County, which includes Children's Services Division, Juvenile Probation, California Department of Social Services (CDSS), community stakeholders and service recipients. Butte County Children's Services Division, the Probation Department and CDSS serve as the lead agencies for all elements of the C-CFSR process.

C-CFSR Planning Team & Core Representatives

C-CFSR TEAM

The C-CFSR Core Team acts as the driver in both the C-CFSR process and the CSA process at the county level and is made up of key participants including staff from Children's Services Division, Probation and CDSS, from both the Children's Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau (CSOAB) and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP). Each of the participating agencies serves a specific role in the C-CFSR process. The Core Team meets regularly – at a minimum of one time per month, and often on a weekly basis for planning activities for the Peer Review and the CSA. The Core Team also meets quarterly with CDSS staff.

CORE TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

The Core Team members for the Butte County CSA consist of staff from Children's Services Division, Probation and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). During the CSA planning process, the Core Team members met regularly (two – four times per month) and provided analysis of some of the outcome indicators being studied in the assessment. The Core Team also analyzed services currently being provided in the community, gaps in services, and additional service needs, in preparation for meetings with stakeholders. All identified Core Team members were able to participate throughout the Peer Review and CSA processes.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

County Agencies

Children's Services Division:

- Shelby Boston, Assistant Director
- Karen Ely, Program Manager
- David Bradley, Program Manager
- Jennifer Allen, Program Manager
- Patti Morelli, Supervisor, Administrative Analyst
- Wendy Vazquez, Senior, Administrative Analyst
- Michele Hinkle, Staff Development Officer

Juvenile Probation:

- Melissa Romero, Chief Deputy Probation Officer
- Wayne Barley, Chief Deputy Probation Officer
- Dwayne Martin, Program Manager
- Julie Sears, Supervising Probation Officer

Key Responsibilities of the County Agencies:

- Serve as lead agencies within the County for conducting the C-CFSR process.
- Responsible for establishing the Core Team.

- Responsible for the completion of the CSA process in partnership and collaboration with CDSS to include the Peer Review, Stakeholders’ Meetings, Focus Groups and the state-administered CWS/CMS System Case Review.
- Responsible for the completion of all required reports.

CDSS:

- Daniel Wilson, Social Services Consultant - Children’s Services Outcomes and Accountability Bureau (CSOAB)
- Anthony Bennett, Social Services Consultant – Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP)

Key Responsibilities of CDSS:

- Work with counties on all aspects of the C-CFSR process by providing ongoing support and assistance to improve the outcomes outlined in the federal CFSR System.
- Responsible for ensuring the requirements of the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF programs are met.
- Responsible for following federal guidelines to ensure counties are completing the C-CFSR process in a way that meets statutory and regulatory requirements.

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES

In addition to the Core Team, mandated participants and other agencies/community organizations providing services to the children and families of Butte County were invited to participate in the CSA.

Butte County Stakeholders in the CSA process are represented as follows:

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services (Children’s Services Division)

- Assistant Director
- Program Managers
- Supervisor, Administrative Analyst
- Administrative Analysts, Senior
- Staff Development Officer
- Social Work Supervisors
- Social Workers
- Adoption Specialist Supervisors
- Adoption Specialists

Butte County Probation Department

- Chief Deputy Probation Officers
- Program Manager
- Supervising Probation Officer – Placement
- Probation Officer – Placement

Butte County Public Health

- Supervisor, Public Health Nurse
- Public Health Nurses

Butte County Department of Behavioral Health

- Assistant Director
- Program Managers
- Clinicians
- AOD Assessor

Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council

- Executive Director

Other Partners

- Foster Care Programs
- Former Foster Youth
- Foster Parents/Relative Caregivers
- Community Agencies
- Faith Based Partners
- Law Enforcement and Victim Services

Butte County Office of Education

- Foster Youth Services
- School Ties

The Executive Director of the Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council is also the liaison for the County Children's Trust Fund. Attempts to include Tribal representatives, Court and attorneys in stakeholder meetings were unsuccessful due to scheduling conflicts. However, they will be invited to provide input in the upcoming SIP planning process.

THE CSA PLANNING PROCESS

The Core Team served as the planning body for the Peer Review and CSA process. The team reviewed the process utilized in the 2010 CSA and progress made throughout the subsequent System Improvement Plan. Overall the team followed a similar outline but made some adjustments to the process.

As staff participation is critical to the process, two all staff meetings were provided to staff in the Children's Services Division. In the past, this was done as a full day facilitated meeting. This year, this was done as a two-part facilitated meeting process so that identified gaps and ideas generated in the first meeting could be analyzed by the Core Team and presented at the second meeting for more in-depth brainstorming and idea development. The two-part facilitated meeting process was also done with stakeholders of both departments. The County contracted with Odyssey Teams, Inc. a local business that provides leadership training, and provides team building activities to facilitate all four meetings with stakeholders and Children's Services staff.

Due to the smaller size of the Probation Placement unit, staff were surveyed for their input following discussions during staff meetings.

New to the process this year was an enhanced outreach to parents, youth and foster parents. The Core Team accomplished this through the use of surveys and focus groups.

Overall, goals and ideas to improve outcomes for children and families were solicited from stakeholders through a variety of processes (Peer Review, surveys, meetings and focus groups)

BUTTE COUNTY STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Two facilitated stakeholder meetings were held on April 22, 2015 (with 52 participants) and April 29, 2015 (with 44 participants). This two-part series of meetings were combined to include core representatives and stakeholders from both Children's Services Division and Probation.

The first meeting provided an overview of the CSA process and the continuous quality improvement measures taking place in both departments, which provided a historical background on the work currently being done. Data was provided and the participants were invited to "dream big" and identify goals and strategies that would improve the County's ability to improve federal outcomes in the following areas:

- **SAFETY**
- **PERMANENCY**
- **WELL-BEING**

The information provided in the brainstorming session and was analyzed and identified in the following six areas for further discussion and analysis:

IDENTIFIED AREA	FEDERAL OUTCOMES IMPACTED
1. ADOPTION SERVICES	C2.1 ADOPTION WITHIN 24 MONTHS C2.5 ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (LEGALLY FREE)
2. ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE/PREVENTION	S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT
3. FOSTER CARE	C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS C4.2 PLACEMENT STABILITY (12-24 MONTHS IN CARE)
4. SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PARENTS/FAMILIES	C1.1 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS
1. YOUTH SERVICES – CHILD WELFARE	C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS 8A YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE
2. YOUTH SERVICES - PROBATION	C4.2 PLACEMENT STABILITY (12-24 MONTHS IN CARE) 8A YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

The second meeting was dedicated to eliciting additional detailed feedback. Participants actively engaged in the discussion related to potential gaps in services and the participants participated in a series of six facilitated Table Topic Discussions, to further address the identified areas from the first session. At the end of the second session, the topic facilitators presented detailed plans for improving outcomes or meeting unmet needs.

The CSA Planning Team reviewed and analyzed the information provided during the two Stakeholder meetings. The following analysis represents the major themes, areas identified as needing improvement and suggestions for improvement in outcome areas of Safety, Permanency and Well-Being.

SAFETY

During the two-session Stakeholder Meetings, participants identified several areas that are working well, including the use of Child-Family Team (CFT) Meetings, the Review-Evaluate-Direct (RED) Team process and Alternative Response (AR) programs. It was strongly recommended that the County and community partners continue collaborating to enhance and strengthen the AR model by providing additional services. The Stakeholders also recommended reestablishing quarterly multi-disciplinary team meetings with the focus of providing a forum for County, community, faith-based, business and other service providers to share resources and mutually identify solutions for families in the community. Ideally, these meetings could be held in a community drop-in center that would serve as a location for families to seek resources and assistance.

IDENTIFIED TOPIC AREA	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR MEETING UNMET NEEDS
ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE/PREVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INVOLVE PARTNER AGENCIES EARLIER IN THE PROCESS IN AR RESPONSE EXPAND AR PROGRAMS AND INCLUDE OTHER PARTNERS, SUCH AS ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UTILIZE FORMER FOSTER YOUTH MENTORS AND PARENT PARTNERS JOINT RESPONSE TEAM FOR IR/ER/AR WITH EXISTING PARTNER AGENCIES AND EXPANDED PARTNERS DROP-IN CENTER FOR FAMILIES – VISITATION AND RESOURCES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUARTERLY MULTI-DISCIPLINARY MEETINGS FOR COUNTY STAFF AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS
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PERMANENCY

Stakeholders offered a variety of suggestions in the area of Permanency Outcomes. Specific among these included the need for early identification and intervention for behavioral health and substance abuse issues; appropriate training for caregivers and biological parents. Training for caregivers should be specialized and realistic about the benefits and challenges they may face as a foster parent, relative caregiver or adoptive parent. Overall, there appears to be a lack of awareness of the adoption process and post adoptive services and supports that are offered in the community.

IDENTIFIED TOPIC AREA	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR MEETING UNMET NEEDS
ADOPTION SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE MORE EDUCATION FOR ALL THAT TOUCH THE ADOPTION PROCESS • ENHANCE OUTREACH AND ORIENTATION SERVICES FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS • UTILIZE FOSTER PARENTS AS A RESOURCE FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS
FOSTER CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INCREASE LENGTH OF MANDATORY TRAINING FOR FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS, RELATIVE AND NREFM CAREGIVERS • PLACEMENTS FOR YOUTH CLOSE TO SCHOOL OF ORIGIN, FAMILY AND FRIENDS • SPECIFIC TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS THAT ADDRESSES GRIEF, LOSS, BEHAVIORAL CHALLENGES AND SECONDARY TRAUMA • IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKERS AND CAREGIVERS • FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CAREGIVERS AND BIOLOGICAL PARENTS • PROVIDE FOSTER YOUTH ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES
SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PARENTS/FAMILIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE ORIENTATION FOR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS; INVOLVE PEER PARENT MENTORS • ACCESSIBLE VISITATION CENTERS • PROVIDE MORE LIFE SKILLS TRAINING FOR PARENTS • LOW COST AND INCREASED ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES • TRAIN BIOLOGICAL PARENTS HOW TO CARE FOR SUBSTANCE EXPOSED CHILDREN • STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE CAPACITY FOR FAMILY TREATMENT COURT • PROVIDE TRAUMA INFORMED SERVICES • PROVIDE MORE IN-HOME SERVICES ONCE CHILDREN ARE REUNIFIED WITH THEIR PARENTS • TRANSITION SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AS THEY EXIT THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
YOUTH SERVICES – CHILD WELFARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION • MENTAL WELLNESS APPROACH • AGE APPROPRIATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT • MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARTICIPATION IN CHILD-FAMILY TEAM (CFT) MEETINGS
YOUTH SERVICES - PROBATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGE APPROPRIATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (HARM REDUCTION USE VS. ABUSE) • RECOVERY MENTORS FOR YOUTH • MENTORSHIP PROGRAM • GANG PREVENTION STRATEGIES • MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION

WELL-BEING

In addition to the suggestions outlined in the Permanency section above, Stakeholders recommend supporting youth engagement in foster advocacy groups, vocational services and preparation for those who want to attend college. Services and support for dependent and probation youth and non-minor dependents may result in improved self-resiliency, better relationships with peers, parents and other adults which may reduce the time to reunification and decrease re-entry in to care.

IDENTIFIED TOPIC AREA	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR MEETING UNMET NEEDS
YOUTH SERVICES – CHILD WELFARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROMOTION OF PARTICIPATION IN CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION FOR YOUTH AGES 13 YEARS AND OLDER • RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
YOUTH SERVICES - PROBATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POST PROBATION AFTER CARE (PEER GROUPS AND ILP SERVICES FOR ALL TRANSITIONING YOUTH) • AFTER CARE SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES AFTER THEY ARE DISCHARGED FROM PROBATION • DROP IN TEEN CENTER

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK – CHILDREN’S SERVICES DIVISION SPECIFIC

CHILDREN’S SERVICES DIVISION STAFF MEETINGS

Two facilitated all staff meetings were held on April 2, 2015 (with 75 participants) and April 14, 2015 (with 47 participants). This two-part series of meetings were facilitated to identify gaps and obtain feedback, suggestions and input to brainstorm new ideas to help improve federal outcomes.

The first session provided an overview of the C-CFSR and CSA process and included group activities. Data was presented and staff were invited to share their expertise and knowledge and to brainstorm new ideas.

The information provided in the brainstorming session and was analyzed and identified in the following ten areas for further discussion and analysis:

IDENTIFIED AREA	FEDERAL OUTCOMES IMPACTED
1. ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES	S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS
2. COMMUNITY PARTNERS	S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT

3. FOSTER CARE – PLACEMENTS	C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS C4.2 PLACEMENT STABILITY (12-24 MONTHS IN CARE)
4. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	C1.1 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS
5. PREVENTION SERVICES	S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT
6. RELATIVE PLACEMENTS – SUPPORT	C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS C4.2 PLACEMENT STABILITY (12-24 MONTHS IN CARE)
3. SERVICES FOR YOUTH	C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS 8A YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE
4. SHELTER CARE	C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS C4.2 PLACEMENT STABILITY (12-24 MONTHS IN CARE)
5. TRANSITION – EXIT SERVICES	C1.4 REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION
6. VISITATION SERVICES	C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS

At the second meeting, staff participated in a series of ten facilitated Table Topic Discussions, to further address the above identified areas. At the end of the day, the table facilitators were able to present detailed plans for improving outcomes.

The CSA Planning Team reviewed and analyzed the information provided during the two staff meetings. The following analysis represents the major themes, areas identified as needing improvement and suggestions for improvement in outcome areas of Safety, Permanency and Well-Being.

SAFETY

Staff identified several areas that are working well. The use of Safety Organized Practice (SOP) strategies has provided an interactive process between Children’s Services staff and families. Use of these strengths-based and family focused approaches has improved the family’s voice to be heard. This has been particularly helpful during Child-Family Team (CFT) meetings where the family has input in the decision making regarding the next best placement for their child, case plan development and safety plan development.

Overall, staff identified the new Alternative Response strategies as positive, including the use of the Review-Evaluate-Direct (RED) Team approach for ten-day investigations and some evaluate out referrals. The new contracted Alternative Response programs (Targeted Early Intervention and Domestic Violence Advocacy programs) are seen as good resources. However, suggestions to enhance relationships with community partners and additional prevention services have been identified. It was strongly recommended that more services and support be provided “up front” for families. Specifically, it was identified that support for families in poverty or at risk of having their children detained would help keep children from entering foster care and keep families safe.

IDENTIFIED TOPIC AREA	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR MEETING UNMET NEEDS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADDITIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH, INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT THAT ALLOWS PARENTS TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN • DRUG TEST PARENTS MORE OFTEN • DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT AT THE PRE-DETENTION STAGE

COMMUNITY PARTNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE CROSS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN CHILD WELFARE STAFF AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INCLUDING AGENCY STAFF, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATION, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES • INVITE PARTNER AGENCY STAFF WHEN APPROPRIATE TO PARTICIPATE IN RED TEAM MEETINGS AND CFT MEETINGS
PREVENTION SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE MORE PREVENTION SERVICES TO ENHANCE EXISTING SERVICES • PROVIDE MORE SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THE FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE UNIT • PROVIDE CFT MEETINGS FOR ALL FAMILIES, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY CASES AND THOSE IN ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE PROGRAMS

PERMANENCY

Staff identified several areas to enhance or improve services that would result in better permanency outcomes. Overall there is a strong need for more low cost alcohol and drug services; and improved mental health services for parents, including dual diagnosis groups, trauma informed therapy and in-house clinicians to work with parents. Staff recommends more training and support services for caregivers.

IDENTIFIED TOPIC AREA	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR MEETING UNMET NEEDS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUAL DIAGNOSIS GROUPS • YOUTH SUPPORT GROUPS • RELAPSE PREVENTION TRAINING AND SUPPORT • EXPANSION OF COLLABORATIVE TREATMENT COURT PROGRAMS (PROP 36, DRUG COURT AND FAMILY TREATMENT COURT) • LOW COST AND AVAILABLE SERVICES (DETOX, IN-PATIENT AND OUT-PATIENT)
FOSTER CARE – PLACEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS THAT ADDRESSES SPECIALIZED SKILLS AND COUNTY EXPECTATIONS • MORE INTENSIVE TREATMENT FOSTER HOMES • IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKERS AND CAREGIVERS • MENTORING SYSTEM FOR FOSTER PARENTS • COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO REDUCE PLACEMENT CHANGES
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IN-HOUSE MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS • ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED INCLUDING DUAL DIAGNOSIS GROUPS, TRAUMA-INFORMED THERAPY AND FAMILY COUNSELING • OFFER SUPPORT GROUPS • COORDINATION OF CASE PLANS AND TREATMENT PLANS
SERVICES FOR YOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT GROUPS • CHILD-FAMILY TEAM MEETING FOR YOUTH EXITING SERVICES • RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
SHELTER CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BROADEN THE NUMBER OF AGENCIES • ESPLANADE HOUSE MODEL: FOSTER PARENTS, FAMILY UNIT AND BIOLOGICAL PARENTS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESPITE CARE, SUPPORT AND TRAINING • KEEP TIMELINES FOR IDENTIFYING NEXT BEST PLACEMENT
TRANSITION – EXIT SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRENGTHEN CHILD-FAMILY TEAM (CFT) EXIT PLANS • SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PARENTS • PEER PARENT MENTORS CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT • EXPAND SOFT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VOLUNTARY SERVICES BEYOND CASE CLOSURE
VISITATION SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROVIDE VISITATION CENTER/FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER THAT IS FAMILY FRIENDLY • STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT TOOL • CLEAR GUIDELINES AND TRAINING REGARDING SUPERVISED VISITATION EXPECTATIONS FOR STAFF AND VISIT MONITORS

WELL-BEING

In addition to the above recommendations, staff suggestions to improve well-being include enhancing supportive services for youth in the areas of vocational training and educational support. Family counseling was identified as a need along with support groups and activities for youth.

IDENTIFIED TOPIC AREA	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OR MEETING UNMET NEEDS
SERVICES FOR YOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION SUPPORT • MENTORSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE • YOUTH SUPPORT GROUPS – REINSTATE “DINNER AND...” PROGRAM • INTERNSHIP AND APPRENTICE PROGRAMS • ILP YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNGER FOSTER YOUTH • FAMILY COUNSELING

FOSTER PARENTS

A focus group with 32 County licensed foster parents and relative caregivers was done as part of the annual Foster Parent Appreciation and Training event, held on February 19, 2015. Additionally, 24 participants also completed a survey. All participants are caregivers in the Butte County Options for Recovery Foster Parent Program and have received specialized training to care for drug exposed children under the age of five.

Overall, the caregivers provided very positive feedback regarding their experiences as caregivers and in particular liked seeing the growth in the children in their care, and providing the children love when “they need it most.” They requested specific training in understanding behavioral issues and special needs, and cited the “ups and downs” of working in the child welfare system as challenging at times. One recommendation cited in 62% of the surveys (15 out of 24) was improved communication with, and better access to, the social workers.

PARENTS IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Surveys were provided to parents in the Butte County child welfare system who were participants in various service groups and parent education classes, to capture ideas from parents in prevention groups, through the Family Reunification and Family Maintenance service components.

- Child Assistance Program (Alternative Response) – 6 surveys completed
- Parent Support Groups (Family Reunification) – 23 surveys completed
- Parent Education Classes (Family Reunification) – 38 surveys completed
- Parent Education Experiential Resource (PEER) Program (Family Reunification and Family Maintenance) – 16 surveys complete
- Supporting our Families in Transition (SOFT) Program (Family Reunification and Family Maintenance) – 16 surveys completed

SURVEY AND FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

The surveys asked a variety of questions about their satisfaction with the classes; what they have learned; and suggestions for Children’s Services Division to provide better services for parents. The survey results tended to be less positive from parents in the Parent Support Group program as they are new to the child welfare system and are still processing their feelings about their involvement in the system. The survey results became more positive when parents were successful in their recovery and had been benefitting from the services they had participated in.

While some parents feel that the classes are a waste of time, and that they are not learning much, overall, most parents feel that the parent education services they have participated in have been helpful. The various class facilitators have all received high marks by parents. Some of the comments they provided about the benefit of the classes include:

- I am better able to manage and maintain a safe home for my child.
- I have learned that there are consequences for my actions.
- These classes have provided me with tools to be a better parent.
- I am a better person because of what I have learned and as a result a better parent.
- I appreciate the support to be successful.
- I now understand that drug use and domestic violence in the home is harmful to my children.
- The parenting classes helped me understand healthy habits and positive discipline.
- I have learned so much about substance abuse and relapse and have new tools to help me in my recovery.
- I really enjoy the Nurturing Parenting classes.
- Yes! This program has helped me move from homelessness into an apartment, and I have learned life skills and the help that I need to become successful.

Overall, the main suggestions for improvement included more frequent visitation with their children and in better locations, along with better and more frequent communication with their social worker. The communication and relationship with the social worker tended to improve as parents made their way through the various classes and groups.

The response from surveys completed by 99 parents participating in 5 different classes or groups in response to the question “Do you believe that the services you have received have been helpful in creating a safer environment for your children?” was positive, with an average of 82% of the respondents answering yes.

The following breaks down responses by group participation.

Group or Class	Yes	Somewhat	No
Child Assistance Program	86%		4%
Parent Support Groups	73%		27%
Nurturing Parenting Classes	62%	14%	24%
PEER Program	94%	6%	
SOFT Program	93%	7%	

In addition to surveys, the following focus groups were completed with parents to gather more detailed information and input.

- Parent Support Groups
 - April 23, 2015 (2 parents in attendance)
 - April 28, 2015 (1 parent in attendance)
- Parenting Classes
 - April 22, 2015 (11 parents in attendance)
 - April 28, 2015 (7 parents in attendance)
- SOFT Groups
 - April 7, 2015 (7 parents in attendance)
 - April 27, 2015 (6 parents in attendance)

All the parents who participated in the focus groups were happy to provide their opinions and input, and appreciated the opportunity to participate.

Parent Support Group Focus Groups:

There were only three parents who participated in the PSG focus groups. They are fairly new in their recovery and in their services. They feel PSG is helpful in understanding what is happening and also so they do not feel so alone. They would like to have better communication with their social workers so they have a better understanding of what to expect, particularly in respect to visitation.

- Provide a weekly meeting for parents of newly detained children to explain the court system and the process (before starting PSG groups).

Parenting Class Focus Groups:

Lack of communication with social workers, and the inability to reach them, continued to be an important topic with the parents participating in the focus groups for those participating in parenting classes. The parents’ satisfaction with their relationship with their social workers varied – some feel their social workers are doing an excellent job, and others do not think their social worker cares or is helpful. For the most part, they all appreciate the Child-Family Team meetings. They do not like when visitations occur with other families at the same time because the children want to play with the other children. The parents in these focus groups provided the following suggestions for improvement.

- Provide more accessible drug testing opportunities (times and locations).
- Provide more visitation, and in better locations (outside of the Children’s Services offices, with better and age appropriate toys).

SOFT Program Focus Groups:

The parents in these focus groups were the most positive and provided thoughtful opinions and ideas

about their experience in the child welfare system. All but two families had been reunified with their children and several were about to have their cases closed. All the parents feel that the SOFT Program has been a fabulous program for them, and very helpful in preparing them to exit the system. They stressed the importance of developing a new support system in their recovery: new friends, new activities with family attend recovery meetings; and understand “triggers” to a relapse and have a plan.

Several parents strongly recommended more training in substance abuse and addiction for new social workers as parents are very manipulative when they are using drugs, and they feel they were able to successfully lie to their social workers while they were still using. The parents in the focus groups provided the following suggestions for improvement.

- Provide orientation for parents prior to starting PSG; this orientation should be facilitated by child welfare staff.
- Provide more visitation as parents’ progress and be very clear in expectations.
- PSG groups should be smaller; when the groups are too large, it can become a complaint session without the benefit of processing feelings.
- Provide more frequent contact with the social worker.

YOUTH FOCUS GROUP

A focus group was held on April 22, 2015, with 6 foster youth in attendance. Four of the participants were in extended foster care, and two were under the age of 18. The following suggestions were provided:

- More placement options for teens; the option to meet potential foster parents before a placement decision is made. They recommend that all youth ages ten or older be allowed to participate in placement meetings to discuss options.
- More counseling services, especially with therapists who specialize in working with teens.
- Age appropriate substance abuse treatment.
- Provide more information about rights for foster youth, including having an advocate or ombudsman at the local level.
- Specialized services for transgender youth.
- More access to, and better communication with Social Workers, and follow up meetings with them after team meetings.
- More financial and transportation support.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK – PROBATION SPECIFIC

In March 2015, probation staff, youth on probation (or in out-of-home placement) and their parents were asked to complete a survey. The three minors that were in out-of-home placement and two parents whose children were formerly in group homes completed the survey. Thirteen probation staff completed the survey. Ten parents whose children are currently on probation and seventeen minors currently on probation completed the survey. The responses represented in the survey results reflect a range of opinion on how Juvenile Probation systems are functioning. Below is a general overview summary of responses.

Juvenile Probation Staff Survey:

In the last three years, what changes have you seen in Butte County juvenile probation that have prevented minors from going in to out-of-home placement?

1. Continued use of the PACT Assessment Tool
2. Relative placement
3. Development of Evidenced Based Practices (EBP) Programs within the department
4. Camp Condor

Barriers to effective supervision (gaps in services)

1. Lack of local drug/alcohol treatment programs for juveniles
2. Mental health issues in families
3. Lack of parental cooperation/involvement

Parent Survey:

Barriers to successful completion of probation

1. Lack of transportation to/from programs
2. Lack of family meetings with probation officer

Positive aspects of Probation

1. Parents were generally aware of and involved in their child's case plan
2. Parents believed the programs offered to their children were helpful
3. Parents reported having good communication with their child's probation officer

Youth Survey:

1. Some minors were not aware of their case plans
2. Some minors reported their probation officers do not provide support with school issues
3. The majority believed their probation officer has been helpful
4. The majority believed the programs they are involved in have been helpful to them

Placement-Specific Survey (minors in group homes and their parents)

1. Probation officer very involved and helpful regarding school, family visits
2. Group homes offered a wide array of helpful services
3. Minors felt they were involved in their case planning
4. Parents felt better communication was needed regarding each stage of out-of-home placement, including what to expect when their child returns home

Demographic Profile

GENERAL COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

ALL GENERAL COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA CITATIONS ARE LISTED ON PAGE 27.

Butte County covers 1,640 square miles of land in the northern end of the Sacramento Valley, a midway point between Sacramento and Redding, and nestled between the Sierra Nevada and the coastal

mountain ranges. Butte County has five incorporated areas – Biggs, Gridley, Oroville, Paradise, and Chico – ranging in population from 1,702 to 88,077 citizens. Communities range from small isolated towns in the foothills to a larger progressive city, home to a campus of the California State University system. There are 136 persons per square mile in Butte County as compared with 239 statewide. There is a geographic patchwork of unincorporated areas throughout Butte County, such as, Bangor, Berry Creek and Magalia, which typically lie on the outskirts of the incorporated areas, a significant distance from employment opportunities, service agencies and social support systems. There has been an approximate 1.1% increase in the County’s population since 2010.¹



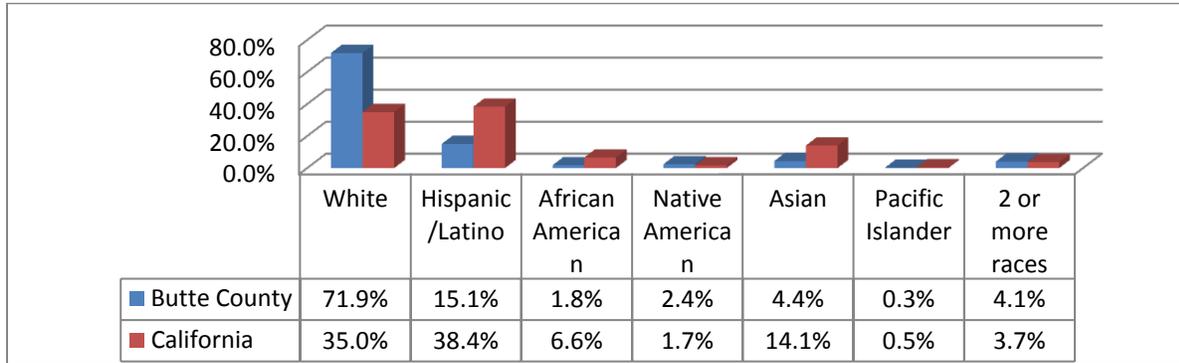
POPULATION BY ETHNICITY

The total Butte County population in 2013 was estimated at 222,420. US Census data indicates that all Ethnicity rates have decreased slightly since 2009 (as reported in the last CSA), except for the Hispanic/Latino rate, which experienced an increase of approximately 1.8%.

The rate of Whites in Butte County is nearly double the California rate (39%) and approximately 20% higher than the rate in the United States (62%). The Hispanic rate is approximately two-fifths of the rate in California (38%) and 90% of the rate in the United States (17%).

There are four federally recognized active tribes in Butte County: Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California; Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California; Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California; and the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria.

Butte County Population, Percent by Ethnicity - 2013^{1,2}

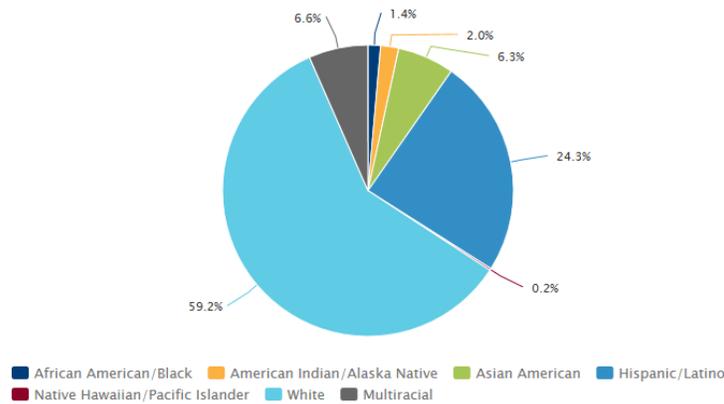


While Butte County has a high population of Whites (71.9%), there are areas in the County where this percentage is even higher. The communities of Chico, Paradise and Durham have the highest percentage of Whites (at 80.8%, 92% and 92.2% respectively), followed by Oroville (75.2%) and Gridley (65.1%). Oroville has a more diverse population, with 12.5% Hispanic/Latino, .8% Asian, and 2.9% African American. At 3.7%, the Native American population in Oroville is more than twice any of the other cities and towns. The city of Gridley has the highest percentage rate of the Hispanic/Latino population, at 45.6%, due in part to the proximity to agricultural jobs in the County.¹

Child Population, by Race/Ethnicity: 2014

The child population has remained fairly constant since the last CSA was submitted. The following is the 2014 estimated percentage of the population under age 18 in Butte County, by race/ethnicity.³

Butte County



POPULATION BY LANGUAGE SPOKEN

In Butte County, 13.6% of the population speaks a language other than English in their home. This is relatively low when compared to the statewide figure of 43.7% who speak a language other than English at home. Spanish is the predominant non-English language followed by Asian languages (predominantly Hmong) in Butte County.¹

POPULATION BY AGE

The median age in Butte County is 36.4 years, which is approximately the same as the California as a whole. In 2013, Butte County's population included 45,151 children under the age of 18. This represents approximately 20.3% of the total population of Butte County.¹

Percentage of Population by Age		
Population	Butte County	State
Persons Under 5 years old	5.4%	6.5%
Under 18 years old	20.3%	23.9%
65 years old and older	16.6%	12.5%

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN TO TEEN PARENTS

In 2012 in Butte County, 22.9 of births per 1,000 are to teen parents. Statewide, this figure is somewhat higher at 25.7 per 1,000. In 2012, 5.9% of infants born in Butte County had a low birth weight. A correlating factor may well be that only 77.4% of expectant mothers in Butte County received prenatal care during the first trimester.⁴

During the four year period from September 2010 through 2014, 11.8% (13 out of 110) foster youth under the age of 18 were pregnant or parenting teens. During this same period, 16% (11 out of 69) Non Minor Dependents were pregnant or parenting. This number has decreased recently, but Butte County's rate of youth in foster care who are pregnant by the age of 18 (8.8%) is slightly higher than the national average of 8.7%.

FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Butte County is a medium sized, semi rural county in Northern California. Butte County shares a higher incidence rate of neglect and abuse with other smaller counties in the north state, in large part due to the prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse, isolated communities and high poverty rates.

- In Butte County, 12.3% of residents over the age of 25 have not completed high school.¹ This translates to less income potential being realized for their families.
- Butte County's median household income in 2013 was \$43,752, which is well below the statewide median household income of \$61,094.¹
- From 2009-2013, the median value of owner occupied housing units is \$225,900, significantly lower than the state median value of \$366,400.¹

This information, and other financial well-being factors, is captured below, by city or town, as compared to the County as a whole and to the State.¹ Butte County performs below State standards in all areas listed except for the number of adults over the age of 25 who have completed high school. In this area, the County percent is higher than the State's percentage. However, Butte County's rate of persons over the age of 25 who have obtained a Bachelor's Degree, or higher, is less than the State's rate.

Factor	Chico	Paradise	Durham	Gridley	Oroville	County	State
H.S. Graduate (25+)	91.2%	91.1%	98%	68.3%	83.6%	87.7%	81.2%
BA Degree + (25+)	33.8%	23.2%	41.0%	10.9%	12.3%	24.4%	30.7%
Home Ownership	44.2%	70.9%	71%	63.9%	45.5%	55.3%	60.1%
Median Home Value	\$266,500	\$207,400	\$394,000	\$164,800	\$156,300	\$225,900	\$366,400
Median Household Income	\$43,372	\$40,837	\$65,053	\$40,682	\$36,857	\$43,752	\$61,094
Families Below Poverty Level	23.2%	17.5%	15.9%	17.1%	23.3%	20.4%	15.9%

POVERTY LEVEL

Butte County has a high rate of poverty with 20.4% of residents living in poverty compared with 15.9% Statewide.¹ Approximately 25.2% if children (under the age of 18) live under the poverty level, compared to the state rate of 23.3%.³

Child poverty is measured by the percentage of children ages 0 - 17 years living below the federal poverty level, which was \$23,550 in annual income for a family of two adults and two children in 2013. Children in poverty frequently live in stressful environments, without the necessities most children have, including adequate nutrition to enable physical and cognitive development. Children with low-income families are more likely to go hungry, reside in overcrowded or unstable housing, live in unsafe neighborhoods, and receive poorer educations. They also tend to have less access to health care, child care and other community resources such as quality after-school programs, sports and extra-curricular activities.

Children in Poverty (Butte County), by Race/Ethnicity: 2009-2013

The following provides the estimated percentage of children under the age of 18 living with families with incomes below the federal poverty level, for some race/ethnicity groups (information not available for African American, American Indian, or Asian populations) in Butte County from 2009 – 2013.⁴

Butte County	Percent
Hispanic/Latino	34.3%
White	16.4%
Multiracial	21.1%

Although the percentages for some of the ethnicities of children living in poverty are not available, it is clear that there is a disparity amongst racial/ethnic lines. The percentage of White children living in poverty is 16.4%, compared to the total population of white children living in Butte County, 59.2%. The percentage of Hispanic/Latino children living in poverty is 34.3% compared to 24.3% of the total Hispanic/Latino child population living in Butte County.

UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

The unemployment rate in the Butte County was 7.0% in June 2015, up from a revised 6.8% in May 2015, and below the year-ago estimate of 8.6%. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 6.2% for California and 5.5% for the nation during the same period.⁵

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In March 2015, the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services provided Public Assistance and Employment Assistance as follows:

- CalWORKs: 180 new families (total 3,323 families)
- Foster Care: 534 children
- Pregnant and Parenting Teens: 60
- General Relief and Interim Assistance: 471 active cases (83 new cases added during the month)

Additionally, 1,092 participants were enrolled in Employment Services and 45 adults became employed during the month.

In the year since February 2014, Medi-Cal cases have increased from 26,231 to 37,225, an increase of 42%.

Overall, the percentage of the population receiving CalWORKs benefits has remained fairly steady since the last CSA; in January 2010, 3.8% of the population received CalWORKs benefits, and in January 2014, 3.6% of the population received CalWORKs benefits.

Butte County Children's Services Division and CalWORKs have recently implemented the collaborative practice known as Linkages. One of the goals is to identify cases in the Child Welfare System that qualify for CalWORKs services. A team consisting of a Program Manager from each program, social workers, eligibility and employment services staff consist of the planning team. Butte County is participating in the Linkages Learning Collaborative program with the goal of enhancing and expanding implementation of Linkages to improve service delivery for families being served by both programs and assist families in the reunification process.

HOMELESSNESS DATA

A point in time survey conducted on January 30, 2013 concludes there are 1,553 homeless people in Butte County when the survey was administered. Children comprise 17% of the homeless population. Employment/Financial Reasons was the most commonly reported reason for homelessness (37%), followed by Substance Addiction (22%), Forced to Relocate From Home (18%), and Family Problems (19%).⁶

Homeless Education:

According to the Butte County Office of Education, homeless students are defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Act as youth who "lack a fixed, regular and adequate night time residence. This can include:

- Sharing the housing of others, due to loss of housing or economic hardship

- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Living in emergency transitional shelters or domestic violence shelters
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Awaiting foster care placement
- Unaccompanied youth and runaways.

<http://www.bcoe.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=757608&pageId=1161388>

Homelessness among children has seen an increase in Butte County. The following compares the numbers of homeless public school students by grade level in 2011 and again in 2014.⁷

Homeless Public School Students, by Grade Level: 2011 and 2014

Butte County	2011	2011	2014	2014
Grade Level	n	%	n	%
Pre-K - Grade 5	247	45.0%	578	56.4%
Grades 6 - 8	123	22.4%	203	19.8%
Grades 9 - 12	179	32.6%	243	23.7%

In 2014, 1,024 school aged children were homeless; this correlates to the high percentage of children living in poverty. Many youth experience poverty, instability and exposure to domestic violence before becoming homeless. Being homeless can cause severe trauma and puts their well-being and safety at risk.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Substance abuse, whether from alcohol or legal, or illegal, drugs, is a disease that takes priority over all other human needs. The cravings and dependent behaviors put the drugs or alcohol above the needs of children, career, or basic needs. The prevalence of parental drug and alcohol use in the county is a significant factor affecting referrals to the Child Welfare System. Most cases are the direct result of parental substance abuse, primarily involving methamphetamine, marijuana, alcohol and prescription medications. Of the 340 petitions filed in the Butte County Juvenile Dependency Court in 2011, 265 (or 78%) involved allegations of parental substance abuse.³

Butte County has a long history of substance abuse challenges, particularly involving Methamphetamine. While the numbers of clandestine labs involving children has fallen from a high of 169 in 2004 to 41 in 2012, this remains a huge problem in Butte County.

The following information was included in the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force, 2012 Annual Report (Public Edition).

The entire report can be viewed at: <http://www.2stopmeth.org/brochures/2012%20Annual%20Report%20Public.pdf>

In 2012, 30 counties in California reported the seizure of clandestine labs. Of the 30 counties reporting clandestine lab seizures, Butte County ranked number 1 in the state per capita for laboratory seizures. Butte County ranked number 7 statewide for a total number of laboratories seized, with a total of 6 laboratory investigations, 1 of which was a laboratory dump site and 2 were shake and bake laboratories. Butte County tied with San Joaquin, Sacramento, San Diego and Santa Clara Counties with the total number of laboratories seized. Besides methamphetamine laboratories, agents from the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) also responded to hashish (concentrated cannabis) conversion laboratories involving very flammable butane gas.

Methamphetamine was involved in 58% of the drug arrests made by BINTF. Marijuana played a big role in the cases BINTF investigated in 2012. Marijuana was involved in 13% of the drug arrests made by BINTF. These arrests were mainly for possession for sale and cultivation. Most of the subjects arrested had valid Proposition 215 recommendations, but were using the recommendation as a blind shield to profit from selling the marijuana. The drastic increase in the amount of marijuana available in Butte County has led to numerous home invasion robberies and several homicides. BINTF also saw a raise in prescription pills in 2012. 9% of the arrest BINTF made in 2012 was subjects in possession of prescription pills that did not belong to them.

Drug Endangered Children (DEC) cases, for the purposes of this program and the annual report, are children who are responded to by the BINTF DEC team. This is a multi-discipline team which most often includes a social worker from Butte County Children's Services Division (CSD) and involves other agencies, such as Code Enforcement. To be considered a DEC case, the investigation must include a responding CSD social worker to the scene. On rare occasions, when the assigned DEC social worker cannot respond and a replacement is unable to be located, then an immediate referral to CSD must be made, and some type of follow-up service is provided to improve the child's life.

In 2012, forty-one (41) DEC investigations were conducted by BINTF detectives. Within those cases, 53 children were responded to.

Nineteen (19) children were taken into protective custody and placed into foster care. Two (2) children underwent hair sample analysis and two (2) children underwent blood analysis to screen for exposure to illegal drugs. Two (2) children tested positive for at least one illegal drug in the blood analysis and no children tested positive for exposure to illegal drugs in hair. Of those suspects arrested twenty (20) faced charges of Child Endangerment in Court. Five (5) suspects have been convicted of Child Endangerment charges (and ten per pending at the time of the report).

The majority of the children responded to are provided services from Butte County Children's Services. Those services can include counseling services, substance abuse treatment, parent education, anger management counseling, and case management services. The goal of Butte County Children's Services is to provide treatment to the families in an attempt to safely reunify families and/or safely maintain the family unit.

Citations for demographic information section:

1 Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuikFacts. 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 (Last Revised: Thursday, 28-May-2015 14:58:18EDT)

2 State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010 – 2060. Sacramento, California, January 2013. (Population estimates for years 2010 – 2013. Accessed December 6, 2013).

3 Data Source: [As cited on kidsdata.org](#), California Dept. of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1990-1999, 2000-2010, 2010-2060 (Jun. 2014); U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Estimates, Vintage 2013 (Jun. 2014).

4 Data Source: [As cited on kidsdata.org](#), U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Jan. 2015).

5 California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

6 Butte County 2013 Point in Time Homeless Census and Survey:

http://www.butte-housing.com/resources/organizations/butte-county-coc/butte_coc_2013_homeless_census_survey_report.pdf

74 Data Source: [As cited on kidsdata.org](#), Special Tabulation by the Homeless Education Program in the School Turnaround Office at the California Department of Education (January 2015).

CHILD MALTREATMENT INDICATORS

Child abuse and neglect is found in families across all social spectrums. There are many contributing factors to abuse such as parent substance abuse, financial stress, mental health issues and poverty. Young children are more vulnerable to the risk of abuse and its effects. Abused children experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, problems in school and other behavioral problems including delinquency and increased propensity to maltreatment of their own children. As a medium sized, semi rural county in Northern California, Butte County shares a higher incidence rate of neglect and abuse with other smaller counties in the north state, in large part due to the prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse and high poverty rates.

Butte County's high rate of poverty, with 22% of children living in poverty, is a factor in child maltreatment indicators. A contributing factor to poverty is educational attainment. Over 12% of Butte County residents over the age of 25 have not completed high school. This translates to less income potential for their families. Although there has been improvement in recent years, Butte County's current unemployment rate (June 2015) of 7.0% is higher than the state rate of 6.2%, further influencing the socioeconomic conditions in the County.

During the six year period from January 2009 through December 2014, the average number of child abuse and/or neglect referrals received by Children's Services each year was 3,654. On average, 18.5% of the referrals received resulted in substantiation following an investigation during this time frame. In 2009, 33.3% of the children in substantiated referrals were placed in out of home placement, including relative care, foster care and group home placements. In 2014, 45.1% of children in substantiated referrals were placed in out of home placements, approximately 10% of the number of children with initial allegations.

In addition to high poverty rates, the prevalence of parental drug and alcohol abuse in the county is a significant factor affecting referrals to the Child Welfare System. Most referrals involving neglect are the

result of parental substance abuse, primarily involving methamphetamine, marijuana, alcohol and/or prescription medications; however, honey oil manufacturing has been on the increase recently. Of the 340 petitions filed in the Butte County Juvenile Dependency Court in 2011, 265 (or 78%) involved allegations of parental substance abuse.

Parental drug use can have a great impact on the parents' ability to function and parent their children. The following is provided from the October 2014 Child Welfare Information Gateway Bulletin for Professionals, which addresses Parental Substance Use and the Child Welfare System.

(<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/parentalsubabuse.pdf>):

A parent's substance use disorder may affect his or her ability to function effectively in a parental role. Ineffective or inconsistent parenting can be due to the following:

- Physical or mental impairments caused by alcohol or other drugs
- Reduced capacity to respond to a child's cues and needs
- Difficulties regulating emotions and controlling anger and impulsivity
- Disruptions in healthy parent-child attachment
- Spending limited funds on alcohol and drugs rather than food or other household needs
- Spending time seeking out, manufacturing, or using alcohol or other drugs
- Incarceration, which can result in inadequate or inappropriate supervision for children
- Estrangement from family and other social supports

Family life for children with one or both parents that abuse drugs or alcohol often can be chaotic and unpredictable. Children's basic needs—including nutrition, supervision, and nurturing—may go unmet, which can result in neglect.

CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION POPULATION

CHILD WELFARE PREVALENCE RATES

During the time frame from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, 61% of allegations were for General Neglect – due in large part to the high poverty rates and parental substance abuse. Of those, 71.5% were substantiated. There has been no change in this trend in allegations in Butte County since the last CSA. The prevalence of General Neglect allegations is constant across ethnic backgrounds. There are approximately 800 children being served by the Child Welfare System in Butte County. In April 2015, 576 children were in out of home placements. Approximately 28% of the out of home placements are in relative care with the remainder in Foster Care and Group Home placements.

REFERRALS

Butte County has seen a decrease in the number of referrals over the past decade. At the time of the last County Self Assessment in 2009, there were 4,149 referrals, with 818 (19.7%) substantiations. In 2014, there were 3,319 referrals made, with 565 substantiations (17.9%).

The following chart reflects referral and substantiation rates, by allegation type, in Butte County from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Referral Allegation Type	Children with one or more Allegations			
	January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014			
	Number of Allegations	Percent of Total	Number Substantiated	Percent of Total
Sexual Abuse	294	8.9%	14	2.5%
Physical Abuse	386	11.6%	22	3.9%
Severe Neglect	43	1.3%	33	5.8%
General Neglect	2,024	61%	421	74.5%
Exploitation	2	0.1%	.	.
Emotional Abuse	463	13.9%	23	4.1%
Caretaker Absence &/or Incapacity	99	3.0%	49	8.7%
At Risk, Sibling Abused	8	0.2%	3	0.5%
Substantial Risk	.	.	.	.
Missing	.	.	.	.
Total	3,319	100%	565	100%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

The following chart shows the number and percentage of children with allegations, as compared to the total child population in Butte County for the period January 1 through December 31, 2014. It also shows the number and percentage of children with first entries as compared to the total number of children with first entries. Overall the County rate of children with first entries in care is approximately 10% of the total number of children with allegations.

2014 - Children with Allegations and with First Entries, by City					
City	Child Population	Children with Allegations		Children with First Entries	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total	46,100	3,322	7%	339	10%
Biggs/Gridley	3,777	155	5%	26	8%
Durham	808	24	1%	0	0%
Chico	22,081	1,091	33%	95	28%
Paradise/Magalia	6,850	551	17%	48	14%
Oroville	12,212	1,069	32%	101	30%
Other/Outlying Areas	372	52	2%	10	3%

Not Included in Count	0	380	11%	59	17%
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Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

The number of children with allegations and subsequent first entries in care is consistent with the size of the community (for example, Chico has the biggest population and has the most number of children with allegations). There were approximately the same numbers of children with allegations and subsequent first entries in care from both Chico and Oroville in 2014. However, when looking at the population for each of the communities, there are almost twice as many children in Chico as there are in Oroville. Therefore the per capita percentage of children with allegations is almost twice as high in Oroville (9%) as compared to Chico (5%) when compared to the number of children in those communities, rather than compared to the total County child population.

Of all children with one or more allegation in 2014, the following indicates the referral allegation type by ethnic group.

Referral Allegation Type	Children with one or more Allegations, by Ethnic Group					
	January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014					
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Native American	Missing
Sexual Abuse	12	124	25	3	3	127
Physical Abuse	15	182	29	11	12	137
Severe Neglect	1	24	7	.	.	11
General Neglect	71	888	194	38	64	769
Exploitation	.	.	.	2	.	.
Emotional Abuse	15	200	45	5	8	190
Caretaker Absence &/or Incapacity	10	53	10	2	3	21
At Risk, Sibling Abused	2	3	.	.	.	3
Substantial Risk	.	.	.	.	.	.
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	126	1,474	310	61	90	1,258

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

Of all children with substantiated referrals in 2014, the following indicates the initial allegation type by ethnic group.

Referral Allegation Type	Children with Substantiations, by Ethnic Group					
	January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014					
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Native American	Missing
Sexual Abuse	1	9	1	1	.	2
Physical Abuse	3	11	2	.	2	4
Severe Neglect	.	19	6	.	.	8
General Neglect	13	238	53	12	22	83
Exploitation	.	.	.	.	.	.
Emotional Abuse	.	15	1	.	1	6
Caretaker Absence &/or Incapacity	7	25	3	.	2	12
At Risk, Sibling Abused	2	1	.	.	.	.
Substantial Risk	.	.	.	.	.	.
Missing	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	26	318	66	13	27	115

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

The following two charts compare the total number and percentage of children with one or more allegations, and with substantiated referrals, by Ethnicity, in 2009 and 2014.

Time Frame	Children with one or more Allegations, by Ethnic Group						
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Native American	Missing	Total
2009	235	2,622	575	96	156	465	4,149
	5.7%	63.2%	13.9%	2.3%	3.8%	11.2%	100.0%
2014	126	1,474	310	61	90	1,258	3,319
	3.8%	44.4%	9.3%	1.8%	2.7%	37.9%	100.0%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

Time Frame	Children with Substantiations, by Ethnic Group						
	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Native American	Missing	Total
2009	67	564	101	19	31	36	818
	8.2%	68.9%	12.3%	2.3%	3.8%	4.4%	100.0%
2014	26	318	66	13	27	115	565
	4.6%	56.3%	11.7%	2.3%	4.8%	20.4%	100.0%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

Due to the large percentage of data that falls under the Missing Data section, it is unclear if there is a disparity among Ethnic groups between children with one or more allegations to children with substantiations.

Time Frame	Children with One or More Allegation, by Age						
	Under Age 1	1 – 2	3 - 5	6 - 10	11-15	16-17	Total
2009	306	543	721	1,105	1,050	425	4,150
	7.4%	13.1%	17.4%	26.6%	25.3%	10.2%	100.0%
2014	276	346	594	1,013	814	279	3,322
	8.3%	10.4%	17.9%	30.5%	24.5%	8.4%	100.0%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

Time Frame	Children with Substantiations, by Age						
	Under Age 1	1 – 2	3 - 5	6 - 10	11-15	16-17	Total
2009	96	150	157	201	164	50	818
	11.7%	18.3%	19.2%	24.7%	20.0%	6.1%	100.0%
2014	80	70	117	173	104	35	579
	13.8%	12.1%	20.2%	29.9%	18.0%	6.0%	100.0%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

POINT IN TIME REFERRALS

There were 238 referrals received in May 2015 (Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>). The following provides the response priority for these referrals:

- Immediate: 32 (13.4%)
- Ten Day Response: 85 (35.7%)
- Evaluate Out: 120 (50.4%)
- Not Determined as of data pull: 1 (.4%)

The following provides the outcomes of the referrals received:

- Evaluated Out: 120 (50.4%)
- Substantiated: 22 (9.2%)

- Inconclusive: 37 (15.5%)
- Unfounded: 36 (15.1%)
- Other/Not Recorded as of data pull: 23 (9.7%)

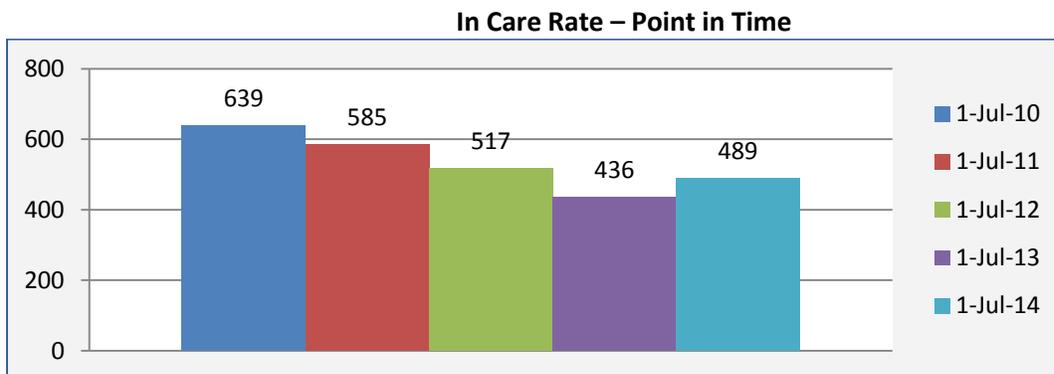
CASES

In May, 2015 there were 746 emergency response and open dependency cases (Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>).

Service Component	Number	Service Component	Number
Emergency Response	24	Permanent Plan	305
Family Reunification	264	Supported Transition	63
Family Maintenance	90	Total:	746

PLACEMENTS

Butte County has experienced a steady decline in placements since a high of 740 on July 1, 2005.



Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

There has been a slight increase in placements since July 2014, averaging about 500 placements per month. In May 2015, there 585 children in placement, however, this number includes 75 voluntary guardian home placements (Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>).

- Foster Family Home: 28 (4.8%)
- Group Home: 26 (4.4%)
- Relative/NREFM Home: 164 (28.0%)
- Foster Family Agency: 271 (46.3%)
- Supervised Independent Living: 14 (2.5%)
- Guardian Home – Voluntary: 75 (12.8%)
- Guardian Home – Dependent: 7 (1.2%)

JUVENILE PROBATION PREVALENCE RATES

The following tables provide demographic information regarding the population of juveniles served by Butte County Juvenile Probation. This data is retrieved from the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and the Butte County Probation Department's Case Manage System (CASE).

Foster Care Entries

Below, data is presented regarding the total number of juveniles who entered foster care during the specified year, first by age and then by ethnicity.

Age Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	Ethnic Group	2011	2012	2013	2014
	n	n	n	n		n	n	n	n
11-15 yr	3	3	2	0	Black	1	1	0	0
16-17 yr	8	6	3	2	White	7	4	4	2
18-20 yr	0	0	0	0	Latino	3	1	1	0
Total	11	9	5	2	Asian/P.I.	0	0	0	0
					Native American	0	3	0	0
					Missing	0	0	0	0
					Total	11	9	5	2

The tables below provide information related to youth with first entries into foster care for each given year, first by age group and then by ethnicity.

Age Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	Ethnic Group	2011	2012	2013	2014
	n	n	n	n		n	n	n	n
11-15 yr	3	3	2	0	Black	1	1	0	0
16-17 yr	7	6	2	0	White	7	4	3	0
18-20 yr	0	0	0	0	Latino	2	1	1	0
Total	10	9	4	0	Asian/P.I.	0	0	0	0
					Native American	0	3	0	0
					Missing	0	0	0	0
					Total	10	9	4	0

Children in Out-of-Home Placement

The following two tables provide the total number of youth in out-of-home placement over a period of time, stratified by age and then by ethnic group, point in time on August 1st of each year.

Age Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	Ethnic Group	2011	2012	2013	2014
	n	n	n	n		n	n	n	n
11-15 yr	0	0	2	0	Black	0	0	0	0
16-17 yr	0	3	1	0	White	0	0	2	2
18-20 yr	0	0	0	2	Latino	0	1	1	0
Total	0	3	3	2	Asian/P.I.	0	0	0	0
					Native American	0	2	0	0
					Missing	0	0	0	0
					Total	0	3	3	2

In 2014, Juvenile Probation received 608 referrals from law enforcement agencies. These 608 referrals represented 464 individual juveniles. Of these 464 juveniles, 35% of them committed crimes that included a felony offense as their most serious crime and 65% of them committed crimes that included a misdemeanor offense as their most serious crime.

In 2014, probation officers administered 216 PACT (risk/needs) pre-screen assessments to juveniles referred to the probation department. 25 of the juveniles given a pre-screen had a history of using weapons, 85 of the juveniles committed crimes against a person, and 3 juveniles committed a crime involving sexual misconduct. Seven of the juveniles given the pre-screen were age 12 and under, 81 were ages 13 to 14, fifty-three were age 15, forty-seven were age 16 and twenty-eight were over 16 years of age. Five juveniles were rated “high” risk to reoffend, 24 were rated “moderate/high” risk to reoffend, 65 were rated “moderate” risk to reoffend, and 122 were rated “low” risk to reoffend. 167 of the pre-screens indicated the juvenile reported past use of alcohol, 114 pre-screens indicated the juvenile reported current use of alcohol, 171 pre-screens indicated the juvenile reported past use of drugs, and 140 pre-screens indicated the juvenile reported current use of drugs.

During 2014, two juveniles were removed from their homes and placed into out-of-home placement. They committed the following offenses:

- §245(a)(4) PC, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, GBI (felony)
- §11550(a) HS, Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance (misdemeanor)

Of these youth, both have violated probation; however, neither have committed new offenses.

During the month of August 2014, forty one juveniles were detained in the juvenile hall (excluding those participating in Camp Condor). Of these 41 juveniles detained in juvenile hall, 29% had felony offenses, 5% had misdemeanor offenses, 24% were detained as a result of a violation of probation, 37% had been

detained on warrants, and 5% were detained on court referrals. 33 males and 8 females were detained. Of the males, 45% were Caucasian, 36% were Latino, 6% were Asian, 9% were Black, and 3% were Native American. Of the 8 females, 50% were Caucasian, 38% were Black, and 13% were Native American. The average daily juvenile hall population during August 2014 was 16.97.

At the time of the county's Peer Review, Butte County Probation had four juveniles in out-of-home placement. Three were males (ages 17, 17, and 16) and one was female (age 17). All were Caucasian. They were all placed in out-of-county group homes. Three were in group home placement receiving intensive services related to their offense. Three of the probation youth in out-of-home care reveal some history with child welfare services.

Butte County Probation has made efforts over the past several years to decrease the number of juveniles in out-of-home placement, working instead to maintain the juvenile in the home of his/her parent(s) or in the home of a relative or family friend with a parent's consent. Since the last CSA, out-of-home placements for juveniles on probation has dramatically decreased. In 2011, eleven juveniles were removed from home and placed into out-of-home placement. In 2012, nine juveniles were removed from home and placed into out-of-home placement. In 2013, six juveniles were removed from home and placed into out-of-home placement. In 2014, two juveniles were removed from home and placed into out-of-home placement. When stakeholders were queried (via survey) regarding this dramatic decrease, most responded that this decrease was likely due to the probation department's continued use of the risk/needs assessment tool and due to the recent implementation of evidenced-based programs facilitated by probation department staff.

Public Agency Characteristics

POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS

Butte County Children's Services and Juvenile Probation are responsible for providing child welfare services. Both agencies are under the supervision of the Butte County Administrative Office and the Butte County Board of Supervisors. The Butte County Juvenile Court and the Juvenile Justice Commission also oversee Juvenile Probation. <http://www.buttecounty.net/>

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The County of Butte is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Members of the Board of Supervisors provide policy direction for all branches of County government. The five-member Board is elected from the district in which he or she resides. Supervisorial districts vary greatly in geographical size; however, they all have approximately the same population. The selection of the chair and vice chair is done annually, and achieved by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

Both departments enjoy a positive relationship with the Butte County Board of Supervisors. The Director of the Department of Employment and Social Services and the Chief Probation Officer regularly attend Board hearings to provide information regarding strategies and programs within each department. The Board is supportive of both departments' efforts to improve outcomes for children and families in the

community. Deputy Administrative Officers from the County Administrative Office work closely and collaboratively with both departments when new programs are being implemented to provide guidance and support for the approval process. One of the Board members is a member of several social service boards including the Child Abuse Prevention Council and the Children's Services Coordinating Council.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Children's Services Division and the Probation Department have positive working relationships with local law enforcement agencies. Probation staff work closely with partner agencies, and Children's Services Division collaborates with the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force Drug Endangered Children Program to assist in searches when children are in danger. Partner law enforcement agencies include:

- Butte County Sheriff's Office
- Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force
- Butte County District Attorney
- Chico Police Department
- Paradise Policed Department
- Oroville Police Department
- Gridley-Biggs Police Department
- California Highway Patrol

ACTIVE TRIBES

The Federally recognized active tribes in Butte County are:

- Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Oroville, CA
- Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Palermo, CA
- Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Oroville, CA
- Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, Chico, CA

In addition to the four tribes in Butte County, Children's Services also has fairly regular contact with the Pitt River Tribe in Shasta County.

Butte County Children's Services recognizes that it is in the best interest of a Native American child that the child's membership in the Indian Tribe and the child's connection to the tribal community be encouraged and protected, and works collaboratively with the local tribes. Children's Services is committed to preserving and strengthening the essential tribal relations of Indian children who fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court or who have been placed in out of home care in a voluntary program.

Butte County Children's Services has policies and procedures regarding expert witnesses and legal noticing of tribe and monitors the compliance of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) requirements. This policy has recently been updated to reflect the new federal guidelines.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES

Butte County's Schools are organized into districts that are managed independently. Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) provides oversight, resources for teachers and provides the Special Education programs and the Foster Youth Services for the County. Foster Youth Services programs have the ability and authority to ensure that health and school records are obtained to establish appropriate placements

and coordinate services for youth in foster care. Butte County's countywide Foster Youth Services Program, School Ties, provides educational support services, including tutoring and assessment, backpacks and school supplies, enrollment and records transfer assistance, education passports, transportation arrangement, and AB 490 training. During the 2014-2015 school year, 227 Butte County foster youth were served by School Ties.

Butte County's Educational system includes 15 school districts with 91 schools, of which 11 are Charter schools. There are 41 Elementary schools, 13 Middle schools, 9 high schools, and 3 alternative schools. Additionally, there are 4 K-12 schools, 1 Special Education school, 4 Continuation schools, 14 Community Day schools, and 1 Juvenile Court School.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO – SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services and the California State University, Chico enjoys a strong collaborative partnership to ensure an effective internship program based on the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) Title IV-E Field Model. It is the policy of the department to accommodate internships based on staffing needs and number of program participants. The goal of the program is to provide a quality educational experience for BSW and MSW students to prepare them for a career in the field of Child Welfare.

COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AND PROBATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Butte County has developed a cooperative interagency responsibility for the protection and care of children in the child welfare system. The Children's Services Division, including Adoption Services, of the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS) and Juvenile Probation are the primary agencies responsible for providing child welfare services in the County. Additionally both agencies contract with the Department of Behavioral Health and other partner agencies to provide services to children and their families. Other key players include the Department of Public Health, Butte County Office of Education, and various community partners.

BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Under the direction of Cathi Grams, Director, the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services is composed of three divisions: Administration, Social Services (Adult and Children's Services), and CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility. The mission of the Department of Employment and Social Services: "We administer employment and social services, preserving the dignity of children, families and adults." <http://www.buttecounty.net/dess/Home.aspx>

Please refer to Attachment A: Organization Chart, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

Under the direction of the Director of the Department of Employment and Social Services, an Assistant Director is responsible for the oversight of the Children's Services Division. As of February 2015, there were 703 allocated positions for the Department of Employment and Social Services. Of those positions, 224 (Administrative and Social Work staff) were part of the Children's Services Division as follows (position count as of May 2015):

Children's Services Administration	
Director	1
Assistant Director	1
Program Managers	3
Administrative Analyst Supervisor	1
Administrative Analyst, Senior	4
Social Service Aides	15
Legal Office Specialist	8
Office Specialist	9
Paralegal	1
TOTAL	43

Children's Services	
Supervisor, Social Worker	13
Social Workers/Social Worker, Senior	78
Staff Development Officer, Social Services	1
Supervisor, Adoptions Specialist	2
Adoptions Specialists	9
TOTAL	103

Social Worker / Job Functions		
Intake	5	Non-Case Carrying
Duty	2	Non-Case Carrying
Family Assessor / AR	5	Case Carrying
IR/ER	9	Case Carrying
Family Law	2	Case Carrying
Court Workers	3	Non-Case Carrying
FTC / 0-5 Primary	11	Case Carrying
FR / FM Primary	7	Case Carrying
FR / FM / Wrap	2	Case Carrying
Placement Assessors	4	Non-Case Carrying
Placement	2	Non-Case Carrying
ILP / PP	4	Case Carrying
PP	1	Case Carrying
Post PP	4	Case Carrying
NRLG	1	Case Carrying
Trainer	1	Non-Case Carrying
Social Workers in Training	4	Non-Case Carrying
Licensing	1	Non-Case Carrying
OFR	1	Non-Case Carrying
Vacant	8	
TOTAL	78	

Social Worker Caseloads	
Non-Case Carrying	25
Case Carrying	53
Total	78

Caseload sizes vary for a variety of reasons, depending on the number of vacancies and the experience of the social worker. On average, on-going caseloads for new social workers range from 10 – 15 cases, while experienced social workers may carry 25 cases.

The following data lists primary Assignments by Service Component as of June 30, 2015, for all units (excluding Adoption Services).

Unit	Inv.	ER	FM	FR	PP	ST	Total
420: Primary/FR/FM/163 Wraparound/CCOC	2	2	24	56	15	0	99
430: Intake/PHN's	181	0	0	0	9	0	190
440: Court/Investigation/DEC	61	6	1	0	2	0	70
450: Placement	29	1	0	0	0	0	30
460: Primary/FTC/Under 5	0	0	30	70	30	0	130
480: PP/.26/ILP/AB12	1	0	0	0	119	19	139
620: PP/.26/ILP/AB12/PEER	1	0	0	4	102	42	149
630: F.L.-Placement/Voluntary/Relative	103	0	2	2	2	1	110
640: Primary/FR/FM	0	2	11	51	13	1	78
650: Investigation/Court/DEC	36	4	1	3	0	0	44
670: FTC/Under 5	2	0	13	77	2	0	94
Total	416	15	82	263	294	63	1,133

Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

The following provides a snapshot in time of on-going caseload sizes in June 2015, listing the average size and the number of social workers in the unit.

Average Caseload Size for On-Going Cases - June 2015		
Unit	Oroville Office	Chico Office
Primary/FR/FM/163	20.2 (5 SWs)	17.8 (6 SWs)
Primary FTC/Under 5	21 (6 SWs)	16.8 (4 SWs)
PP	19.6 (5 SWs)	26 (6 SWs)
NRLG	35 (2 SWs)	N/A

Due to staffing vacancies, current on-going caseload sizes exceed the recommendations for Optimal and Minimal Standards from the results of the California SB 2030 caseload study:

	<u>Optimal Standard</u>	<u>Minimal Standard</u>
ER	9.88	13
FM	10.15	14.2
FR	11.94	15.6
PP	16.42	23.7

STAFFING CHARACTERISTICS/ISSUES

Social Work staff assigned to Children’s Services Division consist of the following classifications:

- Social Service Aides – This is the entry level paraprofessional position that assists Social Workers with accessing social service programs, general case management, coordinating referral services, and providing other support. The minimum requirements for this position is a Bachelor’s Degree (BA) in Social Work or a high school diploma and one year of social service experience. The annual salary range for this position is \$30,797 to \$41,271, plus benefits.
- Social Worker – This is the journey level classification for the social worker series; incumbents are expected to perform a specialized range of social worker positions. The minimum requirements for this position is a Master’s Degree in Social Work (MSW) or a BA Degree and one year of social service experience. The annual salary range for this position is \$39,423 to \$52,831, plus benefits.
- Social Worker, Senior – This is the senior level classification for the social worker series; incumbents are expected to perform a specialized range of social worker functions, with the more difficult and sensitive cases. The minimum requirements for this position is a MSW or a BSW Degree and three years of experience providing protective services in a public social services agency. The annual salary range for this position is \$43,515 to \$58,315, plus benefits.
- Adoption Specialists – This social work position is responsible for providing agency adoption case management. The minimum requirements include an MSW and three years of work experience in a social services agency. The annual salary range for this position is \$45,718 to \$61,267, plus benefits.

There were 27 Social Workers, 51 Social Worker, Senior, and 9 Adoptions Specialist positions as of May 2015.

ADOPTION SERVICES UNIT

As part of realignment in California and Butte County’s commitment to finding permanency for foster children, agency adoption services are now provided by Children’s Services Division. Effective January 1, 2013, the six-month transition of the responsibility for Adoptions Services from the CDSS Chico District Office to the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services was complete.

The addition of Adoption Services added several new positions to Children’s Services, and has also provided promotional opportunities for social workers, as Adoption Specialists are required to have a MSW Degree, and therefore salaries are approximately 5% above social worker salaries. The Adoption Services Unit is currently composed of a Program Manager, two supervisors, nine Adoption Specialists, two Social Service Aides and support staff.

STAFF DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Butte County Children's Services Division is committed to supporting staff in obtaining degrees in social work, and increasing the number of social work staff with advanced degrees, by working collaboratively with the California State University (CSU), Chico, School of Social Work. CSU Chico is a participant in the statewide Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program, a collaborative project of the California Department of Social Services, the County Welfare Directors Association, California's graduate schools of social work and social welfare, and the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The primary goal is to professionalize child welfare services by increasing the number of social workers with Master's Degrees in Social Work (MSW) who provide services to children and their families.

Approximately five years ago, there were 6 social workers with MSW Degrees. In May 2015, eleven social workers graduated with MSW degrees increasing the total number of staff with MSW Degrees to 27 (the Assistant Director, one Program Manager, the Staff Development Officer, two Administrative Analysts, Adoptions Specialist Supervisor (the second position is vacant), 13 Social Workers, and 8 Adoptions Specialists (one position is vacant). Starting in the fall semester of 2015, nine staff will begin the MSW program at CSU, Chico, including four supervisors.

STAFFING CHANGES AND VACANCIES

Since 2012, there has been significant movement within the department creating vacancies.

- Six retirements, including two supervisor positions
- Ten internal promotions to Supervisors, Administrative Analyst Senior positions, Staff Development Officer and Adoptions Specialists
- Two staff did not pass their probationary period
- Twelve staff left for employment in other counties or other community agencies
- Two social workers laterally transferred to social work positions in Adult Services

As a result of these changes and movements, there has been a steady number of vacancies within Children's Services. As the economy has improved, it has been more challenging to fill vacant positions, as people are more willing to try new opportunities. As positions are filled, staff promote or move to other agencies or other counties. Some MSW social workers have transferred to the Department of Behavioral Health where they can receive clinical supervision towards licensure. In recent years, the recruitment and hiring process has been almost continuous.

In collaboration with all 23 County departments, the Butte County Human Resources Department is responsible for providing human resource services. The recruitment and hiring process is a lengthy one, due to the time involved to complete each step (the time frame for the recruitment process, administering and scoring exams, ranking the candidates, scheduling and administering hiring interviews, and completing background checks requires sufficient time to schedule and complete). At a minimum, it can take three months from the start of the recruitment process to the hiring of new employees, and if there are unanticipated delays during the process, it can take even longer.

Once a social worker is hired, the work continues; new social workers must participate in the Social Worker Core training (provided through the Northern Training Academy) as well as on-the-job training. The role of the social worker in the child welfare system is a complex and responsible one and the department is responsible to ensure social workers receive appropriate training so they are prepared for the critical and stressful work they do.

BUTTE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Under the direction of Steven Bordin, Chief Probation Officer, the Probation Department is composed of the following divisions: Administration, Juvenile Services (including Juvenile Hall operations) and Adult Services. The mission of the Probation Department: “The Butte County Probation Department is committed to enhancing public safety through rehabilitation and accountability.”

<http://www.buttecounty.net/probation/Home.aspx>

Please refer to Attachment B: Organization Chart, Butte County Probation Department.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Currently, Juvenile Probation employs 15 Deputy Probation Officers, 2 Probation Technicians, 3 Supervising Probation Officers, and 3 Support Staff. In 2013, three Chief Deputy Probation Officer positions were created. One of these Chief Deputy’s oversees the Juvenile Division of the probation department.

The probation department is the receiving agency for all juvenile referrals from city and county law enforcement involving minors who commit law violations. Three probation officers are assigned to the Assessment Unit. These officers process the new referrals received from law enforcement agencies. If it is a “mandatory” (due to the underlying offense) referral, the Assessment Unit officer refers the case to the District Attorney for processing. Assessment Unit officers also administer a risk/needs assessment tool to juveniles referred to the probation department to determine if probation supervision is warranted. If the juvenile’s risk to re-offend is assessed as “low” or “moderate” the Assessment Unit continues to handle the case. Assessment Unit officers typically have between 25 and 30 juveniles on their caseloads. If the juvenile is eventually placed on an informal contract, declared a ward of the court, or granted Deferred Entry of Judgment, their case is transferred to the Administrative caseload for supervision. One probation officer is assigned to the Administrative caseload. There are typically between 15-20 juveniles on the Administrative caseload. If the juvenile’s risk to re-offend is assessed as “moderate high” or “high”, the Assessment Unit officer transfers the case to the Juvenile Supervision Unit. The Juvenile Supervision Unit consists of 10 officers. These officers supervise juveniles on Deferred Entry of Judgment and wardship probation.

The table below illustrates the type and size of each supervision caseload.

Supervision Caseloads		
Officer	Caseload Type	Caseload Size
PO III	Gang	6
	Electronic Monitoring	12
PO III	Female	17
PO III	Sex Offenders	15
PO II	Gang	18

PO II	Camp	15
	General	2
PO II	General	19
PO II	General	20
PO II	General	12
	Minor Adjustments Program (MAP)	7

The two additional probation officers assigned to the Juvenile Supervision Unit coordinate the special programs facilitated by the probation department. These programs include, Strengthening Families, Forward Thinking, the Fresh Start Youth Farm, juvenile sports teams, and community restoration programs.

One probation officer is assigned those juveniles ordered into placement. There are currently 3 juveniles on this caseload. One probation technician is also assigned to this caseload, and is responsible for entering all pertinent information into CWS/CMS system.

Relatively new to the probation department, is the Title IV-E California Well-being Project. One Supervising Probation Officer, one Probation Officer III and one Probation Technician are assigned to this project.

The placement officer has a Master's Degree in Social Work and has been employed with Probation since 2001, as a Probation Officer II. A Deputy Probation Officer II salary ranges from \$20.51 to \$27.48/hour. The Supervising Probation Officer (SPO) has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and has been employed with the Probation Department since 1998. An SPO salary ranges from \$25.61-\$34.32/hour. In addition to supervising the placement caseload, the deputy probation officer is responsible for covering Court, attending the Interagency Services Placement Unit (ISPU) meetings on occasion, and facilitating probation programs.

The SPO is currently responsible for supervising a total of 9 staff; which includes one placement officer, one supervision officer, three assessment officers, one probation technician, one support staff, and two office assistants.

The Probation Department follows the requirements of the County's hiring process. Open positions are posted, and the selection process includes a test, a panel interview, and an interview with the Chief Probation Officer.

The Probation Department experiences minimal turnover.

FINANCIAL/MATERIAL RESOURCES

The County's Child Welfare budget is funded by both federal and state allocations, including but not limited to Title IV-E, Title XIX, and Promoting Safe and Stable (PSSF) funds and Children's Trust funds. In

2011, the State realigned most of the child welfare state allocations, including the Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT), Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) and Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP) allocations. This realignment has provided Butte County the flexibility to provide funding for prevention programs in the last couple of years.

Butte County was selected to participate in the Title IV-E Waiver Project, effective October 1, 2014.

CHILD WELFARE/PROBATION OPERATED SERVICES

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION OPERATED SERVICES

Butte County does not operate a shelter. The County collaborates with one Foster Family Agency (FFA) operating within Butte County to designate several homes as short term "receiving homes" for newly detained children. In addition, four Options for Recovery foster homes who are licensed by Butte County are also identified as shelter homes to receive newly detained children.

As previously noted in the County Infrastructure Section, effective January 2013 the responsibility for agency adoptions were transitioned to the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, Children's Services Division. This service had previously been provided by the CDSS Adoptions Unit, Chico Office.

Butte County has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to license foster family homes. Currently, there is one social worker assigned to the position of recruiting and training foster parents. Additionally, Butte County operates the Options for Recovery Program that recruits and trains foster parents to care for substance-exposed and medically-fragile children under the age of five. Additional detail is provided in the Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention Section.

JUVENILE PROBATION OPERATED SERVICES

The Butte County Juvenile Hall is a 52,000 square-foot facility. It has six pods that have 16 rooms each. Three of these pods are occupied. The juvenile hall has an industrial kitchen, a medical unit, a visitation area, a gym, an outdoor recreational field, a garden, a Koi pond, and an onsite Boys and Girls Club. Table Mountain School, located inside the juvenile hall facility, is a fully accredited high school.

In July 2014, Camp Condor was established. The camp has a total of 20 beds and is located inside the juvenile hall facility. It is an 8 to 14 month program that provides education and vocational skills and focuses on the participants' re-integration into the community. In September 2014, a welding program was integrated into the Camp Condor curriculum.

Camp Condor has allowed Probation the opportunity to expand services provided to longer-term committed youth and those that would otherwise be placed in out of home placements outside the community. Those participating in the program are provided increased educational opportunities, counseling, vocational training, and transitional services. Camp participants also learn how to develop healthy lifestyles and are allowed to participate in community service projects.

OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS

Children's Services Division enjoys a robust and collaborative relationship with other County and community partners. This relationship translates in to quality services that are provided to children and families in the community.

CalWORKs – The CalWORKs Program provides case assistance grants and welfare-to work services to families whose income is not adequate to meet the family's basic needs. In Butte County, Eligibility and Employment Services are co-located in the same locations as Children's Services Division which allows for regular interaction between both programs. Butte County participates in the Linkages Program for parents in both the CalWORKs and Children's Services Divisions.

Public Health – There are four Public Health Nurses assigned to Children's Services Division. Three of the nurses are assigned to foster care assignments, and one is assigned to the Options for Recovery Program.

Alcohol and Drug Services – Children's Services Division contracts with the Behavioral Health Department for one full time Alcohol and Drug (AOD) Assessor to provide AOD assessments for parents entering the Child Welfare System.

Mental Health – Children's Services collaborates with Behavioral Health for assessments and mental health services for children. The County also contracts with several private providers for counseling services for children who require specialty mental health services not provided by the County.

Contracted Services: The County contracts with several community partners to provide preventive and supportive services to youth and families. Children's Services remains directly in charge of the core child welfare service components and case management. Additional information about contracted services is provided in the Service Array Section.

State and Federally Mandated Child Welfare/Probation Initiatives

Title IV-E California Well-Being Project

California's Project began on July 1, 2007 with Alameda and Los Angeles counties and has continued under three-short term bridge extensions through September 30, 2014. On September 29, 2014, the federal government approved a five-year extension and expansion of the Project, for Butte, Lake, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties through September 30, 2019. The project provides the County the flexibility to invest existing resources more effectively in proven and innovative approaches that better ensure the safety of children and the success of families. This flexibility enables the opportunity to reinvest resources into more cost efficient approaches that achieve better outcomes. The project has the following goals:

- Improve the array of services and supports available to children and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems;

- Engage families through a more individualized casework approach that emphasizes family involvement;
- Increase child safety without an over-reliance on out-of-home care;
- Improve permanency outcomes and timelines;
- Improve child and family well-being; and
- Decrease recidivism and delinquency for youth on probation.

The target population includes children and youth ages 0-17, inclusive, who currently are in out-of-home placement or who are at risk of entering or re-entering foster care.

The Project focuses on two components:

- Prevention: Wraparound for probation youth exhibiting delinquency risk factors that put them at risk of entering foster care.
- Family Centered Practice: Safety Organized Practice to further implement and enhance the Core Practice Model for child welfare.

In addition to the project-wide interventions above, each county may implement additional child welfare and probation interventions, at local discretion.

- Children’s Services selected three interventions: enhancing Safety Organized Practice (SOP) practices, implementing a Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP) and enhancing the Supporting Our Families in Transition (SOFT) Program.
- Probation selected one intervention: implementing a new Wraparound Program for low risk, high needs youth and their families.

AB 12 – Extended Foster Care (EFC)

Effective January 1, 2012, Butte County implemented the Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program which allows foster youth to remain in foster care up to age 21. EFC placement options for Non-Minor Dependents include: Relative / Non-Related Extended Family Member Homes, Foster Family Homes, Foster Family Agency Homes, Group Homes (under limited circumstances), Transitional Housing Placement Program Plus (THP-Plus), Transitional Housing Plus Foster Care (THP-Plus-FC), and Supervised Independent Living Placements.

This program has positively affected many lives over the past year, giving new opportunities and continued support to foster youth between the ages of 18 - 21. During the quarter from July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, of the 70 youth eligible for EFC during the quarter, 65 youth remained in care.

As outlined in the local protocol for Section 241.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Butte County Probation Department continues to make all efforts to identify foster care youth who qualify for services under AB 12. Once identified, appropriate youth undergo Court proceedings to transition them into Extended Foster Care status. Under this protocol, case management services typically fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Employment and Social Services.

Katie A.

It is the policy of Butte County Children’s Services Division to comply with the findings of the Katie A. lawsuit, the Core Practice Model Guide framework and to work collaboratively with Butte County Department of Behavioral Health to provide children and youth with thorough mental health

assessments and services. Both departments have been working collaboratively and diligently to meet the requirements of Katie A., including:

- Comprehensive integration of the activities of all parties involved with service to the child/family.
- Treatment plans are prepared by the Clinical Coordinator working with the Child and Family Team and the Case Plans are prepared by the case carrying Social Worker.

Continuous Quality Improvement and Quality Assurance

Butte County Children's Services Division has recently implemented a new Quality Assurance unit which consists of one Program Manager, one Administrative Analyst, Senior and two Social Work Supervisor positions. The team is in the process of being trained in Continuous Quality Improvement. Additionally, Butte County was selected as one of five counties to pilot the new C-CFSR case review protocols, in advance of the August 2015 statewide rollout.

California Foster Youth Pregnancy Prevention Program

Due to the high percentage of teen pregnancies, Butte County applied to participate in, and was selected as one of six California counties to participate in the John Burton Foundation and the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) sponsored California Foster Youth Pregnancy Prevention Institute. This Institute, part of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, helps counties incorporate strategies into the services they provide to youth in foster care. A Butte County Team consisting of one Program Manager, the Staff Development Officer and the Staff Trainer participated in several meetings with other counties.

Four staff members will be attending the Train the Trainer conference later this year to be trained on the "Promoting Healthy Sexual Development and Pregnancy Prevention with Children and Youth in Foster Care and Parenting and Pregnant Teen" curriculum. As a result of this opportunity, Butte County Children's Services is developing new policies and procedures and will be able to train foster parents and social workers. Child-Family Team meetings will be offered to pregnant and parenting teens in foster care, to provide them with resources and a support system to assist them in making well informed decisions.

Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Program

Butte County elected to participate in the ARC program, effective June 1, 2015. This program provides approved relative caregivers the opportunity to receive payments equal to the basic Foster Care rate. Approximately fifteen existing caregivers were identified as eligible for conversion to this program. Eight have been signed up and have received their first payment under the new ARC guidelines; the remaining are still being processed. There have been no new cases to date.

Resource Family Approval (RFA)

Butte County has applied to be part of the second cohort of early implementing counties for the Family Resource Approval (RFA) Program. This is a new family and child-centered caregiver approval process that combines elements of the current foster parent licensing process and the approval processes for relative, adoption and guardianship caregivers. The RFA will replace the existing processes and will implement one unified process for all types of caregiver licensing and approval processes. This will

streamline the processes by providing unified procedures for all caregivers, regardless of the child's case plan, and will be implemented in January 2016.

Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP)

Butte County has selected to implement the Kinship Supportive Services Program (KSSP) as one of the interventions for the Title IV-E Waiver Project. KSSP provides support services to relative caregivers and the children placed in their homes. A Request for Proposals was issued in June 2015 for Family Finding and KSSP services, with an anticipated program start date of October 1, 2015.

Alternative Response

As a result of CWS Realignment in 2011, the Children's Services Division was able to establish Alternative Response (AR) services in Butte County starting in late 2012 (prior programs under the Differential Response model were ended in 2007 due to fiscal constraints).

Under the guise of Alternative Response (AR), Butte County Children's Services has been working to expand its child welfare agency's ability to respond differently to reports of child abuse and neglect. In addition to providing high level and immediate response for those children that are in potential danger, this focus includes a broader set of responses for working with families at the first sign of trouble, including innovative partnerships with community-based organizations that can help support families that are in need before problems escalate. To date, Butte County has implemented:

- The RED (Review- Evaluate-Direct) RED Team model, a collaborative approach to reviewing some Evaluate Out referrals and all ten-day child protection referrals. The ten-day investigations are then assigned as a Family Assessment Response or as a more traditional Child Welfare Response.
- Unit configurations were restructured to include two new units (one in each office) that consist of AR Family Assessors and Placement Staff. Social Workers in the AR units are responsible in part for providing a Family Assessment Response to selected ten-day investigations.
- Contracts have been developed with community partners to provide targeted early intervention services and to provide advocates from the local domestic violence services agency.

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

THE BOS-DESIGNATED PUBLIC AGENCY

On February 23, 1999, the Butte County Board of Supervisors designated the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services as the local public agency lead and administrator for the Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) programs (Butte County Board of Supervisors - Resolution number 99-32). As the Board of Supervisors designated lead agency, the county is responsible for the administration of funds, program and fiscal oversight, submitting annual reports to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), adhering to assurances and quality assurance of CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF funded programs.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (CAPC)

On June 20, 1989, the Butte County Board of Supervisors issued a resolution establishing the Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council (resolution number 89-091). The Butte County CAPC is composed of members from local agencies such as:

- Butte County Board of Supervisors – Representative
- Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services
- Butte County Probation Department
- Butte County Department of Behavioral Health
- Butte County Public Health Department
- Feather River Tribal Health
- Therapists from the Community
- Parent Partners
- CASA
- Community based organizations
- Law Enforcement

COUNTY CHILDREN’S SERVICES COORDINATING COUNCIL

In 1994, the Butte County Board of Supervisors appointed the Butte County Children’s Services Coordinating Council (CSCC) to fulfill the legislative requirements of Senate Bill (SB 997) which provided for the establishment of a coordinating council to facilitate the planning and delivery of services to children and families. The CSCC is composed of County and community child serving agencies, including:

- Butte County Board of Supervisors – Representative
- Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services
- Butte County Probation Department
- Butte County Department of Behavioral Health
- Butte County Public Health Department
- Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Butte County Office of Education
- CASA
- Community based organizations
- Law Enforcement

COUNTY CHILDREN’S TRUST FUND COMMISSION, BOARD OR COUNCIL

On June 13, 2000, the Butte County Board of Supervisors appointed the Children’s Services Coordinating Council as the commission designated to oversee the Children’s Trust Fund (minute order 00-192).

PSSF COLLABORATIVE

The Children’s Services Coordinating Council serves as the PSSF Collaborative in Butte County.

Systemic Factors

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

Butte County Children's Services Division has a number of Management Information Systems tools available. Usage of these systems is vital in carrying out the agency's responsibilities. Staff use the available systems to assess potential level of risk at the time referrals are received. The information is also used by staff to assess services that have been, and/or need to be, provided to clients when performing case planning activities and preparing court reports. Supervisory staff uses the data contained within CWS/CMS to review referral/case activities to ensure that appropriate services are being provided to clients and that these services are being provided as outlined in Division 31 Regulations and the California Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code.

These systems outlined below are invaluable tools for social workers and management. However, one barrier to full utilization of these tools is the challenge of timely data entry. This can be problematic when staff are in the field or are covering cases due to unfilled positions. Late data entry can affect outcomes. This is an area that is a high priority for the program. Monthly reminders are provided to staff when necessary, and data entry timeline requirements are included in policies and procedures, along with supervisory oversight requirements.

California Welfare Services/Case Management System:

The California Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) is a statewide, automated system that has been in use in Butte County since 1998. Butte County Children's Services Division utilizes all sections of CWS/CMS to include Referral/Case Management, Client Management, Placement Management, Service Management, and Court Management. CWS/CMS also has other functions such as Indian Child Welfare Notices, Case Plan Agreements, and all intake functions such as referrals and evaluate-out reports. CWS/CMS also contains some project management reports. One example is a custom-made report of children in care who are 15 1/2 years of age or older that is created quarterly and provided to the County ILP Coordinator to ensure outreach to all eligible youth. This is just one of many applications utilized by Children's Services Division.

Court functions such as Juvenile petitions, Court reports, and documenting results of hearings are all done exclusively in this system. An exception to this is notice of hearings and proof of service. These are done manually by legal office assistants.

Structured Decision Making:

Butte County utilizes Structured Decision Making (SDM), an approach to child protective services that uses clearly defined and consistently applied decision-making criteria for assessing safety and risk in child abuse and neglect referrals and cases at key decision points. Child and family needs and strengths are identified and considered in developing and monitoring progress toward a case plan. Human services agencies face a growing dilemma regarding how to provide services with limited public

resources in a climate of increasing demand for those services. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) and the Children's Research Center (CRC) works with state and county agencies to provide SDM systems to provide workers with simple, objective, and reliable tools with which to make the best possible decisions for individual cases, and to provide managers with information for improved planning, evaluation, and resource allocation. The principle behind the SDM system is that decisions can be improved by the following:

- Clearly defined and consistently applied decision-making criteria.
- Readily measurable practice standards, with expectations of staff clearly identified and reinforced.
- Assessment results directly affecting case and agency decision making.

How child welfare decisions are made and how agency resources are utilized are the key issues addressed by the SDM model. The components of SDM for child protective services are as follows:

- Screening criteria tool to determine whether or not the report meets agency criteria for investigations.
- Response Priority Tool, which helps determine how soon to initiate the investigation.
- Safety Assessment for identifying immediate threatened harm to a child.
- Risk Assessment based on research, which estimates the risk of future abuse or neglect.
- Child Strengths and Needs Assessment for identifying each child's major needs and establishing a service plan.
- Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA) to help determine a family's level of service and guide the case plan process.
- Case planning and services standards to differentiate levels of service for opened cases.
- Case reassessment tools to ensure that ongoing treatment is appropriate.

SafeMeasures®:

Butte County contracts with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) for SafeMeasures®, a state of the art reporting service that helps child welfare service agencies improve client outcomes by transforming case management data from CWS/CMS in to actionable data; including key performance indicators, process and outcome measures; and data reports.

SafeMeasures® improves outcomes by giving managers, supervisors, and workers the most up-to-date performance indicators at agency, regional, unit, and caseload levels. Staff can easily track compliance with Federal and State measures as well as using the SDM Investigation Compliance Summary, Investigation Compliance Summary and the Case Compliance Summary.

Business Objects:

Butte County Children's Services Division utilizes Business Objects County Accessible Data (CAD). This is an ever-improving and highly flexible tool that allows the user to create ad hoc reports from data in CWS/CMS. It is used to support various programs.

Department Intranet:

The Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services Intranet site has a Children's Services Division home page where relevant articles and social worker tools can be posted for reference. The intranet also has easy to follow links to all Children's Services Division forms, policies and procedures.

Compliance Monitoring:

Butte County utilizes a number of methods to evaluate and monitor progress in Outcome Data Measures, including the regular use of CWS/CMS, Safe Measures®, Structured Decision Making (SDM) and other tools (used by Program Managers, Administrative Analysts and Supervisors). SIP outcomes are evaluated monthly by the Administrative Analyst assigned to the Quality Assurance Unit, and the results are discussed at monthly management meetings and at Program Meetings with all staff. When necessary, a more in depth evaluation is completed to identify trends and reasons for changes in outcome measures. This is accomplished by drilling down to case specific information to monitor trends in outcomes either by using SafeMeasures® or by developing specific reports using Business Objects software.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Butte County Probation placement staff are required to use the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) to input placement information on probation youth ordered to out of home care. The system is used by one probation officer and a probation technician to provide data for state and federal oversight and not as a case management system. The probation department has a separate system that must be used for all probation youth, thus, some duplication of data entry occurs. CWS/CMS is the data system used by the California State Department of Social Services (CDSS) to determine overall compliance to the identified outcome measures. CDSS contracts with the University of California at Berkeley's Center for Social Services Research who in turn compiles the quarterly summary reports for all 58 counties. In 2013, the Probation Department underwent a department wide reorganization that resulted in a complete turnover in our Placement Unit. In addition to the turnover, large gaps were determined in our CWS/CMS data. Through extensive training and time on the job, the Placement Unit is now running smoothly. Data in CWS/CMS is now current.

Butte County Probation also uses the SafeMeasures® data tool when evaluating programmatic components and overall case compliance. This tool is used by probation placement staff. Data obtained from SafeMeasures® can often offer a more current data picture in comparison to the UC Berkeley data.

The department also utilizes the CASE management information system to track data and for case management purposes. CASE™ is an automated case management system that supports all adult and juvenile activity, including probationer profiles, victims, addresses, charge dispositions, biographical information, probation orders, hearings, notes, activities, programs, drug tests, and placement information. The probation case management system is a stand-alone program provided and supported by a private vendor that is not compatible with CWS/CMS. Case plans, petitions, and other documents related to out-of-home placement cases are generated in the probation case management system as that remains the primary system for all court-related matters.

In addition to the CASE system, the Probation Department utilizes the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), which is an evidence based practice assessment tool. The PACT consists of 12 domains which include areas such as Criminal Referrals, Mental Health, Attitude/Behavior Indicators, School History, Use of Free Time, Employment History, History of Relationships, Family History, Living Arrangements, Alcohol and Drug, and Aggression and Skills. The PACT is utilized to assess a minor's criminogenic needs and develop case plans to address those needs. A PACT is completed on the majority of minors referred to the Probation Department. Once services are established, a reassessment is conducted every six months or when a major change in circumstances occurs.

CASE REVIEW SYSTEM

The Butte County Juvenile Courts for the Child Welfare System and Probation are conducted separately. Each Court has an assigned judicial officer, with different groups of public defenders assigned to the participants of each court.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

COURT

The Butte County Superior Court has a well-established relationship with Children's Services Division. There is one Dependency Court Judge assigned to Children's Services, and a second judge is assigned to Family Treatment Court. Children's Services Division maintains current policies and procedures relative to court processes. When fully staffed, there are four Court Presenters (2 from each office) that work closely with the Dependency Attorney, who is co-located with Children's Services. The Court Presenters attend Court hearings to answer questions and document proceedings. New this fiscal year is the addition of one paralegal for Children's Services Division to assist the attorney. A second part time attorney will be added shortly.

At the end of March, 2015, the Butte County Superior Court opened a new facility in Chico, California. As a result, most of the dependency court hearings are now held in the new court house instead of being held at the main facility in Oroville, California. This resulted in an adjustment process as the hearing schedule also changed, resulting in a modified filing process being implemented.

Children's Services Division has numerous established policies and procedures in place to ensure the proper and timely court report preparation, review, and, notifications and filings. All policies and procedures outline the responsibilities of each person involved in this process, including the social worker, adoption specialist, supervisor, and legal office specialist. Additionally, there is a detention filing guide and a filing guide for other court reports to ensure sufficient time is allotted for timely report filing. A court staffing sheet is developed with each detention filed, which includes a detention staffing worksheet and task assignments.

The following highlights several of the policies and procedures in place with a brief description of the purpose and policy relative to Children Services Division's procedures and approval processes for the Juvenile Court Dependency case review process.

J-CARDS – Notice of Hearing Information, CSD-06-02, Effective Date April 26, 2006

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide Social Workers with guidance on how to use J-Cards and to ensure that any changes in information are immediately updated. The *Notice of Hearing Information (J-Card)* is to be routinely updated 45 days in advance of the next status of services review hearing or when a status change occurs.
- **POLICY:** It is the policy of Butte County Children's Services that the *Notice of Hearing Information (J-Card)* be updated electronically prior to status reviews, and whenever an address change occurs regarding the child(ren), parent(s), attorney, caretakers or any other person entitled notice of the Juvenile Court hearing. When parental rights have been terminated through the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) § 366.26 process, the natural parents' names and addresses will be

immediately removed from the *Notice of Hearing Information (J-Card)* form. If, in a multi-child family, parental rights have not been terminated on all children in the sibling group, a separate *Notice of Hearing Information (J-Card)* form shall be completed for those who remain in the biological family.

Notice of Hearing, CSD 99-03, Revised Date August 27, 2012

- **PURPOSE:** To ensure that Butte County Children’s Services Division provides proper and timely notice in all hearings before Juvenile Court.
- **POLICY:** It is the policy of the Butte County Children’s Services Division that all requirements of the Welfare and Institutions Code and Rules of Court regarding Notice of Hearing processes are followed.

Court Report Filing Timelines, CSD 13-10, Revised Date June 5, 2014

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to ensure that court reports are filed in advance of hearings and to provide a procedure for notifying all interested parties in the rare cases that a report cannot be filed timely.
- **POLICY:** It is the policy of Children’s Services that Social Workers and Adoption Specialists submit all court reports to Supervisors for review and approval, and to Legal Office Specialists for filing with the court, according to the filing tables listed in this policy. This policy reflects changes in department standards in the timeframe for filing court reports.

Distribution of Court Documents, CSD-08-02, Effective Date April 1, 2008

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Policy and Procedure is to give Children’s Services staff direction in the distribution of documents filed with the Juvenile Court. This direction is based upon applicable Welfare and Institutions Code and California Rules of Court applicable to juvenile proceedings.
- **POLICY:** It is the policy of Children’s Services to distribute documents filed with the Juvenile Court in a manner consistent with sections of Welfare and Institutions Code and California Rules of Court applicable to juvenile proceedings.

Timely Provision of Discovery for Contested Hearings, CSD-12-02, Effective Date May 1, 2012

- **POLICY:** It is the policy of Butte County Children’s Services to provide timely discovery to all counsel in order to provide quality services to the Superior Court of California, Butte County Juvenile Division, Butte County families and children and counsel. All relevant material, except as protected by privilege, shall be disclosed in a timely fashion to all parties of the litigation.
- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to avoid costly continued contested hearings and to provide timely and thorough services to all parties of the litigation.

By-Pass of Family Reunification Services, CSD-09-03, Revised Date June 24, 2014

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to ensure that when it appears that reunification services will not be offered to the parents/guardians because of one or more provision of Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) § 361.5(b), Social Workers provide reunification services until the dispositional hearing. The current policy reflects changes in Social Worker and Supervisor responsibilities, and clarifies what constitutes reasonable services.
- **POLICY:** It is the policy of Children's Services Division to provide appropriate reasonable services to families as required by statute and regulation.

Indian Child Welfare Act, CSD-15-04, Revised Date December 9, 2004 Note - this policy is currently under revision to incorporate information from the newly revised federal *Guidelines for State Courts and Agencies in Child Custody Proceedings* and provides more information on active effort, placement preferences, and noticing requirements.

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to Social Workers on how to comply with the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act. This policy reflects updates made to the federal Guidelines for State Courts and Agencies in Indian Child Custody Proceedings.
- **POLICY:** Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, Children's Services Division (CSD), recognizes that it is in the interest of an Indian Child that the child's membership in the Indian tribe and the child's connection to the tribal community be encouraged and protected. CSD is committed to preserving and strengthening the essential tribal relations of the Indian children in its care, to working cooperatively with the Indian tribes to accomplish these goals, and to complying fully with the letter and spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Family and Probate Court Referral Process, CSD-01-13, Revised Date July 27, 2010

- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Policy and Procedure is to give Children's Services staff direction to comply with the mandates of Family and Probate Court referrals. This direction is based upon applicable sections of the Welfare and Institutions Code, Family Code and Probate Code.
- **POLICY:** It is the policy of Children's Services to comply with mandates of the Family Code (3027[b]), Probate Code (1513), and Welfare and Institutions Code (328 and 329) to investigate referrals from the Court, provide assessments, and report back to the Court.

Since the last County Self Assessment, and with the implementation of AB 12 (Extended Foster Care), there are several new policies and procedures for non-minor dependents and the Court process. Recently updated policies include Educational Rights of Children and Non-Minor Dependents.

In January 2013, Adoption Services was integrated as part of Children's Services, which also resulted in new policies and procedures, particularly regarding .26 reports and hearings.

Cases being reviewed in court impact families by being heard timely so that children can achieve permanency in a timely manner. This can also adversely affect children when court hearings are not provided timely due to late court reports and continuances.

Both of these are areas of concern in Butte County. Improving the lack of timely court report filings, which has become more pronounced with recent staffing shortages, is a priority for Children's Services Division. The Policy and Procedure for Court Report Filing Timelines was updated in 2014, and the process for monitoring this has been recently updated for better oversight of this process. The clerical support team maintains a record of all court reports, the court date, the due date of the report and the actual date the report was submitted for distribution. This report is provided on a weekly basis to the Assistant Director, the Program Managers and the Administrative Analyst assigned to Continuous Quality Improvement and Quality Assurance. The Administrative Analyst provides an analysis of the weekly reports to supervisors to work with their staff to ensure compliance.

Department policy also requires that any requests for continuance can only be granted upon a showing of good cause, cannot be contrary to the child's best interest and must be approved by the supervisor and/or program manager.

Periodic training is arranged by the Court or the Children's Services Staff Development Officer and is provided for those involved with the Juvenile Court including Court personnel, attorneys, County staff, CASA, and Adoption Services. Some recent topics have included visitation, testifying in court and court processes for non-minor dependents. The staff dependency attorney is resourceful in providing feedback and guidance to social workers as well.

CASE PLANNING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

Pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code §15501.1, the case plan is the "foundation and central unifying tool in child welfare services." The case plan establishes the case goals and service objectives to meet the needs of the family members. It is the policy of Children's Services Division that Social Workers actively seek involvement from parents/guardians and youth age twelve and older in the development of all case plans, including permanency case plans for foster youth unless: parental rights have been terminated; it is not in the child's best interest to involve the parent/guardian in case planning; or the parent/guardian has indicated he or she does not want to be involved in the life of the child.

Butte County Children's Services provides facilitated Child-Family Team (CFT) meetings to develop case plans and make placement decisions, as well as ongoing evaluation of case plan effectiveness, in order to involve families directly in identification of needs, problem solving and decision making processes. Attendance at CFTs may include the youth, family, Social Worker, Behavioral Health Clinicians, foster parents, service providers and support persons. No single individual, agency or service provider works independently, but rather as part of the team for decision making. The Social Worker, Behavioral Health staff and service providers work within a team environment, which engages youth and families as partners in that process.

It is the policy of Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, Children's Services Division (CSD), that Social Workers, Adoptions Specialists, Supervisors, Program Managers, and Social Service Aides incorporate the principles of Safety Organized Practice (SOP) into their work with children and families, including in the development of case plans.

Safety Organized Practice

Safety Organized Practice (SOP) is a child welfare practice that incorporates several different approaches to working collaboratively with families, including:

- Signs of Safety
- Structured Decision Making
- Solution-focused interviewing
- Trauma-informed practice
- Cultural humility

SOP is designed to:

- Enhance the safety of children
- Create good working relationships with families and their support networks
- Enhance Social Worker's critical thinking

SOP core components include:

- Safety planning
- Teaming/Partnering with families
- Coaching
- Creating behaviorally-based case plans
- Incorporating the child's voice

Safety Organized Practice (SOP) techniques are used to engage the family and their safety network in the development of the case plan by:

- Creating the Harm and Danger Statements and Safety Goal;
- Developing behaviorally focused Service Objectives and Descriptions; and
- Discussing and choosing services for the clients to participate in that will help in achieving the case plan goal(s).

Case plans also identify the service objectives, client responsibilities, case management services, visitation schedule and agency responsibilities.

While involving the parents in the decision making process is practice, there is also a strong commitment to involving children in making decisions regarding such issues as visitations and placement whenever appropriate and feasible. Whenever appropriate this process occurs at CFT meetings ensuring support for the child/youth regarding difficult issues. For older youth and non-minor dependents, case plans may also include Independent Living Plan services, documentation that the social worker has requested a consumer credit report and information regarding the youth or non-minor dependent's participation in the development of the Transitional Independent Living Plan.

Social workers are required to complete a case plan review with their clients once a month, and update as necessary. The social worker and clients utilizes this time to review the Court ordered case plan, note any progress made, answer questions and complete referrals for additional services.

Children's Services Division utilizes the CFT process to determine placement options for children. Family Placement Meetings (FPM) are scheduled for the families of all children who are detained and placed in out-of-home care. FPMs are also scheduled and facilitated for Voluntary Family Reunification cases as well as critical/crisis change of placements.

The sole agenda for an FPM is to identify the next best placement for the child. Potential caregivers are invited to join the meeting as team members whenever appropriate.

When a child is in need of, or at risk of, a higher level of care, the matter is referred to the Interagency Services Placement Unit (ISPU). The ISPU is collaborative partnership including the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health, Children's Services Division, Juvenile Probation, Public Health and the Butte County Office of Education. The ISPU is responsible for reviewing, recommending appropriate and effective services and placements for Butte County children involved in the foster care system. The ISPU Team reviews the cases of children and youth who are at risk of a higher level of care and utilizes a team approach to make recommendations for appropriate placements and services for each child. The team coordinates multiple agency services in order to avoid any duplication of services and explores alternatives for an effective comprehensive plan. The guiding principles of the Interagency Team are to place children and youth close to home and in the least restrictive, lowest level of placement as possible.

No placement in a Rate Classification Level (RCL) 13/14 group home can be made without ISPU approval and certification. The oversight of the ISPU is provided by Agency Directors and Program Managers, or their designees.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Butte County's 602 (Delinquency) Court is located in the old juvenile hall. The old juvenile hall is securely connected to the juvenile detention facility allowing secure movement of minors from one area to another. On some days detention hearings are held in the superior court as needed. One specific judge is assigned to the delinquency calendar for a term of at least a year, but generally remains longer. The lead juvenile public defender has occupied the position for approximately 20 years and is well-suited to the job. The Deputy District Attorneys assigned to the delinquency calendar are generally the newly hired attorneys. The Probation Department also has a small core of probation officers who routinely represent the department in court. This combination and the truly non-adversarial role between all the parties when trying to pursue the best interests of the minor while protecting his/her rights lends the stability, consistency, and continuity needed for handling juvenile matters that have the potential of spanning several years.

In the past, detention hearings held at the Superior Court necessitated minors being transported from the secure confines of the juvenile hall to the court. Now, a video arraignment capability has been implemented, whereby, those detention hearings can take place without the need for transporting minors out of the detention facility. This has reduced staffing needs enhanced confidentiality and increased the safety and security of both the juvenile and staff.

The Butte County Probation system has many levels of external oversight and quality assurance with the primary being the Butte County Superior Court including the Juvenile Court Judges and the Public Defender and District Attorney's offices. Further external oversight and quality assurance is provided by among others, the Department of Justice, the Board of Corrections, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Interagency Placement Unit, the Department of Employment and Social Services, the Grand Jury, and the Administrative Office of the Courts Judicial Review Council.

Because of the comparatively few probation cases in foster care, the probation department is able to address Quality Assurance needs informally at the unit level. The Juvenile Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Placement SPO, and Placement DPO are tasked with remaining current with Federal and State requirements concerning foster care, and incorporating any new regulatory or legal requirements into existing policies. Those persons respond to inquiries from the Juvenile Court regarding foster care

related issues as they might pertain to probation cases. The Placement Unit (deputy chief, supervisor, DPO, and probation technician) meet periodically to review practices and modify them as needed.

The Probation Department utilizes an internal approval process for cases where placement into foster care is the preferred recommendation. Supervision officers are required to discuss with their immediate supervisor any recommendation for placement in foster care. If the recommendation for placement is supported by the SPO, the officer discusses the case with the Probation Department's Placement Supervisor. Difficult or complex cases are presented at the weekly Interagency Services Placement Unit (ISPU) meeting. The ISPU consists of staff from Children's Services, Probation, Office of Education and Behavioral Health and addresses placement issues. The placement supervisor and/or the ISPU team will affirm the recommendation of the assigned officer, discuss alternatives to the proposed recommendation, or disapprove the recommendation. The ISPU process helps to insure only those cases truly in need of foster care services are recommended for placement.

As previously addressed, the Probation Department utilizes the PACT, which is an evidence based practice assessment tool. The PACT is utilized to assess a minor's criminogenic needs and develop case plans to address those needs. A PACT is completed on the majority of minors referred to the Probation Department. The PACT and case plan are completed with the input of the parents and the youth. Once services are established, a reassessment is conducted every six months or when a major change in circumstances occurs. The case plans are regularly reviewed with the youth and their parents in attempt to provide the most appropriate services.

At the time of detention, the youth and their families are asked about possible family members who would be willing to care for the youth, should they be removed from the parent. This information is documented in CASE and in Dispositional Reports. Often, this is not relevant at the onset of the case; however, it is utilized in the future when considering out-of-home placement of the youth. It is not common practice in Butte County Delinquency Court to have the parental rights terminated; however, youth are often placed with other family members in order to maintain family connections.

Youth in out-of-home placement appear in court every six months for a placement review hearing. At that time, their case plan is formally reviewed and signed. Youth in out-of-home placement appear in court every six months for a status review hearing. At the first review hearing, information is provided to the court regarding the youth's progress in placement. Based on this, the Court decides whether to return the youth to his/her home or order the youth to continue living in foster care (typically a group home). Parents, group home staff, or relative caregivers are given notice at least 15 days before the date of the hearing, advising them of their right to attend court and submit information they believe to be relevant. At least 10 days before this hearing, the probation officer provides the above individuals with a summary of her recommendations to the court. Further, a permanency hearing is held within 12 months of the date of disposition. At the permanency hearing, the court will decide if the youth can safely be returned home or if efforts to reunify with his/her family should end. If the youth cannot return home, another permanent plan is selected at the permanency hearing. That plan could be adoption, legal guardianship, or another planned, permanent living arrangement. The preferred choice is the most permanent home possible for the youth, so the court considers first adoption and then legal guardianship. If neither of those options is possible or neither is in the youth's best interest, the judge orders another planned, permanent living arrangement.

A Post-Permanency Review Hearing is held every six months to update the court on the youth's progress and needs. This continues until either the youth is adopted, a legal guardianship is established in which court supervision is no longer necessary, or the case is dismissed for some other reason. Parents and

relative caregivers are given notice of the hearings in the same way they are given notice of review and permanency hearings. Once a year, the court must address whether or not the permanent plan for the minor continues to be appropriate. The court can add or modify orders until the minor turns 18 (or 19, in some cases) or the case is dismissed. Additionally, if the youth is determined to be in need of Extended Foster Care, the delinquency court designates the youth a §450 W&I Non-Minor Dependent so that he/she may continue to receive foster care support and services. Upon declaring the youth a Non-Minor Dependent, as indicated by the Butte County AB 12 Implementation Team and protocol, the Butte County Social Services Division assumes responsibility for the youth's placement and care.

The probation department also utilizes the services of Justice Benefits, Inc. (JBI) as an option to assist the probation department with Title IV E claiming.

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT LICENSING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Butte County has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to license foster family homes. Currently, there is one social worker assigned to the position of recruiting and training foster parents. Additionally, Butte County operates the Options for Recovery Program that recruits and trains foster parents to care for substance-exposed and medically-fragile children under the age of five.

Butte County's system for maintaining standards for foster family homes, including relative homes, first consists of providing prospective foster caregivers with detailed information about Butte County's expectations. Prospective licensees are provided an orientation by the licensing social worker, which includes the Butte County Foster Family Home license application packet. At the orientation, prospective foster parents are given a detailed checklist of the requirements to become licensed by the State of California and performance requirements for Butte County. Topics covered are skills training (30-45 hours), background checks, home evaluation and reimbursement. Applicants also complete a pre-screening questionnaire followed by an interview with the licensing worker. Applicants are also required to attend Pre-Service training, which prepares them for the reality of service.

Additionally, Butte County has one social worker assigned to the Options for Recovery Program, to recruit and train foster parents and relative caregivers to care for drug exposed children under the age of five years. This social worker works in collaboration with the licensing social worker to recruit and provide additional training.

Specific recruitment efforts (for example, for African American or Hispanic caretakers) have been tried throughout the years, with little success. New foster parents are for the most part recommended by their friends or relatives who provide foster care. Butte County has a contracted relationship with a local advertising agency to help recruit potential foster parents and adoptive parents.

Butte County has recently applied to join the next cohort for the Family Resource Assessment (FRA) pilot project, which will result in streamlined and more consistent processes for all caregivers, beginning in 2016.

STAFF, CAREGIVER AND SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING

STAFF TRAINING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

As part of Children's Services continuing effort to ensure accuracy, consistency, and quality casework, a comprehensive and thorough training program is provided to all social workers and social worker aides. This includes classroom training and training in the computer lab on the CWS/CMS system. Also available to staff are several specialized trainings. New hires are required to complete fourteen days of training (Primary Core Training, Phase I) provided through The Northern California Training Academy, UC Davis. Employees are also required to complete Secondary Core Training (Phase II) within in the first twenty-four months of employment which consists of an additional fourteen days of beginning to advanced level training. In addition, supervisors are required to complete the Supervisor Core Program.

A six-week new social worker orientation and training is provided to new social workers in Children's Services. This comprehensive training covers the following topics:

- General Agency Orientation
- Intake
- Investigations
- Family Assessment
- CWS Case Management
- Court
- Permanency
- Adoption Services

ON-GOING STAFF TRAINING

Ongoing training is provided to all staff in the form of In-Service, Extension Services and CWS/CMS Lab training which provides knowledge and processes to meet changing Federal and State CWS requirements. In addition, these trainings provide employees with the skills and knowledge required for their positions. The on-going trainings include but are not limited to:

- Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA)
- AB 636 – CCFSR
- Documenting outcomes on CWS/CMS
- Safe Measures use in Case Management
- Assessment Tools
- Community Coordination
- Family Team Decision Making
- Motivational Interviewing
- Structured Decision Making
- Safety Organized Practice/Signs of Safety
- Multi-Ethnic Placement Act
- Court Report Writing
- Case Plan
- Placement on CWS/CMS
- The Indian Child Welfare Act
- Nurturing Parenting Program: Training for Foster Care providers and Options for Recovery Foster Family homes:
- Foster Care Licensing assessment and training
- Butte College Foster Parent curriculum

- Options for Recovery - specialized training in caring for drug exposed and medically fragile children

Provider Training

Butte County Children’s Services collaborates closely with many subcontractors and services providers throughout Butte County. In an on-going effort to provide consistency in services and updated information to these providers, Butte County provides training and technical assistance to subcontractors in the form of out-service trainings including:

- Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reporter training provided to schools, outside agencies and the general public as requested.
- Butte County Children’s Services Speakers Bureau is made up of Children’s Services Division supervisors and staff and provides training to community partners regarding CSD policies and practices and other topics as requested.
- Partner agencies participate in department training provided to staff.
- Partner agencies often participate in trainings offered through the Northern Training Academy. This includes training in SOP techniques and practices as the expectation is that these strategies will be utilized in services provided to families.
- Trainings provided to students at California State University, Chico.

JUVENILE PROBATION

STAFF TRAINING

Each deputy probation officer is required to complete the Probation Officer Core Course and training pursuant to Section 832 of the Penal Code (Arrest, Search and Seizure and Firearm Familiarization) within the first year of employment. Each deputy probation officer is required to complete an additional 40 hours of training each year.

The responsibilities, requirements, and relationships required for placement officers are significantly more complex than typical probation officer assignments. Placement officers must work intensively with out-of-home care providers and the youth’s family, as well as the youth themselves to meet case plan goals. In addition, the position requires adherence to additional federal and state laws and state regulations which govern the placement of youth outside of their homes. Training needs are identified based on these ever changing laws and regulations. Current and relevant trainings are essential for placement officers. Customized training for juvenile probation placement officers is offered through the University of California, Davis, Resource Center of Family-Focused Practice. The officer assigned to the placement caseload is required to complete a Probation Officer Placement Core Course within two years and a portion of their yearly training must be directly related to placement. Placement-related trainings support officers to work successfully with youth, their families, and providers so that youth can become contributing citizens. The current placement officer has participated in the Probation Officers Core Course, Probation Officer Placement Core Course, Concurrent Planning, Extending Foster Care for Juvenile Justice Youth, Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Justice, the Partnerships for Well-Being Institute, Motivational Interviewing, CWS/CMS and a variety of other probation related trainings as approved by the Training for Corrections Division Board of State and Community Corrections Standards. There are no gaps in training needs at this time.

The supervising probation officer (SPO), who supervises the placement officer, has completed the Probation Officers Core Course and the Probation Officer Placement Core Course. The SPO has completed the additional following trainings related to placement: Supervisor Placement Core Course, Concurrent Case Planning, Leading the Commitment to Youth in Placement, the Partnerships for Well-Being Institute, and CWS/CMS. The SPO has also attended the monthly Probation Advisory Committee meeting. These meetings are comprised of probation departments throughout California, the CDSS and U.C. Davis with the main topic being mandates as they pertain to out-of-home placement.

AGENCY COLLABORATION

Butte County enjoys a strong collaborative relationship between county agencies and community partners. Probation and Children's Services participate in various councils and organizations whereby stakeholder participation and input is requested and welcomed. Both agencies are members of the Butte County Children's Services Coordinating Council, consisting of all county child serving agencies, and community partners, as well as the Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC). Funding for an executive director for the Butte County CAPC is provided with Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP) funding which allows the CAPC to work in collaboration with other agencies to provide public awareness and education about preventing child abuse and neglect.

Other examples of County collaboration include:

- The Director and/or Assistant Director of the Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS) and the Chief Probation Officer and/or Chief Deputy Probation Officer participate in the Butte County Policy Council, which consists of department heads from the County agencies that serve children. In addition to DESS and Probation, representatives from Behavioral Health, Public Health, Juvenile Court and the Office of Education also participate in the Policy Council, as needed, to address common issues.
- The Chief Probation Officer is a member of the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and is the Regional Chair and Past President; and serves on several CPOC sub-committees.
- The Director of DESS is a member of the County Welfare Director's Association, is a past president, and serves on Executive Committee in the Fiscal subcommittee.
- The Director of DESS is a commissioner on the Butte County First 5 Children and Families Commission.
- Representatives from Children's Services Division, Probation, Office of Education and Behavioral Health participate in the weekly Interagency Service Placement Unit (ISPU) to address placement issues.
- Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) – both departments are active in the CAPC.
- Children's Services Coordinating Council (CSCC) – both departments are active in the CSCC.
- Child Death Review Team – Multi-disciplinary team that reviews all child death cases in the County includes members from Children's Services Division and law enforcement.
- Child Abuse Response Team (CART) – A team approach involving law enforcement, prosecutors and social workers to conduct child abuse investigations
- The Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Program is a joint project of the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) and Children's Services that targets children in high risk drug environments in Butte County.
- Family Treatment Court – a collaborative project involving Children's Services, Behavioral Health (Alcohol and Drug Services) and the Courts.
- Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) – The BCOE School Ties Program for foster youth served 227 total Butte County foster youth with educational supports during the 2014-2015

school year (133 Foster Family Agency placements, 63 Foster Family Home placements, and 31 Group Home placements). This support included:

- Health and Education Passports were updated 201 times.
- 111 students were provided backpacks and school supplies.
- 27 students received school transportation arrangement assistance.
- 32 students received academic tutoring.
- 3 students qualified for the AB 167/216 graduation waiver.
- Both departments participate in the SB 163 Wraparound Program.

SERVICE ARRAY

Butte County is fortunate to have a continuum of family-centered services available. However, connecting to services can be a challenge for many of our families, due to living in outlying communities and lack of transportation, or the inability to find resources when in need. The “HelpCentral.org 211 Butte County” is a comprehensive website that provides a way to quickly find low-cost and no-cost health and human services. This free all-inclusive online resource provides a listing of services and links to parenting resources, mental health services, vocational services and other resources. A new addition to this resource is the new “Call 211” option that provides another option to locate services.

<http://www.helpcentral.org/>

CHILDREN’S SERVICES DIVISION

Children’s Services Division provides a continuum of service delivery options for youth and their families, while involved in the Child Welfare System. These services range from preventative services with the goal of preventing entry in the Dependency Court System, to a variety of services to help families successfully reunify, assisting them as they exit the child welfare system, and providing services to teens and young adults to prepare them for adulthood.

Services are implemented based on a number of factors, and management from Children’s Services Division is flexible in responding to needs and ideas. Some examples of new or enhanced programs include responses to changes in the law (AB 12, Extended Foster Care); funding opportunities (the Child Welfare Services - 2011 Realignment allowed for funding flexibility in providing preventative services); or community factors and needs (Family Treatment Court). Butte County has implemented a number of programs as a result of input from prior County Self Assessments (the SOFT Program); the result of proposals received during the contract procurement process (implementing the Nurturing Parenting Programs® curriculum in all parent education services); or proposals from staff (the PEER Program).

There are many ways to monitor services and their effectiveness. In addition to methods discussed in the Quality Assurance section, Child-Family Team (CFT) meetings are conducted using a modified Family Team Decision Making structure with a focus on family strengths, needs, and involvement, and utilizing Safety Organized Practice strategies and tools. The CFT process consists of four specific types of meetings: 1) Family Placement Meetings which address the next best placement following detention; 2) Family Case Plan Meetings which focuses on development of the family’s case plan, service needs and service delivery; 3) Family Focus Meetings which are ongoing meetings assessing the effectiveness of the case plan and adjusting services and goals as needed; and 4) Family Focus Transition Meetings focusing on the transition from Family Reunification services to Family Maintenance services ensuring ongoing services and smooth transition of children from placement to home. Attendance at these meetings may include parents, youth/children when appropriate, support persons for parents, Children’s Services staff, Attorneys and other professionals as appropriate.

Children's Services contracts with two community-based agencies to provide CFT Facilitators who are responsible for setting up the meeting with parents, Children's Services, and others, developing the agenda of the CFT meeting. The Facilitators provide a written summary of the meeting including identification of the family's needs, action plan, and outcomes. Since the last County Self Assessment, and in large part due to input received during the CSA, the number of Facilitators on contract has increased from three to six, and their scope of service provision has been enhanced to include families in Alternative Response programs, and also to meet the requirements of Katie A.

Because of the Settlement Agreement in *Katie A. v. Bonta*, the State of California has agreed to take a series of actions that are intended to transform the way California children/youth who are:

- In foster care, or;
- Who are at imminent risk of foster care placement to:
 - Receive access to mental health services, including assessment and individualized treatment, consistent with what has been defined as a Core Practice Model (CPM) that creates a coherent and all-inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.

Once a child becomes involved with CSD by detention, voluntary placement or protective custody order, the Social Worker must evaluate the case to determine if it meets Katie A. criteria by completing Butte County Child Welfare Mental Health Screening Tool to determine the need for a referral for a behavioral health assessment. If the screening indicates an assessment is required, the social worker makes a referral to the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health.

If the youth is assessed as needing services, the Behavioral Health Department provides Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS). These are individualized and strengths-based, needs-driven intervention activities that support the engagement and participation of the child/youth and his/her significant others and help the child/youth develop skills and achieve the goals and objectives of the plan utilizing Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), a service that is responsible for facilitating assessment, care planning and coordination of services, including urgent services for children/youth who meet the Katie A. Subclass criteria.

In addition to other service needs that are identified, most parents are expected to participate in Parent Education Services as part of their case plan goals. The Nurturing Parenting Programs® philosophy and/or curriculum is utilized throughout all Parent Education Services. The Nurturing Parenting Programs® are a family-centered initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices. Some of the long term goals are to prevent recidivism in families receiving social services, and stop the intergenerational cycle of child abuse by teaching positive parenting behaviors. According to the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare, Nurturing Parenting is rated High on the Child Welfare System Relevance Level and is ranked 3 (out of a scale of 1 – 5) in Promising Research Evidence. (Data Source: <http://www.cebc4cw.org/program/nurturing-parenting-program-for-parents-and-their-school-age-children-5-to-12-years/>)

When a child is initially detained, the parent is referred for an Alcohol or Other Drug (AOD) Assessment. The assessment is provided by a Behavioral Health staff member, who is a Certified Addiction Specialist. Following the assessment, the Assessor, parent and Social Worker meet to review the assessment, refer to treatment services and refer the parent to the Parent Support Group. Treatment options may include:

- Outpatient counseling or group treatment
- Inpatient treatment
- Family Treatment Court

Parent Support Groups (PSG) are provided to parents who have recently become involved with the Juvenile Dependency Court system and the Butte County Children's Services Division. The purpose of the groups is to provide information, education, and discussion of shared circumstances in a supportive and confidential forum. PSG was implemented approximately ten years ago as a means to engage parents in the process and help prepare them to participate in services by addressing their anger and confusion. The 8 week curriculum consists of the following classes (each class is 90 minutes):

1. Grief and Loss
2. Anger
3. You and the Court System (1)
4. You and the Court System (2)
5. Taking Responsibility for your Recovery
6. Responsibility is Power
7. Values
8. Goals

Upon completion of PSG, parents are referred to 16-weeks of Nurturing Parenting classes. The curriculum consists of the following classes (each class in 90 minutes).

Anger Management Series:

1. Understanding and Expressing Anger
2. Trigger Thoughts
3. Positive Ways to Deal with Stress
4. Understanding Domestic Violence and its Impact on Children
5. The Cost of Anger
6. Drugs, Alcohol and Family Violence
7. Personal Power

Positive Discipline and Appropriate Expectations Series:

8. Behavior Management (Ignoring inappropriate behavior/natural and logical consequences)
9. Behavior Management II (Using rewards to guide and teach)
10. Ages and Stages of Development
11. Building Self Worth
12. Keeping my kids safe

The Healthy Family:

13. Parenting in Recovery
14. Growth, Change and Letting Go
15. Communicating with Respect
16. Family Morals and Values

Parents may also be referred to the Parent Education Experiential Resource (PEER) Program. The PEER Program is a hands-on parenting group with their children. PEER runs concurrently with Nurturing Parenting classes. The PEER Program was initially funded through a grant from the Butte County First 5 Children and Families Commission. Funding has recently ended after several years, but due in large part to the Child Welfare Services – 2011 Realignment, the department is able to keep the program operating through the department's budget.

An example of a program that was initially identified during a previous CSA process is the Supporting Our Families Transition (SOFT) Program. The SOFT Program is a time limited program (normally six months) that targets families in Family Reunification as they prepare to enter Family Maintenance, as well as providing support during Family Maintenance. SOFT Services are provided in both the classroom setting and in the home. Advanced Parenting Classes are provided to help parents put skills learned in earlier classes to practice once their children have returned home. The curriculum is flexible and can be adjusted to meet specific needs that may arise. Additionally, in-home parent coaching and support with family skills education (such as budgeting) is provided. Typically, parents attend class every other week and have in-home coaching on alternating weeks.

This program is funded blending Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) funds, and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Funding (Family Support, Time Limited Family Reunification and Family Preservation). The use of both CAPIT and PSSF funds allows for greater flexibility in providing these services to families while meeting the goals of these funding sources. While working collaboratively with Children's Services staff, the SOFT Program case managers provides extra support and parent mentoring, with an emphasis on parenting in recovery, with the goal of successful reunification. The SOFT Program was an identified program goal in the current SIP to enhance and expand existing strategies to improve outcomes as families exit the child welfare system. This was accomplished by making changes to the service delivery model (by alternating in-home and group sessions) which expanded the capacity of this program to serve all parents, and alleviated wait lists to start services. This is one of the strategies that helped improve Butte County's Reentry Following Reunification rate since the last CSA.

In providing or arranging services for children and families, Children's Services Division is committed to making services available on a county-wide basis. Parent Support Groups, Nurturing Parenting classes, the PEER Program and the SOFT Program are all provided in two locations (Chico and Oroville). When the need arises, some classes are also provided in Paradise. Parent Support Groups and Nurturing Parenting classes are provided six times throughout the week with day and evening classes available. There is no charge for any of these services. There are no waiting lists for any of these programs except on a rare occasion with the PEER Groups as new sessions start every four weeks. There is a coordinator for the PEER Program who maintains the waiting list and who also is responsible for helping arrange transportation for the children if necessary; and who works with the parents to remove barriers for transportation. Bus passes are available for all parents who need assistance with transportation, and if they do not live in an area where public bus transportation is available, the parents can be reimbursed for mileage to services if this assistance is needed.

Monitoring service effectiveness is an on-going process and is done through a variety of methods, including contract monitoring, oversight meetings, reports, data evaluation, pre and post testing, satisfaction surveys, visiting services in progress, and evaluating outcome measurements. When needed, changes are made to services if the outcomes do not meet expectations. An example of two changes to service delivery that have been made recently is the addition of Resource Meetings for parents as they start parenting classes and throughout the class series, provided by a Resource Specialist to address basic needs; and the addition of therapeutic topic groups to the contract for counseling services for parents. Both needs had previously been identified and through the most recent procurement process for both programs, these enhancements were added, effective July 1, 2014.

As part of contract monitoring, all referrals for contracted services are managed by the Administrative Analyst unit. Written referrals are submitted to the Analyst office where they are reviewed for accuracy and are then forwarded to the contractor. This process has a two-part benefit in that contract

expenditures are also monitored by the Analysts, so this allows oversight of program capacity and also ensures that all supporting documentation is included in the referral before it is sent to the vendor.

Overall, Butte County has limited resources for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services. The Department of Behavioral Health (AOD Services) provides treatment groups on an out-patient basis and provides treatment groups for the various treatment courts, including Family Treatment Court. However, community based inpatient and outpatient programs are limited, and are often too expensive for families in the child welfare system. Limited funding is sometimes available through the County (often through time limited grant funding), but it is not consistent and there are more parents needing treatment than the funding provides for.

The following chart provides a comprehensive listing of services available to children and families in the child welfare system. Additionally, if a service need is identified that cannot be provided through existing service options, a contract can be developed with a vendor to provide additional services.

SERVICE	TARGET POPULATION	DESCRIPTION
Targeted Early Intervention	Families	Child Assistance Program (CAP), Alternative Response Program
Alternative Response – Advocacy and Support	Parents	Domestic Violence Advocacy, Alternative Response Program
AOD Assessments	Parents	AOD Assessments to determine treatment needs Reunification Service
Parent Support Groups	Parents	Early Engagement and Support Groups for Parents, Reunification Service
Parent Education Classes	Parents	16 weeks - Nurturing Parenting Curriculum, Reunification Service
PEER – Parent Education Experiential Resource Program	Children and Parents	16 Weeks – “Hands-On” Parenting Groups, Reunification and Family Maintenance Service
Family Finding Services	Youth	Relative Locator process
Drug Testing	Parents	Observed testing services
Family Treatment Court	Families in FR	Treatment Court Program, Reunification Service
Behavioral Health Services	Youth	Assessments, Counseling, Medication Management
Behavioral Health Services	Adults	AOD Assessments and Treatment Services (out-patient groups), Reunification Service
Counseling Services	Youth and Adults	Specialized counseling for youth, parents, families and psychological evaluations, Reunification Service
SOFT Program – Supporting our Families in Transition	Parents and Families	Supportive case management for families when children return home and parenting coaching,

		Reunification and Family Maintenance Service
School Ties	Foster Youth	Educational case management, transportation support, assessments and tutoring
Intensive Treatment Foster Care	Children with emotional and/or serious behavioral problems	Specialized foster care
Options for Recovery Foster Care	Drug exposed children under the age of five	Specialized foster care
Independent Living Program	Teens in Foster Care	Case management for older teens and preparation to exit foster care system
Transitional Housing Programs	Teens in Foster Care, and Post Foster Care	Housing programs for youth in foster care and youth who have exited foster care
SB 163 Wraparound Services	Children at risk of, or stepping down from, group home placements, and their families	Family centered services in lieu of group home placement
Post Adoptive Services	Adoptive Families	Support and training for adoptive families

Since Butte County began providing agency Adoption Services in January 2013, Post Adoptive Services have been provided through contracted services to support adoptive families in the community. These services are funded in part with PSSF funding for Adoption Promotion and Support Services. The use of this funding allows the County and the contracted agency to support adoptive families by providing support services necessary for them to make a lifetime commitment to children. Some of the services provided include case management, training and consultation for parents, training for professionals working with adoptive families, assessments for Wraparound services, respite, support groups, activities for families, and resource and referral services.

Some additional resources available for families in Butte County include:

- The Community Action Agency of Butte County is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of self-sufficiency and alleviation of poverty. They offer housing and utilities support as well as a Food Bank for the needy families in our community.
- The Esplanade House is a transitional housing program for families that is provided by the Community Action Agency.
- The Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) is a fixed point of referral for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The FNRC also provides services to infants and toddlers (from birth to three years old) who are showing a delay in their development or who are at substantially high risk for a developmental disability. FNRC coordinates community resources such as education, recreation, health, rehabilitation and welfare for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Feather River Tribal Health provides a broad range of culturally sensitive personal and public health services through a comprehensive system of preventive and therapeutic services.

- Butte College Foster Kinship Program offers an array of free parent education classes and support services for caregivers.
- The 6th Street Center for Youth provides family reunification, counseling, crisis intervention and other services to youth ages 14- 21 that are homeless, marginally housed, or runaways. This program is a collaborative project between Youth for Change, the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health (Mental Health Services Act) and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Task Force.
- The African American Family and Cultural Center is a collaborative project between Youth for Change and the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health (Mental Health Services Act) that provides programs and services pertaining to mental health to families in the surrounding community.
- The Hospital Alternatives Program (HAP) provides specially trained clinicians and behavioral health counselors to provide comprehensive response and support services to youth who are in need of intensive services as an alternative to being hospitalized following a 5150 screening. This program is a collaborative project between the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Unit and Youth for Change.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Probation provides evidenced based programs as well as those identified as best or promising practices. Groups are facilitated, or coordinated and monitored, by the Juvenile Probation staff. The Probation Department has implemented programs such as Aggression Replacement Therapy, Transitional Services Program (18 and Beyond), Girls Circle and Forward Thinking, an interactive evidence based journaling curriculum.

In addition to the established programs already offered by probation staff, additional programs were added to address our youth's criminogenic needs and provide appropriate pro-social activities. The following programs were established:

- The Fresh Start Youth Farm was established by probation to provide youth an opportunity to develop work readiness, self-efficacy and critical thinking skills, to increase attachment to their communities, offer an opportunity to pay restitution to victims, reduce recidivism and increase vocational and education skills.
- The Boys Council was established to address the individual needs of our male youth. This evidence-based program incorporates motivational interviewing, cultural humility, strength-based practices and trauma-response practices.
- Strengthening Families program was established and Probation staff were trained on delivering this nationally recognized parent and family strengthening program for high-risk families. This evidence-based program provides families the necessary skills to reduce problem behavior, delinquency and alcohol/drug use in children. In addition, this program is designed to decrease maltreatment of children as parents strengthen the bond with their children and learn effective parenting skills.
- The Girls Forum was established and loosely based on the curriculum offered in Girls Circle and the Boys Council. The circle model program incorporates motivational interviewing, provides strength-based approach to addressing the needs of our female youth. Part of this program includes a "Beanies for Babies" project, whereby the youth learn how to hand craft beanie hats.

- Volunteer Programs were established at the Butte Humane Society, the SPCA, Chico Parks, and the Feather River Parks and Recreation District. These volunteer programs offer the youth an opportunity to give back to their community and increase their connection to their community through service activities.
- In conjunction with the Chico Area Recreation District (CARD) and Probation Department staff, sporting teams (flag football, soccer, basketball) were established for youth on probation. The goal of this program was to provide the youth an opportunity to participate in a fun pro-social activity. The sports programs offered help to build their confidence, provide team building skills, and help the youth understand the importance of physical activity. There is some mentoring provided by probation officers and community members for youth participation in sports teams.
- The Rebound Program was established to deal directly with first time offenders and is facilitated by probation and juvenile hall staff. This diversionary program provides education on theft-awareness, aggressive behavior and drugs/alcohol. Additional referrals to community resources are made if deemed appropriate.

All eligible probation youth and/or their families are able to participate in the above mentioned programs. All programs are no-cost to participants. At times, however, it is difficult to fill the programs to capacity due to families' lack of transportation to travel to/from programs. For instance, families residing in Magalia or Paradise often have difficulty attending Strengthening Families sessions being held in Chico or Oroville.

Presently, minors on formal or informal probation are referred to Skyway House for outpatient substance abuse treatment. Additionally, one of the Forward Thinking program journals is dedicated to substance abuse behaviors. Probation youth who are in out-of-home placements are placed at Koinonia Group Homes, a specialized foster care placement that addresses substance abuse issues. Out-of-home placement youth in need of sex offender treatment are served by group homes that have specialized sex offender treatment programs.

Issues such as healthy relationships, family conflict, and self-esteem are addressed in Forward Thinking journals, Girl's Circle and Boy's Council Groups. The Minor Adjustments Program (MAP) is a specialized program within the Juvenile Hall that provides family therapy (by an LCSW) for youth committed to Juvenile Hall for 6 months. Additionally, an MFT employed by the Probation Department provides therapy to youth on probation and their parents.

Currently, youth in out-of-home foster care placements receive Independent Living Services through the counties they are residing in at the group homes. Upon leaving care, they are referred to Butte County ILP for life skills education. Current vocational programs for probation youth include the welding program in Butte County Juvenile Hall, Camp Condor; Youth Build (which allows the youth to learn construction skills while obtaining their high school diploma or GED); and Alliance for Workforce (which assists youth in removing barriers to employment, including education, resume building, job skills training, and job search).

The no-cost Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP) is available for teen parents through Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (TAPP).

Regarding post-secondary education, probation youth are often assisted by their probation officers with completing their financial aid forms, and with enrolling in college. Youth who were in foster care

through probation are referred to Foster Youth Programs at local community colleges to assist them with struggles they may have in enrolling in and attending college.

In an effort to coordinate the various programs noted above, the Probation Department has dedicated two officers to oversee the needs of these programs and offer direct service delivery. In addition, one dedicated staff is also actively seeking new program opportunities and ways to sustain these programs into the future.

In addition to providing new community based programs, the Probation Department was able to establish a camp program at the Juvenile Hall. Camp Condor has allowed Probation the opportunity to expand services provided to longer-term committed youth and those that would otherwise be placed in out of home placements outside the community. Those participating in the program are provided increased educational opportunities, counseling programs, vocational training, and transitional services. Camp participants also learn how to develop healthy lifestyles and are allowed to participate in community service projects.

Probation also utilizes appropriate relative placement and Wraparound Programs such as the Senate Bill 163 Program, the Connecting Circles of Care Program and the Minor Adjustments Program which are also mandatorily considered and utilized (if the child is eligible and suitable) prior to any recommendation for removal.

The Probation Officer in the Out-of-home Placement Unit has maintained close and continuous contact with all juveniles in out-of-home placement, program staff, the child's parents and the child's attorney. By setting and monitoring clear goals and expectations, the officer has facilitated the return of the children at the earliest possible time, upon completion of their court-ordered rehabilitation program. Probation youth aging out of foster care at the age of 18 are eligible for Extended Foster Care (AB-12).

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

Quality assurance is accomplished throughout a number of methods. Supervisory review of referrals and cases at opening, closing, transferring and other milestones is required as part of case management duties. Policies and Procedures outline the responsibilities of both the staff person and the supervisor. Use of SafeMeasures® by supervisors and management allows for review of outcome measures, including monthly contacts and case plan reviews.

Butte County Children's Services Division has recently implemented a new Quality Assurance unit which consists of one Program Manager, one Administrative Analyst, Senior and two Social Work Supervisor positions. The team is in the process of being trained in Continuous Quality Improvement. Additionally, Butte County was selected as one of five counties to pilot the new Child Welfare Services Qualitative Case Review protocols, in advance of the August 2015 statewide rollout. The team utilizes the federal case review tool and local data. As participants in the pilot review process, the Butte team has reviewed three cases to date. Due to the sample size, summary information is not included in this report due to the small statistical size.

Services provided by vendors are monitored via the contract monitoring process. Funded activities are monitored for accountability and oversight, and through report documentation provided as a part of the contract requirements. The contracted vendor provides monthly reports detailing client participation to social workers, and closing summation reports are tracked by the contract monitor. Additionally, effectiveness is measured through quarterly data reports provided by CDSS and the SIP process.

Vendors are required to monitor service delivery and outcomes through a variety of methods, including pre and post testing and customer satisfaction surveys. Monthly progress reports are required to provide information about the number of clients, their level of service participation and types of services provided. The contract monitor is responsible for monitoring invoices, tracking funding utilization and monitoring goals and outcomes. This may include a review of monthly statistics and case closing summation reports; audits of case files; client satisfaction surveys; monthly claims and quarterly oversight team meetings with the County and vendor (administrative staff as well as case managers and instructors/service providers for the program). Any needs or issues are discussed and resolved in this forum.

If any needs or issues cannot be resolved or if something of a more serious matter should arise, such as a personnel issue, it will be forwarded to the Management Team for their involvement and guidance in resolving the problem. Additionally, Butte County contracts contain language regarding program evaluation and quality control. If a vendor should fail to satisfy the scope of work for a contract, the County can terminate the contract. However, this has not occurred since the last CSA was submitted.

JUVENILE PROBATION

The Butte County Probation system has many levels of external oversight and quality assurance with the primary level being the Butte County Superior Court, including the Juvenile Court Judges, the Public Defender and the District Attorney's offices. Further external oversight and quality assurance is provided by among others, the Department of Justice, the Board of Corrections, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Interagency Placement Unit, the Department of Employment and Social Services, the Grand Jury, and the Administrative Office of the Courts Judicial Review Council.

Between June 9 - 13, 2014, a Title IV-E juvenile court site review was conducted. The review was conducted by the Judicial Resources and Technical Assistance (JRTA) project, a branch of the Judicial Council of California. During the review, seven delinquency court files were audited for Title IV-E compliance. Items reviewed included findings and orders, required reports, case plans, and timelines. Regarding "Report and Case Plan Requirements", the JRTA noted, "The probation department reports are thorough and detailed. They address issues faced by the parents as well as the child. The case plans take a family-oriented approach, identifying service requirements and goals for the parents as well as for the child to enable the family to reunify successfully." Regarding "Timeliness", JRTA noted that "all hearings reviewed, except for one, were held within the required timelines. This is commendable." One pre-permanency hearing was not held at all because of confusion about the date of entry into foster care and the best practices in the event that a hearing cannot be held on time. Specific recommendations to the probation department as a result of the review were "review the definition of 'date of entry into foster care'" to ensure timely review hearing dates, and "ensure that an updated Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) using the most recent template issued by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is attached to the case plan submitted at each status review hearing for a child 16 years of age and older."

Further, the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission annually tours group homes utilized by the probation department to analyze programs and services. If applicable, the JJDPJ submits a report to the probation department if a corrective action plan is warranted after conducting an inspection. Internally, all departmental systems and protocols are assessed and monitored by the agency's administrative and fiscal teams.

Quality assurance is accomplished through supervisory review of referrals and cases at opening, closing, transferring and other milestones. Supervisors review court documents for quality, accuracy, and timeliness. Supervisors review referrals before they are closed, new cases when they are opened and transfer of cases between caseloads. Supervisors and probation officers regularly staff cases and referrals during weekly team and individual meetings and as needed throughout the week. The probation department also utilizes a risk assessment tool to aid in probation supervision decisions. The placement supervisor also regularly reviews information on CASE™, CWS/CMS and SafeMeasures® to monitor compliance with Division 31 and Title IV-E regulations. This includes review of the findings and orders, the current case plan, and the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), if applicable. The review also takes into consideration the forms and documentation regarding youth electing to participate in Extended Foster Care.

The strategy used by the Butte County Probation Department to ensure that children with special needs and their families receive effective services begins upon referral to the Probation Department. Each child, and parent whenever possible, is interviewed in depth to garner information needed to complete a risk to re-offend assessment and a case plan. The assessment and case plan identify the strengths (protective factors) and risk factors of the child and the parent(s), and a specific plan of rehabilitation is developed. Specific goals and specific time lines are put in place. The case-carrying Probation Officer is then responsible for subsequent case management, including appropriate service referrals, and supervision and monitoring in terms of compliance, progress and changes in protective and risk factor levels which may or may not be the result of services received. The plan is reviewed at least every six months by the case-carrying probation officer, a supervising probation officer and in most cases the juvenile delinquency court. The probation officer is also responsible for implementing any necessary case plan modifications, e.g., termination of ineffective or unnecessary services, the development and implementation of other needed support and services. On a larger scale, the Probation Department on an ongoing basis also monitors and oversees the local programs and services used by the agency, ensuring that the programs consistently provide an acceptable level of efficiency and effectiveness to the clients. Presently, oversight is conducted by auditing the programs to ensure compliance with their prescribed evidence-based curriculum and to maintain program fidelity. This oversight is typically done by the department's Juvenile Evidenced Based Programming Coordinator.

Critical Incident Review Process

A supervisor from the Children's Services Division participates in the Child Death Review Team (CDRT), a multi-disciplinary team that reviews all child death cases in the County. The team is lead by the Public Health Department. In addition to the Public Health Department and Children's Services, the CDRT is composed of members from:

- The District Attorney's office
- The County Coroner
- Law enforcement

- Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Medical staff from three hospitals
- Behavioral Health
- Emergency Service personnel

The role of the team is to review all child deaths that occur in the county. The team meets quarterly to discuss the circumstances that led to the event and review solutions to prevent future deaths. The team also provides training to the Coroner, law enforcement and other community agencies in the importance of Safe Sleep Practices, and Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID). A community subgroup of the CDRT provides grief resources for families who have lost a child, and community support, including Safe Sleep supplies for families, drowning prevention awareness, and scholarships for children to take swimming lessons.

Butte County Children’s Services Division also has an internal policy to provide an After Action Review in cases whenever there is a serious reoccurrence of abuse, a fatality or a near fatality occurs when Children’s Services Division is involved, or to problem-solve an incident that has recently recurred.

In conjunction with the Children’s Services Division Quality Assurance Process, a staff member requests an After Action Review. The After Action Reviews are chaired by the Program Manager and the After Action Review Team may be composed of:

- The Investigating Social Worker
- The Investigating Social Worker’s Supervisor
- The assigned Primary Worker
- The Primary Social Worker’s Supervisor
- The Investigator, Primary Worker and their respective Supervisors assigned to previous substantiated referrals/cases.
- Staff Attorney

In addition to analyzing the events surrounding the incident, the purpose of the After Action Review is to develop and improve procedures for intervention in chronically dysfunctional families.

National Resource Center (NRC) Training and Technical Assistance

Butte County currently does not receive training or technical assistance from the National Resource Center. However, technical assistance is available through the UC Davis Extension Center for Human Services and the Northern Training Academy. Additionally, technical assistance has been provided through Children and Families Futures (CFF) as part of Children’s Services participation in a four year SAMHSA grant, Children Affected by Methamphetamine. The grant ended in 2014, but technical assistance is still available on an as needed basis by CFF.

Peer Review Results

METHOD

Butte County, in collaboration with CDSS, conducted a three-day Peer Review, held February 3, 4, and 5, 2015 in Chico, CA.

Twelve Peer reviewers from nine counties were represented in the Butte County Peer Review: Mendocino, San Benito, San Mateo, Monterey, Ventura, San Francisco, Napa, Sutter and Merced. Twelve Child Welfare cases were reviewed and four Probation cases were reviewed. Daniel Wilson from CDSS was the facilitator for the process, with assistance from several CDSS colleagues.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

Butte County Children's Services chose the Focus Area: No Recurrence of Maltreatment (Safety S1.1). This outcome was included in the last System Improvement Plan (SIP), with the goal of increasing the rate of no recurrence of maltreatment by 2.4% (to 93%).

- Butte County has met this SIP goal during one of the last seven reporting periods. The County remained at approximately the same rate as when the SIP was approved, but this trend started to decline in the second quarter of 2013.
- As this goal continued to be a challenge, it was selected as the focus area for the Peer Review.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Butte County Peer Review 2015 CWS Debrief

Investigations

Strengths:

- Social Worker (SW) read investigative narrative from previous referral
- SW staffed with supervisor after conducting evaluation
- SW used Safety Organized Practice (SOP) tools with family during investigation
- SOP is being utilized by investigators when interviewing child and families
- Supervisors are being consulted throughout investigations and decision making
- SW consulted with agency colleagues regarding findings and previous investigations
- SW read previous history and looked up criminal history on new referrals
- SW consulted with supervisor on referrals
- SW used SOP techniques to engage and investigate

Challenges:

- SW didn't have all information about previous referral
- SW relies on law enforcement to make decision to detain – no independent investigation
- SW did not conduct a complete assessment/investigation - no fact checking with collaterals
- SW understanding of Structured Decision Making (SDM) Safety/Assessment and Safety Plans and how to utilize this tool during assessment/investigation in making decisions to ensure child safety
- Engage community providers in collateral contacts (relatives, schools, pediatricians) during investigation
- SW appeared unclear regarding SDM Policy & Procedure resulting in misuse of the tools within SDM
- Safety plans do not address threats, but rather risk factors with no follow up as to whether plan is being followed prior to referral closure
- SW takes statements of parents at face-value without verifying information prior to closing referral
- Collaboration between child welfare and other agencies not always used
- SDM used at the end but not incorporated into decision making process
- SW under time restraints which impeded ability to do a more comprehensive assessment

Maintaining Connections**Strengths:**

- Used family members as placement when possible
- Used family members in safety plans
- Used family finding in beginning to identify relatives
- Used family finding in the beginning and identified numerous family members
- Engaged family members and Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) who made themselves available
- Family finding efforts are occurring on front end to support maintenance within family
- Utilization of non-family supports

Challenges:

- SW did not ask children about relatives/NREFMs
- SW did not follow up with relatives about completing applications, fingerprints, etc.
- Investigating SW did not ask family about relatives/NREFMs
- Children were not consulted frequently to identify potential family members and NREFMs
- Identification and search for family & NREFMs did not continue through the life of the case or referral
- A deeper investigation was not done when clients said they had no family/ NREFMs
- SW did not research NREFM options at front end.
- Once relatives identified, there was no follow through
- SWs are not utilizing family finding with youth during investigation

Engagement

Strengths:

- SOP used on referral; child-family team meetings were facilitated
- FARE facilitator on referral
- SW saw children at school, hospital, home during investigations
- SWs see parents in appropriate places during investigation
- Workers are meeting with and interviewing clients in areas other than the Agency office
- Utilizing FARE facilitator and SOP to engage youth and families
- Parents are advised of their roles and responsibility with respect to Safety Plans
- SW used SOP techniques to engage family
- SW meets with parents and children in multiple settings (Jail, home, office, school, etc.)
- Utilized FARE facilitator for meetings to engage families

Challenges:

- Not all visits with child in the home
- No knowledge of engagement by prior worker
- Unknown level of engagement by the first Emergency Response (ER) investigator
- Family members not cooperating with investigations
- Not all visits with children were in the home
- SW were unclear on specific details regarding engagement techniques of previous ER worker
- SW had challenges in meeting with and engaging resistant parents

Assessments and Services

Strengths:

- SW made referrals to appropriate resources
- Parents were provided visits with children 2-3 times per week
- Families provided referral to AOD services
- At ongoing case level, appropriate referrals are made
- Same FARE facilitator used/assigned to case
- Families are being referred to community resources
- Parents are receiving a lot of visitations in settings outside the office
- Families were provided referrals for services to address Safety concerns
- Visits between parents and children were frequent

Challenges:

- No cohesiveness between Child Welfare and Behavioral Health - SW felt parents needed services that Behavioral Health did not provide
- Inadequate Safety Plans - there was no follow-up on Safety Plans, which were inconsistent and inaccurate
- SW not delving into family issues
- Overreliance on Law Enforcement to make decisions on whether to remove child

- Services not available in certain areas (for example Magalia – lack of services due to remoteness)
- SWs are not referring to appropriate services to address safety threats
- Lack of appropriate mental health and substance abuse services and support available in the community to meet to specific needs of the clients
- Transportation available to clients to engage in services is lacking
- Relied on law enforcement to Intervene in child maltreatment cases

Recurrence of Maltreatment

Strengths:

- Wraparound services in place – makes a difference
- SW was straight forward with family about risk issues
- Safety planning with the family
- SW straight forward with the family about safety concerns
- Wraparound services made a positive difference with families
- Utilizing Wraparound services

Challenges:

- SW did not explore other safety concerns not identified in initial referral
- SW did not conduct a comprehensive assessment
- Child Welfare did not stay involved long enough with family in ensure family follow-through
- SW did not follow up with families to see if safety issues were resolved prior to exiting
- Comprehensive assessment of entire family to identify safety concerns was not always completed.
- Safety concerns were not appropriately addressed with family prior to closure
- Investigations were not comprehensive
- Lack of aftercare planning with the family

Training, Resources, Policies and Procedures

Strengths:

- Use of SOP in cases
- New policies and procedures are communicated to SW

Challenges:

- SWs do not believe they are looked as experts in the field by their management
- SW doesn't have time to utilize training offered in case practice
- Training is not offered around case practice
- Lack of teen placements
- SW and Supervisors need additional training on safety Organized Practice and SDM
- SW does not feel that the facilitators are familiar with what SWs do
- Workers trained in SOP

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various trainings available through UC Davis
Other
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to offer more visits between children and parents <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals are closed quickly without addressing risk and safety concerns • Not enough time to make appropriate referrals for families • Referrals are being evaluated out that should be investigated/screened in • SWs need to review history of referral(s) as part of assessment • Lower caseloads so that SW could provide more quality time and services to families • SWs have personal safety concerns when out on field visits in rural area in personal vehicles without law enforcement in area without phone reception • Referrals are being closed too quickly without adequate follow-up • Children not receiving crisis counseling when removed from home • Facilitators are not familiar with the work SWs do • Due to time restraint, SWs are not able to utilized trainings offered • Therapists in community lack expertise in needs of child welfare clients

JUVENILE PROBATION

The Probation Department chose the focus area: Exits to Permanency. This focus area was selected in order to identify gaps in services that hinder successful, permanent placement outcomes. The number of juveniles in out-of-home placement has decreased significantly within the last five years. The probation department has made concerted efforts to decrease the number of juveniles in out-of-home placement, seeking alternatives to maintain the youth in his/her home or with a relative/family friend with a parent’s consent. In February 2015 (the month of the Peer Review), there were four juveniles in placement. Because of the small caseload, the officer assigned to the placement caseload is able to devote time to youth in placement and their family to ensure they receive the appropriate services to assist in a successful reunification and/or permanency/transition to adulthood. Probation selected four cases to review during the Peer Review.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

**Butte County Peer Review 2015
Probation Debrief**

Maintaining Connections
<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Probation Officer (PO) involved with the family is familiar with issues pertaining to the youth and case from the beginning and throughout case

- The Probation Department encourages parent/Child/Family visitation to improve relationships
- The Probation Department maintains regular contact with group home placements to ensure family is fully informed regarding the treatment of the youth
- PO engaged youth and parent in planning to have child come home prior to return
- PO made face to face visits in the home
- Parents maintained visits with child - wanted youth back in the home
- PO engaged with the youth and parents from the beginning to explain the process
- PO made face to face visits with youth and made efforts to meet with the family

Challenges:

- Parents who do not support reunification as an outcome goal
- Family finding efforts do not appear to be priority based on PO statements
- PO did not engage sibling and extended family members to maintain and create support connections to youth.
- Parents did not want child back in home
- PO did not make family finding efforts at beginning of case
- PO did not make efforts to look for NREFMs
- Efforts not made for family finding in the beginning of the case
- Efforts not made to look into extended family or adult siblings prior to out of the home placements

Engagement

Strengths:

- PO put Wraparound services in place for family/youth for aftercare and transition back home
- PO trained in Motivational Interviewing and utilizing with contacts
- PO spends quality time with youth during monthly visits
- PO uses strength based case planning
- PO engages minor in exploring interests to keep them engaged
- PO used motivation interviewing with youth and family
- PO spends quality time with youth to build relationship
- PO focused on family strengths to engage/encourage their buy-in to the process

Challenges:

- PO did not have face to face with parents in the home
- PO did not verify services participation with mother of youth
- No formal process for case planning, permanency planning decisions, and transition planning with PO and family
- Lack of concurrent planning
- Lack of community services to provide transportation to parent
- Need for more face-to-face contact and follow up with resistant family
- Distance between placement and family impacted engagement

Assessment & Services

Strengths:

- Parents were already engaged in services making it easier for PO to engage family in developing case plan
- Group home offered aftercare service plan
- Group home completed mental health assessment of provide services
- PO used Risk/Needs Assessment
- Behavioral Health Assessment completed prior to placement

Challenges:

- Transportation an issue for parents to participate in services
- Psych evaluation of youth completed only after 3 failed placements
- PO did not identify if she used assessment tools
- PO rely on group home to provide services
- Lack of services in community for parents of child in out of home to be able to deal with issues prior to the child returning home
- AWOL status
- PO relied on group home to assess and provide services

Placement Matching

Strengths:

- Group home provided intensive therapy services, rehabilitation
- PO had good understanding of child's needs
- PO had good understanding of group homes and available services
- Despite limited amount of group homes, those used appear to provide quality care

Challenges:

- Minors hare still being placed for the purpose of punishments instead of the focus being on placing for the purpose of rehabilitation, in placements suitable to address their rehabilitation needs.
- Out of county placements due to rural area
- Minor's offense impact placement matching (i.e. AWOL, mental health issues and Juvenile Sex Offender issues)
- Lack of placement with family (family finding) and NREFMs.
- Limited placements in the area to meet youth needs

Permanency Options/Aftercare Services

Strengths:

- PO engaged with mother for transition planning
- Risk and Needs assessment completed throughout life of case

- PO identified services and verified that minor would receive prior to transfer
- PO has good understanding of extended foster care (AB12)
- PO motivates minor to engage in Extended Foster Care Services (AB 12) as aftercare alternative
- PO engaged the family in planning for transition home
- PO supported family in developing supportive network in the community

Challenges:

- Once youth turned 18, was transitioned back to Child Welfare - wanted to continue with follow-up and aftercare
- Need solid/standardized transition plan
- Youth transferred out of county following completion of Group home - program unable to provide follow-up or ensure aftercare services provided.
- Lack of family finding/NREFM
- Lack of services offered to parents in community to address issues prior to minors return home
- No Wraparound services offered to returning child home for aftercare
- No Wraparound aftercare services offered.
- Difficulty for youth/family to transition to new PO immediately after placement vacate

Training, Resources, Policies & Procedures

Strengths:

- PO attended placement CORE training early on
- PO has basic knowledge of Division 31 Requirements (i.e. monthly visits in group home with minor)
- More focus on placement as rehabilitation rather than punishment

Challenges:

- Front end needs more training on Family Finding/Placement
- Need for more Wraparound services for youth returning home.
- Gap in knowledge of community-based services/ unable to connect or provide solid transition plan.
- More training and Policy of Division 31 Requirements/Documentation
- Family finding tool or service policy/training issues
- Front end needs more training on use of family finding
- Need more Wraparound aftercare services
- Gap in knowledge of community services for youth/family

PEER PROMISING PRACTICES

The Peer Review Debrief was held on February 5, 2015. Following the review of findings (strengths and challenges), the participating counties provided input from their respective County Departments as suggestions/ideas for Butte County's consideration.

Merced County

- Emphasize in training for the supervisors. All supervisors need to attend trainings on risk and safety. Risk vs. threats. More training on SDM.
- A social service aide attends the detention hearing and meets with family members at the court house.
- Contracted out service providers are trained to identify risk or safety threats. Works closely with the County Differential Response team.

Ventura County

- SDM will be done with supervisor and Social Worker over the phone on every investigation. Every case plan is agreed upon before they leave the home.
- NRFFM- Family finding utilized and documented in Collateral section in CWS/CMS.
- Follow up with relatives - placement social worker completes the follow-up.
- Starting to utilize Family Preservation Meetings.

Monterey County

- Team Decision Meetings
- Utilizes Pathways to Safety; County partner makes a joint response with the investigating social worker. Pathways works with the family for three months, uses the community to support them resulting in lower foster care rates.

San Benito County

- Case Plans are changing from identifying services to identifying behavioral change method. Case plans are more specific.
- Probation Officer uses Family Finding.
- Family Tree and Family Finding (start this at intake)
- Trying to train the judges on family finding.
- Moving into foster home and family home and away from group homes for Probation youth.
- Maintain contact with the immediate and extended family members. Always looking at “drop-down” placement options.
- Multi dimensional foster care can be used when they become AB12 eligible around age 18.
- Policy and Procedures developed that affect the placement and pre-placement population.
- Transition Unit.

Outcome Data Measures

The following outcome measures serve as the basis for the CSA and are used to track the County’s performance over time. The sources of the data in this report are the UC Berkeley Center for Research, CWS/CMS and SafeMeasures.

The following sections describe the federal and state outcome measures and compares significant changes from the previous CSA (2010). Unless otherwise noted, the data reflected in this analysis was obtained from the UC Berkeley Child Welfare Indicators Project (CWS Dynamic Report System) for Butte County. Additionally, when available, the recent performance relative to the National Standard or Goal

is listed. Analyses of outcome areas are discussed following the applicable charts, and include strengths, barriers and recommendations for improvement. http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

Child Welfare Data Source:

- 2014: CWS Outcomes Systems Summary for Butte County – 03.25.15. Report Publication: April 2015. Data Extract: Q4 2014. Agency: Child Welfare
- 2010: CWS Outcomes Systems Summary for Butte County – 06.10.10. Report Publication: July 2010. Data Extract: Q4 2009. Agency: Child Welfare

Probation Data Source:

- 2014: CWS Outcomes Systems Summary for Butte County – 03.25.15. Report Publication: April 2015. Data Extract: Q4 2014. Agency: Probation
- 2009: CWS Outcomes Systems Summary for Butte County – 06.10.10. Report Publication: July 2010. Data Extract: Q4 2009. Agency: Probation

Citation: Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., King, B., Morris, Z., Sandoval, A., Yee, H., Mason, F., Benton, C., & Pixton, E. (2015). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 7/13/2015, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

In some sections, specific case information from SafeMeasures was reviewed in addition to the UC Berkeley CWS Dynamic Report System data to further analyze the outcome measure. Data Source: Children’s Research Center SafeMeasures® Data: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

Input obtained throughout the CSA process (Peer Review, stakeholder meetings, focus groups, and surveys) was included in the analysis of the following outcome measures and recommendations for improvement. In addition to the official source of data, additional analysis for Probation was done based on the local placement data that is stored in the Probation Department case management system.

The state and federal outcomes data are grouped in to the three federal categories:

- **Safety**
Safety outcomes measure whether children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect and are maintained safely in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.
- **Permanency**
Permanency outcomes measure whether children have permanency and stability in their lives and family relationships and connections of children are preserved. Permanency outcomes include Reunification Measures; Adoption Measures; Measures for Children in Long Term Care; and Placement Stability and Preservation of Family Relationships.
- **Well-being**
Well-being outcomes measure whether children received services adequate to meet their physical, emotional, educational and mental health needs.

Outcome Data Measures: SAFETY (Child Welfare)

SAFETY MEASURES

S1.1 NO RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
93.6%	91%	94.6%	96.2%

This is an area that has not seen much improvement; the current rate remains comparable to the prior CSA, despite the fact that this outcome measure was included in the current System Improvement Plan (SIP). For this reason, this outcome measure was chosen as the area of focus in the Peer Review held as part of this CSA.

S2.1 NO MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
99.89%	100%	99.68%	100.3%

Butte County consistently rates well in this outcome measure (99 or 100%), due in large part to appropriate initial and on-going training provided for caregivers.

ANALYSIS – SAFETY MEASURES

(MEASURES S1.1 AND S2.1)

Measure S1.1 is a current SIP goal, with several strategies identified to improve this outcome measure. Despite making changes and enhancements to certain services and best practices, this goal continues to be problematic. Butte County has met this SIP goal during only one of the last seven reporting periods. The County remained at approximately the same rate as when the SIP was approved, but this trend started to decline in the second quarter of 2013. Two of the strategies in the current SIP are to implement Alternative/Differential Response services and enhance use of Safety Organized Practice.

It is believed that the discontinuance of Alternative/Differential Response services in 2007 has played a key role in the lack of improvement of this outcome. Fortunately, due to 2011 CWS Realignment, Butte County has recently been able to implement new Alternative/Differential response strategies and preventive services for families referred to Children’s Services Division but who do not meet the legal criteria for child welfare intervention.

Great strides have been made in enhancing Safety Organized Practice (SOP) practice in Butte County which will continue as a priority as Butte County is now one of the counties participating in the Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Project, effective October 1, 2014. One of the interventions is to focus on enhancing and expanding current SOP strategies, throughout the life of a case.

A review of all children who experienced a substantiated maltreatment allegation during the six-month period between April 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014 and then were victims of a second substantiated allegation during the following six months was completed. During the initial six months, 323 children experienced substantiated allegations. In reviewing Safe Measures data for six months, 34 children (10.5%) experienced a second substantiated allegation, while 289 (89.5%) did not.

In reviewing the Ethnic groups of the children with second substantiated allegations as compared to the percentage of children with two or more initial allegations, and the percentage of children with substantiations, it initially appears that there may be a disproportionate number of recurrences among all Ethnic Groups except for Native American children. However, the category for Missing Ethnic Groups in the Children with Two or More Allegations is 37.9%; for Children with Allegations, the percentage of Missing Ethnic Groups is 20.40%. This percentage of missing information in this category has been reduced to 8.82% in the Children with a Second Substantiation category. It would appear that there may be a challenge at obtaining this information when a referral is initially received, and that as the social worker works with the family, this information is provided.

2014	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Native American	Missing
Children with One or More Allegations	3.80%	44.40%	9.30%	1.80%	2.70%	37.90%
Children with Substantiations	4.60%	56.30%	11.70%	2.30%	4.80%	20.40%
Children with Recurrence within 6 Months	11.76%	67.65%	8.82%	2.94%	0.00%	8.82%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/; <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

The following chart compares the percentage of children with a recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months, by age, as compared to the percentage of children with one or more allegations and the percentage of children with substantiations. There is a disproportionate percentage of children under the age of one, and those ages 6 – 10 years of age experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment.

2014	Under Age 1	1 – 2	3 - 5	6 - 10	11-15	16-17
Children with One or More Allegations	8.30%	10.40%	17.90%	30.50%	24.50%	8.40%
Children with Substantiations	13.80%	12.10%	20.20%	29.90%	18.00%	6.00%
Children with Recurrence within 6 Months	17.65%	8.82%	20.59%	35.29%	17.65%	0.00%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/; <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

The following section provides an in-depth analysis of the disposition of both of the substantiated referrals during this time period for the 34 children who experienced a recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months. This review analyzes if a child welfare case was ever opened; if the child had been in an open case when the second allegation was substantiated; the number of days to recurrence; and the types of allegations in both the initial and subsequent allegation. In all but three cases, the initial and subsequent allegation was the same: General Neglect. In reviewing the referrals, the primary cause tended to be the parental substance abuse which resulted in dirty and marginal housing arrangements; some mental health issues; and in one case, failure to provide appropriate medical care. Families in four of the initial referral had been referred to targeted early intervention services but had failed to engage in services. The Data Source for this section is SafeMeasures® (<https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>) and CWS/CMS.

There were eight circumstances where no CWS case was opened, either following the initial substantiated allegation or the subsequent substantiated allegation. Sixteen times, a CWS case was opened following the second substantiated allegation (but had not been opened following the first substantiated allegation). In ten cases the recurrence occurred when there was already an open CWS case.

In the following referrals, no CWS case was opened following either the initial or the subsequent substantiated allegations.

- Total 7 children (20.6%) of total recurrence for this period)

Original Allegation	Second Allegation	Days to Recurrence	Number of Children	Sibling Group
General Neglect	Sexual Abuse	17	1	N/A
General Neglect	General Neglect	83	1	N/A
General Neglect	General Neglect	96	2	Yes
General Neglect	General Neglect	118	2	Yes
General Neglect	General Neglect	173	1	N/A

In the following referrals, no CWS case was opened following the initial or the subsequent substantiated allegations. There was a loss of contact with the child following initial substantiated allegation; the situation stabilized following second substantiated allegation.

- Total: 1 child (2.9%) of total recurrence for this period)

Original Allegation	Second Allegation	Days to Recurrence	Number of Children	Sibling Group
General Neglect	General Neglect	18	1	N/A

In the following referrals, no CWS case was opened following the initial substantiated allegations but a CWS case was opened following the second substantiated allegation.

- Total 13 children (38.2% of total recurrence for this period)

Original Allegation	Second Allegation	Days to Recurrence	Number of Children	Sibling Group
General Neglect	General Neglect	11 and 31	2	Yes
General Neglect	General Neglect	28	1	N/A
General Neglect	General Neglect	40	3	Yes
General Neglect	General Neglect	97	2	Yes
General Neglect	General Neglect	103	1	N/A
General Neglect	General Neglect	106 and 130	4	Yes

In the following referrals, no CWS case was opened following the initial substantiated allegations (there was a loss of contact with the children), but a CWS case was opened following the second substantiated allegation.

- Total 3 children (8.8% of total recurrence for this period)

Original Allegation	Second Allegation	Days to Recurrence	Number of Children	Sibling Group
General Neglect	General Neglect	98	3	Yes

In the following referrals, the children were already in CWS case at time of second substantiated allegation.

- Total 10 children (29.4% of total recurrence for this period)

Original Allegation	Second Allegation	Days to Recurrence	Number of Children	Sibling Group
Severe Neglect	General Neglect	17	1	N/A
General Neglect	General Neglect	27	1	N/A
General Neglect	General Neglect	30	5	Yes
General Neglect	General Neglect	83	1	N/A
Caretaker Absence	Caretaker Absence	108	1	N/A
General Neglect	General Neglect	114	1	N/A

The following information is noted as possible causes for negatively affecting this outcome.

Of the 34 children, 23 children (67.5%) are from sibling groups ranging from two to five children, which may have affected the outcome percentage. Additionally, the initial review indicates that 7 of the children (21%) included in the recurrence where the child was already in a case may have been incorrectly identified as a recurrence, based on the days to recurrence (30 days or less). Further analysis is needed to determine if the second allegation was incorrectly assigned (for example as a 10-day response instead of an Evaluate Out based on the connection to the first substantiated referral, which may have adversely affected the outcome.

STRENGTHS

- Butte County utilizes Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools to assess response to referrals, safety, and risk assessment as well as family needs. These tools guide social worker decisions to choose the proper response time to investigate a referral (immediate or 10 day) and/or whether to promote the referral to a case. The Policy and Procedure has recently been updated to ensure proper utilization and supervisory approval is followed.
- All social work staff are being trained in SOP techniques and procedures throughout this year. The Policy and Procedure has been updated to outline the utilization of SOP techniques to enhance the engagement of parents and to develop behaviorally based case plan objectives and goals.
- As part of Alternative Response (AR) services implemented in late 2013, Butte County participates in the RED (Response-Evaluate-Direct) Team model, a collaborative approach to reviewing some Evaluate Out referrals and all ten-day referrals. The ten-day referrals are then assigned as a Family Assessment Response or as a more traditional Child Welfare response.
- Child Welfare units and staff assignments were reconfigured to include two new units (one in each office) that consist of AR Family Assessors and placement staff.
- Contracted AR prevention services are provided to provide voluntary targeted early intervention and domestic violence advocacy.
- County staff meets on a quarterly basis with Foster Family Agencies to address issues, provide training and updates.

BARRIERS

- Families with a history of substance abuse and mental illness are more likely to experience recurrence of maltreatment.

- It was identified during the Peer Review that some safety assessments and plans were not as thorough as they could have been; and SDM was not always properly utilized.
- Initial identification of Ethnicity may be difficult to obtain during the referral, resulting in data entry barriers due to the high number of children listed with “missing ethnicities”. This creates a challenge in determining if there is a disproportionate number of children in a specific Ethnic Group experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment.
- Butte County has a high rate of poverty and many families live in more remote communities with fewer resources or lack of appropriate transportation to resources.
- The majority of children experiencing a second substantiated allegation are age 3 and under; for those children in an open case, their parents have less time to reunify, which may impact this outcome.
- Parents of the younger children tend to be young parents, with less parental skills and understanding of age appropriate childhood milestones.
- Lack of awareness and/or duplication of services for families in the community.
- There may be a process issue in identifying the type of response in some second referrals in situations when the days to recurrence are 30 days or less, which may have resulted in inaccuracies in data entry.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Increase access to prevention services earlier.
- Include more partner agencies in the service array for Alternative Response, including Alcohol and Drug Services.
- Provide training to staff regarding SOP strategies and protocols; and expectation for use in referral investigations and case management.
- Reinstate County/Community multi-disciplinary team meetings including county, community, business and faith-based partners with the purpose of education, and identification, coordination and development of resources for families in the community.
- Review and further analyze referral types and data input protocols for CWS/CMS to ensure investigation results are entered accurately.
- Review policies for obtaining Ethnic Group information to ensure early and accurate data entry in order to evaluate possible gaps and service needs due to disproportionate recurrences.
- Provide training to all social work staff in Safety Organized Practice (SOP) strategies and develop consistent practices within the department and with partner agencies.
- Provide Child-Family Team (CFT) Meetings to families in prevention programs or voluntary cases.

TIMELY RESPONSE – STATE MEASURES

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

These CDSS measures count both the number of child abuse and neglect referrals that require, and then receive, an in-person investigation within the time frame specified by the referral response type. Referrals are classified as either immediate response (within 24 hours) or 10-day response.

Timely Response	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Immediate	99.3%	99.0%
Ten-Day	92.6%	93.1%

ANALYSIS – TIMELY RESPONSE

(MEASURE 2B – IMMEDIATE AND 10-DAY RESPONSE)

Butte County regularly meets or exceeds the State average, and the State goal of 90%, in compliance with timely Immediate Response rates. During Q4, 2014, Butte County’s rate of 99% exceeded the State average of 97.6% Butte County tends to maintain timely 10-day response compliance rates that are close to, or above, the State average – in Q4, 2014, the State average was 93.2%, just slightly higher than Butte County.

Under the new guidelines for Alternative Response (AR), certain referrals are assigned to a Family Assessment Response investigation model. This response is a strength and needs-based collaborative path of intervention for low to moderate risk referrals. The initial contact for referrals that meet the criteria for Family Assessment Response is through a letter of introduction, followed by a face to face meeting. When AR was implemented in 2013, Butte County initially saw a decline in the 10-day response rate due to a misunderstanding on the part of some staff who believed the initial introduction letter counted as the first contact. The AR and management team met and reviewed the challenges in meeting this goal within the guidelines of the new Family Assessment Response model, and the Policy and Procedure was modified to ensure the 10-day face-to-face contact requirement is met.

STRENGTHS

- This outcome is monitored on a monthly basis by supervisory and management staff. When there is a negative trend in the response compliance rate and in-depth analysis is conducted and addressed.

BARRIERS

- The increased use of Child-Family Team (CFT) meetings, utilization of the RED Team and SOP strategies has increased the workload upfront – benefits are realized later in the life of the case.
- An on-going barrier to meeting this, and other goals in the future, may be the number of vacancies within Children’s Services Division. Staff vacancies result in greater workload demands, as unassigned caseloads must be covered by existing staff.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- The AR and management teams will continue to monitor this goal and will make any necessary changes to procedures as needed.

PLACEMENT VISITS

These reports calculate 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.

2F MONTHLY VISITS WITH CHILDREN (OUT OF HOME)

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
74.1%	93.4%	90%	103.8%

Butte County has worked diligently to improve this outcome measure. Prior to the last CSA, the County's performance often fell below 70%. Improving this outcome became a priority with monthly reviews by the management team and increased communication with staff regarding the status of this goal, during the month.

2F MONTHLY VISITS WITH CHILDREN IN RESIDENCE (OUT OF HOME)

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
50.6%	86.4%	50%	172.9%

Butte County has improved in this outcome area as well, exceeding the federal goal by 172.9%.

ANALYSIS – PLACEMENT VISITS

(MEASURE 2F: MONTHLY VISITS WITH CHILDREN AND WITH CHILDREN IN RESIDENCE)

Effective October 1, 2011, Federal Public Law (PL) 109-288 mandated that at least 90% of children in foster care, under the jurisdiction of the court, must be visited each month. With the passage of Federal Public Law (PL) 112-34, enacted on September 30, 2011, some revisions to the federal caseworker visit mandate were made. The PL 112-34 changed the requirement regarding the amount of monthly visits that must occur in the residence of the child from a "majority" to "at least 50 percent." It also institutes yearly, fiscal penalties at the state level for failing to meet this standard.

States are required to collect and report information on monthly caseworker visits. Starting in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012, states began reporting their information using a revised data reporting methodology (Measure 2F), consistent with the changes in the law made by Public Law (PL) 112-34. Additionally, beginning in FFY 2016, caseworker visit performance standard for monthly visits will increase from 90% to 95%. In anticipation of this change, Butte County implemented the new 95% compliance rate as an internal goal in 2013. The policy was adjusted to meet this new federal goal, in advance of the implementation date, starting in 2013.

As previously noted, Butte County has worked diligently to improve performance in this area. While consistently meeting the new federal goal in advance of its implementation has not occurred every quarter, there has been overall improvement and complying with all mandatory contact requirements remains a top priority. Recent analysis indicates that the two Permanent Placement (PP) units tend to struggle with this meeting this goal more than other units. This is caused in part by numerous staff vacancies, but there are numerous reasons that can challenge meeting this goal. Most of the youth on the PP caseloads are older which may cause challenges in setting up visitation. Family schedules often conflict with social worker schedules, which can be more difficult during the school year when youth

participate in after school activities. At times, foster parents are not always able, or willing, to accommodate visits, especially if they feel they were not provided enough notice. As fost/adopt families get closer to adoption finalization, sometimes there is a reluctance to accommodate on-going visits.

STRENGTHS

- Program expectations were modified in advance of the pending new federal performance standards.
- This outcome measure is monitored monthly, or more frequently, for compliance.
- Staff have been trained to the new 95% goal and the revised policy and procedure references the upcoming change.

BARRIERS

- Data entry can be a barrier with new staff (training issues) or when visits are accomplished timely, but are not entered timely.
- An on-going barrier to meeting this, and other goals in the future, may be the number of vacancies within Children’s Services Division. Staff vacancies result in greater workload demands, as unassigned caseloads must be covered by existing staff.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- The management team will continue to monitor this goal and will make any necessary changes to procedures as needed.
- Provide more staff training on the importance of this goal, especially with new staff as they are hired.
- Provide data entry training for new staff or refreshers for existing staff.

Outcome Data Measures: PERMANENCY (Child Welfare)

PERMANENCY MEASURES-REUNIFICATION

C1.1 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
63.5%	73%	75.2%	97%

Butte County’s performance has improved in this outcome measure but still falls short of the federal goal.

C1.2 MEDIAN TIME OF REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT)

Of all the 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?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
8.5	7.4	5.4	73%

The median length of time to reunification has also improved, dropping from 8.5 months to 7.4 months for children in care 8 days or longer.

C1.3 REUNIFICATION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (ENTRY COHORT)

Of all the 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?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
48.7%	23.8%	48.4%	49.2%

Butte County’s performance in this entry cohort measurement has declined since the last CSA.

C1.4 REENTRY FOLLOWING REUNIFICATION (EXIT COHORT)

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?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
15.4%	6.8%	9.9%	145.5%

Butte County has made great progress in this outcome measure since the last CSA due to strategies implemented as part of the current SIP.

ANALYSIS - PERMANENCY MEASURES-REUNIFICATION

(Measures C1.1, C1.2, C1.3, C1.4)

In Quarter 4, 2014, Butte County’s rate of reunification within 12 months was 97% of the federal goal in Measure C1.1, an improvement of 9.5 percentage points from the last CSA performance. The county’s median time to reunification (Measure C1.2) has also improved, but when looking at Measure C1.3 (entry cohort), there has been a decline in the performance.

The following chart may indicate that of the children that reunified within 12 months, there was a disproportionate percentage of White, Latino and Asian children. However, again, the high percentage of missing Ethnic Groups at the time of the initial referral and substantiation could impact this apparent disproportionate number.

Children Who Reunified Within 12 Months, by Ethnic Group	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Native American	Missing
Children with One or More Allegations	3.80%	44.40%	9.30%	1.80%	2.70%	37.90%
Children with Substantiations	4.60%	56.30%	11.70%	2.30%	4.80%	20.40%
Children Who Reunified within 12 Months	2.13%	65.96%	19.15%	8.51%	4.26%	0.00%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/; <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

The following compares the percentage of children who reunified within 12 months, by age, as compared to the percentage of children with one or more allegations and the percentage of children with substantiations. There appears to be a disproportionate percentage of children under the age of one through age 2, and those ages 6 – 10 years of age who are reunified within 12 months.

Children Who Reunified Within 12 Months, by Age	Under Age 1	1 – 2	3 - 5	6 - 10	11-15	16-17
Children with One or More Allegations	8.30%	10.40%	17.90%	30.50%	24.50%	8.40%
Children with Substantiations	13.80%	12.10%	20.20%	29.90%	18.00%	6.00%
Children Who Reunified within 12 Months	19.15%	14.89%	19.15%	34.04%	8.51%	4.26%

Data Source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/; <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

There has been a tremendous improvement in Measure C1.4 (Reentry Following Reunification). From an all time high at the time of the current SIP approval (19.6%), which was even higher than at the time of the last CSA, this outcome has continued to improve. Towards the end of 2014, this rate increased slightly but has now continued to improve. Currently, Butte County exceeds the federal goal by 145.5%. In analyzing the re-entry data for those quarters that showed an increase, in most cases the families that reentered included large sibling groups that affected the overall rate. Additionally, all the families that reentered during that time period came back in with the same problems as had brought them in to Child Welfare earlier, most significantly parental substance abuse.

Of the eleven children who reentered care during this time period, eight were White; two were Black; one was Hispanic, and none were Asian/Pacific Islander or Native American. Six of these children were 3 years or younger; two were 4 and 5 years of age; two were between the ages of 6 and 10 years; and one was 12 years of age. None were older than age 12.

In 2007, Butte County began its Family Treatment Court (FTC), offering parents a different type of substance abuse treatment and support program. Children were reunified earlier when their parents successfully completed FTC, which resulted in improved outcomes in timely reunification. However, it was soon obvious that children were reunifying before their parents were ready, despite their success in

FTC, as the reentry rate following reunification climbed. Parents were in need of more support during their transition to sobriety and in the reunification with their children. The Supporting Our Families Transition (SOFT) program was implemented to provide additional case management and support during the transition from Family Reunification to Family Maintenance, and the FTC Program was extended from six months to one year. Enhancements were also made to the SOFT Program in the last three years, which provided all parents the ability to participate as well as improving the classroom curriculum and in-home parent support.

Butte County is proud of the improvements in this area, and will continue to evaluate services, including ways to incorporate strategies developed during the four year SAMHSA Grant for the Butte County FTC, now that funding has ended. Enhancements will also be made to the SOFT Program in FY 2016/17 as this is one of Butte County's identified strategies for the Title IV-E Waiver Program.

An on-going challenge to meeting the timely reunification goals is that Child Welfare timelines for reunification are not in line with recovery timelines. At least 80% of parents in Butte County have substance abuse issues. As previously noted, the drugs of choice are Methamphetamine, Marijuana, and prescription medication, with a recent increase in Honey Oil manufacturing and use. The following information was addressed In the October 2014 Child Welfare Information Gateway Bulletin for Professionals, regarding Parental Substance Use and the Child Welfare System:

(<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/parentalsubabuse.pdf>)

There are differences in perspectives and timeframes, reflecting different guiding policies, philosophies, and goals in child welfare and substance abuse treatment systems (for example, a focus on the safety and well-being of the child without sufficient focus on parents' recovery).

A critical challenge for child welfare professionals is meeting legislative requirements regarding child permanency while allowing for sufficient progress in substance abuse recovery and development of parenting capacity. The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires that a child welfare agency file a petition for termination of parental rights if a child has been in foster care for 15 of the past 22 months, unless it is not in the best interest of the child. Many agencies struggle with adhering to this timeframe due to problems with accessing substance abuse services in a timely manner. In addition, treatment may take many months (often longer than the ASFA timeline allows), and achieving sufficient stability to care for children may take even longer. Addressing addiction can require extended recovery periods, and relapses can occur.

During the various CSA meetings and focus groups, several ideas were presented for consideration in the development of the next SIP. Of particular importance, available services for families can greatly impact the success of timely reunification, including quality visitation services, parent education and support, substance abuse services (such as Family Treatment Court), and transition services. The goal is to implement new strategies that will improve the timeliness of successful reunification, while maintaining the improved reentry rate.

STRENGTHS

- Family Treatment Court and enhancements made to the SOFT Program provide treatment and support services for families, which have helped better prepare parents to exit the child welfare system.

- Parents are provided a substance abuse assessment and participate in an eight-week Parent Support Group (PSG) prior to starting services. Participation in the PSG process better prepares parents to participate in services as it addresses their anger, confusion, grief and loss.
- Child-Family Team (CFT) meetings are available throughout the life of a case which assists parents in preparing for next steps and exiting the Child Welfare System.
- Cross training between County staff in Child Welfare and Alcohol and Drug Services has been provided.
- The Children's Services Division modified its relapse guidelines to be more reflective of recovery processes.
- Strong cross system partnerships have been developed between County staff in Child Welfare and Alcohol and Drug Services due to participation in two federal grants addressing substance abuse issues in Child Welfare Services (Regional Partnership Grant in 2007 and Children Affected by Methamphetamine in 2010).
- Nurturing Parenting Programs curriculum used in all parent education services.

BARRIERS

- High rate of continuances and contested hearings in Dependency Court may impact reunification rates.
- In an effort to improve permanency for children, state standards for reunification for children under the age of three are shorter than older children, providing less time for parents to address their substance abuse issues and meet service plan requirements.
- Not all children meet medical necessity criteria to receive mental health services, which may delay services and subsequently the time to reunification.
- Transportation can be a barrier for parents in accessing their services, especially for those families who live in more remote communities.
- As new staff are hired in both Child Welfare and Alcohol and Drug Services, the knowledge base about both systems is not as strong.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Strengthen CFT exit plans.
- Modify Case Plans to include behaviorally focused objectives and services to follow Safety Organized Practice guidelines.
- Provide more support groups and include Peer Parent Mentors for parents.
- Expand SOFT Program to include voluntary services beyond case closure.
- Provide quality visitation services in a family friendly visitation center.
- Provide more training for foster parents and provide more Intensive Treatment Foster Care.
- Provide more support for parents to address their trauma issues.
- Provide on-going parent education and respite when family has reunified.
- More mental health and substance abuse services for parents.
- Create behaviorally based safety plans when a Structured Decision Making (SDM) safety threat is identified.
- Provide more assistance to parents in developing a safety and support network plan prior to services ending and the CWS case being closed.

PERMANENCY MEASURES-ADOPTIONS

C2.1 ADOPTION WITHIN 24 MONTHS (EXIT COHORT)

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
25.0%	26.5%	36.6%	72.5%

Butte County's rate has fluctuated somewhat over the past several years, but remains close to the rate at the time the 2010 CSA was approved. Butte County is performing at 72.5% of the Federal goal in this area.

C2.2 MEDIAN TIME TO ADOPTION (EXIT COHORT)

Of all the 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?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
32.4	30.5	27.3	89.5%

As with the previous rate, Butte County's performance remains close to the rate at the time the 2010 CSA was approved, but this outcome performs at a higher rate relative to the Federal goal.

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

Of all the children in 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?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
16.1%	24.8%	22.7%	109.4%

This measure has seen consistent improvement since the 2010 CSA was approved. Butte County has exceeded the Federal goal for the last four years.

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

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
6.8%	11.6%	10.9%	106.2%

This measurement has also seen improvement since the 2010 CSA was approved, having exceeded the Federal goal three out of the last four periods.

C2.5 ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS (LEGALLY FREE)

Of all the 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?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
56.3%	34.6%	53.7%	64.5%

At the time of the last CSA, Butte County exceeded the federal goal in this measure, but this performance has declined since that time.

ANALYSIS OF PERMANENCY MEASURES – ADOPTIONS

(MEASURES C2.1, C2.2, C2.3, C2.4 AND C2.5)

As part of realignment in California and Butte County’s commitment to finding permanency for foster children in Butte County, agency adoption services were transitioned from the CDSS Chico District Office to the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, effective January 1, 2013.

While Adoption Services is a relatively new service provided by the County, there has been improvements in finalizing adoptions that had not been completed more timely, as is evidenced by Outcomes C2.3 and C2.4 which measures the adoption outcomes of children in care for 17 months or longer. In 2013, 42 adoptions were finalized and in 2014, 56 adoptions were finalized in Butte County.

Of all the children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, the median stay in care is 30.5 months (Quarter 4, 2014) until the date of discharge to adoption. When examining the age range of children, the median length of stay is consistently higher the older the child, as shown in the following chart.

Age Group	Months in Care - Median
Under age 1	0
1 – 2 years of age	22.3
3- 5 years of age	30.5
6 – 10 years of age	31.8

11 – 15 years of age	47.8
16 – 17 years of age	44.3

Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

The following shows the percentage of adoptions, by Ethnicity, for all children exiting foster care to adoption in 2014. Eighteen children were adopted within 24 months; 40 children were adopted in more than 24 months. The ethnicities of the children adopted mirror the overall population. No Asian or Native American children were adopted during this period.

Adoption by Ethnicity	Black	White	Latino	Asian/PI	Native American	Missing
Adoption within 24 Months	16.66%	77.78%	5.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Adoption in More than 24 months	5.00%	70.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

The following shows the percentage of adoptions, by age, for the same children. Younger children were adopted faster; however, other than children under the age of one, all age groups were discharged to adoption.

Adoption, by Age	Under Age 1	1 – 2	3 - 5	6 - 10	11-15	16-18
Adoption within 24 Months	0.00%	66.67%	5.56%	22.21%	0.00%	5.56%
Adoption in More than 24 months	0.00%	7.50%	32.50%	37.50%	17.50%	5.00%

Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

During the CSA Stakeholder meetings, it was identified that there was a general lack of understanding regarding the entire process – from detention to post adoption and that outreach and education should be enhanced. It was also recommended that additional supportive services and training be provided to adoptive parents, with specific emphasis on training regarding children with special needs.

STRENGTHS

- Integrating Adoption Services as part of the Children’s Services Division has created the opportunity for better collaboration between Adoptions Specialists and Social Workers, as well as the ability to better streamline the process of serving children, families and our community.
- This program is still evolving in terms of appropriate staffing numbers and caseload management. A new Program Manager, a second Adoption Specialist Supervisor, an additional Adoption Specialist, Social Service Case Aide and a part time Paralegal were recently added to better manage and oversee the functions of Adoption Services.

BARRIERS

- Issues affecting delayed permanency, including finalized adoptions, can be impacted by Court proceedings, including contested hearings.
- Adoptive homes may not be readily available.
- There has been an increased trend where the Court may not terminate parental rights if an adoptive home has not been located. The court hearing is then continued for six months to

locate a potential adoptive home. This can impact the timeframe before a child is freed for adoption.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Continue to provide training for Adoptions staff.
- Complete a more thorough permanency assessment for all potential care givers, including potential adoptive families earlier in the process to alleviate placement changes and delays at a later date.
- Provide training to staff on Concurrent Planning and streamline department process.
- Provide enhanced support services to prospective and current adoptive families, including specialized training.
- Participation in the Resource Family Assessment process and the Kinship Support Service Program should provide more opportunities for streamlining the recruitment, assessment and support for all caretakers, including prospective adoptive families.

PERMANENCY MEASURES-CHILDREN IN LONG-TERM CARE

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

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
20.2%	28.4%	29.1%	102.7%

Butte County has seen an improvement in this measure and currently exceeds the federal goal.

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

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
98%	100%	98%	102%

At the time the last CSA was prepared; Butte County met the federal goal in this area, and now slightly exceeds this goal.

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

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

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
65.9%	20%	37.5%	187.5%

Butte County maintained a fairly steady rate in this outcome measure until approximately one year ago. Since that time, this outcome measure has seen a consistent improvement. During this reporting period, there were 20 youth who turned 18. Only four (20%) had been in care for three years or longer.

ANALYSIS - PERMANENCY MEASURES-CHILDREN IN LONG-TERM CARE

(Measures C3.1, C3.2 and C3.3)

Overall, Butte County has performed well in these measures. Butte County remains committed to finding permanency for all youth in out of home care.

During this reporting period, youth who had been in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year experienced the following by the end of the year and prior to turning age 18:

- Exited to reunification: 3.1%
- Exited to adoption: 18.8%
- Exited to guardianship: 4.7%
- Exited to non-permanency: 3.3%
- Still in care: 70.1%

For those youth who do not reunify with their biological families, every effort is made to help transition them to adulthood.

STRENGTHS

- Butte County remains committed to obtaining permanency for all youth.
- Butte County provides a diverse Independent Living Program (ILP) and services for teens.
- Specialized case loads for ILP aged youth.
- Services for non-minor dependents.

BARRIERS

- Limited support for caregivers of older youth in placement.
- Limited training options for caregivers of youth who have been in out of home care for a longer time.
- Some relatives and NRFEM placements do not want to become guardians as they want their CWS cases to stay open for extra support.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Provide more safe long-term care options for this population.
- Provide opportunities for older foster youth to mentor younger children in out of home care.

PERMANENCY MEASURES-PLACEMENT STABILITY AND PRESERVATION OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

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

Of all children in foster care during the year who were in care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placements?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
77.7%	72.9%	86%	84.8%

Butte County has seen a decline in this outcome measurement.

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

Of all children in foster care during the year who were in care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placements?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
52.6%	53.3%	65.4%	81.5%

Butte County's performance rate has stayed at approximately the same rate since the last CSA, and below the federal standard, despite strategies implemented as part of the current SIP.

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

Of all children in foster care during the year who were in care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placements?

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
32.4%	29%	41.8%	69.3%

This is another area that has declined since the prior CSA.

ANALYSIS - PERMANENCY MEASURES-PLACEMENT STABILITY AND PRESERVATION OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

(Measures C4.1, C4.2 and C4.3)

Butte County continues to struggle with these permanency measures. Measure C4.2 was included in our current SIP and despite changes designed to improve performance, the anticipated improvements in this area have not occurred. The reasons for challenges in these outcomes are complex and varied.

While Butte County has had an overall reduction in out of home placements and an increase in relative placements, too many children still experience three or more placements. Butte County does not operate a shelter care program and partners with various foster homes to serve as short term (less than 30 days) “receiving homes” which automatically means children have two placements by their next (second) placement. Most of these placements are with older youth who have been in care for a long time as is shown by the point in time chart below (December 2014). Of these youth who experienced three or more placements, 122 (49%) are in Permanent Placement service component. The majority of children who experience one or two placements are age 5 or younger (91% during this reporting period).

DECEMBER 2014		
AGE	3 OR MORE PLACEMENTS	% BY AGE WITH 3 OR MORE PLACEMENTS
3 YEARS OF AGE & YOUNGER	52	33.3%
4 – 5 YEARS	25	39.7%
6 – 10 YEARS	56	42.1%
11 – 15 YEARS	48	41%
16 YEARS AND ABOVE	73	63%

Data Source: <https://www.safemeasures.org/ca>

STRENGTHS

- A monthly support and educational group is available for County licensed foster parents and relative caregivers participating in the Options for Recovery Program.
- Butte County added a fifth contracted Facilitator to facilitate Child-Family Team meetings, to better address placement challenges and next best placements, as a strategy to decrease placement moves (current SIP strategy) and is adding a sixth Facilitator in FY 2015/16.
- Following the last Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR) in 2010, Children’s Services Division revised the policy for Emergency Relative/Non-Related Extended Family Member (NRFEM) Placements to be processed more timely (current SIP strategy).
- Established Relative Placement orientation for potential relative caregivers.
- Reconfigured unit structure to provide supervisors over two placement units (one in each office) and increased the number of relative placement assessors from two to four.
- Butte County is in the planning process to implement a Family Finding and Kinship Support Services Program in October 2015.
- Butte County is in the planning process to implement a Resource Family Assessment program in January 2016.

BARRIERS

- Limited support services for County licensed foster homes and relative caregivers that are not providing care for Options for Recovery eligible children.
- All children who are detained and not immediately released automatically will have two placements (the initial temporary placement and the next best placement).
- Priority to place siblings together may result in extra placement moves to accomplish this.

- Emergency Relative/NREFM placements are often not an option for caregivers as the placement on an emergency placement occurs without state or federal foster care funding. Many potential relative/NREFM placements choose to wait until the assessment is complete.
- Children in out of home care have special needs, and many exhibit challenging behaviors. With limited resources, foster parents may not feel they are able to care for these children adequately.
- Limited viable placement options for older youth and those with special needs.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Provide more specialized training opportunities for caregivers that address specific topics (including grief, loss, behavioral challenges and secondary trauma), understanding behavioral and developmental needs as well as County expectations.
- Develop a mentoring system for foster parents.
- Develop better communication and a collaborative approach between social workers and caregivers to work together to avoid placement disruptions.

PLACEMENT

4A SIBLINGS PLACED TOGETHER IN FOSTER CARE

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

Siblings Placed Together	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
All	59.3%	52%
All or Some	79%	72.2%

Butte County has seen a decline in this measurement since the last CSA.

4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (ENTRIES FIRST PLACEMENT)

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

Type of Placement	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Relative	5.7%	4.1%
Foster Home	21.0%	19.0%
FFA	59.2%	69.3%
Group	8.1%	3.8%

Other (Court Specified Home or Tribe Specified Home)	6.0%	3.8%
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Butte County has seen a decline in all types of placements, except for Foster Family Agency (FFA) placements. It should be noted that the FFA placements for first entries include initial “receiving home” type placements that do not exceed thirty days.

4B LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT (POINT IN TIME)

Type of Placement	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Relative	22.0%	24.3%
Foster Home	10.3%	6.5%
FFA	45.2%	39.3%
Group	2.8%	4.1%
Other (Court Specified Home or Tribe Specified Home)	19.7%	25.9%

The point in time placements show that FFA placements have dropped off from the first entries chart above (which include temporary “receiving home” placements), and the percentage of relative placements has increased.

4E ICWA & MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT STATUS

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

Placement Status ICWA	2010 CSA Performance January 1, 2010 (PIT)	Most Recent Performance January 1, 2015 (PIT)
Relatives	21	11
Non-Relatives, Indian SCPs	4	2
Non-Relatives, Non Indian SCPs	11	27
Non-Relatives, SCP Ethnic	6	3

Unknown		
Group Homes	0	0
Total	42	43

Placement Status Multi Ethnic	2010 CSA Performance January 1, 2010 (PIT)	Most Recent Performance January 1, 2015 (PIT)
Relatives	19	16
Non-Relatives, Indian SCPs	6	2
Non-Relatives, Non Indian SCPs	13	17
Non-Relatives, SCP Ethnic Unknown	12	2
Group Homes	0	1
Other	3	2
Total	53	40

As evidenced by the two Point in Time (PIT) charts (January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2015), Butte County's rates have remained fairly constant since the last CSA. However, two significant changes are noted: the number of eligible youth placed with relatives has decreased, and the number of Non-Relative, Non Indian Substitute Care Providers has increased. It is anticipated that the newly revised ICWA policy and procedure, and the implementation of the new Family Finding and Kinship Support Services Program, will assist in improving this outcome.

**ANALYSIS – PLACEMENT
(MEASURES 4A, 4B, 4E, 5 B, 5F, 6B, 8A)**

Butte County maintains a strong value on placing siblings together. Factors that can impact sibling placements include lack of available homes that are able to take sibling groups; siblings entering care at different times; half siblings being placed with different relative caregivers; and behavioral challenges such as substance abuse and mental health issues.

Changes to the relative assessment/approval process in recent years have been beneficial in streamlining this process and providing consistency in the approval process. However, it has also resulted in some relative/NRFEM homes not being approved and/or selected for placements. This may have reduced the number of Tribal placements and relative/NRFEM placements. Additionally, there are fewer Tribal homes in Butte County than in recent years, possibly due in part to changes in leadership in the local Tribes. However, Children's Services Divisions enjoys a strong relationship with the local tribal

representatives. The County and representatives from the tribes work together to locate the best placement option for Native American youth.

STRENGTHS

- Butte County is in the planning process to implement a Family Finding and Kinship Support Services Program in October 2015.
- Butte County is in the planning process to implement a Resource Family Assessment program in January 2016.
- Children’s Services Division enjoys a collaborative working relationship with the local Tribes.
- New ICWA guidelines will assist in identifying Native American youth earlier, which will allow for earlier placements with relative or other tribal placements.

BARRIERS

- It can be challenging to find caregivers that are able to provide care for larger sibling groups.
- Identified relatives and tribal homes may not be approved for placement under relative/NRFEM assessment guidelines.
- Foster Family Agencies are often able to provide more support and resources to certified homes than the County is able to provide to relative caregivers and Foster Family Homes.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Specialized training for caregivers.
- Recruitment and outreach for caregivers to meet the needs of sibling groups and other youth.

Outcome Data Measures: WELL-BEING (Child Welfare)

WELL-BEING MEASURES

5B (1) RATE OF TIMELY HEALTH EXAMS

Well-Being	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Timely Health Exams	92.6%	90.1%

ANALYSIS

The percentage of timely health exams has remained fairly steady. This level of timeliness can be directly attributed to the four Public Health Nurses assigned to Children’s Services Division. The nurses are responsible for providing case management, nursing supervision services for children in foster care and advocating for their medical needs. This includes assisting foster parents and relative caregivers in obtaining timely comprehensive assessments; assisting in the development of health care plans; and expending timely referrals for medical, dental and mental health services.

5B (2) RATE OF TIMELY DENTAL EXAMS

Well-Being	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Timely Dental Exams	70.7%	65.4%

ANALYSIS

This area does not show the success of the previous outcome, due in large part to the lack of timely and available dental providers in the County that accept MediCal. This results in delays in seeing a dentist, as the referral process can take up to three months.

5F PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS

Well-Being	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Psychotropic Medications	11.7%	11.8%

ANALYSIS

The percentage of youth in care authorized by the Court to receive psychotropic medication is almost the same as the 2010 CSA. However, the rate had bumped up to approximately 15% in 2012, but has since decreased. This is due to improved supervisory oversight and documentation. An updated policy and procedure that addresses oversight and documentation of psychotropic medications will be implemented soon. This policy includes new collaborative treatment plan procedures with the Public Health Nurses assigned to foster care youth, as well as new procedures for informing age appropriate foster youth of recommended medications.

6B INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

Well-Being	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Individualized Education Plans	18.8%	15.4%

ANALYSIS

Butte County has seen a decrease in this measurement, which may be caused by several factors. Butte County tends to fall below the state and national average for youth needing IEPs; a youth may have unmet educational needs; and there may be data entry issues.

8A EXIT OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Well-Being	2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)
Completed High School or Equivalency	15.0%	71.4%

Obtained Employment	15.0%	14.3%
Have Housing Arrangements	20.0%	100.0%
Received ILP Services	15.0%	100.0%
Permanency Connection with an Adult	15.0%	100.0%

ANALYSIS

Butte County has seen a tremendous increase in these well-being factors. This is due to many factors including the Butte County ILP program; the implementation of AB 12 – Extended Foster Care; and a strong focus by the Court and internally, focusing on earlier education planning and post 18 educational/vocational planning.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT OUTCOME DATA MEASURES

Due to the small population of Probation youth in out of home care, many of these measures do not have sufficient data to measure and are so noted. In some measures, local data is provided.

Outcome Data Measures: SAFETY (Probation)

SAFETY MEASURES

S1.1 No Recurrence of Maltreatment: *Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation during the 6-month period, what percent were not victims of another substantiated maltreatment allegation within the next 6 months?*

The National Standard for this measure is 94.6%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

S1.2 No Maltreatment in Foster Care: *Of all children served in foster care during the year, what percent were not victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation by a foster parent or facility staff member?*

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
100%	100%	99.68%	103%

TIMELY RESPONSE

2B: Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals by Time-to-Investigation (Immediate Response Compliance): *These reports count both the number of child abuse and neglect referrals that require, and then*

receive, an in-person investigation within the time frame specified by the referral response type. Referrals are classified as either immediate response (within 24 hrs) or 10-day response.

2B: Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals by Time-to-Investigation (10-Day Response): These reports count both the number of child abuse and neglect referrals that require, and then receive, an in-person investigation within the time frame specified by the referral response type. Referrals are classified as either immediate response (within 24 hrs) or 10-day response.

Probation Outcome: The 2B measures are not applicable to Probation and no outcome or analysis will be conducted on these measures.

PLACEMENT VISITS

2F: Timely Monthly Caseworker Visits (out of home): These reports calculate the percentage of children in placement who are visited by caseworkers.

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
N/A	100%	90%	111.1%

2F: Timely Monthly Caseworker Visits in Residence: These reports calculate the percentage of children in placement who are visited by caseworkers.

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
N/A	100%	50%	200%

Placement Visit Analysis: Probation is a top performer in meeting the needs of Probation youth by making timely monthly visits and has exceeded the national standards in both 2F measures. The placement officer coordinates monthly visits and makes arrangements with other approved staff to meet placement visit goals in her absence.

Safety Analysis: Due to a concerted effort by the placement officer to select the most appropriate group home to fit the needs of placement youth, coupled with a close working relationship developed with group home staff, Probation has achieved top marks for safety performance.

Outcome Data Measures: PERMANENCY (Probation)

PERMANENCY MEASURES-REUNIFICATION

C1.1 Reunification Within 12 Months (exit cohort): *Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home?*

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
22.2%	0.0%	75.2%	N/A

C1.2 Median time to reunification (exit cohort): *Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification?*

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
17.1%	23.9%	5.4%	22.5%

C1.3 Reunification within 12 months (entry cohort): *Of all children entering foster care for the first time in the 6-month period who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 48.4%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

C1.4 Reentry following reunification (exit cohort): *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?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 9.9%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

PERMANENCY MEASURES-ADOPTIONS

C2.1: Adoption within 24 months (exit cohort): *Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what percent were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 36.6%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

C2.2: Median time to adoption (exit cohort): *Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to adoption?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 27.3%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

C2.3: Adoption within 12 months (17 months in care): *Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 22.7%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

C2.4: Legally free within 6 months (17 months in care): *Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the period, what percent became legally free within the next 6 months?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 10.9%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

C2.5: Adoption within 12 months (legally free): *Of all children in foster care who became legally free for adoption during the year, what percent were then discharged to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 53.7%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

PERMANENCY MEASURES-LONG-TERM CARE

C3.1: Exits to Permanency (24 Months in Care): *Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year and prior to turning 18?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 29.1%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

C3.2: Exits to Permanency (Legally Free at Exit): *Of all children discharged from foster care during the year who were legally free for adoption, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 98%. Probation's most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

C3.3: In Care 3 Years to Longer (Emancipated or Age 18 in Care): *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?*

Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 37.5%. Probation’s most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

PERMANENCY MEASURES-PLACEMENT STABILITY

C4.1: Placement Stability (8 Days to 12 Months in Care): *This measure computes the percentage of children with two or fewer placements in foster care for 8 days or more, but less than 12 months.*

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
109.8%	100%	96%	116%

C4.2: Placement Stability (12 to 24 Months in Care): *This measure computes the percentage of children with two or fewer placements in foster care for at least 12 months, but less than 24 months.*

2010 CSA Performance (Q4, 2009)	Most Recent Performance (Q4, 2014)	National Standard or Goal	Recent performance relative to National Standard or Goal
97.3%	71.4%	65.4%	109.2%

C4.3: Placement Stability (At Least 24 Months in Care): *This measure computes the percentage of children with two or fewer placements who have been in foster care for 24 months or more.*

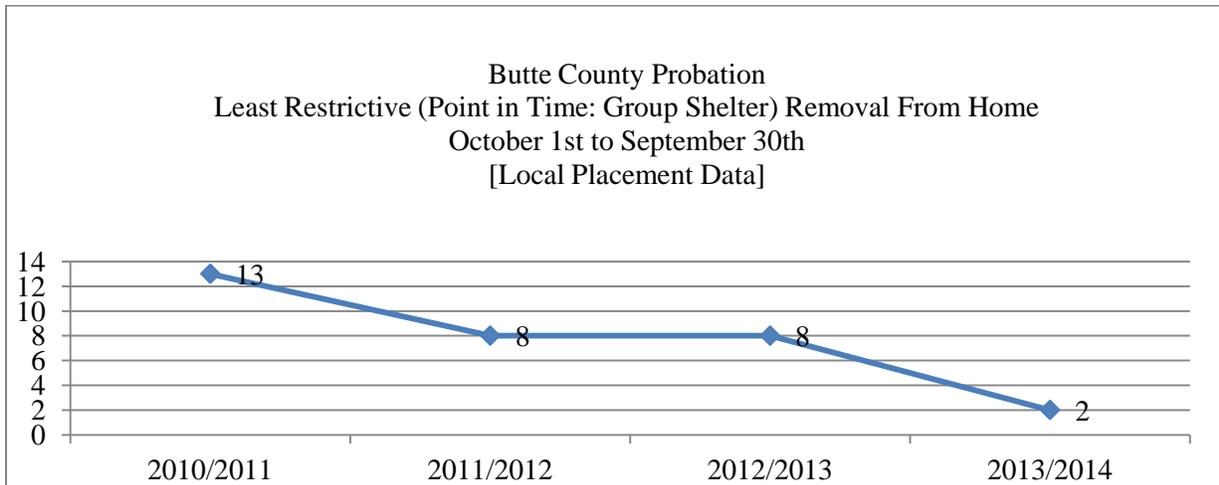
Probation Outcome: The National Standard for this measure is 41.8%. %. Probation’s most recent performance relative to the National Standard is not applicable as Probation did not have data to report for this measure.

Permanency Analysis: Since the last System Improvement Plan was implemented, the Probation Department has reduced the number of removals into group homes by over 81% and currently has a group home placement population of 3. Due to Probation’s effort to increase community support services that address the needs of youthful probationers and the opening of a camp program at the Butte County Juvenile Hall, group home placements are limited to the most serious offenders, whose needs cannot be met in the community. The needs of Probation placements often require longer treatment programming, resulting in longer stays in the group home to address their needs. As an example, we currently have three youth in out of home placement due to sex crimes. Minimum treatment for these types of offenses can take over a year to complete. As a result, the C1.1 (Reunification within 12 months) and C1.2 (median time to reunification) outcomes are below the national standards. Due to the nature and circumstance of Probation’s placement youth, it does not appear that Probation will be able to improve on these measures.

LEAST RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT

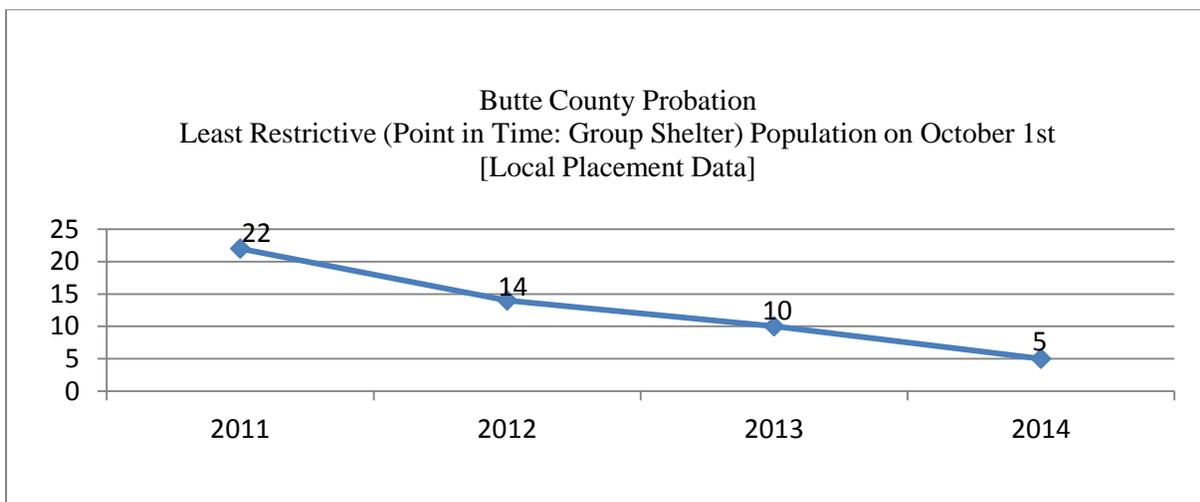
4B: Least Restrictive (Entries First Placement: Group/Shelter): The number of youth placed in foster care group/shelter home.

Most Recent Least Restrictive First Placement: Group Shelter (10/1/13 to 9/30/14)
2



4B: Least Restrictive (Point in Time: Group/Shelter): The number of youth is foster care.

Least Restrictive-Point in Time Group/Shelter (10/1/14)
5



Least Restrictive Placement Analysis: As referenced in our permanency analysis, Probation has made a concerted effort to increase community support services that address the needs of youthful probationers in our community. In addition to opening a camp program at the juvenile hall, Probation's use of group home placements is limited to the most serious offenders that cannot have their needs met in the local community. These efforts are evident in the decline of the Probation population and removals from home into group home placement. Probation is proud of the work accomplished in limiting their placement population and will continue its effort to limit group home placements to those youth that cannot have their needs met with local services.

ICWA PLACEMENT

4E (1)/(2) ICWA Placement Preferences: *These reports examine the placement status of Indian Child Welfare Act eligible children [4E(1)] and children with primary or mixed (multi) ethnicity of American Indian [4E(2)].*

Probation Outcome: The 4E measures are not applicable to Probation and no outcome or analysis will be conducted on these measures.

Outcome Data Measures: WEL-BEING (Probation)

HEALTH/DENTAL EXAMS

5B (1)/ (2) Rate of Timely Dental/Health Exams: *This report provides the percentage of children meeting the schedule for Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) and Division 31 medical and dental exams, per California Code of Regulations.*

Probation Outcome: The 5B measures are not applicable to Probation and no outcome or analysis will be conducted on these measures.

PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

5F Authorized for Psychotropic Medication: *This report provides the percentage of children in placement episodes with a court order or parental consent that authorizes the child to receive psychotropic medication.*

Probation Outcome: The 5F measures are not applicable to Probation and no outcome or analysis will be conducted on this measure.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN

6B Individualized Education Plan: *This report provides the number of children in out-of-home placements who have ever had an IEP.*

Probation Outcome: Probation currently has three youth in group home placement. Two of the youth have an IEP.

YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

8A Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care: *This measure identifies the number of youth whose whereabouts are known during the reporting quarter and have done the following: completed high school or equivalency, obtained employment, have housing arrangements, received ILP services, and permanency connection with an adult.*

Probation Outcome: Probation did not have data to report for these measures.

Summary of Findings

Butte County is a medium size, semi rural county in Northern California. Butte County has a high poverty rate, and to put this in perspective, if Butte County were a state, it would be the 9th poorest state in the union, right between South Carolina and Tennessee (based on median household income and unemployment rates). South Carolina has a median household income of \$44,500 and a 6.7 unemployment rate; Tennessee has a median household income of \$43,200 and an unemployment rate of 7.1. Butte's median household income of \$43,752 and unemployment rate of 7.5 puts the County right between the two states. Mississippi is the poorest state with a median household income of under \$40,000. (Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuikFacts).

There are five incorporated areas, and numerous small communities, many in isolated areas. In these isolated areas, there are few or no resources. Limited transportation options create challenges for people living in outlying areas, making them even more isolated from major centers for commerce and resources. The number of children with allegations and first entries tend to match the overall financial well-being of their community (the percentage of children with allegations and subsequent first entries is higher from communities that experience more poverty than other communities).

Child abuse and neglect is found in families across all social spectrums. There are many contributing factors such as parent substance abuse, financial stress, mental health issues and poverty. Butte County has a high percentage of children living in poverty. In January 2013, there were 1,533 people identified as homeless in Butte County when a point in time survey was conducted, and 17% were identified as children. In 2014, 1,024 school aged children were homeless.

The high incidence rate of neglect and abuse is in large part due to the prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse and high poverty rates. Butte County has experienced a long history of substance abuse issues from being a major manufacturer of Methamphetamine in the 1980s to current challenges with the abuse of prescription medication; the increased use and the cultivation of marijuana; and the new rise in the manufacturing of Honey Oil. Parental substance abuse can disrupt the parent-child attachment, and the parents' ability to respond to the child's cues and needs may be weakened.

The overall demographics of the children served have not changed significantly since the last CSA was prepared; referrals tend to come from poorer communities with fewer resources. The Ethnicities of the children with child abuse allegations tend to follow the overall Ethnicities of children throughout the county. Due to missing data from the initial allegation it is unclear if there is a disproportionate number of recurrences and reentries among certain Ethnicities. This warrants further evaluation to ensure

appropriate services are being provided. In child welfare, there is a disproportionate number of younger children with allegations, substantiations and recurrence of maltreatment. However, their parents tend to be younger, with less financial security, coupled with substance abuse disorders; all high risk factors for child abuse, as is evidenced by the child welfare population in the County.

The Probation Department, in attempting to measure progress for the majority of the Outcome Data Measures, is confronted with the impact of small numbers of youth in out-of-home placement. These small numbers may skew outcome data, at times making it difficult to accurately assess system wide strengths and weaknesses. Since the last System Improvement Plan (SIP) was implemented, the Probation Department has reduced the number of removals into group homes by over 81%. Due to Probation's effort to increase community support services that address the needs of youthful probationers and the opening of a camp program at the Butte County Juvenile Hall, group home placements are limited to the most serious offenders, whose needs cannot be met in the community. The needs of youth in Probation placements often require longer treatment programming, resulting in longer stays in the group home to address their needs. For example, the three probation youth currently in group homes have committed sex-related offenses. Minimum treatment for these types of offenses can take over one year to complete. As a result, reunification outcomes are below the national standards and improving reunification-related outcome data measures may not be feasible. On the other hand, due to a concerted effort by Probation staff to select the most appropriate group home to fit the needs of placement youth, coupled with a close working relationship developed with group homes, Probation has achieved top marks for safety performance measures.

While the Probation Department has significantly reduced the number of children in out-of-home placement and exceeding standards in making timely monthly visits is a positive achievement, there is always room for improvement. To determine where improvement regarding out-of-home placement is needed, surveys were provided to probation youth, their parents, and to staff. Survey results indicated that parents with children returning from out-of-home placement would have been better equipped to facilitate a successful transition had they been informed of what to expect when their child returns home.

The Probation Department chose Outcome Data Measure C4.2 (Placement Stability) as the focus area for the Peer Review and during Stakeholder meetings. During the Peer Review process, peers identified family finding efforts as the primary area needing improvement. Peers also identified the need for Wraparound services for youth exiting out-of-home placement. Although the stakeholder meetings did not result in specific ideas to improve placement stability per se, attendees contributed ideas for improving identified gaps in services related to Juvenile Probation in general. Identified service gaps included: substance abuse services, pre-probation mentoring, collaborative communication, gang prevention, and inaccessibility to mental health services. Also identified was the need to ensure families are provided with a specific transition plan as they transition out of probation or placement.

For the Peer Review, Butte County Children's Services chose the Focus Area: No Recurrence of Maltreatment (Safety S1.1), as this is a current SIP goal that continues to be a challenge. During the Peer Review, it was identified that some safety assessments were not as thorough as they could have been and Structured Decision Making (SDM) was not always properly utilized. The Policy and Procedure was recently updated to provide better guidelines to ensure proper utilization. Other improvements recommended during the Stakeholder meetings, included expanding services and partners in the service array for Alternative Response, and providing additional staff training in Safety Organized Practice with an emphasis on protocols, strategies, and the expectation for use in referral investigations and case management.

During the County Self Assessment process, numerous common themes emerged from different stakeholders (peers, stakeholders, staff, parents, youth and foster parents) to address these risk factors for child abuse and to identify solutions to improve outcomes for children and families in Butte County. The major themes identified enhanced and quality services for youth and parents; thorough and early assessments and support services for caregivers; and some departmental systemic changes. The common themes include, but are not limited to:

- The need for a quality visitation center and process for visitation for parents and children
- Affordable AOD services for both parents and youth
- Earlier and easier access to mental health services for adults and children
- More activities and opportunities for youth in preparation for adulthood
- Enhance preventative services through the Alternative Response Model
- Implement Quarterly County and Community Partner Resource Meetings
- Provide more support for relative caregivers
- Parent orientation to the child welfare system prior to beginning Parent Support Groups
- Provide more training for all caregivers to help them care for children and youth with severe behavior and emotional issues
- Better communication between social workers and foster parents, parents, and youth
- Review and evaluate data entry issues where identified

Throughout this report, strengths, barriers and recommendations have been addressed. While there are a number of areas needing improvement, overall, the satisfaction with services provided by both departments has been positive. Of particular note, is the high percentage of parents currently receiving services at various stages in the child welfare system who responded in the affirmative to the question “Do you believe that the services you have received have been helpful in creating a safer environment for your children?”, with an average of 82% of the respondents answering yes.

Many of the suggestions offered for improvement are already underway, as is evidenced by the County’s participation in the Title IV-E project. The Probation Department has already been successful in greatly reducing the number of probation youth in out of home care. The Title IV-E initiative will allow more flexibility to provide preventative services to youth and their families, and thereby further reduce the number of youth entering the Probation system. The County will implement the Resource Family Approval (RFA), a unified, family friendly and child-centered resource family approval process, early in 2016. This new approval process will replace the existing processes for licensing foster family homes, approving relatives and non-relative extended family members as foster care providers or legal guardians, and approving adoptive families by combining elements of all the processes into a single approval standard. In October 2015, the new Family Finding and Kinship Support Services Program will be implemented in the Children’s Services Division. These initiatives include many of the recommendations made throughout the CSA.

The Department of Employment and Social Services and the Probation Department enjoy a strong collaborative relationship and have worked diligently to improve outcomes for children and families. Butte County values and will benefit from the wide array of information obtained from the 2015 County Self Assessment (CSA) process. The County is on schedule to prepare a new five-year System Improvement Plan (SIP) using the qualitative and quantitative information gathered during this CSA process. The information gathered yielded important data which will be used to inform the development of the next SIP. The departments remain committed to working together and utilizing resources to continue to focus on improving Safety, Permanency and Well-Being outcomes for children and families as the County moves forward in the planning and implementation of new SIP goals.

Attachment B: Organization Chart, Butte County Probation Department (Rev. 6/2015)

K:\Shared Services\Office Records\OrganizationChart

