



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
For Agenda Of: 2/27/07
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Kathy Gallagher, Social Services Director
Director(s) (805) 346-7101
R. Scott DeuPree, Chief Probation Officer
(805) 882-3640
Contact Info: Ken Jensen, Psy.D, Deputy Director Social Services
(805) 346-7312

SUBJECT: California Child and Family Services Review (C-CSFR) – System Improvement Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors approve the System Improvement Plan (attached) developed in accordance with Assembly Bill 636, Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001, and the California Child and Family Services Review for submission to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services (CWS) conducted its second Self-Assessment from May – October 2006. The reports provided by CDSS combined with Safe Measures reports and internal data analysis sources provided sufficient data to inform the Self-Assessment process. As in the initial Self-Assessment, Santa Barbara County focused on obtaining extensive input from our many public and private partners believing that their knowledge of and experience with CWS were critical in identifying the strengths, needs, and gaps in our service delivery system. The process focused on completing a gaps analysis with several existing groups who are integrally involved in promoting the safety and well-being of children and families. Seven focus groups were conducted involving members of the KIDS Network and Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC); the Children's System of Care (CSOC); the Juvenile Court; all Child Welfare Services line staff at the Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Santa Barbara regional meetings; and the CWS Team, which includes managers and supervisors. Additionally, surveys were conducted with a random population of foster parents and relative or non-related extended family members, as well as with the Independent Living Program (ILP) youth to ensure their voices had representation in our county self-assessment. Overall,

more than 200 people representing over 40 agencies and organizations took part in the Self-Assessment. Please refer to the attached Organizations Invited to Participate in the C-CFSR. Many Self-Assessment participants/organizations were invited to join the System Improvement Plan Workgroup.

The State requirement for the System Improvement Plan (SIP) is to address the priority areas identified during the Self-Assessment process. There was one Safety Outcome identified being Recurrence of Maltreatment, which has two separate measures. Although the Self-Assessment process did not identify Permanence and Stability Measures as being a high priority issue, the SIP Workgroup identified improvement goals to assist with the Outcome Measures for Timely Reunification and Multiple Foster Care Placements. Additionally, the Well-being Measure regarding Foster Youth Transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood continued to be an area of high priority recognizing, as the research indicates, that foster youth emancipating from care do not fare well in health, education, employment, and housing arenas. Additionally several Systemic Factors were identified as areas for improvement including: Medical and Dental Care for Youth in Foster Care, Data Management in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), and Utilization of Staff Resources to Best Meet Multiple Workload Demands.

The C-CFSR designated the County Department of Social Services and the County Probation Department as equal partners in this review process. The County Probation Department participated in both the Self-Assessment and System Improvement Plan Workgroups, as well as remain actively involved in many of the collaboratives that support improved outcomes for children in Santa Barbara County. Since specific Outcome Measures have yet to be developed for Probation foster youth, the Self-Assessment focused primarily on CWS. The area of greatest commonality to both agencies relating to the Outcome Measures targets improving outcomes for youth emancipating from the dependency or delinquency system into self-sufficient adulthood. The SIP is a three-year plan with requisite annual updates. The Department of Social Services and Probation will reconvene a SIP review committee annually to assess progress, make adjustments to the plan, and to provide an update to the Board of Supervisors, the Self-Assessment Participants, and the general community.

Background: Assembly Bill 636 (Steinberg) established a new Child Welfare Outcome and Accountability System replacing the former CWS Oversight System which had focused exclusively on regulatory compliance. Pursuant to AB 636, the California Department of Social Services developed the California – Child and Family Services Review. The C-CFSR brings California into alignment with the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) by establishing a new review system designed to promote improved Child Welfare Services outcomes for children and families in each county in California. The vision created by the C-CFSR is that every child in California would live in a safe, stable, permanent home nurtured by healthy families and strong communities. Thus, “the purpose of the C-CFSR system is to significantly strengthen the accountability system used in California to monitor and assess the quality of services provided on behalf of maltreated children.”¹

The basis of the C-CFSR improvement and accountability system lies in a philosophy of continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, and community involvement with an overall focus of improving outcomes for children and families. The CDSS, in conjunction with the University of California at Berkeley (UCB), developed Outcome Measures that indicate how each county Child Welfare system in California is performing. Each county was required to conduct a Self-Assessment to explore how local programs, systems and factors impacted on Outcome Measures in three major areas (Safety, Permanency and Stability and Child and Family Well-being) and to use that Self-Assessment as the basis for developing a System Improvement Plan.

¹ All County Information Notice 1-50-06

There may be changes to various programs or service levels as the Santa Barbara County System Improvement Plan is implemented. These changes would be aimed at improving programs and service delivery to achieve better outcomes for children and families being served by or referred to the child welfare and probation systems.

Performance Measure: Assembly Bill (AB) 636 instituted a series of outcome measures that provide key indicators of program performance, processes, and delivery of critical client services. There are six Federal Measures and fourteen State Measures targeting outcomes in the focus areas of Safety, Permanency, and Child and Family Well-being.

The System Improvement Plan addresses the high priority outcome measures identified during the Self-Assessment process to enhance County Child Welfare Services' and Probation's performance in meeting the identified State and Federal Outcome Measures.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The System Improvement Plan is cost neutral to Santa Barbara County, focusing on maximizing current resources, expanding service delivery through community collaboratives, and seeking independent funding to support the improvement goals identified in the plan.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

Forward minute order and signature page to Diana Klopp at Department of Social Services Administration.

Attachments:

Organizations Invited to Participate in the C-CFSR System Improvement Plan, Santa Barbara County – March 2007

Authored by:

Melissa Hoesterey, (805) 346-7248

cc: