



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

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

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
For Agenda Of: 8/14/2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Kathy Gallagher, Department of Social Services Director
Director(s) (805) 681-4501
Beverly Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
(805) 882-3652
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Social Services Operations Division Chief
(805) 346-7248

SUBJECT: Child Welfare Services and Probation County Self-Assessment 2012

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors approve the 2012 County Self-Assessment (CSA) developed in accordance with Assembly Bill 636, Chapter 678, Statutes of 2004, 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) and Juvenile Probation has conducted its fourth County Self-Assessment (CSA). The CSA is a macro analysis of how local programs, systems, and factors impact performance on the Federal and State Outcome Measures in three major areas: Safety, Permanency, and Well-being. As in the previous Self-Assessments, Santa Barbara County focused on obtaining extensive input from our many public and private partners believing that their knowledge of and experience with CWS and Juvenile Probation were critical in identifying the strengths, needs, and gaps in our service delivery system. The process focused on soliciting feedback from several existing groups who are integrally involved in promoting the safety and well-being of children and families. Focus groups were conducted involving members of the KIDS Network and Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC); the Juvenile Court; Child Welfare Services and Probation staff; the CWS Team, which includes managers and supervisors; community partners, parents, and caregivers. In total, more than 150 people representing the public, private, and consumer sectors participated in the process, which was used to inform the Self-Assessment.

The quarterly data reports from the University of California at Berkeley and the California Department of Social Services were combined with internal data analysis sources provide sufficient outcome data for the children served to complete the Self-Assessment process. The outcome data along with a trends analysis was provided to focus group participants prior to completion of the gaps analysis. The information and subsequent analysis included in the CSA will form the basis for developing our County System Improvement Plan (SIP), which will also come before the Board later this year.

Background:

Assembly Bill 636 (Steinberg), Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001, enacted the Child Welfare Services Outcome and Accountability Act of 2001. This law required the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish the California Outcome and Accountability System (COAS) in response to the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) completed in 2004. The CFSR at the federal administrative level enables the Children's Bureau to: (1) ensure conformity with Federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and (3) assist States to enhance their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes. Ultimately, the goal of the federal reviews is to help States improve child welfare services and achieve the following outcomes for children and families who receive services:

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Family and Child Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive services adequate to their physical, emotional and mental health needs.

The California Outcome and Accountability System (COAS) is based on a philosophy of continuous quality improvement, interagency partnerships, and community involvement with an overall focus on improving outcomes for children and families. The Outcomes and Accountability System is a four part system of continuous quality improvement incorporating a County Self-Assessment (CSA), Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR), System Improvement Plan (SIP), and Quarterly Data Reports reflecting the County performance on Federal and State Measures.

The COAS Quarterly Outcome Data Reports provide the basis for understanding Santa Barbara County's performance over time as a means of continuous quality improvement, not for point-in-time comparisons across counties. Even point-in-time comparisons of Santa Barbara's performance does not in and of itself provide a valid picture of those factors that ultimately contribute to client outcomes as those are readily influenced by internal business process decisions; access and availability of critical client services; a multitude of community factors; and the varying roles and impact of stakeholders, and the simple economy of scales indicating that relatively small numbers create significant variability in percentage based measures. The quarterly outcome data itself yields a more comprehensive picture on where improvements might be needed when considered in conjunction with additional internal data sources and analysis along with departmental and community contextual considerations. As identified in the CSA, the complexity of family issues including poverty, substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, cultural

differences, the presence of more children with complex behavioral/emotional needs, and larger family sizes provides some of the contextual relevance to the outcome measures provided.

Performance Measure: The CFSR assesses State performance during a specific time period on 26 child welfare outcomes pertaining to safety, permanence, and well-being. In order for California to achieve compliance with the federal CFSR, Assembly Bill (AB) 636 instituted the Federal measures and a series of State outcome measures that provide key indicators of program performance, processes, and delivery of critical client services.

As the data indicates, Santa Barbara County is achieving substantial conformity on some of the measures, while there is the identified need for improvement on others. Considering the Quarterly Outcome Data presented in context with additional data analysis and a macro analysis of local programs, systems, and factors included in the CSA the following outcomes have been identified as needing continued attention to enhance Child Welfare Services' and Probation's performance in meeting Federal and State Outcome Measures:

- No Recurrence of Maltreatment
- Timely Reunification
- Placement Stability

These identified measures will form the basis for the Santa Barbara County System Improvement Plan. The System Improvement Plan (SIP) is the operational agreement between the State and the County defining the actions the County will implement to improve outcomes for children and families based on the findings in the CSA. While there are several priority areas addressed in the CSA, the SIP will concentrate efforts to improve performance on the three primary Outcome Measures identified above. The Department of Social Services and County Probation Department will convene a SIP review committee to assess progress and make recommendations for inclusion in the plan. It is anticipated the finalized SIP will come back before the board for approval in October 2012.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

The County Self-Assessment is cost neutral to Santa Barbara County.

Staffing Impacts: None

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions: Please send an original copy of the minute order and signature page for submission to CDSS to:

Department of Social Services
Attn: Administration, 3rd Floor
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Attachments:

Santa Barbara County Self-Assessment, March 2012.

Authored by:

Amy Krueger, (805) 346-7248

cc: