



**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: 5/15/18
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Daniel Nielson, Social Services Director
Director(s) (805) 346-7101
Tanja Heitman, Probation Department
(805) 739-8537
Contact Info: Amy Krueger, Department of Social Services
(805) 346-8351
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County System Improvement Plan 2017-2022

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the 2017-2022 Santa Barbara County System Improvement Plan (SIP) 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); and
- b) Determine that approval of the above Agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that the execution of the Agreements are covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

The Santa Barbara County System Improvement Plan (SIP) is the culmination of the California Child and Family Services Review process (C-CFSR). It is based upon the information learned from the County Self Assessment (CSA) conducted in December of 2016, the Peer Review (PR) conducted in

January of 2017, and aligned with the strategies of the State of California's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau.

The SIP was guided by a County planning team, comprised of CWS, Probation, and Prevention staff. The goal of the SIP planning team was to ensure the process was informed by the county data and trends, guided by evidence based and promising practices in the field, and above all, inclusive of community partners. The process would not have been possible without the assistance and contributions of the many stakeholders that participated in the activities that informed the process. The areas of focus for CWS are Permanency in 12 Months, Placement Stability, and Workforce Wellness. The areas of focus for Probation are Permanency in 12 months, Youth Placement Prevention, and Staff, Caregiver, and Service Provider Training. This process and report are in accordance with the format prescribed by SIP Planning Guide issued by the California Department of Social Services.

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.

The California CFSR improvement and accountability system 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 Review (PR), System Improvement Plan (SIP), and Quarterly Data Reports reflecting the County performance on Federal and State Measures:

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.

In Santa Barbara County, the Department of Social Services is the primary agency for providing Child Welfare Services to families who may be experiencing issues related to abuse and neglect. The Probation Department provides services to children, youth and families in the juvenile delinquency

system. The Kids Network serves as the entity through which prevention services are coordinated and funded through the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP). Each of the County agencies partnered and participated in the self-assessment and system improvement process, and remain actively involved in many of the collaborations that support improved outcomes for children in Santa Barbara County.

The Santa Barbara County SIP report includes two parts as prescribed by the SIP Planning Guide issued by the California Department of Social Services:

Part 1 – This section includes the CWS/Probation narrative, the SIP matrix and the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Project (CWSOIP) narrative. The section explains the basis for which outcomes targeted for improvement were selected for the SIP. The matrix outlines specific improvement goals, strategies, action steps, timelines, and responsibility for completion.

Part 2 – This section focuses on community child abuse prevention efforts and includes the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF narrative and five-year plan to meet the requirements for counties seeking funding through OCAP.

Performance Measure:

The CFSR assesses State performance during a specific time period on 26 child welfare outcomes pertaining to safety, permanency, 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.

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. 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.

The SIP serves as the operational agreement between the State and the County defining actions the County will implement to improve outcomes for children and families based on the findings in the CSA. While there were several priority areas addressed in the CSA, Child Welfare Services will concentrate efforts to improve performance on two primary Outcome Measures: Permanency in 12 months and Placement Stability, as well as the systemic factor: Workforce Wellness. Probation will concentrate its efforts on the Outcome Measure: Permanency in 12 Months, and the systemic factors: Youth Placement Prevention, and Staff, Caregiver, and Service Provider Training. The Department of Social Services and County Probation Department will reconvene a SIP review committee annually to assess progress and make adjustments to the plan for inclusion in the requisite annual updates.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

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

Staffing Impacts: None

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Please scan, email and send an original copy of the minute order and signature page for submission to CDSS to:

Department of Social Services

Attn: Elizabeth Drake, Administration, 3rd Floor

2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway

Santa Maria, CA 93455

Attachments:

1. Santa Barbara County System Improvement Plan - October 2017

Authored by:

Amy Krueger, Department of Social Services