

County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency

1725 Technology Drive
San Jose, California 95110-1360



December 19, 1997

TO: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County Executive
Social Services Agency Staff
Labor Organizations

FROM: Yolanda Lenier Rinaldo, Director
Social Services Agency

SUBJECT: ESI PROJECTS

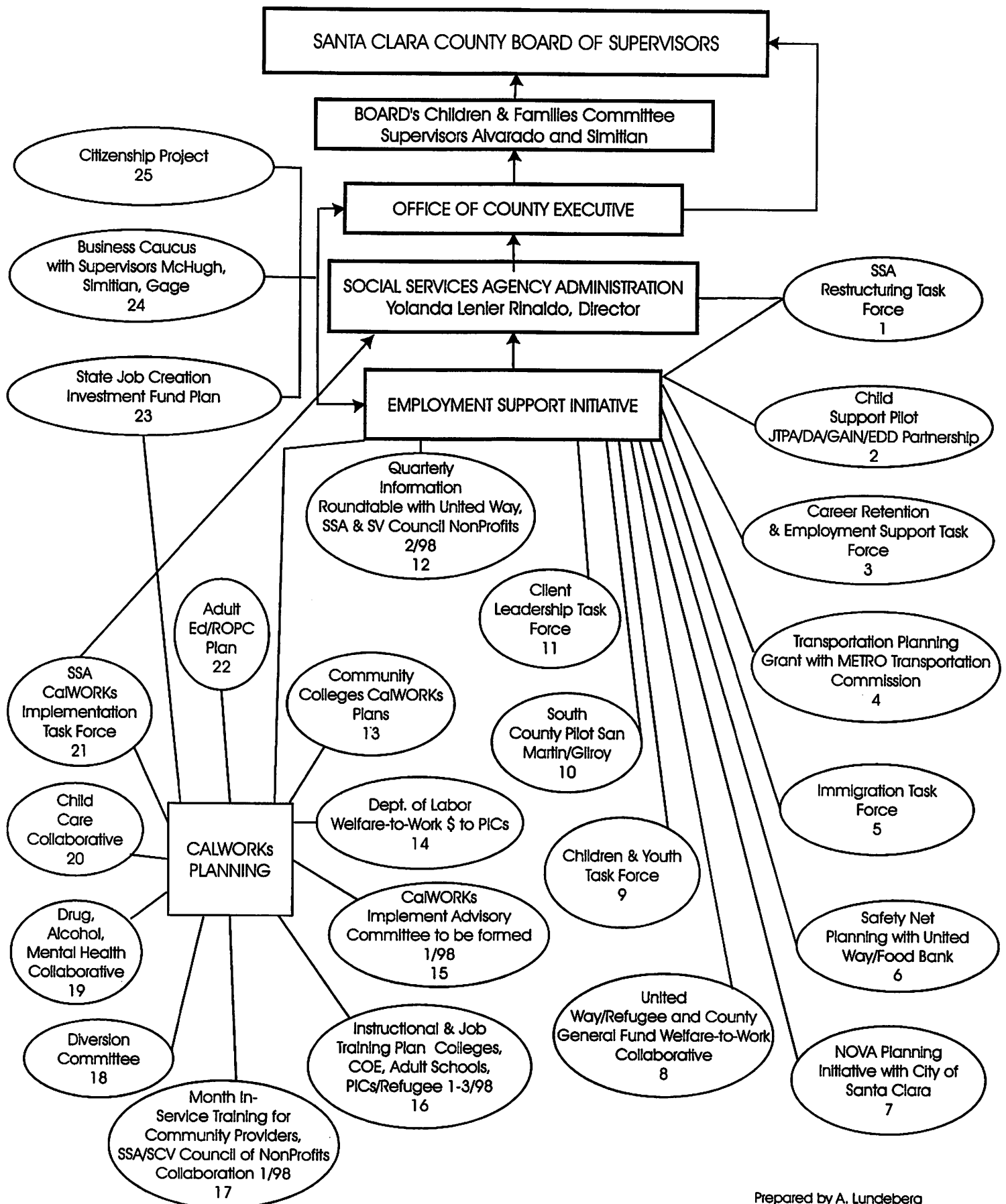
Attached for your use and information is a chart that shows all of the existing ESI related work groups and some CalWORKs work groups. The pages behind the chart briefly describe each group and provide a follow-up contact. This chart will likely be updated and disseminated several times during 1998.

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Attachment

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT INITIATIVE PROJECT CHART

12/97



SUMMARIES OF ESI PROJECT CHART

Social Services Agency

1. **Restructuring Task Force**

This is an internal Social Services Agency (SSA) work group whose composition is 50% labor and 50% management. This work group has defined an agency mission statement and is developing pilot restructuring models with the aid of the consulting firm of Ridenaur/Rivard. Additionally, several unique efforts relating to welfare reform changes have been launched by Agency staff. These efforts along with a separate chart will be highlighted in the February, 1998 ESI Update Report. For more information on restructuring, contact Mary Helen Doherty at 441-5656.

2. **Child Support Pilot**

This is a new partnership between the District Attorney's Office of Child Support Enforcement, the Employment Development Department, both Job Training Partnership Act programs, and the Agency's Welfare-to-Work program, non-custodial parents who are not paying child support and referred for vocational training and job placement services. An expansion proposal is pending. For more information, contact Mary Murphy at the District Attorney's office, 922-1616.

3. **Career Retention and Employment Support Task Force (CREST)**

The CREST Task Force is comprised of fourteen (14) organizations and the Agency's Welfare-to-Work program that provide education, training and supportive services for CalWORKs participants. CREST's focus on employment retention has resulted in the October launch of the 24-hour advice line "Jobkeeper" and two Jobkeeper fairs targeted towards cash assistance recipients who are working and may lose their cash aid due to the implementation of CalWORKs. For more information, contact Denise Boland, CREST Chairperson, at 953-1437.

4. **Transportation Planning Grant**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has received limited funding to plan for welfare-to-work. Santa Clara County was selected as the site for this short-term planning project. Outcomes will include the development of enhanced "trip planning" tools for individuals who work with CalWORKs participants. For more information, contact Ann Flemer at Metropolitan Transportation Commission, or Alette Lundeborg at 441-5826.

5. Immigration Task Force

This long standing task force has been working on advocacy as well as welfare reform programmatic issues that have affected immigrants. Current projects include surveying 400 immigrants who lost their food stamps as a result of federal changes to determine level of need of food assistance. For more information, contact Richard Hobbs at 299-2206.

6. Safety Net Planning Committee

The Safety Net Committee, a partnership between the Social Services Agency and the United Way, was formed to address the needs of families adversely affected by welfare reform. This committee, which includes the Food Bank, private nonprofit organizations, and churches, has worked to expand food bank distribution sites and to expand language capacity. For more information, contact Mary Jane Smith at 441-5707.

7. NOVA Planning with City of Santa Clara

In August of 1997, the North County Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) delivery system known as NOVA, dedicated funding towards a small city planning initiative in response to welfare reform. The NOVA Private Industry Council selected the City of Santa Clara and has hired a consultant to develop a welfare-to-work needs assessment through consultations with key stakeholders during the first phase of this project. For more information, contact Mike Curran at 730-7248.

8. United Way/Refugee/County General Fund Collaborative

The United Way's Charitech Civic Venture Fund, along with the County's Refugee and General Fund programs, all committed first-time funding for innovative welfare reform pilot programs. In order to ensure maximum communication and collaboration, the three funding sources have initiated quarterly collaborative meetings with all of the funded service providers. For more information, contact Eileen Stanley at 345-4349.

9. Children and Youth Task Force

This task force has been focusing on the needs of young children and youth. Work has focused on a variety of issues, including a current effort to move the approximately 200 out-of-school AFDC/TANF teens back into school. For more information, contact Jolene Smith at 441-5613.

10. South County Pilot

This ongoing project was developed largely by the Gilroy Collaborative. A site for a multi-service center is in the works for Gilroy. In the meantime, a center was recently launched in San Martin.

11. Client Leadership Task Force

This task force was formed by Betty Siemer, the Executive Director of Second Start, and has been a very valuable asset in ESI planning. Task force members have served as advisors to many of the ESI projects and have worked with the media to dispel negative stereotypes of welfare recipients. This task force is undergoing transition as many of the original members have moved into employment and new interests. For more information, contact Betty Siemer at 371-5881.

12. Quarterly Information Roundtables

The ESI Coordinating Committee is no longer in existence. The United Way and the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits have generously agreed to host quarterly sessions where information and ideas can be exchanged. The first session is targeted for February, 1998. For more information, contact Ernest Guzman at 260-3915.

13. Community Colleges CalWORKs Plan

All of the community colleges serving Santa Clara County welfare recipients received TANF/CalWORKs funding and were required to submit plans to the State in November. These plans can be reviewed by contacting each college, or through Alette Lundeberg at 441-5826.

14. Department of Labor Welfare-to-Work Funding

Congress approved welfare-to-work funding to the states that will be administered through local JTPA Private Industry Councils. Local allocations and final guidelines have not yet been received. For more information, contact Ravi Ravindran at the Silicon Valley PIC at 953-1522 or Mike Curran at the NOVA PIC at 730-7248.

15. CalWORKs Implementation Advisory Committee

This committee will be formed by Agency staff in early 1998. Key stakeholders will be invited to meet monthly to discuss the progress of CalWORKs implementation. For more information, contact Alette Lundeberg at 441-5826.

16. Instructional and Job Training Plan

As a part of AB 1542, the legislation that established CalWORKs, counties are required to develop and submit an Instructional and Job Training Plan to the State Department of Education by March 31, 1998. This plan must be developed by all stakeholders in education and training. For more information, contact Alette Lundeborg at 441-5826.

17. Monthly In-service Training for Community

In January 1998, the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits will host monthly training sessions that focus on technical changes to the welfare system prompted by CalWORKs implementation. These sessions will be tailored for service providers working with CalWORKs participants. Training will be provided by the Social Services Agency Staff Development Division. For more information, contact Ernest Guzman at 260-3915.

18. Diversion Committee

The Diversion Committee is a public/private partnership between the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency and the UWSCC Emergency Assistance Network Agencies. The purpose of the committee is to develop a county-wide Diversion Services Program to divert families from CalWORKs cash assistance and prevent them from developing dependency on public aid. For more information, contact Mary Jane Smith at 441-5707.

19. Mental Health/Alcohol and Drug Services Collaborative

The Social Services Agency in May 1997 brought together representatives from the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department, Alcohol and Drug Services, Public Health Department and Probation Department to understand each other's system of service to the community and to form a design team that would develop a comprehensive service delivery system for CalWORKs recipients. For more information, contact Debra Dake at 441-5625.

20. Child Care Collaborative

In October of 1997, the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency entered into a collaborative partnership with the three major Alternative Payment Providers, the three city Child Care Coordinators (Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, and San Jose), Co-chairs of the Local Planning Council, and staff from the County Office of Education. The collaborative's purpose was to develop a three-stage child care payment process between agencies that is mandated by CalWORKs legislation. The Collaborative has worked very diligently to create a referral system that allows

for the smooth transition of families who are **currently** receiving child care payments under the old system, and a **long range plan** of referral for families entering the payment system after January 1, 1998. For more information, contact Jolene Smith at 441-5613.

21. Social Services Agency CalWORKs Implementation Task Force

This is an internal SSA task force that is working on implementing all of the technical changes the welfare system required by law. This includes massive internal planning, instructions development for line staff, as well as training. For more information, contact Susan Chestnut at 441-5590.

22. Adult Education/Regional Occupational Training Plan

In November, the eight adult education school districts and three regional occupational training programs in Santa Clara County gathered to determine the appropriate service mix for CalWORKs participants. This information was transmitted to the California Department of Education. For more information, contact Adrian Vargas at 928-3516.

23. State Job Creation Investment Fund

The Job Creation Investment Fund was created by state law to complement CalWORKs activities. All fifty-eight (58) counties have received preliminary notices of allocations from the State Trade and Commerce Agency and are required to develop and submit a plan. For more information, contact Jane Decker at 299-2424.

24. Business Caucus

Supervisors Gage, McHugh and Simitian have engaged key industry representatives in a dialogue regarding strategies for developing an effective welfare-to-work system in Santa Clara County. For more information, contact Jane Decker at 299-2424.

25. Citizenship Project

This project has received both county and private sector funding which has resulted in major community efforts that have enabled thousands of immigrants to submit citizenship applications. For more information, contact Richard Hobbs at 299-2206.