

County of Santa Clara
Social Services Agency
Department of Family and Children's Services



CSFC SSA01 102004

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DATE: October 20, 2004

TO: Supervisor James T. Beall, Jr., Chairperson
Supervisor Don Gage, Vice-Chairperson
Children, Seniors & Families Committee

FROM: 
Will Lightbourne
Agency Director, Social Services Agency

SUBJECT: DFCS Pilot Program Planning Status Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept this status report from the Department of Family and Children's Services on planning for implementation of Pilot Programs at the Children's Shelter facility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

CONTRACT HISTORY

None

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

At its August 18, 2004 meeting, the Children, Seniors and Families Committee accepted a report from the Social Services Agency Department of Family and Children's Services on the implementation plan for two pilot programs to improve the well-being of children and families involved in the child welfare system. This report provides an update on the planning.

BACKGROUND

As directed by the Children, Seniors and Families Committee in June 2003, a task force of community stakeholders and staff from County agencies was formed to recommend potential alternative uses of the County Children's Shelter and Assessment Center facility. Recommendations from this group were presented to the Committee in February 2004.

The Board of Supervisors, during its Fiscal Year 2005 budget hearings conducted in June 2004, approved the implementation of two program ideas recommended by the Shelter Use Committee. The Board allocated \$240,000 in County General Fund dollars in FY 2005 to support this effort. The two program ideas that will be piloted at the facility aim to support educational achievement and assure mental health services for all children involved in the child welfare system.

At meetings held on August 18 and September 15, 2004, the Children, Seniors and Families Committee accepted reports on implementation planning for the pilot programs. The pilot programs will be phased in, beginning in January 2005 with children ages six to eleven, and expanding to children ages zero to eighteen in 2006. Services to be offered will include mental health assessments, individual and family counseling and therapy, individual academic

skill-building, tutoring in literacy, assistance to youth, parents and caregivers in navigating school and human service systems, linkages to community-based services and parenting groups.

Phase I Program Goals

1. Improve mental health status of children through enhanced screening and assessment for, linkage to, and coordination of mental health services
2. Improve educational achievement of children through attendance and literacy improvement interventions

Partners in Service Provision

The County Mental Health Department, the County Office of Education and the Department of Family and Children's Services will work together to offer services that achieve the goals stated above, that provide support to both children and their caregivers, and that support the work of social workers. These partnering agencies will provide services to children and families, participate in team training opportunities and will obtain and report data that effectively measures the pilot programs' success.

Preliminary Phase I Performance Outcome Measures

1. Increased number of children receiving mental health services
2. Increased days of school attendance
3. Improved literacy
4. Improved child and parent/caregiver satisfaction with support in school achievement and mental health status

Planning Process

The three partnering agencies have established an Operational Planning Team, which is meeting weekly to plan the details of the pilot program. This Team is responsible for developing the "Service Delivery Design and Implementation Plan." The Plan will contain the following:

- service delivery design
- program staffing
- staff training
-

case flow

- policies and procedures
- performance measurement tools and process
- timeline for implementation
- communication strategy

The Operational Planning Team will provide program planning updates and seek feedback on its progress from specific stakeholders beginning in October, including: Superior Court, foster youth representatives, Child Advocates, Foster Parents Association, Silicon Valley Children's Fund, Board of Supervisor staff and the Community Care Licensing Division of the California State Department of Social Services.

At its December 8, 2004 meeting, the Children, Seniors and Families Committee will receive a more comprehensive and substantive status report with specific information on what services will be delivered, how they will be delivered and how their impact will be measured.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to accept this report could result in delayed action on implementation of alternative uses of the Children's Shelter facility.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board will follow the usual steps for a report of this type.