

July 12, 2022 DFCS Community Forum

Questions & Answers



CSA/SIP Update

1 Acronyms

- CSA – County Self-Assessment
- SIP – System Improvement Plan
- CANS – Child Adolescent Needs Assessment
 - Assessment of strengths and needs
- SDM – Structured Decision Making
 - Assessment tool for risk and safety
- CFT – Child and Family Team Meeting

2 The portion of the SIP that was highlighted did not address the need for caregivers or settings for older youth, larger sibling groups (3+) and those with higher needs. We have a significant number of youth without access to a home setting who are languishing in makeshift settings or simply on the run. Prevention is critical, however there will always be youth in need on the higher end that are in need of safety. In the past congregate care might have provided care for these children and youth-that is no longer an option. What can we do to close that gap? Family finding helps but won't meet the whole need. The number of Professional Parent homes offered through community providers are insufficient in number and are short term (60 days to 6 months) which often amounts to kicking a can down the road.

- There was specific engagement of caregivers and providers to discuss placement options and partnership. We are also looking at hosting SIP forums that will further integrate feedback. The Continuum of Care conversations and are working towards the increased capacity for specialized homes and services will be highlighted, and will be highlighted in the SIP/ upcoming forums.

FFPSA Update

3 We are moving a lot of relatives and family friends to file for custody through family court guardianship, how are we going to help get them CalWorks or other funding to ensure we are not impacting those taking kids in?

- There is/ will be collaboration with DEBS as they are part of AB 2083 to help support this particular issue, as well as working with other partners around financial supports for families to support prevention efforts. AB 2083 is the mandated collaboration through Memorandum of Understanding between County system partners to support children and families at risk of entering systems, negatively. This collaboration will help support partnerships and linkages to support prevention, and or streamlining processes with youth in care.

4 Is there a summary of the effort we can read through?

- Transforming Child Welfare Services and Supports through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Comprehensive Prevention Planning Map to Social Determinants of Health
- CDSS FFPSA website

- AB 153
- ACL 22-23 (March 10, 2022) - Family First Prevention Services Program Opt-In Process, State FFPS Program Block Grant Allocation Methodology And Allowable Activities
- CFL 21 -22-84 (March 11, 2022) -Fiscal Year 2021 -22 Family First Prevention Services Program State Block Grant General Fund Allocation
- Community Pathways and the California 5-Year State Prevention Plan

- 5 Does enrolling in the community pathway put families at risk of having a child removed from their care?
- The community pathways is simply a way to connect families directly to services. It would not include an investigation of alleged abuse/neglect. This will only occur with a formal call into the child abuse hotline with an allegation.
- 6 Will the draft plans be shared with Agency affinity groups & Racial Equity Agency Leadership (REAL) Team members?
- We will make sure all infinity groups are included as well as increase partnership with REAL team members.
- 7 Is there a plan to partner with DAC's corridor program?
- DAC is at the table for the FFPSA and AB2083 work - and parents with lived experience are at the table along with staff from DAC. We can work to get the Corridor program out to staff.
- 8 Have we connected with any Tribes as of yet?
- In Santa Clara County we do not have tribes in this community. However, we sit on tribal land. We are inviting to the table those who are working with indigenous persons in Santa Clara County in connection with multiple other tribes so that voice is at the table.

Rundown of program buildouts with the budget

- 9 I'd be curious to see a graph of cases with court involvement over time. I'm curious if the reduction in court-involved cases correlates with patterns we have noticed anecdotally in the hospital at SCVMC.
- [California Child Welfare Indicators Project \(CCWIP\) \(berkeley.edu\)](https://www.berkeley.edu/ccwip/)