



DFCS Continuum of Learning

May 2021



■ AGENDA

Welcome (10 min)

- Introduction
- Vision

Daniel Little

Continuum of Care:

Trauma-Informed Practice (30 min)

- Overview
- CQI Component - Concept & Evaluation Plan

Wendy Kinnear/Yazmina Letona/

Daniel Little/Kristine Frerer

Disproportionality & Race Equity (35 min)

- Overview
- Safe, Secure and Loved Story
- MCCT Partners with DFCS Staff Development
- Work with Family First Prevention Services Act
- Call to Action

Rocio Abundis/Wendy Kinnear

Juanita Martinez - Safe, Secure and Loved

Sharyn Smith - MCCT

Wrap Up (15 min)

- Next Continuum of Learning
- Next Steps and Open Discussion

Daniel Little

TOPIC 1

WELCOME



INTRODUCTION

- 1) Inform the community about data-informed practices to continuously improve services to families and children.
- 2) Give the community the opportunity to provide feedback and input.

DFCS VISION



DFCS Culture



Agency Goals

- Disproportionality and Race Equity to guide every discussion at every opportunity.
- Improve communication across the department with special attention on identifying who will/could be impacted by a decision.
- Communication and respect guidelines and agreements for leadership team and the agency.
- Implementation of SOP (Safety Organized Practice), especially in Emergency Response and Dependent Intake.



CQI & DATA FOCUS AREAS

Monthly Indicators:

- Contacts
- Case Plans
- Structured Decision Making (SDM)
- Relative Placements
- Court Reports
- Emergency Response

Every 6 Months:

- Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)
- SIP Goals (updated report due in 2021)
- Placement Stability
- Fatality Review Requests for Individual Cases
 - What we did
 - Lessons learned
 - Mechanisms in place

Ongoing review:

- Key decisions thru Race Equity lens
- Referral, substantiation, Voluntary, Removal, etc.
- General Neglect
- "Heat maps" based on Family Strength & Needs Assessment (FSNA) data

2021 Priority Initiatives Updates

- Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Implementation
- AB2083 (Assembly Bill)
- Expand Continuum of Care
- Expand Prevention Continuum and Partnerships
- Move towards decreasing removals, increasing role of a child's community, and addressing disproportionality in foster care
- Develop new visual model that supports connections to community "Treehouse"
- Mockingbird Model
- Child Abuse & Neglect Center (CANC) Study



QUESTIONS

TOPIC 2

**Continuum of Care:
Trauma-Informed Practice**

Continuum of Care- Trauma Informed Practice AND Envisioning a community where no child is removed and ALL children can remain in their home communities

HISTORY:

RAIC provided temporary care to children entering the dependency system following removal from their families, or when children are between long-term placements.

Challenge:

Although the vast majority of children were placed with relatives or a foster family in less than 24 hours, and many never entered the RAIC at all- It became much more difficult to find placements for certain children due to limited placement options that could meet each child's unique needs, especially teens, who had experienced significant trauma, presenting with challenging behaviors and the need individualized support or children with developmental concerns.



New Continuum of Care

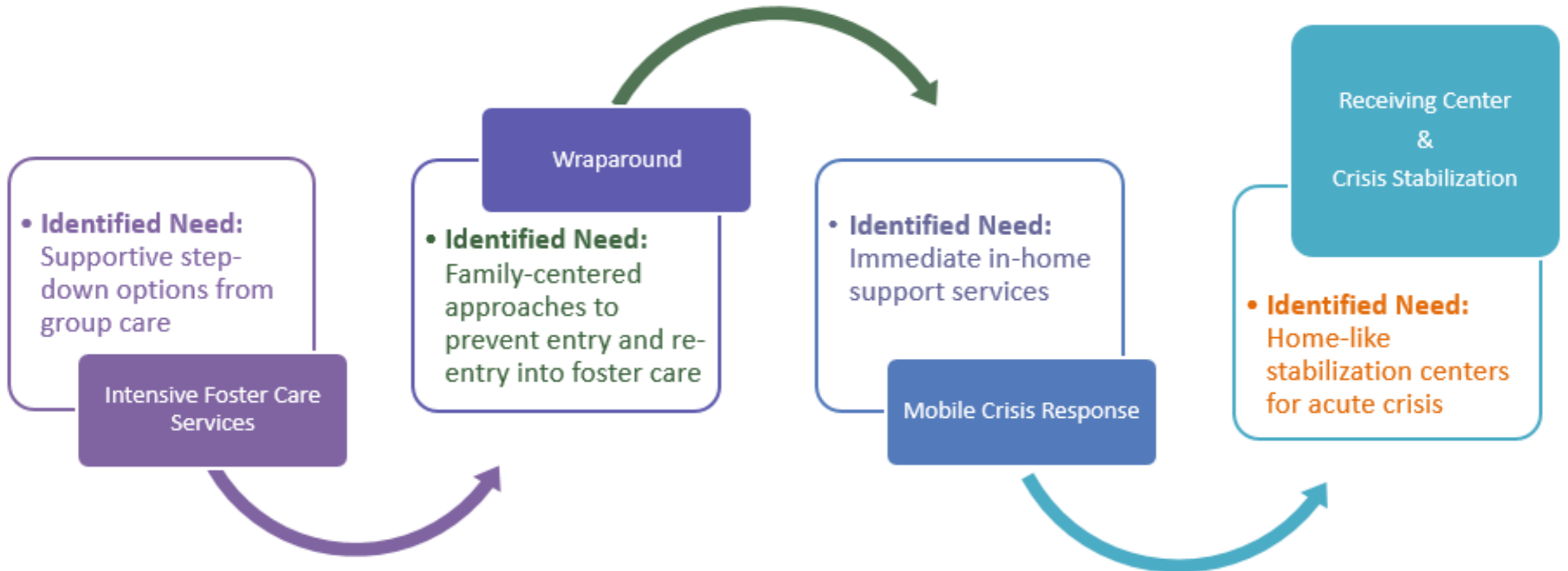
- Focuses on home-based settings
- An integrated system with a comprehensive array of services and programs spanning all levels of intensity of care, which provides for both depth and breadth of services to address the most complex needs for children and youth
- Includes individualized placements and supportive services
- Continuum of care developed in collaboration with and guidance from County partners and staff, stakeholders, foster youth, and the community



Start with Supporting Families



Experience



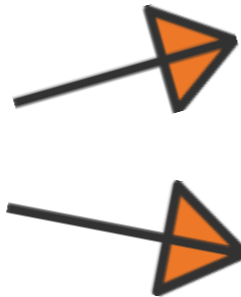


The Welcoming Center

If a removal is necessary start with TWC



Convenient location for any needed medical services



O'CONNOR HOSPITAL
A COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



**SANTA CLARA
VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER**
Hospital & Clinics

Officially opened May 17th, 2021

Home Capacity Timeline

Current

15 homes

March 31, 2021

7 - Seneca
8 - Uplift



1 month

Add 5 homes

April 30, 2021

Ongoing Total:
9 - Seneca
11 - Uplift



2 months

Add 4 homes

May 31, 2021

Ongoing Total:
10 - Seneca
14 - Uplift



Goal

=

Total
24 homes by
May 31, 2021

NEXT STEPS

- **CONTINUED EXPANSION OF FAMILY FINDING AND TRAUMA INFORMED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS for Parents and Caregivers**
- **Expansion of additional placements options**
 - **Keep children in communities with support to return home**



Continuum of Care (CoC)

Evaluation Plan



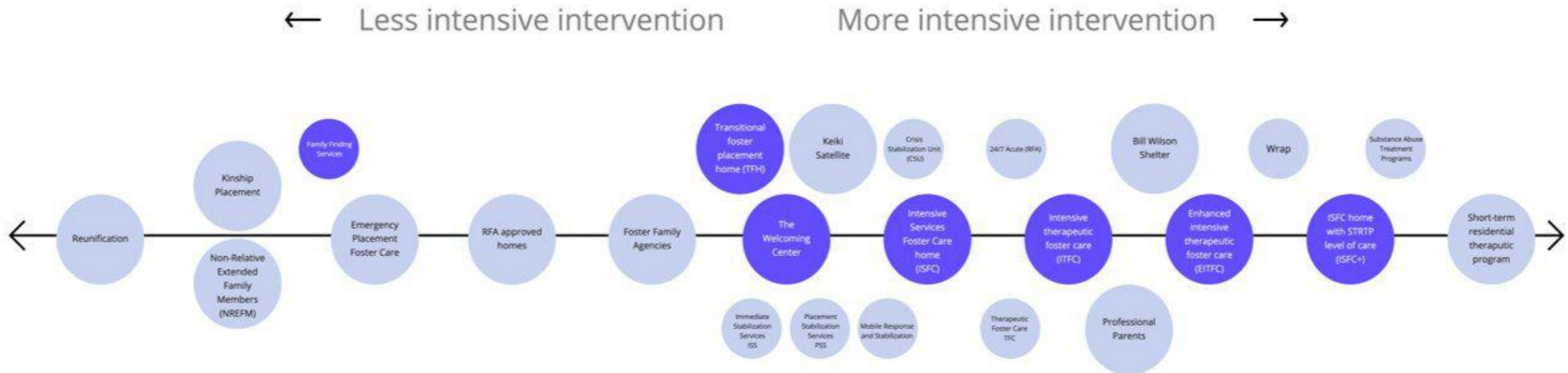
RDA
CONSULTING

CoC Evaluation Key Partners

- **Resource Development Associates (RDA), Independent Consultants**
 - Contracted to:
 - Guide the creation of the CoC evaluation plan
 - Key Deliverable: Evaluation Plan
 - Conduct focus groups/interviews with key stakeholders during Year 1 implementation
 - Case Workers, Program Staff, Care-givers, Older Youth
 - Key Deliverable: Thematic report
 - Provide technical assistance & support communication with stakeholders (i.e., BOS)
- **SSA Office of Research & Evaluation (ORE)**
 - Collaborate with other partners in the creation of the evaluation plan
 - Team with the DFCS to implement the evaluation plan
 - Key Deliverable: Yearly Evaluation Reports
- **Department of Family & Children's Services (DFCS)**
 - Participate in evaluation planning
 - Team with ORE to implement the evaluation plan
 - Key Deliverable: Monitor identified metrics for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

Other Key Partners: Behavioral Health, Juvenile Probation, Seneca & Uplift

Continuum of Care Services Overview & Focal Programs

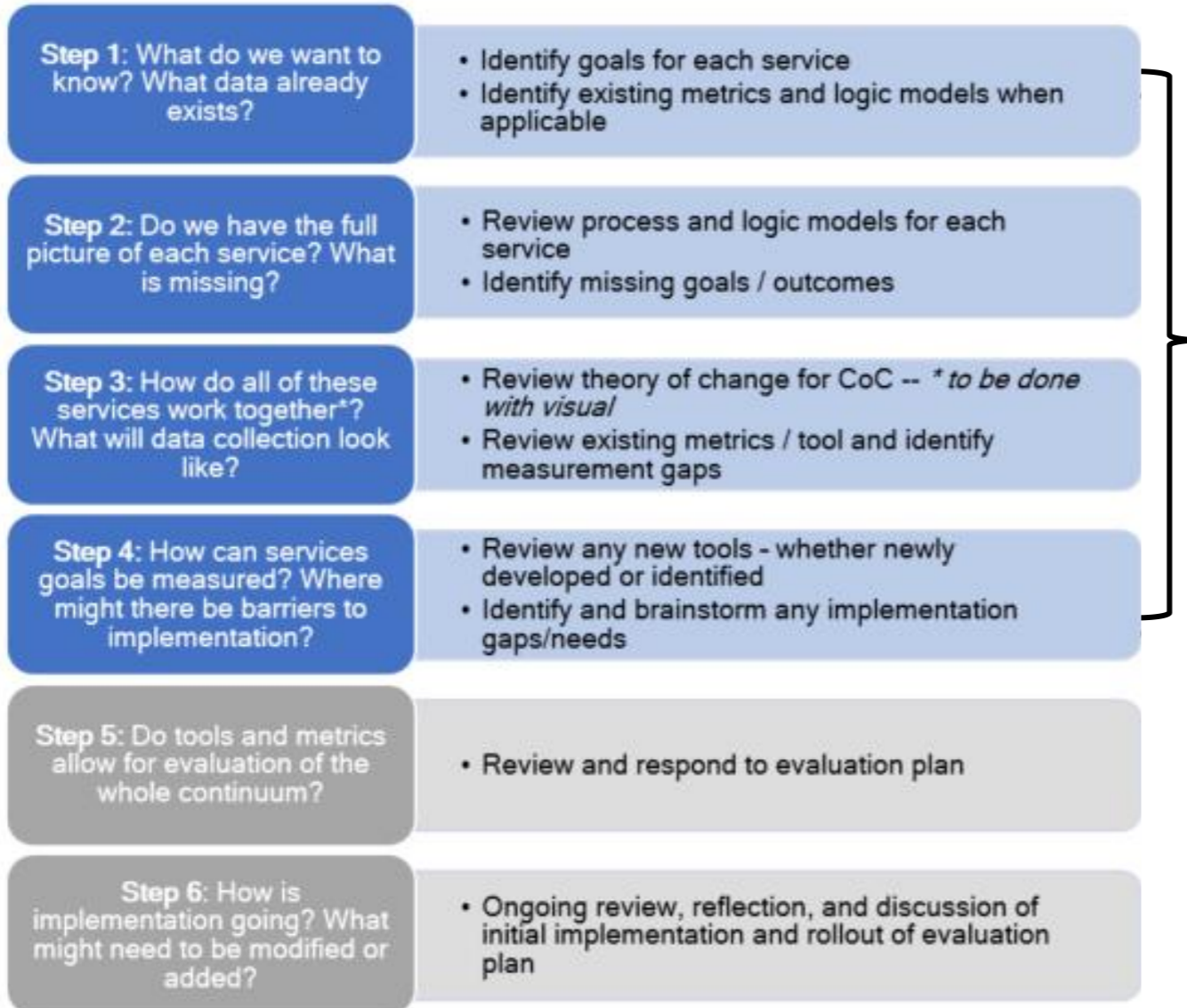


Focal Programs

- **The Welcoming Center: Full Evaluation**
- Immediate Stabilization Service
- Transitional Foster Home
- Intensive Therapeutic Foster Care

- Enhanced Intensive Therapeutic Foster Care
- Intensive Service Foster Care Plus
- Family Finding Services

CoC Evaluation Planning Workgroup



Goal: Evaluation plan to identify metrics for focal programs.

Outcome Metrics: Key Domains w/examples

- System-Wide: Timely reunification, increased family-based placements
- Experiential: Referred & engaged in appropriate supportive services
- Youth Behavioral: Increased school engagement, improved CANS scores
- Placements & Transition: Transition to less restrictive and permanent placements

Evaluation Plan Timeline & Next Steps

TASK	LEADS	TARGET DATE
Evaluation Plan Initial Draft	RDA/ORE	5/12
Draft sent to Evaluation workgroup for review	RDA	5/19
Feedback from Evaluation workgroup incorporated	EVAL WORKGROUP	5/26
Revised plan sent to other key stakeholders (e.g., CoC Steering Committee, Executive leadership teams, BOS)	RDA/ORE	6/3
Final Plan	RDA	7/1



QUESTIONS

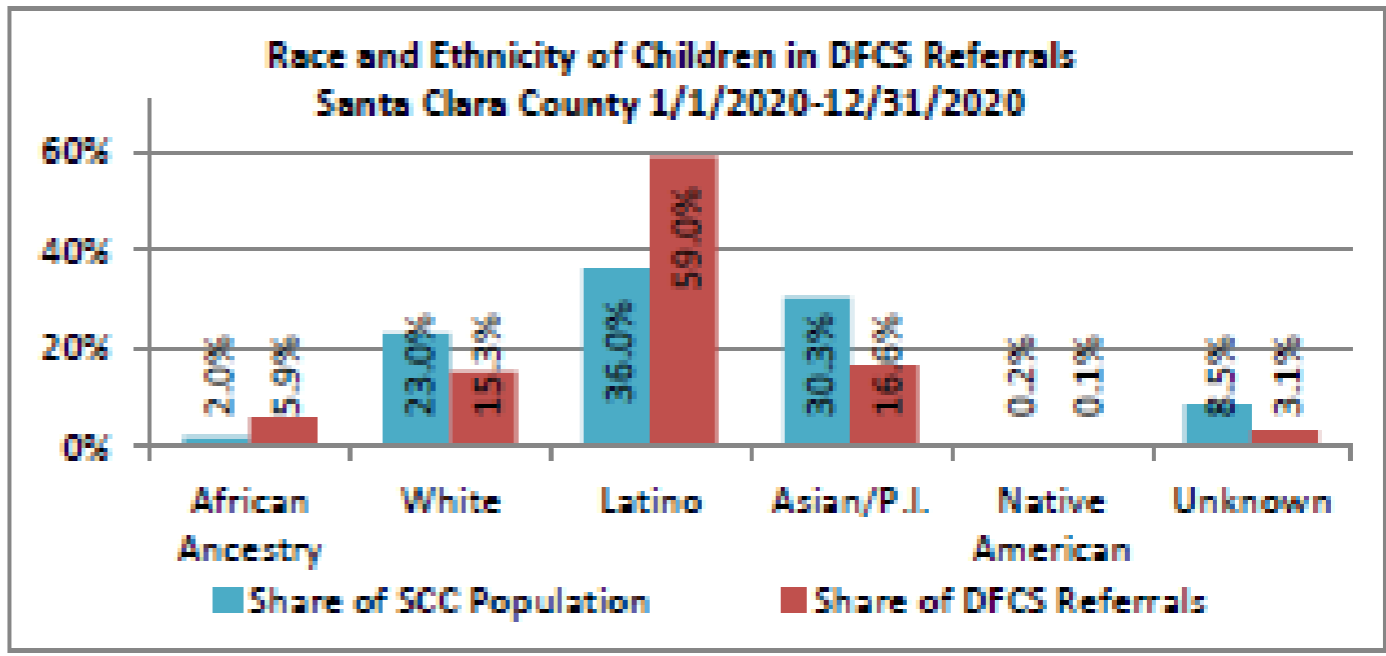
TOPIC 3

DISPROPORTIONALITY &
RACE EQUITY

A POINT IN TIME - 2020

1: Disproportionality in Current Referral Caseload

Children in Newly Opened Referrals 1/1/2020-12/31/2020		10,751	
Ethnicity	Share of SCC Population	Share of DFCS Referrals	
African Ancestry	8,987 2.0%	635 5.9%	
White	102,497 23.0%	1,649 15.3%	
Latino	160,065 36.0%	6,339 59.0%	
Asian/P.I.	134,780 30.3%	1,780 16.6%	
Native American	789 0.2%	13 0.1%	
Unknown	37,821 8.5%	335 3.1%	



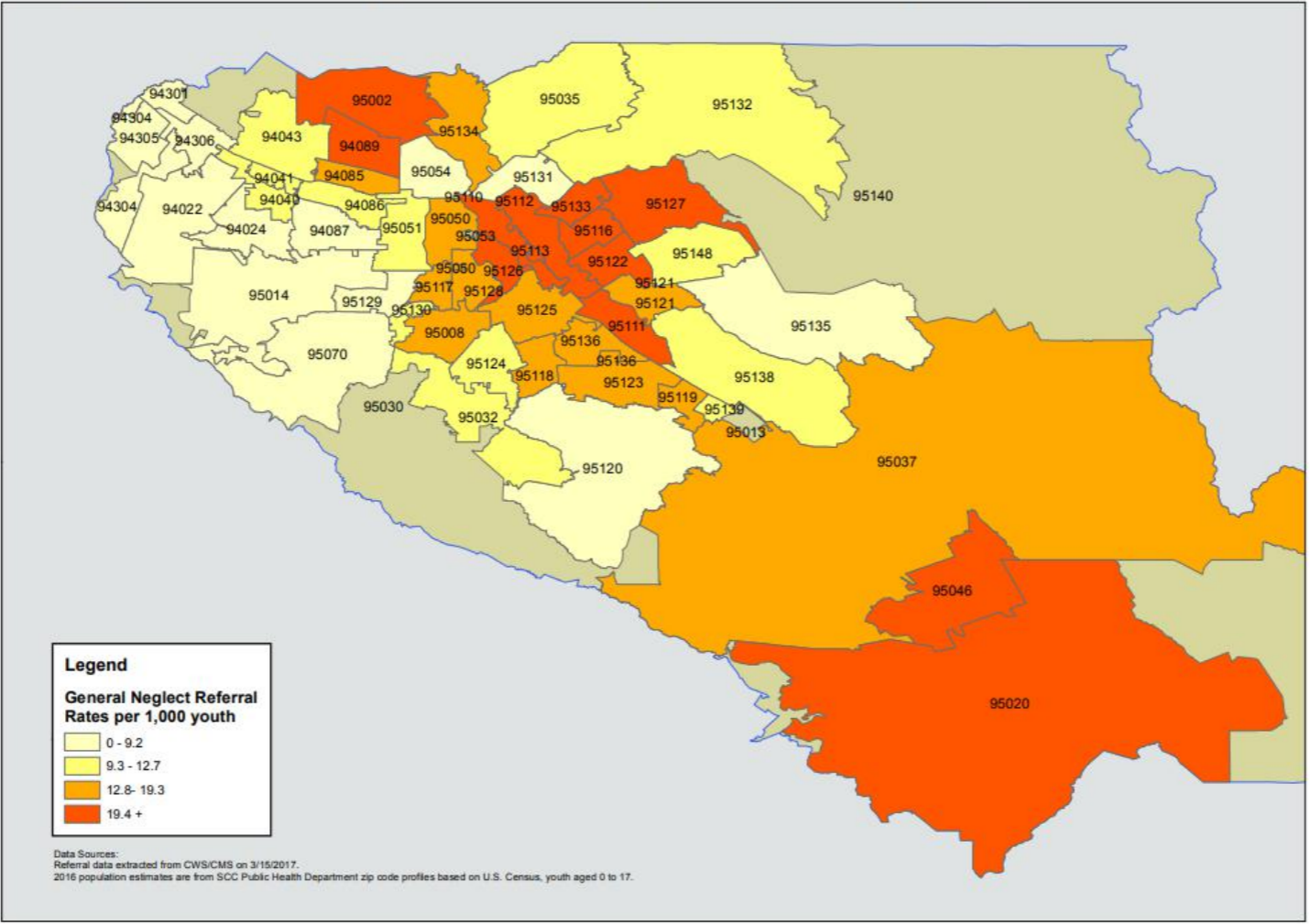
Disproportionality by Ethnicity in Child Referral and Entry

Ethnicity of Children by Stage in the Child Welfare Caseload, Santa Clara County														
Referrals to Child Welfare and Entry to Foster Care, January 2020-December 2020														
Ethnicity	A: In Referrals		B: In Investigated Referrals		C: With Substantiated Allegation		D: In New Cases		E: In Voluntary Case		F: In Court-Ordered Case		G: Entering Foster Care Placement	
Total Children	10,751		8,327		1,623		887		475		412		275	
African Ancestry	635	5.9%	496	6.0%	78	4.8%	43	4.8%	20	4.2%	23	5.6%	17	6.2%
White	1,649	15.3%	1,229	14.8%	179	11.0%	100	11.3%	38	8.0%	62	15.0%	47	17.1%
Latino	6,339	59.0%	5,029	60.4%	1,127	69.4%	652	73.5%	357	75.2%	295	71.6%	187	68.0%
Asian/P.I.	1,780	16.6%	1,337	16.1%	203	12.5%	79	8.9%	50	10.5%	29	7.0%	22	8.0%
Native American	13	0.1%	10	0.1%	3	0.2%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	1	0.4%
Unknown	335	3.1%	226	2.7%	33	2.0%	11	1.2%	10	2.1%	1	0.2%	1	0.4%

A TARGETED APPROACH:



Santa Clara County, Department of Family & Children Services:
General Neglect Referral Rates per 1,000 youth by Zip Code, CY 2016

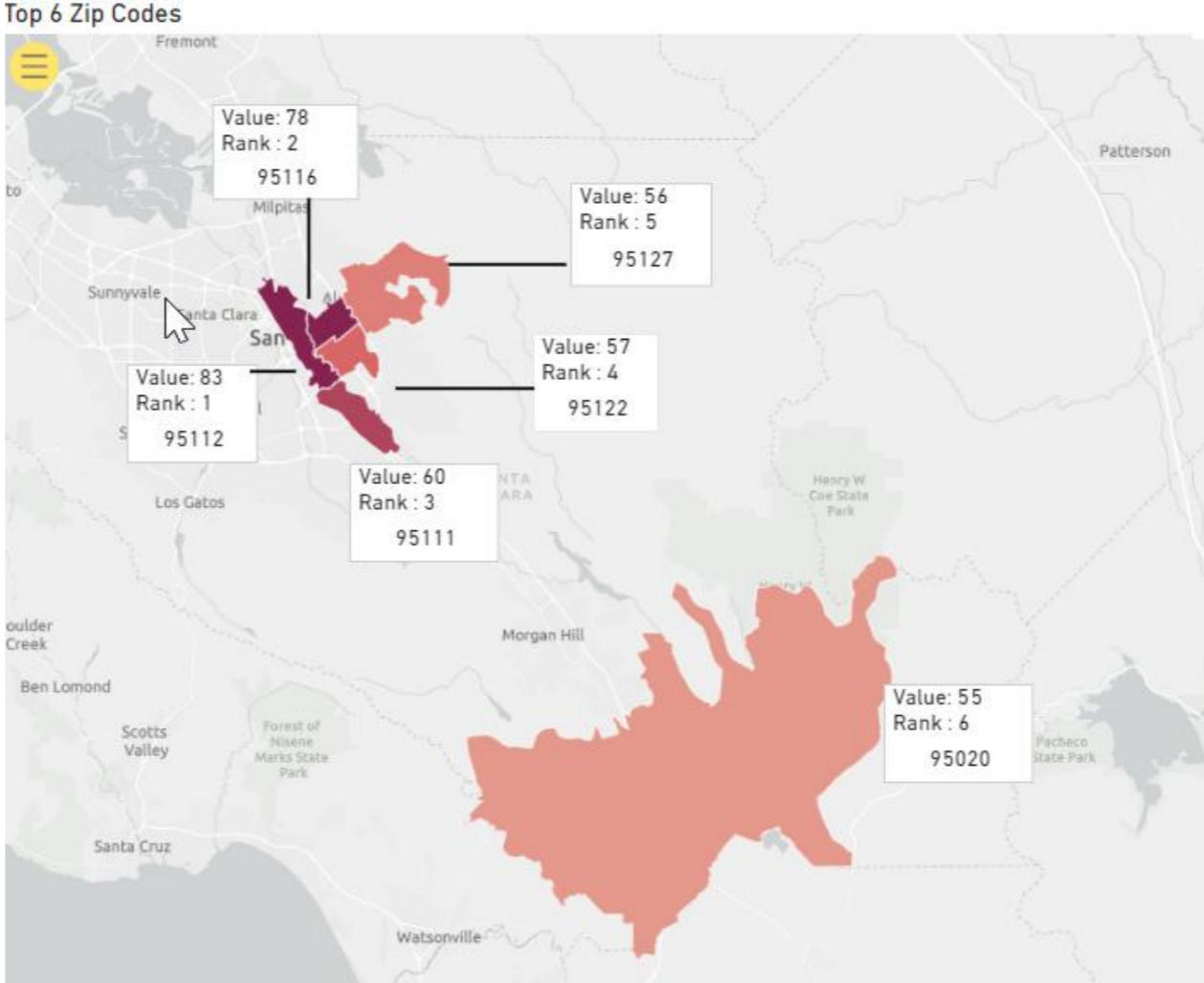


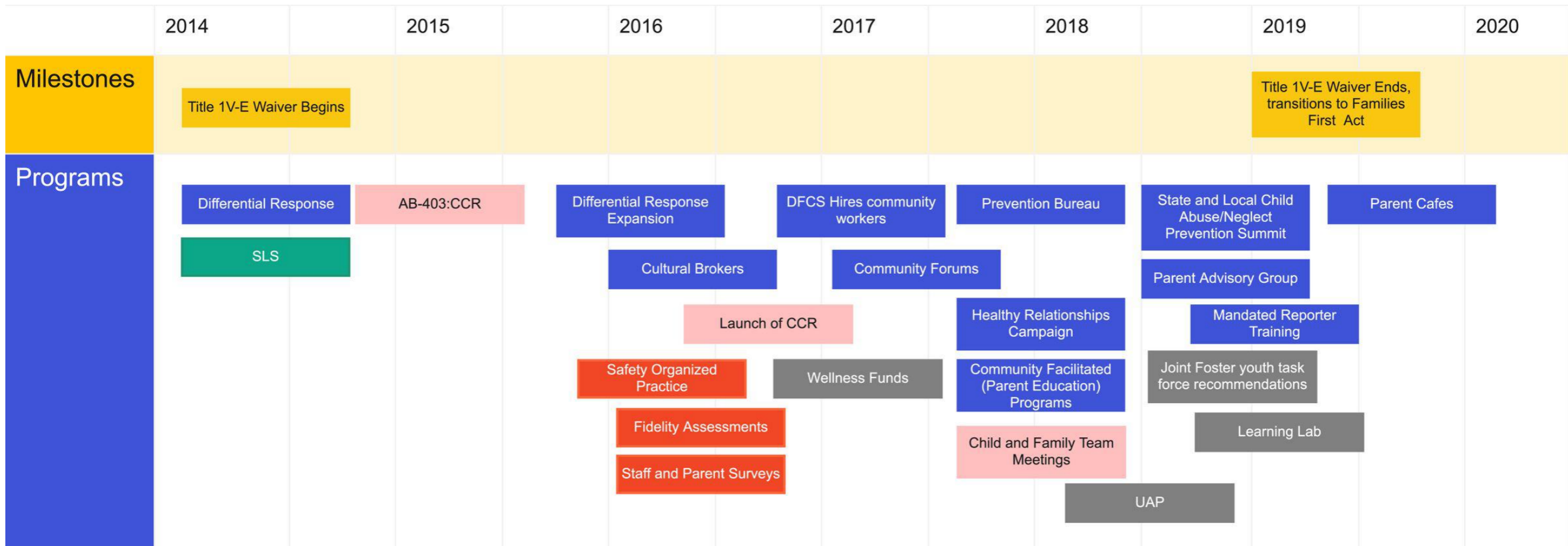
A TARGETED APPROACH:

Heat Map showing Top 6 Zip Codes with Most Needs

Based on Family Strength & Needs Assessment (FSNA)

April 2020 - March 2021





- DFCS Prevention
- Continuum of Care Reform
- Child & Family Practice Model
- School Linked Services
- Other External Supports in the Community

- § Key strategies mapped along start of Title IV-E Waiver
- § Reporting focused on implementation, challenges, and SUCCESS
- § These strategies work to support intermediate and long-term outcome goals

Differential Response Diversion

- Differential Response (DR) practice is grounded in the belief that child welfare agencies are better able to serve children and families by allowing a broader ranges of responses to reports to maltreatment.
- At the conclusion of the investigation, the DFCS social worker closes the referral and refers the eligible family to an internal DR coordinator who then refers the family to a contracted Community Based Organization (CBO) for community-based services.

Of those whose case was closed as 'goals achieved'

61%

were less likely to have a foster care entry within 12 months post DR case closure, compared to families that did not sign a case plan or engage in DR services

Safe, Secure and Loved

- In 2018, the Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) partnered with Sacred Heart Community Service and Santa Clara University to pilot a 6-week mindfulness-based, trauma-informed and community led parent education program called Safe, Secure and Loved: Resilient Families Program as part of a child welfare prevention effort.
- Spanish was the primary language of the sessions.

Over

70%

of participants return as promotores or community champions to reteach their new knowledge to new participants

75%

of participants gave the highest ratings for each assessment areas of Helpfulness, Would Recommend, and Satisfaction



Safe, Secure
and Loved

Juanita
Martinez,
Community
Member



Multi-Cultural Community Team (MCCT)

- Active community engagement since 2012
- Supported the development of the Child and Family Practice Model (CFPM)
- Continues to ensure DFCS upholds the values of the CFPM
 - Policy review
 - Parent survey
 - Attend DFCS unit meetings
 - Video boosters
- Participates in staff training





Multi-Community Engagement Team (MCCT) Partners with DFCS Staff Development

Sharyn Smith,
Community Member

Participation in
AN
OPPORTUNITY-
to create
change-CWDA
Families First
California
Framework
FOCUS

- **Vision:** Individuals, Families and Communities in all 58 counties in California are healthy, strong and resilient.
- **Four Pillars:** Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention includes:
 - (1) Family Focus
 - (2) "Wide-Stream" Engagement
 - (3) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice
 - (4) Public Health Approach

FFPSA Allowed Services



What can WE do?

- We can't do this alone
- Community involvement
- Try on and do differently
- Focus on prevention
- Data informs us





QUESTIONS

The image features a dark teal background with a pattern of overlapping, slightly out-of-focus leaves. A white rectangular border frames a central area. Inside this border, the words "WRAP UP" are written in a dark teal, serif, all-caps font, centered horizontally and vertically.

WRAP UP

- *Next Continuum of Learning will be in January 2022*
- *Will occur twice a year starting in 2022*



- Next Steps
- Open Discussion