

Yolo County System Improvement Plan

Strategies, Action Steps,
and Annual Update

JANUARY 25, 2022

County Self- Assessment (CSA)

The CSA is a comprehensive review of the Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation placement programs, from prevention and protection through permanency and aftercare. The CSA is the analytic vehicle by which counties determine effectiveness of current practice, programs and resources across the continuum and identify areas for targeted system improvement. Community engagement is critical to the assessment process and includes focus groups, a robust peer review, and stakeholder forums.

System Improvement Plan (SIP)

The SIP is the operational agreement between the California Department of Social Services and the county. The SIP is developed by the lead agencies in collaboration with their local community and prevention and early intervention partners and provides an outline for how the county will improve their system of care for children and families. The SIP identifies how programs and services funded will address priority needs within the CWS continuum and is approved by the county Board of Supervisors.

5-YEAR SIP TIMELINE

CWS SIP Strategies



(1) Alternative Response Program

Program Development			
	Program Implementation		
		Evaluation and Strategy Refinement	

(2) Local Resource Family Homes

Workplan Development			
	Implementation of RFA Workplan		
		Evaluation and Strategy Refinement	

(3) Child and Family Teaming

Program Development			
	Program Implementation		
		Evaluation and Strategy Refinement	

CWS Strategy 1: Preventing Entries to Foster Care



Strategy 1: Develop and implement a research-based Alternative Response (AR) program grounded in research and best practices.

Systemic Factor: Service Array

Justification Rationale: The CSA identified that there was a significant increase in children entering foster care and that the increase compounded existing disparities. The Agency has prioritized these issues, seeking to decrease entries to foster care and to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

Actions Steps for Year 1 and Year 2:

- Research and select an AR model that is grounded in research and best practices.
- Develop AR Workgroup to advise and oversee RFP process, contract development and program implementation
- Subcommittee to review various AR models and provide recommendations to drive RFP development.

Next Steps:

- Develop and issue RFP
- Execute contract for AR program
- Implement AR program

CWS Strategy 1: Preventing Entries to Foster Care



Prior 5-Year Cycle Data (2014-2018):

- The total number of children with allegations had **increased** 18.6%
- The rate of substantiations of maltreatment **increased** from 8.2 children per 1,000 in 2014 to 11.2 children per 1,000 in 2018
- For Black children, allegations **increased** by 42% and substantiations **increased** by 133%
- For Latino children, allegations **decreased** by 6% but substantiations **increased** by 37%
- First entries to foster care **increased** from an average of 125.6 children per year to 181.8 children per year

Recent Data (2019-2020/2021):

- The total number of children with allegations **decreased** by less than 1%
- The rate of substantiations of maltreatment **decreased** from 11.2 children per 1,000 in 2018 to 9.2 children per 1,000 in 2020
- For Black children, allegations **increased** by 9% and substantiations **decreased** by 30%
- For Latino children, there was **no change** in allegations and substantiations **decreased** by 19%
- First entries to foster care **decreased** by 39% between FY 17/18 and FY 20/21

CWS Strategy 2: Local Resource Family Homes



Strategy 2: Increase the number of local Resource Family Homes and relative homes that match the race, ethnic, and/or language make-up of children and youth in foster care through renewed recruitment efforts and collaboration with community partners.

Outcome Measure: Foster & Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention

Justification Rationale: The CSA identified continued challenges in recruiting and retaining local homes that have the capacity, training and experience to meet the needs of foster children and youth.

Action Steps for Year 1 and Year 2:

- Coordination with external agency to provide technical assistance for workgroup facilitation and work plan development
- Develop and implement Resource Family recruitment and retention workgroup
- Develop RFA work plan

Next Steps:

- Continued development and refinement of RFA work plan
- Implementation of RFA work plan to include a myriad of recruitment and retention strategies

CWS Strategy 2: Local Resource Family Homes



Prior 5-Year Cycle Data (2014-2018):

- Yolo County's baseline rate of 4.87 placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care is **above** the National standard of 4.12
- A point in time count in July 2020 indicated that significantly **more** youth (306) were placed outside of the county, compared to the number placed in Yolo County (189)
- Yolo County trends **behind** the State average for Black children in relative placement by a significant margin

Recent Data (2019-2020/2021):

- Placement moves per 1,000 days **decreased** from the baseline rate of 4.87 to 3.99 in 2019 and 3.36 in 2020, well **below** the national standard of 4.12.
- A point in time count in July 2021 indicated that significantly **more** youth (265) were placed outside of the county, compared to the number placed in Yolo County (139)
- Yolo County continues to trend **behind** the State average for Black children in relative placement

CWS Strategy 3: Timely Permanency and CFTs



Strategy 3: Improve timeliness to permanency through meaningful, ongoing engagement with parents utilizing Child and Family Teaming (CFTs)

Outcome Measure: 3-P1 Permanency in 12 months

Justification Rationale: The CSA findings identified (1) prioritizing family connections, (2) reinforcing permanency best practices, and (3) strengthening teaming and collaboration and priorities for improving permanency.

Action Steps for Year 1 and Year 2:

- Developed and implemented CFT workgroup
- CFT positions created, opened for recruitment
- Policy and procedure (P&P) development

Next Steps:

- Draft P&P and desk guide for review and finalization
- Hire and onboard CFT facilitators
- Train all CWS staff on P&P and desk guide and post for electronic access

CWS Strategy 3: Timely Permanency and CFTs



Prior 5-Year Cycle Data (2014-2018):

- Disparities are evident in achievement of permanency by type and timeliness across race/ethnicities
- Using FY 2014-2018 as a baseline, an average of **25.5%** of Black children exited to reunification as compared to the Statewide average of 29.4%
- Local data indicates that Black children and youth spend, on average, **two months longer** in foster care than White children and over **four months longer** than LatinX children

Recent Data (2019-2020/2021):

- Reunification within 12 months for Black children **increased** from an average of 25.5% to 28.9% for FY 19/20, which is .5% below the Statewide average of 29.4%
- In FY 19/20, 5.3% of Black children exited to guardianship within 12 months of entry, an **increase** from 0-3% during the prior SIP cycle
- In FY 19/20 65.8% of Black children remained in care after 12 months, a **decrease** from an average of 72% in FYs 14/15-17/18

Probation Strategy: Juvenile Supervision Model



Strategy 1: Develop and implement a new juvenile supervision model (increase youth and family engagement)

Systemic Factor: 3-P1 Permanency in 12 months

Justification Rationale: The CSA identified that there was a decline in this permanency measure from 38.9% at baseline to 28.2%. The needs of youth entering care have changed dramatically and the Department is prioritizing efforts to avoid out of home care coupled with effective treatment for those in care and better preparation for transitions home.

Action Steps for Year 1 and Year 2:

- Provide training to juvenile Probation Officers
- Implemented Family Team Meetings for youth on community supervision
- Staff cases regularly at the Interagency Placement Committee (IPC)
- Develop and implement surveys for families
- Probation management oversight of the supervision model

Next Steps:

- Develop internal workgroup for family finding collaboration
- Develop data points to be tracked for quality assurance