

Yolo County System Improvement Plan

Annual Update

OCTOBER 24, 2023

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



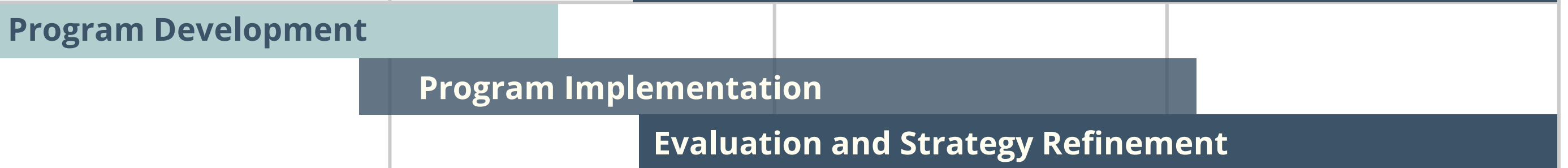
(1) Alternative Response Program



(2) Local Resource Family Homes



(3) Child and Family Teaming



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 Completed:

- Researched and selected an AR model that is grounded in research and best practices and aligns with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).
- Developed AR Workgroup to advise and oversee RFP process, contract development and program implementation
- Developed RFP, selected community-based provider and executed contract.

Next Steps:

- Implementation of AR program, train CWS staff on program and process.
- Develop data collection tools to monitor and evaluate the 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 (2022):

- The total number of children with allegations remained consistent with 2021 (17% **decrease** from prior 5-year cycle)
- The rate of substantiations of maltreatment **decreased** from 11.2 children per 1,000 in 2018 to 5.3 children per 1,000 in 2022
- For Black children, allegations **decreased** by 11% and substantiations **decreased** by 64%
- For Latino children, allegations **decreased** by 7% and substantiations **decreased** by 46%
- First entries to foster care in 2022 remain consistent with 2021 (50% **decrease** from 2019)

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.

Systemic Factor: 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 Completed:

- Developed and implemented Resource Family recruitment and retention workgroup to develop RFA workplan.
- Implemented in person recruitment strategies including contracting with Raise A Child to support recruitment of new homes.
- Retention campaigns throughout year (backpack giveaway, pumpkin patch trip, holiday celebration)

Next Steps:

- Continue learning from other agencies about use of Complex Care funding to support high-needs youth.
- Explore family finding resources to continue improvement in successful relative placement.

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 (2022):

- Placement moves per 1,000 days **decreased** from the baseline rate of 4.87 to 3.95 in 2022, slightly **below** the national standard of 4.48
- The total number of youth in placement continued to **decrease**; however 62% of youth are placed outside of Yolo .
- Yolo County significantly **increased** the number of Black children in relative/NREFM placements, from 9% in the baseline years to 45% in 2022, above the State average.

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 Completed:

- Developed and implemented CFT workgroup
- CFT positions created, recruitment conducted, staff onboarded and trained to facilitate CFTs.
- Policy and procedure (P&P) development
- Ongoing CFT and CANS training for existing and new staff.
- Implementation of CFTs in alignment with policy & procedure.

Next Steps:

- Develop data collection guidelines to ensure CFTs are being tracked consistently.

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 (2022):

- Permanency within 12 months **increased** to 33.1% from the baseline of 28.5%. The Performance Standard has changed from 40.5% to 35.2%.
- No significant changes to reunification within 12 months for Black and LatinX children; however there are **increases** in permanency for those in care 12-23 months.
- The number of Black children in care **decreased** by more than 50% since the prior 5-year cycle.

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 Completed:

- Provided ongoing training to juvenile Probation Officers
- Implemented Family Team Meetings
- Probation management oversight of the supervision model
- Tracking data points for quality assurance
- Annual post supervision surveys for youth and family
- Internal workgroup on family finding

Next Steps:

- Continue to work on internal workgroup on family finding.
- Training of new staff when hired.