

MARIPOSA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA
ACTION FOR

DATE: 08/06/2002
AGENDA ITEM NO: CA-5

MARIPOSA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BY: Cheryle Rutherford-Kelly

PHONE: 966-2442

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: POLICY ITEM: YES () NO (X)

SEE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

SEE ATTACHED

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

COSTS: (X) Not Applicable

A. Budgeted CURRENT FY \$ _____

B. Total anticipated costs \$ _____

C. Required add'l funding \$ _____

D. Internal transfers \$ _____

SOURCE: () 4/5's vote required

A. Unanticipated revenues \$ _____

B. Reserve for Contingencies \$ _____

C. Source description: _____

Balance in Reserve for Contingencies,
if approved: \$ _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

List the attachments and
number pages accordingly:

1. Board Memo

2. Promoting Safe and
Stable Families Three Year
Plan for FY 2003 - 2005

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Resolution No.: 02-305

Ordinance No.: _____

Vote: Ayes: 4 Noes: _____

Absent: Robert Abstain: _____

Approved () Denied

() Minute Order attached.

() No Action Necessary.

The foregoing instrument is a
correct copy of the original
on file in this office.

Date: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S
RECOMMENDATION:

This item on Agenda as:

___ Recommended ___ Returned for further action

___ Not recommended ___ Submitted w/ comment

___ Policy determination

Comment: _____

A.O. Initials: WJ

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board,
County of Mariposa,
State of California

BY: _____
Deputy



**MARIPOSA COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

P.O. Box 7 • Mariposa, CA 95338 • (209) 966-2131 • Fax (209) 966-5943

Alcohol & Drug Community Action Housing Authority Mental Health Public Guardian/Conservator Social Services
CHERYLE RUTHERFORD-KELLY, MSW, DIRECTOR

July 23, 2002

TO: Members, Board of Supervisors
FROM: Cheryle Rutherford-Kelly
RE: Child Welfare/Family Preservation Grant

Recommendation

It is respectfully recommended that your Board authorize: (1) continue to accept money on a three year basis from the State Department of Social Services, Promoting Safe and Stable Families Unit; and (2) authorize the Department to forward a Resolution regarding your approval of this plan to the state.

Background/Current Situation

The State Department of Social Services provides approximately \$13,000 - \$15,000 annually for Social Services through their Promoting Safe and Stable Families Unit. This money assists to support larger programs in child welfare/protection.

The condition for ongoing receipt of these monies is to submit a three-year plan. The amount of paperwork is astronomical because it does not stop with the plan, but continues on in the complex claiming system. However, in spite of the paperwork, the money does assist with program expenses. The State was upset that our plan was not timely as was the case with the majority of the counties. The State then extended the deadline for plan submission and state staff cannot comprehend why this matter is not of top priority for the counties. In the spirit of cooperation that must exist between the County and the State, it is recommended that we continue with this plan.

Financial

The allocation ranges between \$13,000 - \$15,000 annually. The revenue was included in the county budget. No local matching dollars are required.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

Three-Year Plan

for Federal Fiscal Years 2003 – 2005

Annual Plan Update for Federal Fiscal Year 2002

Date: July 18,2002

County: Mariposa

Contact Person: Dorothy Langworthy, SWS II

Organization/Agency Name: Department of Human Services

Address: P. O. Box 7 Mariposa, CA 95338

E-mail:

Telephone: (209) 966-2442

Fax (209) 742-5854

Part 1. Update on the previous year's activities

Describe the progress made during the past year on achieving identified goals.

- County Promoting Safe and Stable Families vision statement.

County FPSP Vision Statement

By providing intensive, personal services, multi-generational chains of family dysfunction and public dependency will be broken in many Mariposa County homes. By focusing on the strengths and individual characteristics of each family member, families will further develop these strengths providing them with tools to aid self-sufficiency. Individual and family self-esteem will improve. Parents will gain coping and parenting skills, resulting in improved family functioning and improved health and safety for their children. Intensive in-home services will reduce the incidence of out-of-home placements. Family violence, child neglect/abuse and court intervention will be reduced. Teenage pregnancy and school dropouts will be reduced. Community leadership, understanding and cohesiveness will be increased through the volunteer mentor program.

Goal: Break multi-generational chains of family dysfunction and public dependency.

Coordination with Welfare To Work program workers to help families with realistic case planning and expectations, building upon strengths and empowering families towards self sufficiency, beginning single case plans for clients working with multiple agencies.

Indicators: More families acquiring employment; families being reunified. Families indicating use of skills that were taught in parenting sessions, holding family meetings, better able to solve problems and communicate, better understanding of individual family needs. The Public Health Nurse monitors CHDP examinations, making appointments per periodicity and data is recorded in CWS/CMS system. Safe at Home Fair Day sponsored by community agencies in Child Abuse Prevention Month focuses community attention towards improving family functioning. Referrals to CPS have remained consistent in spite of increase in population, indicating fewer referrals per population.

Goal: Community leadership will increase under the volunteer mentoring program.

The volunteer mentoring concept was replaced by collaboration with the Mariposa Unified School District with mentoring and tutoring of children in foster care and by employing social workers with advanced degrees to work with Family Preservation issues and Family Support. This should cause a decrease in number of removals by addressing intensive in-home needs at the early stages. This can be out come measured by the percentage of removals per number of referrals received. Also referrals are made to the Children's System of Care, a collaborative, that works intensively with at risk families and children. Child Welfare provides a liaison worker with this collaborative on adjunct cases.

Goal: Teen Ideals will be changed through realistic education.

Education emphasized career goals including education and future advancement for better employment. The Independent Living Program was coordinated with these efforts for 16-18 year old foster children. Their program also included tutoring through coordination with the Mariposa Unified School District. Foster Children graduated from high school and are continuing their Community College Education, vocational training, and receiving vocational certificates.

Goal: Adults to become more competent parents.

All parents of children who are removed are taught parenting skills and referred to resources to lessen abuse and family dysfunction, i.e., Alcohol and Drug programs and Mental Health Counseling for children and families. Feedback from families is positive. Community agencies have multidisciplinary meetings for the more at risk families and services are coordinated attempting to comprehensively meet the needs of the family without duplicating services.

Part II: County Plan for the Next Three Year Period (2003-2005)

- County Promoting Safe and Stable Families vision statement.

Statement: Intensive, personal services are to be provided to at risk families in order to break the multi-generational dysfunction and public dependency. Focus is to be on strengths, and educating to personal goals of achievement, leading to employment that will provide self-esteem and a sense of self-worth with the personal and community

benefits of these families becoming self sufficient. Community focus on families and children with public awareness of abuse and neglect will help at risk families to be able to receive services in the early stages of need. Individualized case plans will emphasize family strengths, leading to better family cooperation and communication. Individualized parenting classes taught in the home setting will improve health and safety as well as improving the emotional atmosphere of the family.

Goal: Reduce the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect.

By collaborative work with all agencies providing services to at risk families, a more comprehensive approach is expected to serve the families more completely. Community involvement in the Child Abuse Council, Safe at Home in Mariposa Fair Day, and news releases educating to public awareness will bring these families to the attention of the agencies serving these kinds of need. This could allow early assessment and intervention where needed. The service site is the Child Welfare Office, in home services, and community. Target Population: All families needing these services.

Goal: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care.

Foster care training meetings are held monthly. There is a tight network support among our foster parents. Knowledgeable presentors are addressing the issues of foster parents' concerns, giving the foster parents encouragement, understanding, and support. Social Workers make frequent contact by phone and in person and are available to help with problem solving and counseling foster children as well as crisis intervention. Services site is the Child Welfare Office, foster homes, conferences, and meeting places.

Goal: Increase permanency in foster care.

Children are placed in concurrent home settings where they may remain if reunification is not accomplished. This lessens the changes for foster children. They may remain in these homes according to the assessment and recommendation of the social worker and the State Adoption Worker who make recommendations to the court. Relatives and extended family members are also researched for early placement so that children may be in these placements if reunification is not effected for some reason. Children are often adopted from these foster and relative homes. Service site is the foster home and relative home. Services are provided by social workers, the licensing worker, and adoption worker. The target population is the foster care parents. Recruitment is on going for more foster care parents. Service site: Child Welfare Office, foster homes, conferences, and meeting places.

Goal: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry.

Parents of children under 3 years of age are given 6 months to work on eliminating the cause of removal. If progress is being made, this may be extended another 6 months. One year of services is provided if sufficient progress is being made. This time frame is a motivator for most parents and the case plan is directed at assisting the

parent to be able to eliminate the reasons for removal. This makes concerted efforts of the social worker all the more important because of the critical time limits.

Services provided to parents at Child Welfare Office, Referral Agencies, Alcohol and Drug, Mental Health, and in home services.

Goal: Reduce time in foster care to adoption.

By early placement with a qualified relative in an approved home or in a foster care home where the child may be adopted, the child does not spend long periods of time in foster care without permanency, particularly in light of the present time limited services to be provided. Service site: Foster care home, Child Welfare Office, counseling foster parents, children to be adopted, and parents towards relinquishment.

Goal: Increase placement stability.

The foster parent receives training, meetings, and support. The social worker is available to discuss and help resolve problems and provide referrals to appropriate services. By careful selection of placement homes early in the case, changes are lessened or prevented. Services are provided to foster parents through foster parent training, conferences, counseling services to family members who may be providing stability, to families and children. Services are provided in home settings and the Child Welfare Office.

Goal: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions.

Care is provided in the least restrictive setting. By seeking qualified family members or stable foster homes, providing training to assist foster parents to have the understanding and coping skills needed for special needs children, providing respite to foster parents, recruitment of more foster homes inside the county in order to make the logistics of reunification services more feasible, it is expected that children can be placed in less restrictive placements and closer to their natural homes. Services are provided to foster parents, family members, and children. Services may include referrals to appropriate services, counseling by social workers, foster parents and placement homes.