

DEPARTMENT: Human Services Dept. BY: Tom Archer PHONE: 966-3609  
Social Services Division

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes\_\_\_ No X)

It is respectfully recommended that your Board approve this Family Preservation/Support Program Three Year Plan. Mariposa County has received funding for the past five (5) years to provide this program which provides intensive services to families in order to help preserve family integrity and keep families together while reducing risk to children.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Your Board has approved this program which is 100% federally funded, since its inception. Due to restrictive time lines this plan was submitted several months ago to meet State requirements prior to being submitted to your board. We were recently notified by the State that the Plan has been approved pending board approval for the Three Year Plan.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve. Mariposa would not receive the funds allocated to maintain the program and it would be terminated.

COSTS: ( ) Not Applicable		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
A. Budgeted current FY	\$ <u>12,540</u>	List the attachments and number
B. Total anticipated costs	\$ <u>12,540</u>	the pages consecutively:
C. Required additional funding	\$ _____	_____
D. Internal Transfers	\$ _____	_____
SOURCE: ( ) 4/5ths Vote Required		
A. Unanticipated revenues	\$ _____	_____
B. Reserve for contingencies	\$ _____	_____
C. Source description:	_____	_____
Balance in Reserve for Contingencies,	_____	_____
if approved: \$	_____	_____

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 99-349 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved  Denied

Minute Order Attached  No Action Necessary

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

This item on agenda as:

\_\_\_\_\_ Recommended

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Recommended

\_\_\_\_\_ For Policy Determination

\_\_\_\_\_ Submitted with Comment

\_\_\_\_\_ Returned for Further Action

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A.O. Initials: JA

# **Family Preservation and Support Program Three Year Plan**

**Federal Fiscal Years 1999 - 2001**

**Date:** April 16, 1999

**County Name:** Mariposa

**Contact Person:** Dianne Austin Bondshu

**Organization/Agency Name:** Department of Human Services

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## **Part I. STATUS REPORT ON THE FIRST FIVE YEARS (FFY 1994-1998)**

### **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 in 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.

## **Mariposa County's FPSP goals and objectives.**

- ◆ **GOAL:** Break multi-generational chains of family dysfunction and public dependency.

**OBJECTIVES:** To provide intensive, customized parenting classes, in-home teaching and intensified services to assist parents in feeling more competent in their roles. Intensive services designed to strengthen family functioning, increase the use of support systems, increase child well being, reduce the incidence of out-of home placement and child abuse/neglect and assist families in becoming more self-sufficient.

**INDICATORS:** Most of our information comes directly from the families themselves. Parenting classes, in-home teaching and intensified services have assisted parents in feeling more competent in their roles. In families receiving intensive services, family functioning has improved, a noted increase in the use of support systems has been identified and child well being has increased. Out-of-home placements have been reduced, child abuse/neglect is decreased, and families have become more self-sufficient. We have found that while our statistics have shown an increase, that figure is less than expected with the increase in population.

**DATA:** Each family member is interviewed prior to closure of case to determine their view and experience of services offered. Information gathered indicates that with intensive services:

- Boundaries are set and enforced in the home
- Parents report establishing forums of discussion which aide in the resolution of problems/concerns of family members resulting in fewer family disputes
- A noted increase in problem solving and communication; an increased number of families requesting volunteer mentors; statistics show a decreased number of child placements
- Public health involvement has increased indicated by a significant rise in the number of families obtaining obtain health care for children
- School attendance has improved
- Children report that they are beginning to perceive home as a safe place
- The number of referrals to CPS compared to the number of families receiving services drop off public assistance rolls shows no significant increase.

- ◆ **Goal:** Community leadership will increase under the volunteer mentoring

program.

**Objectives:** Volunteers will receive training and experience that will enhance their parenting and mentoring skills, give insight into alternate lifestyles, increase awareness in available resources and increase our community's resources.

**Indicators:** Number of volunteers completing training and volunteer evaluation reports.

◆ **Goal:** Teen Ideals regarding parenting will be changed through realistic education.

**Objective:** Teenagers will have more realistic expectations about caring for a newborn.

**Indicators:** Following "Baby Think It Over" experience, students have reported reduced desire to be teen parents, a more realistic idea of how much work is involved in raising a child, and the number of students participating in the program has grown due to the number of classes using baby think it over as part of their home economics course.

◆ **Goal:** Adults will become more competent Parents.

**Objectives:** Parenting skills will be increased.

**Indicators:** Parent evaluations of parenting classes were positive, number of parents attending classes is high, and assessment of skills by in-home teachers/volunteer mentors show parenting skill level appropriate. Materials have been distributed and circulation of parent education materials continues.

**Evaluation Methodologies:** Services rendered are evaluated by several means; pre-and post-testing of in home services, including follow-up at six months following termination of services; evaluation for parenting classes; pre and post-testing of student attitude's toward teen parenting with the "Baby Think It Over" program; as well as documentation of the distribution and estimated circulation of public information on parenting.

**Conclusions/outcomes:** (reached as a result of the evaluation of the data)

Current findings indicate that the FPSP has a large impact on children, families and our community. A noted reduction in out-of-home placement has occurred. Feedback from families served is positive with most stating that no one has ever taken the time to assist them. It is evident to all community agencies working with at-risk families, that the early intervention prevention and support services provided by Family Preservation and Support are essential to this small county. Parents will gain skills to increase coping and parenting skills, resulting in improved family functioning and improved child well being. Out-of-home placements will continue to be reduced. Family violence, child neglect, abuse and court interventions will remain low. Community leadership, understanding and cohesiveness will be increased through the volunteer mentor program. It has become apparent that the length of time needed for some families to receive the level of services needed to promote change, cannot be regulated. We were, perhaps, overzealous in our hopes to assist families to become successful, to overcome poor habits and establish poor habits and establish positive lifestyles and support systems in a limited time period. While we continue to refine our programs and services, our greatest challenge remains coordinating and developing our limited resources.

## **PART II: THE NEXT THREE-YEAR PERIOD (FFYs1999-2001)**

The three-year objectives are designed to be realistic, specific, quantifiable, measurable and focus on specific out-comes for children and families.

Mariposa County agencies will continue to provide comprehensive, flexible services to alleviate environmental conditions that impede access to services and to meet the changing the needs of the community. Recruitment of volunteers will be heightened over the next three years to help provide less invasive assistance to families. Parenting classes will continue to be offered in multiple formats including the assortment of handouts and classes offered by schools, family services, mental health and probation. "Baby Think It Over" will continue to be

used in three of the four high schools as a portion of a teenage pregnancy prevention program. The new objectives would be to provide support to families in limited family reunification, in order that the process be as successful as possible.

Also of importance is the provision of a support system to the adoptive parents and the minors that are being adopted. This support program assists with the difficulties in transferring from temporary placement to permanence.

**Each of the county's FPSP goals and objectives.**

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

**Objectives:** Adults need tools to feel more competent in their roles, family functioning is improved, use of support systems is increased, child well-being is increased, out-of-home placements remain low, and child abuse/neglect is decreased as families become more self-sufficient.

**Indicators:** Boundaries are set and enforced in the home, parents report an establishment of discussion forums in the home which aide in the resolution of problems and concerns of family members, fewer family disputes, increased problem solving and communication. Also noted is an increase in the number of families requesting volunteer mentors and a decrease in the number of child placements. Families appear to be seeking health care more actively for their children, which also results in an improvement in school attendance. As children are able to perceive home as a safe place the number of referrals to CPS also decrease as families begin to ask for help before a crisis level is reached. This county has not seen an increase in child abuse due to welfare reform as was predicted by many. It is believed, that the pro-active provision of Family Preservation services as well as the high level of services offered by the county's Employment Services Unit should be credited.

- ◆ **Goal:** Community leadership will increase under the volunteer mentoring

program.

**Objectives:** Volunteers receive training and experience that will enhance their ability to assist families and increase community resources.

**Indicators:** Number of volunteers completing training and volunteer evaluation reports have increased. Increased and higher levels of services are offered.

◆ **Goal:** Attitudes of teenagers regarding teen parenting will be more realistic

**Objective:** Teenagers will develop more realistic, less idealized expectations about caring for a newborn, managing toddlers and the level of commitment required to be a parent.

**Indicators:** After the "Baby Think It Over" experience, students have reported a significant reduced desire to be teen and single parents. The number of students participating in the program has increased over the past two years as classrooms grow, and as the program is becoming known by the students, parents and teachers.

◆ **Goal:** Assist parents in developing positive parenting skills

**Objective:** Increase parenting skills based on family strengths and specialized service provision.

**Indicators:** Parent evaluations of parenting classes, number of parents attending classes and assessment of skills by in-home teachers/volunteer mentors.

◆ **Goal:** Time-limited family reunification services offered.

**Objective:** Limit the time children are out of the home.

**Indicators:** Parents are able to demonstrate to the social worker that they can provide a safe environment for an indefinite length of time, with an appropriate support system and a solid, obtainable plan for continued success.

◆ **Goal:** To expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

**Objectives:**

- a. To encourage more adoptions out of the foster care system when the adoption promotes the best interest of the child.
- b. To support the adoptive family through the adoptions process.

**Indicators:** Provide optimum services and support to adoptive families and children to insure a high level of successful adoptions.

**Addressing and assessing identified problems**

The FPSP services provided will be regularly assessed by a review of feed back from the families being served and other involved service agencies. Problems are addressed through multi-agency meetings and by encouraging families to be a part of the solution process. Families provide information regarding their assessment of problems, proposed solutions to those problems, and/or areas of services the family feels should be enhanced or addressed.

**Planned collaborative efforts and processes and identification of local planning bodies.**

Collaborative partnerships within the county continue to thrive. Our Family Preservation and Support Program (FPSP) Planning Body includes a wide range of stakeholders. Members were recruited to include agencies, organizations and individuals that represent all collaborative groups identified within the county. The members of the FPSP council continue to work together successfully on many other interagency efforts, including;

- Juvenile Justice Commission
- Multi-disciplinary Interview Team
- Children's System of Care
- Foster Youth's Services Program
- Healthy Start Council
- Domestic Violence Council

**Methods used to measure results, accomplishments, and annual progress**



**toward meeting objectives, including processes and procedures in place to assure production of valid and reliable data and information:**

The methods that have been used successfully over the past five years include an evaluation by the in-home teacher and volunteer mentor evaluate families by a comparison of assessments made at the start, completion, and six months following completion of services. These assessments summarize the associated problems faced by the families receiving services and the progress made in overcoming identified problems by the time services are terminated. Family strengths are identified, support systems are identified and enriched and families assessments of themselves have proven valuable in the continued provision of services. These measurements are taken by using the family assessment tool provided by the Family Services Unit, personal interviews and reports from partnering agencies.

**FPSP activities for which technical assistance by counties to community organizations/agencies will be provided, including those activities that will support the county's goals and objectives.**

Mountain Crisis Domestic Violence Prevention Services, ICES Child Enrichment Services, Healthy Start, Cal Works, Indian Health, Family Solutions (Systems of Care), and Headstart all partner in respective cases to provide a rounded, customized service delivery. The provision of collaborative services has proven to be the most efficient, least restrictive and most comprehensive method of assisting families to meet goals and objectives. Collaboration provides more appropriate, intensive services and insures the avoidance of duplication and triangulation.

**Planned staff development and training activities that support the county's FPSP three-year goals and objectives.**

Contractors who provide in-home teaching services attend training arranged for Human Services staff members, as provided in the Child Welfare Services, Title

IV-B program. All training provided these contractors will be combined with the Title IV-E training plan. At this time, we do not anticipate using FPSP funds for contractor training, as the services will be funded by an interagency agreement.

**Baseline data that will be used for projecting outcomes/program planning for the future, including a description of how the county plans to evaluate the results of services provided and the county's progress toward achieving desired outcomes and accomplishing goals.**

Family Reunification services will only be limited when ordered by the court. Services will be provided, so long as the family wants services or until the court orders that the case be moved to another component (i.e.; permanent placement, family maintenance. Limited services would include services to parents incarcerated, ill or otherwise limited by time or family circumstance restraints. Frequently the court orders that, should a parent be unable to complete an alcohol or drug program in a time period, the minors will be permanently placed at the end of that time period. Services during that time would be very specific and intensive. Every effort will be made to eliminate barriers, which might jeopardize the parent's success. These services would include; transporting supportive family members to treatment meetings, specialized visitation schedules, assistance in keeping home available for parent's return, extra social worker visits for supportive services as well as any service recommended by the facility or counselor.

**The identification of services (family preservation, family support, time-limited family reunification, and adoption promotion and support) to be funded under FPSP for the next three-year period, including the amounts to be spent on each service.**

Mariposa County limits family reunification based on the order of the court, or specific incidents per Welfare and Institutions Codes. Mariposa County Juvenile Court's policy is that, if a family is working toward reunification, is showing

progress, the home can be made safe and it is in the best interest of the minors; reunification will not have a restrictive timeline. This frequently involves use of "all-county" funding, intensive services lasting 18 months to two years, and involvement of several service providers.

Limited services would also include cases that are being transferred to other counties. Mariposa County's main industry is tourism and 10% of our referrals are on families who have been vacationing in Yosemite or other campgrounds. Parents are arrested, usually for alcohol/drug or domestic violence crimes. Services are provided until the family's home county is able to take the case over, usually within thirty to sixty days.

**Proposed funding percentages:**

- The FFY 1998: Family Preservation 30%
- Family Support 70%
- The FFY 1999: Family Preservation 30% \$3000.00
- Family Support 50% \$5000.00
- Limited Family Reunification 10% \$1000.00
- Adoption Promotion & Support 10% \$1000.00

**Target population and/or geographic areas for service, the rationale for selecting these areas and a description of how these services are linked to the county's goals and objectives.**

All families with children in Mariposa County are targeted for the intensive services provided by the Family Preservation and Support Program. Intensive services provided by the FPSP target at-risk families and families in crisis. Crisis intervention services are provided in all geographic areas.

Mariposa County's population (about 16,000), is spread into isolated geographic pockets: Bootjack, Cathey's Valley, Don Pedro, El Portal, Fish Camp, Greeley

Hill, Hornitos, Mariposa, and Mt. Bullion. None of these residential settlements are incorporated, so all are served directly by the county. In addition, there are several residential areas within Yosemite National Park: Foresta, Wawona, Yosemite Valley, and Yosemite West. Needs within these areas tend to vary according to specific geographic traits, access to services and individual community make up.

**CLOSING:**

The staff of the Family Services Unit of the Department of Human Services all agrees that this program has been a key instrument in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The flexibility this program allows, provides an opportunity to assist families in designing their own, individualized services. Many past programs have operated under formats that do not recognize the unique problems faced individual families. Because of cultural, geographic and environmental differences, each family faces different difficulties. It is our belief that to be able to tailor services to individual families is the optimum in service provision.