

Children and Family Services System Improvement Plan

prevention...protection...permanence

October 5, 2004

System Improvement Plan

- Required by California Child and Family Services Review
- Has involved community extensively in assessment and design of plan
- Integrates earlier improvement initiatives
- Provides roadmap for focused action in priority areas



System Improvement Plan

Priority 1: Safe Children

First and foremost: Children are protected from abuse and neglect



Safety: Enhance Service Array

Goal 1: Design and pilot new differential response processes

- Establish forum to develop guidelines and protocol
- Develop multi-year plan
- Pilot differential response in RWC and DC



Safety: Enhance Service Array

Goal 2: Assure links to mental health assessment and treatment services

- Assess capacity and availability of mental health services for children and their families



System Improvement Plan

Priority 2: Stability

Improve stability for children, with families when possible, achieving balance between reunification and re-entry into foster care



Stability: Decrease rate of re-entry

Goal: Improve team-based case planning processes

- Change policies and protocols to better support participation of families and community partners
- Assess what supports families need to increase stability when children return
- Conduct comprehensive review of cases in which families have reverted to abuse



System Improvement Plan

Priority 3: Family Connections


Family relationships and connections of children will be preserved and strengthened as appropriate



Family Connections: Build on Family

Goal 1: Improve supports to help keep youth in family care placements.

- Increase access to information
- Improve services for adolescents
- Enhance resources for birth, kin, foster, adoptive parents



Family Connections: Decrease adolescents placed in restrictive care

Goal 2: Maintain existing and recruit new foster, kin and adoptive homes

- Improve support for resource families
- Recruit resource families who can meet adolescents' unique needs
- Strengthen partnerships between foster families and social workers



Implementation

- Existing staff and financial resources are being redeployed
- Community partnerships are being strengthened and systematized
- Oversight Committee will continue to provide direction at quarterly meetings
- Subcommittees and workgroups are being assembled



THANK YOU!