

**Title IV-E Well-Being Project
Community Forum
10/28/14**

Top Comments From Community

Question 1 - What do you like about the plan, including strategies and budget?

- Focus on outcomes – if it is not working won't continue funding
- Collaboration, reaching out to community partners
- Flexibility in use of funds
- Since 2008, prevention not a focus – great to provide services to older children
- Probation looking at prevention and adequacy of placement, at the table
- Qualitative not just quantitative
- Flexibility in use – EBPs, promising practices
- Crossover youth collaboration between CPS & Probation
 - Provide strength-based services to families
- System communication – enhancement

Question 2 - What concerns do you have about the plan?

- How do we define/measure outcomes so we know what is working and what is not?
- Concerned about culture change – can be messy – bringing community on at same time, not after.
- Is the Court supporting the process?
- If costs go up, will there be money to cover?
- Enough money invested to ensure that program outcomes can be reached/realized
- Post-Permanency services need to be in plan

Question 3 – Understanding the goals of the Waiver, what strategies would you recommend for consideration when savings begin to materialize?

- Keep kids in Sacramento – service, accessibility, control
- Look at data for most high cost youth – identify interventions to get them out
- Prevention/early intervention
- Post adoption/guardianship/reunification services/ support/ respite and aftercare – if you wait for crisis; too late/decision made
- Address multi-layer issues proactively/preventative
- Intensive services (time limited) for family reunification during transition (support/case plan/WRAP)
- AOD services
- More emphasis on family reunification and stabilization – concurrent planning
- Kinship support

- There is gap of community with no services – consider satellite prevention services in year 2
- Investing in youth ages 18+ - vocational education
- Substance abuse treatment and prevention
- Mental health services

Top Comments From County Staff

Question 1 - What do you like about the plan, including strategies and budget?

- Mandate to reinvest savings
- Long range view – if kids are out of system early then there is a long term pay off
- Flexible use of funds

Question 2 - What concerns do you have about the plan?

- Will this incentivize kids not coming into care when this is the need?
- How will this be communicated to staff and the community? How will this be heard i.e. “keep kids out of placement” – messaging
- Sustainability – how do we keep efforts moving forward over time?

Question 3 – Understanding the goals of the Waiver, what strategies would you recommend for consideration when savings begin to materialize?

- Can we change model for sending kids home, giving parents “weekend hands-on time” to practice what they learn, bond, etc. – what are the risks? Can they be mitigated to ensure better transitions?
- PHN services to EIFDC families (assess babies with Denver Developmental Assessments)
- Pay foster care rate to a parent for 2-3 months upon reunification to ensure successful transition

All Comments

Question 1 - What do you like about the plan, including strategies and budget?

Team 1 (Community)

- Use Continuous Quality Improvement to create a feedback loop
- Early intervention/prevention model – helping families
- Strengthening the internal agencies
- Focus on outcomes – if it is not working won't continue funding
- Sharing lessons learned
- More support for kinship
- Collaboration, reaching out to community partners
- Reinvestment in program
- Flexibility in use of funds
- Monitoring success (the right things) – need to track long-term outcomes too
- Like partners to include – education, probation, behavioral health
- Like community partners at the table

Team 2 (Community)

- Since 2008, prevention not a focus – great to provide services to older children
- Model (Safety Organized Practice) being consistent
- Intensive Family Finding/Kinship Support
- That Board of Supervisors is embracing this is “bigger than CPS”
- Probation looking at prevention and adequacy of placement, at the table
- Reinvesting funds in things that work
- Focusing on older kids
- Qualitative not just quantitative

Team 3 (County Staff)

- Less restrictions on funds
- Increases funding availability for kids
- Strengthens structure for improved outcomes
- Partnerships and probation presence
- Mandate to reinvest savings
- Lots of cross-over youth/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children – how do systems collaborate to “keep eye on prize” and child safety?
- Probation will provide more programs for youth
- Long range view – if kids are out of system early then there is a long term pay off
- Incentivizing kids not coming into care
- Increased services to children 6 to 17 years of age via FRCs
- Keeping children in local placements
- Flexible use of funds
- Giving input into the process

Team 4 (Community)

- Plan/Rhetoric sounded promising – will implementation match?
- Prevention
- Good risk-taking
- Department did a good job – balanced
- Plan sounds outcomes-driven
- Flexibility – seems like limitations will be lifted
- Safety/Risk assessments won't change
- Partnership between CPS and Probation is positive
- Not a band-aid approach
- Reinvestment of savings
- Flexibility in the use of savings
- Probation's buy in to programs/services is “incredible” – paradigm shift

Team 5 (Probation)

- Flexibility in use – EBPs, promising practices
 - Wraparound, MST, FFT
- Mentoring
- Anger Management
- Behavior plan – Behavior Support plan
- Staffing
- Substance Abuse Treatment facility
- Mental Health Services
- Crossover youth collaboration between CPS & Probation
 - Provide strength-based services to families
- System communication – enhancement

Question 2 - What concerns do you have about the plan?

Team 1 (Community)

- How do we define/measure outcomes so we know what is working and what is not?
- County staff to do the work – providers need staff too
- What could happen if it blows up
- How do we ensure the new efforts are sustained?
- How do we get everyone (CPS) pointed in the same direction (know resources, linkage is happening)
- Concerned about culture change – can be messy – bringing community on at same time, not after.
- Communication is critical
- Need to ensure cultural relevancy of providers
- How do we generate services to achieve goals?
- How do we ensure people are getting access to services?
- Need to educate community about changes in CPS/Probation
- Is the Court supporting the process?

- What are the unintended consequences?

Team 2 (Community)

- If costs go up, will there be money to cover?
- Focus on outcomes vs. savings
- Some permanency programs may take years (versus short-term) for results to show; how are savings going to be reinvested?
- Enough money invested to ensure that program outcomes can be reached/realized
- Roll out of Resource Family Approval will layer with strategies?
- Post-Permanency services need to be in plan
- Utilization of existing services (such Family Resource Center's aftercare/post-permanency) which are underutilized.

Team 3 (County Staff)

- Will this incentivize kids not coming into care when this is the need?
- Will there be increased funding for Public Health Nursing Services as a prevention program?
- How will this be communicated to staff and the community? How will this be heard i.e. "keep kids out of placement" – messaging
- Not sure more money will help
- Not enough local capacity for placements
- Worried about internal capacity to monitor and evaluate the project
- Sustainability – how do we keep efforts moving forward over time?
- Will there be resources realized by the cost savings to reinvest in the "front end" of CPS.

Team 4 (Community)

- The numbers – how much can truly be impacted – at what point is it realistic for trends to continue going down?
- Disappointed that permanence programs were not included as a priority (Destination Family & CapKids)
- Investment in non-county service providers may not result in 5% reduction
- AOD intervention was not mentioned – didn't hear enough about how this will be addressed
- Reduction time
- Amount of money going to Probation seems exorbitant for 60 kids
- Is this a realistic projection of savings?
- Would like breakdown of administrative costs
- Did not hear anything about adoption/permanency
- Contract delays
- The time need to ramp up satellite services

Team 5 (Probation)

- Ensure services are appropriate in addressing needs

- Moving kids too quickly out of out-of-home placement/find the right placement – shortening length of stay too quickly – reduction in time at the expense of quality of care
- Overall safety of youth being placed in the home prematurely or at all since the home may be originating issue – what program will be offered to family to ensure placement of youth back in home is appropriate?

Question 3 – Understanding the goals of the Waiver, what strategies would you recommend for consideration when savings begin to materialize?

Team 1 (Community)

- Keep kids in Sacramento – service, accessibility, control
- Expedite all adoptions – reduce processing of adoptions (early)
- Create crash intensive teams to bring kids back to new resources (early)
- Expand WRAP to kids not in group homes/probation (early)
- Look at data for most high cost youth – indentify interventions to get them out
- Prevention/early intervention

Team 2 (Community)

- Post adoption/guardianship/reunification services/ support/ respite and aftercare – if you wait for crisis; too late/decision made
- Qualified foster homes for higher needs children
- Satellite sites for Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in communities where services can be offered (mental health, domestic violence, PT support/one-stop (think apartment complexes)
- Expand services co-locating in FRCs – domestic violence (DV), mental health (MH), transportation
- Services for families before CPS involvement
- Address multi-layer issues proactively/preventative
- Intensive services (time limited) for family reunification during transition (support/case plan/WRAP)

Team 3 (County Staff)

- Local treatment Centers in the community
- Can we change model for sending kids home, giving parents “weekend hands-on time” to practice what they learn, bond, etc. – what are the risks? Can they be mitigated to ensure better transitions?
- Research evidence-based practices now so we can evaluate the work and outcomes for year 2 & 3 and not wait until last minute
- Home visitation for 6-17 years old (evidence-based)
- Family-centered step-down, aftercare programs
- Supportive reunification to ensure a smooth transition (housing, financial) when returning home – continuum of care beyond term of dependency
- PHN services to EIFDC families (assess babies with Denver Developmental Assessments)
- Pay foster care rate to a parent for 2-3 months upon reunification to ensure successful transition

- How can we participate and give input?

Team 4 (Community)

- Youth peer-mentor program
- AOD services
- More emphasis on family reunification and stabilization – concurrent planning
- Strengthen the existing family
- Early intervention with younger kids being thoroughly assessed
- Getting to root causes
- Kinship support
- Focus on evidence-based and high success rates of programs
- Birth & Beyond Referral process
- There is gap of community with no services – consider satellite prevention services in year 2
- Expand successful destination family services
- Ensure we are opting in to kinship support – relative funding

Team 5 (Probation)

- Investing in youth ages 18+ - vocational education
- Substance abuse treatment and prevention
- Mental health services
- Evidence-based practices – promising practices

Parking Lot

- Is there a built in CNI?
- Can waiver funds be spent on post-permanency youth?