San Mateo County

Citizen Review Panel

CRP's mission is to assess the child welfare system in the county and make data-driven recommendations for continuous improvement that will help to ensure the safety and well-being of San Mateo County children and their families.

Annual Report & Recommendations
(2015-16 Program Year)
(November-October)

County: San Mateo County

Contact Person for this Report:

Name: Patricia Brown
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Date Submitted to Office of Child Abuse Prevention: November 21, 2015

Persons at the local County level who received the report:

- Iliana Rodriguez, Director, Human Services Agency
- Dr. Loc Nguyen, Director, Children and Family Services (Child Welfare Services), a division of the Human Services Agency
- Jenell Thompson, Children and Family Services
- John Keene, Chief Probation Officer
- Vielka McCarthy, Director, Juvenile Probation

1. County Profile (OCAP will provide current data from current annual report)

General Demographics
Ethnic make-up of county
Household income

2. Panel Activities

Panel structure and development

I. Membership (**Workplan Goal #1**)

Have there been any changes in membership or Panel composition during the reporting period?

- Shanthi Karemcheti, John Ragosta, Paul Chang and Lauren Szyper have all resigned from the Panel this year due to changes in job responsibilities.
- Michael Brosnan, Human Trafficking Coordinator, SMC Sheriff's Office and Adriana Taylor, CASA of San Mateo County, joined the Panel. The Panel is in the process of recruiting a new differential response representative.

All prospective members receive the SMCRP Operational Guidelines and they are referred to the CRP website (www.smcrp.org) for more background information. Before they are asked to submit an application for membership, potential Panel members are invited to attend a regular CRP meeting to observe the work of the Panel and meet current members. Visitors sign a Confidentiality Agreement at the beginning of the meeting. Following the visit, if there is continuing interest, the potential member completes an application form and submits it, along with a relevant resume, to the Panel. New members are elected by majority vote of the existing membership.

SMCRP Membership Roster
November 2016

Name	Affiliation
Baumel, Jan	Licensed Educational Psychologist and Retired Special Educator, Community Member
Brosnan, Michael (Bros)	Human Trafficking Program Coordinator SMC Sheriff''s Office
Cherniss, David	Juvenile Mediation Program
DeMarco, Toni	Clinical Services Manager Behavioral Health and Recovery Serv.
Loewy, Ben (Chair)	Administrator, SM Co. Office of Education
Manthorne, Cori	CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse)
McCallum, Jamila	Edgewood Center
Miller, Bonnie	Private Defenders Office, San Mateo County
Monaghan, Ryan	Lieutenant, San Mateo Police Department
Plotnikoff, Bernie	Community Member
Ruth, Kibbie	Minister for Social Justice Congregational Church of San Mateo
Stewart, Ginny	Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Community Member
Taylor, Adriana	CASA of San Mateo County
13 Members	

II. Panel Training

Please elaborate on the on-going orientation / training of new CRP members.

Individuals who are interested in joining the Citizen Review Panel are provided with basic information about the role of the Panel in written form and referred to the Panel's website: www.SMCRP.org. The website was updated this year.

CRP's orientation process calls for incoming members of the Panel to talk with the Chair or facilitator for an orientation session at the beginning of their term. One key responsibility of the CRP facilitator is to ensure an inclusive process in CRP meetings so that all members of the Panel and guests are able to participate comfortably and effectively. This means making sure that acronyms are defined, there are frequent checks for understanding and new members are provided with the opportunity to ask for clarification of any topic under discussion.

Once new members join the Panel, they are encouraged to participate actively and to raise questions as needed. It has been SMCRP's experience that new members add distinct expertise and perspectives to the Panel's conversations. The regular presence of a liaison from Children and Family Services and the Probation Department has been very helpful for ensuring accurate understanding of the complex child welfare system in San Mateo County.

In addition, please describe any training activities the CRP has engaged in this past year as a means of ongoing panel development.

SMCRP members receive information and updates about the child welfare system from the Children and Family Services (CFS) Director and the Juvenile Probation Liaison at each regular meeting. During the course of the year, representatives of various public and private providers in the child welfare system make informational presentations to the Panel at its regular monthly meeting. In addition, Panel members have a regular agenda item, "Panel Member Updates" to encourage individuals to share information with other members about the child welfare-related work they are doing.

Child welfare related articles and reports are provided to members regularly and, when appropriate, the articles are discussed as part of the meeting agenda.

On a monthly basis, CRP receives and discusses the Children and Family Services Dashboard. This is an internal CFS document that provides a quick overview of data in key interest areas related to children and family services. These monthly reviews of data have provided the Panel with an understanding of the indicators used by CFS to monitor its own programs and services. Panel members are encouraged to direct questions about the Dashboard data to the CFS Director, who attends CRP meetings.

Report on SMCRP WORKPLAN 2015-16

Workplan Goal #1: Please discuss any activities the Panel has engaged in specific to the recruitment of panel members to reflect community demographics and support creating or maintaining a diverse panel.

On an annual basis, SMCRP reviews its membership and the national criteria for CRP representation. The goal is for CRP members to represent a broad array of backgrounds and perspectives. Currently, CRP's membership comes from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. As needs for specific perspectives are identified, current SMCRP members brainstorm ways to reach out to representatives in those areas. The Panel is working on recruiting a provider of differential response services.

The Panel continues to seek members who are parents and/or youth who have been part of the child welfare system, but most other gaps have been filled. Currently, Panel membership stands at 13 members, near the top of the membership range established in the CRP's Operational Guidelines.

Workplan Goal #2

Develop a work plan that will guide the panel's review activities of the state and local Child Welfare System.

Each year in its annual report and recommendations, SMCRP identifies areas of focus within the child welfare system. At the same time, the Panel outlines specific activities/evaluation methods it will use in order to track progress and evaluate outcomes related to its recommendations for change at both the state and local levels. This schedule is documented on an annual meeting calendar that guides agenda development throughout the year.

Description of the review activities and any technical assistance provided (example = case review, focus group, data review).

SMCRP meets monthly for two hours during the program year. At each of these meetings informational reports and monitoring activities are on the agenda. These activities include review of written materials and reports, presentations by CWS representatives and sharing of information by CRP members. CFS, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Probation have made staff members available to report to the Panel on specific recommendation areas such as Pathways to Wellbeing or areas of interest such as child sexual exploitation.

SMCRP has not received technical assistance from sources outside of San Mateo County during the past year.

CRP recommendations for 2015-16
SMCRP worked with the following recommendations this past year:

1. CRP recommends that Children and Family Services (CFS) and other divisions of the child welfare system involved in the "Pathways to Wellbeing Program", including Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), evaluate the effectiveness of mental health services for children and report to CRP semi-annually on the following:

   a) Identification of those in need of service
   b) Delivery of services to those identified
   c) Timeliness of provision of services

d) Utilization of innovative/promising new therapeutic methods, e.g., Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics

2) CRP recommends that CFS continue its efforts to place children in the child welfare system within San Mateo County in accordance with statewide requirements of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) that goes into effect in 2017.

Regular updates to CRP should include the following:

a) Current number of foster homes in San Mateo County in various demographics.
b) Trends in increase or decrease of available foster homes within San Mateo County.
c) Strategies for recruiting homes that can meet the needs of targeted populations.
d) Services provided to support foster families.

In addition to monitoring its two formal recommendations, SMCRP researched the following issues of concern:

1) The impact of domestic violence on children and training for first responders on trauma informed care.

2) Disproportionate representation within the child welfare system.

3) Commercially sexually exploited children in San Mateo County, including the work of the County's multi-disciplinary team that is addressing CSEC and the status of two CSEC homes located in San Mateo County.

Findings regarding Annual Report Recommendations
In CRP meetings in September and October 2016, the Panel reflected on the information it has gathered during the past year relative to its 2015-16 recommendations. The following chart contains the Panel's findings:

Recommendation	Findings
1. CRP recommends that Children and Family Services (CFS) and other divisions of the child welfare system involved in the "Pathways to Wellbeing Program", including Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), evaluate the effectiveness of mental health services for children and report to CRP semi-annually on the following: a) Identification of those in need of service b) Delivery of services to those identified c) Timeliness of provision of services	CRP received two reports from the Pathways to Well-being Steering Committee (February 22, 2016 and October 17, 2016). CRP finds that the Pathways to Wellbeing Program in San Mateo County is complying with (and in some cases exceeding) established requirements and is utilizing innovative methods to do so. A stumbling block to effective monitoring and evaluation of this program is the lack of a shared database. The Steering Committee is taking steps to remedy this situation.

d) Utilization of innovative/promising new therapeutic methods, e.g. Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics	In the upcoming year, the Steering Committee will be supplementing its quantitative evaluation approach with a qualitative evaluation aimed at ensuring the quality of therapeutic services
2. CRP recommends that CFS continue its efforts to place children in the child welfare system within San Mateo County in accordance with state-wide requirements of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which goes into effect in 2017. Regular updates to CRP should include the following: a) Current number of foster homes in San Mateo County in various demographics. b) Trends in increase or decrease of available foster homes within San Mateo County. c) Strategies for recruiting homes that can meet the needs of targeted populations. d) Services provided to support foster families.	CFS leadership (Loc Nguyen, Jenell Thompson and Natasha Bourbannaise) have been providing ongoing information about preparation to launch CCR reform in January 2017. CRP has a clear understanding of the recruiting needs and challenges as efforts are made to increase the number of in-county resource homes. More information is needed about the effectiveness of the contract with Star Vista to target key audiences for recruiting foster care providers. The CFS monthly dashboard provides data about the trends related to foster homes in San Mateo County. At the March 2016 CRP meeting, CRP received information about the supports provided by CFS to resource families.
Issues of Concern	
A. The impact of domestic violence on children and training for first responders on trauma informed care.	In April 2016, the Executive Director of Communities Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) provided CRP with information about the status of collaborative work with law enforcement agencies in situations where children are in a domestic violence setting.
B. Disproportionate representation within the child welfare system.	CRP receives monthly data reports that contain information on the representation of the various population groups in the child welfare system. The issue of disproportionate representation continues as a concern.
C. Commercially sexually exploited children in San Mateo County, including the work of the County's multi-disciplinary team that is addressing CSEC and the status of two CSEC homes located in San Mateo County.	CRP received regular updates on efforts to address the issue of CSEC starting in April 2016. There are a number of efforts in the county to address this issue.

SMCRP Recommendations for 2016-17

1. **Continue to implement Pathways to Wellbeing through a collaborative process involving Children and Family Services, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and other providers, employing evidence-based and innovative models of service delivery. Address the problem of accessing accurate data in a timely and efficient manner and continue to provide needed services to youth who are leaving the system.**

2. **Implement Continuum of Care Reform with attention to the effectiveness of foster home recruiting strategies, the impact of relative placements and efforts to reduce the number of children placed out of county.**

SMCRP will explore and monitor the following areas of interest:

1. The impacts of domestic violence as one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) – explore the numbers of affected children in SM County, evidence of polyvictimization, training available to first responders and any prevention strategies that are in use.

2. Request bi-annual updates on efforts to address Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in San Mateo County.

3. Monitor the status of disproportionate representation in the child welfare system using the monthly CFS Dashboard and other sources that are available.

Discuss how the CRP recommendations will be disseminated to county and state officials as well as the public and how the CRP will handle any comments made.

SMCRP will provide the Director of the San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA), the Director of Children and Family Services (CFS) and the Chief Probation Officer with a complete copy of the Annual Report and Recommendations at the time the report is submitted to the State Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) in November. The report will also be posted on the SMCRP website (www.smcrp.org) and shared with the local Child Abuse Prevention Council, known as the Children's Collaborative Action Team (CCAT).

This year, SMCRP has launched a new e-newsletter that will be published on a quarterly basis and sent to key stakeholders in San Mateo County. In the Winter Issue of this newsletter, the recommendations for 2017 will be highlighted. Any comments that result from this process will be presented to SMCRP for consideration.

Future Directions

SMCRP will continue to meet monthly to monitor its recommendations and the delivery of child welfare services in San Mateo County. Time in each meeting will be allocated to reports and presentations relevant to the Panel's stated interests. In addition, there will be an opportunity for new issues/ concerns to be identified and explored. While local funding for child welfare services has improved, SMCRP recognizes the continuing fiscal constraints that child welfare organizations are experiencing. The Panel will continue to look for ways to promote and support productive collaboration that leverages resources to achieve shared goals.

Panel self-evaluation activities (**Workplan Goal #4**)

For many years, SMCRP has conducted an annual self-review, using a locally developed evaluation form. This process takes place in August and September as the annual report is being developed. Panel members review the compiled results of the evaluation and discuss any concerns. The compiled results of this year's self-assessment (and results from prior years) are below:

San Mateo County Citizen Review Panel
Annual Panel Self-Evaluation
August 2016

10 responses/12 panel members
Actual Scores

	Scale = 1 (disagree)			to	5 (agree)
1. CRP members take their role seriously and conscientiously prepare for each meeting.	1	2	3 *1*	4 *3*	5 *6*
2. CRP members place a high priority on regular meeting attendance.	1	2	3 *3*	4 *6*	5 *1*
3. CRP is working to address priority issues relating to the safety and welfare of children involved with the child welfare system in San Mateo County.	1	2	3	4 *3*	5 *7*
4. CRP members feel informed enough to Participate in the discussion of agenda items.	1	2	3 *3*	4 *3*	5 *4*
5. CRP receives the technical assistance it needs to do its job well.	1	2 *1*	3 *2*	4 *2*	5 *5*
6. CRP receives the information it needs from Children and Family Services in an understandable format and in a timely manner.	1	2	3 *2*	4 *3*	5 *5*
7. CRP receives the facilitation support it needs to do its work in an efficient and inclusive manner.	1	2	3	4	5 *10*
8. CRP members feel satisfied with the contribution they are making to improving the safety and well-being of children in this community	1	2	3 *1*	4 *6*	5 *3*

Comments / Suggestions

I am new to the team and learn new things every meeting. I look forward to becoming a more active member.

Facilitation is outstanding.

There are a lot of good ideas discussed about ways to improve upon the CRP ideas such as creating a webpage with updated info on our CRP mission and a list of panel members with short bios, community outreach via social media, etc. Creating a priorities list for some of these suggestions and some form of task manager would be useful to keep us focused on progress on these implementation suggestions.

4. Public input (Workplan Goal # 4)

SMCRP received very little direct public input during this reporting period. There were a few website queries, but the content was case-specific and the messages were referred to Children and Family Services for follow-up.

The Panel continues to take the following approach to seeking public input after this annual report is developed and published:

- Children's Collaborative Action Team (CCAT) – members of SMCRP attend CCAT meetings and monitor for new issues of concern identified by this group.
- Provide interested groups within the child welfare system and in the community with presentations about CRP's work.
- Explore use of social media strategies to publicize the work of CRP and the child welfare system in San Mateo County.

5. Attachments

- Updated roster of Citizen Review Panel Members, including their affiliations (Attachment A)
- San Mateo County Children and Family Services Response to CRP Recommendations 2015-16 (Attachment B)
- Notes from SMCRP meetings: July, August, September, October 2016 (Attachment C)

Attachment A

Roster and Terms as of November 2016

The following table reflects the status of current CRP members.

Name	Affiliation	Term
Baumel, Jan	Licensed Educational Psychologist and Retired Special Educator, Community Member	Fourth term – 8/15-9/18
Brosnan, Michael	Human Trafficking Program Coordinator SMC Sheriff's Office	First term – 5/16 – 5/19
Cherniss, David	Juvenile Mediation Program	Fourth term – 8/15-9/18
DeMarco, Toni	Behavioral Health and Recovery Services	Second term - 10/16-9/19
Loewy, Ben	Administrator, SM County Office of Education	Fourth term – 8/15-9/18
Manthorne, Cori	Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), Director of Programs	First term 9/13-9/16 Second term 9/16-9/19
McCallum, Jamila	Edgewood Center	Fourth term – 8/15-9/18
Miller, Bonnie	Private Defenders Office	Fourth term – 9/16-9/19
Monaghan, Ryan	Lieutenant, San Mateo Police Department	Second term – 9/16-9/19
Plotnikoff, Bernie	Retired Child Abuse Prevention professional, Community member	Fourth term – 8/15-9/18
Ragosta, John	Administrator, Advocates for Children	Resigned 7/18/16
Ruth, Kibbe	Clergy representative	First term – 10/15-8/18
Stewart. Ginny	Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Community Member	Third term – 9/14-9/17
Taylor, Adriana	CASA of San Mateo County	First term – 9/16-9/19

Attachment B

San Mateo County Human Services Agency
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES (CFS)

Response to
Citizen Review Panel (CRP)
Recommendations for 2015-2016

Recommendation #1	**1. CRP recommends that Children and Family Services (CFS) and other divisions of the child welfare system involved in the "Pathways to Wellbeing Program", including Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), evaluate the effectiveness of mental health services for children and report to CRP semi-annually on the following:** **1. Identification of those in need of service** **2. Delivery of services to those identified** **3. Timeliness of provision of services** **4. Utilization of innovative/promising new therapeutic methods, e.g. Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics e.g. Neurosequential**
Identification of those in need of service	All children that become part of an OPEN child welfare case will be screened for mental health needs utilizing the Mental Health Screening Tool (MHST). The initial MHST is administered by the SW initiating the opening of the case; in most cases, this would be the Emergency Response SW. Subsequent MHSTs are then completed by the case carrying SW during the life of the case.
*Medical Necessity (see attachment)	According to information provided by BHRS, eligibility for services under Medi-Cal reimbursement requires, the service meet 3 criteria for medical necessity: diagnostic, impairment and intervention related.
Delivery of services to those identified	The MHST is to be administered within two (2) business days of the case opening (i.e., initial detention / voluntary case determination), and is administered to all 0 to 20 year old children and youth upon opening a child welfare case. There is a separate tool for ages 0-5 years and 6 to 20 years (see attached)
Timeliness of provision of services	The MHST is also administered: • After a psychiatric hospitalization of 24 hours or more; • Within five (5) months of most recently completed MHST and/or for court reviews; • In group home placement levels 10 or above; and/or • After two (2) placement changes. If the MHST indicates a need for a mental health services referral, the Social Worker submits a referral packet to the PTW Coordinator. The

PTW Coordinator reviews the referral packet, ensures all necessary paperwork and documentation is attached, and submits the packet to BHRS. Once all referral documents are submitted, BHRS triages and directs the referrals to the appropriate mental health provider for an assessment.

Mental health assessments are completed within 60 days to determine eligibility. Depending upon the assessment findings, provision of services are then made accordingly.

Delivery of services to those identified

The MHST is to be administered within two (2) business days of the case opening (i.e., initial detention / voluntary case determination), and is administered to all 0 to 20 year old children and youth upon opening a child welfare case.

There is a separate tool for ages 0-5 years and 6 to 20 years (see attached)

Timeliness of provision of services

The MHST is also administered:
After a psychiatric hospitalization of 24 hours or more;
Within five (5) months of most recently completed MHST and/or for court reviews;
In group home placement levels 10 or above; and/or
After two (2) placement changes.
If the MHST indicates a need for a mental health services referral, the Social Worker submits a referral packet to the PTW Coordinator. The PTW Coordinator reviews the referral packet, ensures all necessary paperwork and documentation is attached, and submits the packet to BHRS. Once all referral documents are submitted, BHRS triages and directs the referrals to the appropriate mental health provider for an assessment.

Health assessments are completed within 60 days to determine eligibility. Depending upon the assessment findings, provision of services are then made accordingly.

Utilization of innovative/ promising new therapeutic methods, e.g. Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics

The specific therapeutic model used would be based on the specific clinician. Many of the BHRS staff do use a trauma-informed model and some are also trained in the use of NMT.

Recommendation #2

CRP recommends that CFS continue its efforts to place children in the child welfare system within San Mateo County in accordance with state-wide requirements of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)

which goes into effect in 2017.

Regular updates to CRP should include the following:

a) **Current number of foster homes in San Mateo County in various demographics.**
b) **Trends in increase or decrease of available foster homes within San Mateo County.**
c) **Strategies for recruiting homes that can meet the needs of targeted populations.**
d) **Services provided to support foster families.**

Current number of foster homes in San Mateo County in various demographics.

According to the most recent InfoView report there are 84 foster homes. The demographics are as follows:

- A little over 50% of the homes are foster / adopt homes as opposed to foster only
- The majority of the homes are located in Pacifica (17%), San Mateo (17%) and San Carlos (12%)

Trends in increase or decrease of available foster homes within San Mateo County.

- 10 foster family licenses were closed between January 2016 and April 2016
    - Reasons for closure included retirement, health challenges, international adoption, pregnancies, and divorce
- 4 applications were approved between January 2016 and April 2016
- New-Families receive correspondence from Licensing while participating in Resource Parent Training (RPT). These families are contacted again once they have completed RPT. The goal of these contacts is to offer the family the assistance of a Licensing Social Worker should they have questions or need help completing application materials.

Strategies for recruiting homes that can meet needs of targeted populations

In 2015, the Agency went into a two year contract/partnership with StarVista for the purpose of providing foster and adoptive homes for children in the Child Welfare system by recruiting in –county resource (foster) family homes in San Mateo County community.

StarVista has:

- developed new outreach strategies and marketing materials;
- partnerships with community groups on recruitment efforts;
- joint recruitments efforts with surrounding counties;
- targeted recruitment of homes for sibling sets, teenagers,

AB 12 Non-Minor Dependents and youth with challenging behaviors.

Services provided to support foster families

The Agency provides support services to the foster families in several ways.

- Monthly support group meeting for families who are raising teenagers;
- Monthly support group meeting for foster families who provide care for children with medical issues, and
- Monthly support group for newly licensed foster homes.
- Mentor program where experienced foster parents are paired to mentor newly licensed foster parent.
- Two (2) annual foster parent recognition events.
- Child care assistance and referrals for employed foster parents
- A foster parent ombudsperson and a foster parent advocate.

Additional Comment:

In addition to monitoring its two formal recommendations, SMCRP will continue to explore and discuss the following issues of concern:

The impact of domestic violence on children and training for first responders on trauma informed care.

Training was conducted on June 15th, 2016 – Violence and Trauma: The Impact of Childhood Development, Behavior and Learning

The training defines trauma, identify triggers, signs and symptoms, and recognize trauma driven behaviors from a neuro-physiological point of reference. The training allowed participants to examine ways to handle challenging behaviors and promote inner calming. An additional training is scheduled for July 21st, 2016

Disproportionate representation within the child welfare system.

In 2010 the agency began a pilot to look at disproportionality within the San Mateo County Child Welfare system. Based on the results of the pilot we have rolled out, agency wide, a practice that threads throughout fairness, and equity. Our agency is committed to advocating for fairness and equity for the children and families we serve.

Commercially sexually exploited children in San Mateo County, including the work of the County's multi-disciplinary team that is addressing CSEC

Various steering committees exist within the County that addresses the needed response for CSEC youth in this County.

The County of San Mateo Blue Ribbon Commission on Foster Care Subcommittee on Human Trafficking (BRC-HT)) has met bimonthly and consists of members and leadership from Children and Family Services, and community-based organizations who aim to develop a collaborative community response plan for CSEC.

In addition, the Children and Youth System of Care (CYSOC) Committee is a collaborative group, consisting of County agencies aimed at identifying and addressing children and families with the highest risks and needs within the County. CYSOC consists of leadership from the Human Services Agency Children and Family Services, the County's mental health program Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), Probation, and the County Office of Education who meet bi-weekly to identify and structure

	approaches to respond to vulnerable County populations, including CSEC. A combination of leadership from both of these committees act as our County Steering Committee that include leadership from Child Welfare, Probation, BHRS, Public Health and the Court. On a monthly basis, we have a MDT Group that meets to conduct case reviews, discuss promising practices and gaps in services. Members of this group include staff from the aforementioned departments as well as CASA, RTS, Differential Response partners and other CBOs.
The status of two CSEC homes serving San Mateo County.	This is not an item that the Agency can speak to as they are privately owned and run facilities.

Attachment C

Notes from SMCRP Meetings

San Mateo County

Citizen Review Panel

CRP's mission is to assess the child welfare system in the county and make data-driven recommendations for continuous improvement that will help to ensure the safety and well-being of San Mateo County children and their families.

Notes from Meeting

July 18, 2016
Human Services Agency Offices
1 Davis Drive, Montara Room, Belmont CA 94002

Present: Baumel, Brosnan, Chang, Cherniss, Loewy, Manthorne, McCallum, Miller, Monaghan, Plotnikoff, Ruth, Stewart, Szyper
Excused: De Marco, Ragosta
Others: Cormier, Nguyen, Thompson, Brown

Follow-up from last meeting

- Review notes from last meeting – make changes/corrections
  Bernie's name was added to the list of attendees. There were no corrections.

CRP/Fatality Review Function

Pat followed up with Marja Sainio, our OCAP liaison re. the question of whether any CRPs in CA also served a Fatality Review Function. The response was no. None of the three CA CAPs fills this function.

Update on Membership

John Ragosta and Lauren Szyper are resigning from the CRP. John sent a message to the Panel explaining that he is leaving his position with CASA and moving out of state. Lauren, present today, is leaving her Differential Response role with the Daly City Peninsula Partnership to pursue her education.

Ben Loewy, CRP Chair, thanked Lauren for her service and provide a small token of recognition. Pat will deliver the token to John at his August going away party.

Both members are working with their organizations to ensure continuing active participation with CRP.

Jamila contacted Sarah Poulain of Star Vista and encouraged selection of a representative to replace Shanthi on the Panel. Sarah will follow up.

Jamily has also explored with Shanthi Karemcheti the idea of returning to the Panel as a community member.

Letter to Board of Supervisors re. CRP
With Jan's assistance, Pat drafted a letter asking the Board of Supervisors to identify potential community members interested in serving on the Citizen Review Panel. Upon receiving the

Panel's approval of the letter, Pat will forward it to Ben for his signature and it will be sent to Warren Slocum, current President of the Board.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Team – Jenell Thompson and Denicia Cormier
Jenell told the Panel that SMC, because of its pro-active planning on this issue, received a grant from the state for $300,000 as a Tier 2 County. This funding requires the County to provide education, training and services to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). The SMC Board of Supervisors had already allocated Measure A funding to support the position of Human Trafficking Coordinator, currently held by Mike Brosnan.

The state funding requires collaborative participation by Child Welfare, Probation, Mental Health, Public Health (in this case the Health System) and the Courts.

In our county, we have the Child and Youth System of Care Steering Committee that meets monthly. The CSEC collaborative is a part of this group. An Advisory Committee has been appointed and now there are monthly Multi-disciplinary Team meetings for case reviews and promoting positive practices in dealing with CSEC youth.

The CSEC Team puts on an annual education and training event with participation by CSEC survivors. The training is mostly *discipline-specific (Law enforcement, clinicians, etc.)*. The overall goal is promoting support for survivors.

Earlier this year, the CSEC Team, with many county and community partners, put on an awareness-raising event at Courthouse Square in Redwood City.

There is interest in developing a Team Decision Making approach for use in CSEC crisis situations. An RFP is currently out, since this would need to be a 24-hour/day service.

Finally, the Team is looking at sponsoring a Winter Provider's Conference to build capacity and resources for dealing with the array of needs presented by CSEC youth.

Denicia, a CFS social worker, started to work with CSEC youth nine years ago. She is a certified trainer and recognizes the need for providing human services staff and community members with skills for identifying and supporting CSEC youth. She spoke about her former client "Jolie" a CSEC survivor, who is currently working as a youth advocate, reaching out to youth in a variety of settings and encouraging them to make use of help that is available.

Panel members were very interested in the information presented by Jenell and Denicia and had a number of questions about how they might be supportive and helpful to efforts to build resources for CSEC. Jenell noted that the current work is focused on expanding the use of the trauma informed practice model by practitioners and enhancing the support network available to survivors of CSEC. There is growing political awareness in the County and in Sacramento

along with interest in putting together data to inform the development of care systems. ASR, a research company, has been contracted in SMC to conduct a series of interviews with CSEC stakeholders to gather some of this information.

The Panel expressed interest in having regular updates from Jenell about the CSEC efforts and asked for a basic description of the work that is currently going on along with any facts/data to support the need for such work.

System Improvement Plan Report – Jenell Thompson
Jenell is still working on this report, so it was tabled for this meeting.

Updates from CRP Members
Paul Chang told the Panel that he has accepted a full time position with the City of Berkeley. This new role will mean he can no longer serve on the Panel. He thanked the Panel for its work.

Disproportionate representation in CWS – review of Dashboard Data
The Panel reviewed information on the June 2016 CFS Dashboard. It shows that while African Americans make up 1.9% of the County's population, they account for 6% of children in referrals, 12% of substantiated referrals and 15% of children in foster care. This disproportionate representation is not a new phenomenon and is common around the state. That being said, Loc told the Panel that compared to the 26% African American representation in care in the past, the 15% is a significant improvement. CFS has looked at its own system and key decision points, to try to detect areas that might positively impact this situation. In addition, the accreditation process that has been used by CFS requires high standards of practice. The final factors could be the County's demonstrated support of child welfare, through the allocation of general funds to support staffing increases and supplement the overall funding available to support children and families in the system.

Panel members noted that in this time of racial distrust of public systems such as law enforcement, it will be important to be able to reassure people that CFS is working on addressing disproportionate representation.

Report from Probation

Monthly Probation Statistics for CRP	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Wards On Probation (not including Informal)	401	395	378	365	339	322
Placed Out of the Home				18	22	21
Placed Out of State				0	0	1
Joint Jurisdiction with CFS (241.1)				3	3	12
Probation Lead				1	1	
Placed Out of State				0	0	0
Child Welfare Lead				2	2	8

AB 12 Non-minor Dependents	4	4	3	4	3	4
Wraparound	12	12	15	12	12	13
Family Preservation Program (FPP)	37	36	32	29	30	28
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)	10	10	11	12	8	7
Camp Glenwood - boys (on last day of month)	13	19	23	23	14	20
Camp Kemp - girls (on last day of month)	7	7	10	8	6	5
Juvenile Hall (on last day of month)	83	81	62	85	81	75
Post Disposition	52	39	35	48	44	48
Probation Violation	10	3	1	1	9	3
New Law Violation	20	36	24	24	28	22

CFS Director's Report – Loc Nguyen

- Loc reported that there will be a site visit by the Accreditation Team in September.

- CCR is moving forward toward the January implementation date. The State Association of Child Welfare Directors is working with the state to address a number of implementation challenges associated with the original tight timeline. The state is showing some willingness to provide flexibility while maintaining focus on the intent of the legislation.

Due to insufficient time, there was no Closed Session.

San Mateo County

Citizen Review Panel

CRP's mission is to assess the child welfare system in the county and make data-driven recommendations for continuous improvement that will help to ensure the safety and well-being of San Mateo County children and their families.

Notes from Meeting

August 15, 2016
Human Services Agency Offices
1 Davis Drive, Montara Room, Belmont CA 94002

Panelists Present: Jan Baumel, Mike Brosnan, David Cherniss, Toni DeMarco, Ben Loewy, Cori Manthorne, Jamila McCallum, Bonnie Miller, Bernie Plotnikoff, Kibbie Ruth
Excused: Ginny Stewart
Absent: Ryan Monaghan
Others: Vielka McCarthy, Loc Nguyen, Adriana Taylor (CASA), Pat Brown

Panel members introduced themselves to potential new member Adriana Taylor. Adriana has taken John Ragosta's position as program director at CASA and she is interested in joining the Panel.

Follow-up from last meeting

- **Review notes from last meeting** – make changes/corrections
  One correction to the notes - CSEC is Commercially Sexually Exploited Children.

- **Update on Membership**
  There are three positions currently vacant on the Panel (John Ragosta, Lauren Szyper and Paul Chang). Toni DeMarco, Cori Manthorne, Bonnie Miller and Ryan Monaghan are eligible for re-election to an additional term since their current terms expire in September 2016.

  Adriana is interested in representing CASA and she will submit her application to the Panel next month.

- **Letter to Board of Supervisors re. CRP**
  The letter, inviting Supervisors to identify potential community members interested in child welfare issues, was submitted to Warren Slocum, President of the Board of Supervisors following the July CRP meeting.

- **CRP Community Updates**
  Pat reported that she is working with PCRC on developing a template for the CRP newsletter that would be used to maintain regular outreach efforts about the Panel and the child welfare system in SMC. The goal is to develop the first edition and send it out by the end of September.

This report led to a discussion about the current logo and mission statement used by CRP. Some on the Panel feel it is time to update the logo and mission statement, while others feel the current logo is representative of the Panel's work and emphasizes inclusive support for children in the child welfare system.

The Panel agreed to revisit this topic in November, following the development of the Annual Report and Recommendations.

CRP Tip Sheet #7 – Using Data to Enhance the Work of CRPs
National Citizen Review Panels, the professional organization for CRPs is publishing regular tip sheets. The most recent, Tip Sheet 7, is entitled *Using Data to Enhance The Work Of Citizen Review Panels*. A copy of the tip sheet was forwarded to all Panel members prior to this meeting.
SMCRP has been using local data for years to track child welfare practices and this paper validates the importance of this approach. The paper also highlights the following points:

- Data requests need to flow from a strategic plan (in SMC's case, the annual report and recommendations.)
- Data requests should take into consideration the work required to fulfill the request.
- Data needs to be carefully interpreted and review is best conducted in a collaborative fashion with the child welfare agency.
- Data should be seen as one source of information – qualitative assessments can round out the picture painted by data.

Updates from CRP Members
Jamila: will follow up with Star Vista and Shanthi about CRP membership.

Jan: noted that CASA is having a fund-raiser on Sunday, 8/28. For more information visit the CASA website: wwwbiddingforgood.come/casaofsanmateocounty

Cori: CORA has funding for two new program areas – services to children and LGBTQ clients. She is happy to arrange a presentation for CRP about these programs.

CFS Response to SMCRP Recommendations in 2015-16 Annual Report – Jenell Thompson
See attached response – this information was presented to CRP at the July meeting and Jenell was present at this meeting to address any questions.

System Improvement Plan Report – Jenell Thompson and Debra Pomeroy
(The following notes are highlights from the Annual SIP Progress Report – March 2015-16. CRP was provided with a full copy of the report.)

CFS entered this third year of the SIP having made good progress toward meeting its timelines and performance outcomes. As last year's report focused on developing baseline quantitative data, this year's report focuses on the progress made in implementing strategies and their overall effectiveness.

During this past year, changes were made to some of the tactics. This includes moving our Parent Partner Program within CFS as a part of the Pathways to Well-Being (formerly known as

the Katie A.) program; CFS has a new contract with a new service provider to manage our Centralized Visitation Services; CFS brought on a community-based organization to recruit new foster homes in San Mateo County. In addition, a contractor was hired through the Bay Area Academy to assess CWS/CMS data entry, to review trends and identify any need for staff training. The contractor offered several recommendations based on noted strengths and areas for growth.

Probation

In the third year of the implementation of the SIP strategies, Probation once again had a shift in management responsibilities. Probation welcomed two (2) new Directors to the Juvenile Services Division along with a new Placement Probation Services Manager (PSM) as well as a Management Analyst. Probation is currently in the process of designing its new case management system called the Probation Information Management System (PIMS). PIMS is designed to manage all adult and juvenile client information and provide enhanced data analysis. Currently, Probation client information and data is housed in antiquated systems and managed across multiple spreadsheets. The goal is to have PIMS replace most, if not all, of these systems in order to provide a more seamless flow of client information.

The new Probation team continued and enhanced its partnership with HSA to carry out the strategies. In 2016, the Probation team will be carrying out the timelines as they are laid out in this annual report.

System Improvement Strategies

CHILD WELFARE STRATEGY #1

Develop a Parent Mentor Program that employs former birth parents to become mentors for parents who are currently involved in the reunification process. These parent mentors will serve as mentors, advocates and peer support to families who are currently involved with the child welfare system. These parent mentors will engage families and partner with them as they navigate the system in order to improve time to reunification. The parent mentors will also serve as the parents' voice within the child welfare system in order to identify areas of system improvement that will ultimately better serve all families and children.

CHILD WELFARE STRATEGY #2

Develop visitation centers and implement throughout San Mateo County in order to improve the quality and quantity of visits between parents and children. Visitation centers will be family friendly and engaging to families who utilize its services in order to improve the rates of reunification and improve child-parent relationships.

CHILD WELFARE STRATEGY #3:

Strengthen the use of Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings throughout the life of a case, from the entry into foster care, during placement changes, and through transition to permanency. Utilize the teaming process to engage families in making decisions for their children and families to prevent out of home care, encourage timely reunification and/or find early permanency.

CHILD WELFARE STRATEGY #4
Implement a recruitment and retention plan to increase the number of Resource Families available to meet the specific needs of children and youth in care. Families will be neighborhood based, culturally sensitive and located primarily in the communities where the children live. The target population includes the following groups: Cultural/Religion/Language (i.e. Latino & African-American), Medically Fragile, Siblings, and Teens, Adoptions.

PROBATION STRATEGY #5
Enhance Family Finding efforts and permanency planning by engaging extended families, as needed while the youth is in care/placement.

PROBATION STRATEGY #6
Partner with Child Welfare to establish a Parent Mentor/Orientation/Leadership Program that will provide support to parents involved with the Juvenile Probation Department to help them navigate the probation system and engage in timely reunification with their youth. (Original strategy 2012)

ANALYSIS of TDM Strategy

Overall, utilization of TDM's over the past calendar year has remained stable. Although County Children & Family Services continues to see the most need in "imminent risk" situations,
San Mateo is now seeing utilization of TDM meetings more consistently in "Emergency Placement" and "Exit from Placement" situations. 96% of children remained in the home following TDMs related to imminent risk situations.

San Mateo County Children & Family Services is mindful that there are many contributing factors to family reunification, all of which cannot be controlled for at this time. Qualitatively we know that families that received TDM services are afforded the opportunity to participate in the development of a family reunification transitional plan in a formal process, during which services and supports are identified and action steps outlined. Further analysis of the data is required to determine other potential outcomes, such as time to reunification, and what impact the TDM process may or may not have on length of time.

Currently, San Mateo County Children & Family Services is evaluating TDM utilization policy, in order to identify priority areas of focus, so that targeted messaging can be achieved. Utilization reports are in the process of being revised in order to capture situational data related to those instances where a TDM was not held but should have been held based on existing policy. Historically, the Department has experienced natural barriers to TDM utilization, to include but not limited to: staffing deficiencies, erratic caseloads for both Intake and Continuing Units, lack of support staff and resources.

Team Decision Making meetings have proven to effectively engage youth and families in the child welfare process. Advanced facilitation training provided to the TDM facilitators has enhanced the level of group work being accomplished under the TDM model. This includes but it not limited to strategies related to Coaching, Motivational Interviewing and Safety Organized

Practice. As such, and based on the data, it appears that families and the teams of individuals participating in the process are reaching positive placement related decisions through utilization of TDM.

OUTCOME MEASURES NOT MEETING STATE/NATIONAL STANDARDS Child Welfare

The following outcome data are from Quarter 2-2015

3-P3 Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more

Current performance is 21.8%, just below the 28% standard

Obstacles, systemic issues, and environmental conditions that may be contributing to underperformance include:

- Lack of foster homes for older youth
- Family finding efforts are not consistently conducted through the life of a case
- Transitional conferences are not always being conducted consistently or timely, allowing for better permanency planning

3-P5 Placement stability

Current performance is 5.88 placement moves per 1,000 days in care, compared to the national standard of less than 4.12

Obstacles, systemic issues, and environmental conditions that may be contributing to underperformance include:

- TDMs are not being fully utilized as a strategy to maintain placements
- Youth are being placed with relatives who may be ambivalent and unsure about the long-term placement for these youth.
- There is a lack of support services for relatives
- Youth are being placed outside of the county and the distance impacts placement stability.
- Receiving home counts as a placement; youth are placed there until a suitable and appropriate placement is found.

2F Monthly Visits (Out of Home)

Current performance is 93.9% just below the national standard of 95%.

Obstacles, systemic issues, and environmental conditions that may be contributing to underperformance include:

- Caseloads continued to increase this past year.
- Data entry issues; lag time of social worker to enter contacts into CWS/CMS.

California Child and Family Services Review

Probation 3-P3 Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more

Probation examined exits to permanency (24 months in care) as one of its outcome measures. According to the Quarter 2 2015 data extract, there was no youth eligible for this measure.

Report from Probation – Vielka McCarthy

Monthly Probation Statistics for CRP	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	July-16
Wards On Probation (not including Informal)	401	395	378	365	339	322	324
Placed Out of the Home				18	22	21	20
Placed Out of State				0	0	1	1
Joint Jurisdiction with CFS (241.1)				3	3	12	12
Probation Lead				1	1		0
Placed Out of State				0	0	0	0
Child Welfare Lead				2	2	8	1
AB 12 Non-minor Dependents	4	4	3	4	3	4	4
Wraparound	12	12	15	12	12	13	8
Family Preservation Program (FPP)	37	36	32	29	30	28	30
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)	10	10	11	12	8	7	7
Camp Glenwood - boys (on last day of month)	13	19	23	23	14	20	22
Camp Kemp - girls (on last day of month)	7	7	10	8	6	5	4
Juvenile Hall (on last day of month)	83	81	62	85	81	75	74
Post Disposition	52	39	35	48	44	48	48
Probation Violation	10	3	1	1	9	3	4
New Law Violation	20	36	24	24	28	22	20

Vielka noted that Probation is implementing new software (Probation Information Management System) that will make it easier to produce reports and access data.

CFS Director's Report – Loc Nguyen

- Status of Accreditation Process – the accreditation report has been completed and submitted. The next milestone in the process will be the site visit, which is scheduled to begin on September 25.

- Loc noted that the Data Dashboard reflects the lowest numbers he has seen during his tenure as director, echoing the information provided by probation about new cases.
- There were 26 social worker vacancies to be filled. At this time, 17 new workers are going through their initial training and will be starting work soon. Recruitment for the remaining positions is still going on.

Adjourn to Closed Session – 1:10 PM

- **Annual CRP Self-Evaluation**
  Panel members took time to complete the Self-evaluation Form that has been used for several years. There was also a brief discussion about the impact of the Panel's work over a period of time. Several accomplishments were identified for new members and there was agreement that as we are doing community outreach, these impacts should be described.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.

San Mateo County

Citizen Review Panel

CRP's mission is to assess the child welfare system in the county and make data-driven recommendations for continuous improvement that will help to ensure the safety and well-being of San Mateo County children and their families.

Notes from Meeting

September 19, 2016
Human Services Agency Offices
1 Davis Drive, Montara Room, Belmont CA 94002

Present: Baumel, Brosnan, Cherniss, Loewy, Manthorne, McCallum, Miller, Plotnikoff, Ruth, Taylor
Excused: DeMarco, Monaghan, Stewart
Others: Nguyen, McCarthy, Schechter (PCRC), Brown

Pat introduced Debbie Schechter from PCRC. She is assisting with the development of the CRP outreach newsletter. She is present to learn more about CRP. Participants then went around the table introducing themselves.

Follow-up from last meeting

- Review notes from last meeting – make changes/corrections
  There was one grammar correction to the notes.
- Election of Adriana Taylor to SMCRP
  Chairman Ben Loewy called for a motion to elect Adriana to a three-year term on CRP. On a motion by Jan Baumel and a second by Bernie Plotnikoff, Adriana was unanimously elected to her first term on the Panel.
- Re-election of Cori Manthorne, Bonnie Miller and Ryan Monaghan
  Ben then called for a motion to re-elect Cori, Bonnie and Ryan to new terms on the Panel.
  On a motion by Jan Baumel and second by Bernie Plotnikoff, Cori, Bonnie and Ryan were re-elected to new three-year terms.
- October visit by OCAP Representatives
  Pat reported that Marja Sainio and Carrie Pleig will be attending the next CRP meeting. Marja is the current OCAP liaison and Carrie works with San Mateo County staff on other projects. Marja has connected Pat with Diane Kellegrew, facilitator for the Ventura CRP. They will be talking on September 20th.

Updates from CRP Members

- Mike Brosnan reported that in his second year as Human Trafficking Coordinator he will be expanding his focus from law enforcement to include an array of community groups (education, emergency medical services, dispatchers, therapists and BHRS). He also noted that there is a new strategy that calls for interventions with potential "buyers" of

commercially sexually exploited services. It includes trained volunteer males who talk with other males by phone.

Findings re. Recommendations

The Panel reviewed the two recommendations submitted in the 2015-16 Annual report and discussed their findings. These findings are summarized in the following table:

Recommendation	Finding
1. CRP recommends that Children and Family Services (CFS) and other divisions of the child welfare system involved in the "Pathways to Wellbeing Program", including Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), evaluate the effectiveness of mental health services for children and report to CRP semi-annually on the following: e) Identification of those in need of service f) Delivery of services to those identified g) Timeliness of provision of services h) Utilization of innovative/promising new therapeutic methods, e.g. Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics	To date, CRP has received one report from the Pathways to Well-being Steering Committee (February 22, 2016). The second report is due in October. A finding relative to this recommendation will be completed following that report. CRP has received good information about the "expectations" for Pathways to Wellbeing, but more information about implementation is needed.
2. CRP recommends that CFS continue its efforts to place children in the child welfare system within San Mateo County in accordance with state-wide requirements of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which goes into effect in 2017. Regular updates to CRP should include the following: e) Current number of foster homes in San Mateo County in various demographics. f) Trends in increase or decrease of available foster homes within San Mateo County. g) Strategies for recruiting homes that can meet the needs of targeted populations. h) Services provided to support foster families.	CFS leadership (Loc, Jenell and Natasha) have been providing ongoing information about preparation to launch the CCR reform in January 2017. CRP has a clear understanding of the recruiting needs and challenges as efforts are made to increase the number of in-county resource homes. More information is needed about the effectiveness of the contract with Star Vista to target key audiences for recruiting foster care providers. The CFS monthly dashboard provides data about the trends related to foster homes in San Mateo County. At the March CRP meeting, Jenell presented information about the supports provided by CFS to resource families.

Issues of Concern	
1) The impact of domestic violence on children and training for first responders on trauma informed care.	In April 2016, the Executive Director of CORA provided CRP with information about the status of collaborative work with law enforcement agencies in situations where children are in a domestic violence setting.
2) Disproportionate representation within the child welfare system.	CRP receives monthly data reports that contain information on the representation of the various population groups in the child welfare system. The issue of disproportionate representation continues as a concern.
3) Commercially sexually exploited children in San Mateo County, including the work of the County's multi-disciplinary team that is addressing CSEC and the status of two CSEC homes located in San Mateo County.	CRP received updates on efforts to address the issue of CSEC starting in April 2016.

Report from Probation – Vielka McCarthy

Monthly Probation Statistics	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	July-16	Aug-16
Wards On Probation (not including Informal)	401	395	378	365	339	322	324	359
Placed Out of the Home				18	22	21	20	18
Placed Out of State				0	0	1	1	1
Joint Jurisdiction with CFS (241.1)				3	3	12	12	10
Probation Lead				1	1		0	1
Placed Out of State				0	0	0	0	0
Child Welfare Lead				2	2	8	1	1
AB 12 Non-minor Dependents	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4
Wraparound	12	12	15	12	12	13	8	11
Family Preservation Program (FPP)	37	36	32	29	30	28	30	36
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)	10	10	11	12	8	7	7	7
Camp Glenwood - boys (on last day of month)	13	19	23	23	14	20	22	21

Camp Kemp - girls (on last day of month)	7	7	10	8	6	5	4	3
Juvenile Hall (on last day of month)	83	81	62	85	81	75	74	64
Post Disposition	52	39	35	48	44	48	48	36
Probation Violation	10	3	1	1	9	3	4	8
New Law Violation	20	36	24	24	28	22	20	20

Vielka reported that Probation is considering a request from another county to place youth at Camp Glenwood.

CFS Director's Report – Loc Nguyen

- Child Welfare Internal Dashboard –
  Loc answered several questions about the current dashboard – August 2016. He noted that the number of referrals for the past four months is the lowest since 2009. CFS is analyzing possible factors influencing this trend.
- He reported that currently there is cross-departmental planning underway in relation to how to best utilize Measure K funds (Extension of Measure A sales tax) should the extension pass in the November election.
- Status of Accreditation Process
  Loc has asked for two CRP members to take part in a site visit from the Council on Accreditation on September 26. Cori Manthorne and Bernie Plotnikoff have agreed to represent the Panel.

The Panel adjourned to a Closed Session at 1:10 PM to consider the annual CRP self-evaluation.

San Mateo County

Citizen Review Panel

CRP's mission is to assess the child welfare system in the county and make data-driven recommendations for continuous improvement that will help to ensure the safety and well-being of San Mateo County children and their families.

Notes from Meeting

October 17, 2016
Human Services Agency Offices
1 Davis Drive, Montara Room, Belmont CA 94002

Panel members present: Baumel, Cherniss, DeMarco, Loewy, Manthorne, Miller, Plotnikoff, Stewart
Excused: Brosnan, McCallum, Monaghan, Ruth, Taylor
Others: Marja Sainio and Carrie Fleig, CDSS, Natasha Bourbannais – CFS, Loc Nguyen, Pat Brown

Pat welcomed Marja Sainio and Carrie Fleig from the State Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP). Panel members then introduced themselves to Marja and Carrie.

Follow-up from last meeting

- Review notes from last meeting – There was one addition of information to the June 16 Probation Statistics – there were "0" joint jurisdiction with CFS cases that month.

- Chairman Ben Loewy called for a motion to re-elect Toni DeMarco to a new 3-year term on CRP. The motion was made by David Cherniss and seconded by Ginny Stewart. The Panel unanimously re-elected Toni.

Comments from CDSS/OCAP representatives: Marja Sainio and Carrie Fleig
Marja shared with the Panel the current plan for restructuring CRPs in CA.

Next year (2017) CDSS will move from providing grants to support CRPs to a contract system. This move is motivated by the legal opinion that CRPs are actually providing services to the state in return for the funding of CRPs. Within the next month or so, CDSS will issue a request for proposals for a CRP structure that will include CRPs in the five state regions defined by the CA Welfare Director's Association. There are 11 counties in the Bay Area region.

The successful proposal will define how the funding available (no figure provided) will be used to support these regional CRPs and a state level CRP.

SMCRP members were shocked and unhappy about the proposal. The following points summarize their thoughts and concerns:

1. A move to a regional approach will most likely result in loss of SMCRP member participation.
2. The value of local county focus is the ability to develop and maintain good working relationships among providers.
3. A move to a regional approach will present logistical challenges such as travel, different local needs and priorities and difficulty reaching agreement on focus areas.
4. There is recognition that CA is a big and diverse state and appreciation for the interest in better representing the child welfare needs in the state.
5. There was some skepticism about whether the gains in this restructuring will offset the losses.
6. There was concern that the overall funding allocated will not support the needs of the new structure.

Marja told the Panel she would convey their thoughts to her managers at OCAP.

Update on Team Decision Making Program - John Fong
John had to postpone his presentation until next month because of an issue accessing data.

Update on Pathways to Well-being: Toni DeMarco and Natasha Bourbannaise
Natasha provided the following statistics for the time period April-September 2016:

103 new Child Welfare Cases (Court and Voluntary) were opened.

<u>52 were Court cases:</u>

52 have updated Mental Health Screening Tools (MHSTs)
47 were referred to mental health services
2 were determined not to meet criteria for a referral to services
3 were connected prior to Child Welfare involvement.

<u>51 were Voluntary cases:</u>

48 have updated MHSTs
3 are pending on the MHST because the cases was opened the last week of September
45 have been referred for mental health services
3 are pending to send referrals while information is being gathered

Toni provided the following information from BHRS and the Steering Committee that is overseeing the implementation of Pathways to Well-being.

<u>Partners (0-5 years) - 58 referred</u>;

- 14 kids out of county;
- average days to first contact 19;
- 6 in services;
- 12 in assessment process;
- 6 no response from family

CW/Edgewood Collaborative (6-18 years) - 60 referrals;

- 5 already open;
- 27 assessments completed/19 qualified for services;
- 10 declined;
- 18 in assessment process.

TAY(18-23) - 11 referrals;

- 4 in services;
- 1 in assessment process;
- avg. days to first contact 28.

Out of County - 40 referrals all ages.

Complete findings re. 2015-16 recommendations and develop recommendations for 2017

Based on the information provided by Natasha and Toni, the SMCRP revised its findings re. Recommendation #1 – see table below:

Recommendation	Finding
1. CRP recommends that Children and Family Services (CFS) and other divisions of the child welfare system involved in the "Pathways to Wellbeing Program", including Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), evaluate the effectiveness of mental health services for children and report to CRP semi-annually on the following: a) Identification of those in need of service b) Delivery of services to those identified c) Timeliness of provision of services d) Utilization of innovative/promising new therapeutic methods, e.g. Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics	CRP received two reports from the Pathways to Well-being Steering Committee (February 22, 2016 and October 17, 2016). CRP finds that the Pathways to Wellbeing Program in San Mateo County is complying with (and in some cases exceeding) established requirements and is utilizing innovative methods to do so. A stumbling block to effective monitoring and evaluation of this program is the lack of a shared database. The Steering Committee is taking steps to remedy this situation. In the upcoming year, the Steering Committee will be supplementing its quantitative evaluation approach with a qualitative evaluation aimed at ensuring the quality of therapeutic services
2. CRP recommends that CFS continue its efforts to place children in the child welfare system within San Mateo County in accordance with state-wide requirements of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which goes into effect in 2017. Regular updates to CRP should include the following:	CFS leadership (Loc Nguyen, Jenell Thompson and Natasha Bourbannaise) have been providing ongoing information about preparation to launch CCR reform in January 2017. CRP has a clear understanding of the recruiting needs and challenges as efforts are made to increase the number of in-county resource homes.

a) Current number of foster homes in San Mateo County in various demographics. b) Trends in increase or decrease of available foster homes within San Mateo County. c) Strategies for recruiting homes that can meet the needs of targeted populations. d) Services provided to support foster families.	More information is needed about the effectiveness of the contract with Star Vista to target key audiences for recruiting foster care providers. The CFS monthly dashboard provides data about the trends related to foster homes in San Mateo County. At the March 2016 CRP meeting, Jenell presented information about the supports provided by CFS to resource families.
Issues of Concern	
A. The impact of domestic violence on children and training for first responders on trauma informed care.	In April 2016, the Executive Director of CORA provided CRP with information about the status of collaborative work with law enforcement agencies in situations where children are in a domestic violence setting.
B. Disproportionate representation within the child welfare system.	CRP receives monthly data reports that contain information on the representation of the various population groups in the child welfare system. The issue of disproportionate representation continues as a concern.
C. Commercially sexually exploited children in San Mateo County, including the work of the County's multi-disciplinary team that is addressing CSEC and the status of two CSEC homes located in San Mateo County.	CRP received regular updates on efforts to address the issue of CSEC starting in April 2016. There are a number of efforts in the county to address this issue.

CFS Director's Report – Loc Nguyen – report deferred to next month due to lack of time.

Report from Probation
Vielka was not able to attend this meeting. She submitted the statistics for September which have been added to the following table:

Monthly Probation Statistics	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	July-16	Aug-16	Sep-16
Wards On Probation (not including Informal)	401	395	378	365	339	322	324	359	356
Placed Out of the Home				18	22	21	20	18	13
Placed Out of State				0	0	1	1	1	1
Joint Jurisdiction with CFS (241.1)				3	3	12	12	10	11

Probation Lead				1	1		0	1	4
Placed Out of State				0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Welfare Lead				2	2	8	1	1	7
AB 12 Non-minor Dependents	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	5
Wraparound	12	12	15	12	12	13	8	11	10
Family Preservation Program (FPP)	37	36	32	29	30	28	30	36	37
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)	10	10	11	12	8	7	7	7	5
Camp Glenwood - boys (on last day of month)	13	19	23	23	14	20	22	21	18
Camp Kemp - girls (on last day of month)	7	7	10	8	6	5	4	3	2
Juvenile Hall (on last day of month)	83	81	62	85	81	75	74	64	40
Post Disposition	52	39	35	48	44	48	48	36	40
Probation Violation	10	3	1	1	9	3	4	8	12
New Law Violation	20	36	24	24	28	22	20	20	30

Probation supervision numbers are based on caseload analysis.
Institutions numbers based on Hall Custody Population Report in JCMS on last day of the month.

Development of SMCRP Recommendations for inclusion in the 2016 Annual Report
Panel members turned their attention to developing recommendations for 2017. The following areas were discussed, considered input from Panel members who wee unable to attend this meeting - input reflected by ✔:

Continued focus on current recommendations:

- Pathways to Wellbeing
- Continuum of Care Reform ✔✔
  Foster family recruitment

Develop a recommendation in current area of interest:

- Impact of domestic violence and training for first responders ✔
- Disproportionate Representation
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children ✔✔

Areas of former interest:

- Team Decision Making
- Resource Home Recruitment
- Parent Partner Program

- Collaboration among child welfare agencies

Other suggestions:

- Safety/well-being of children of incarcerated parents.
- To further the cooperation and interaction of child welfare agencies, both public and private, including the Faith communities...e.g. how to help families survive such as the single father Loc described who needs support services ✔
- TDMs
- Family reentry into the system

As the result of the Panel's discussion, the following draft recommendations were developed:

3. Continue to implement Pathways to Wellbeing through a collaborative process involving Children and Family Services, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and other providers, employing evidence-based and innovative models of service delivery. Address the problem of accessing accurate data in a timely and efficient manner and continue to provide needed services to youth who are leaving the system.

4. Implement Continuum of Care Reform with attention to the effectiveness of foster home recruiting strategies, the impact of relative placements and efforts to reduce the number of children placed out of county.

SMCRP will continue to explore and monitor the following areas of interest:

4. The impacts of domestic violence as one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) – explore the numbers of affected children in SM County, evidence of polyvictimization, training available to first responders and any prevention strategies that are in use.

5. Request bi-annual updates on efforts to address Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in San Mateo County.

6. Monitor the status of disproportionate representation in the child welfare system using the monthly CFS Dashboard and other sources that are available.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.