



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Children and Families Commission

BOARD AGENDA # B-6

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE October 23, 2007

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of the Children and Families Commission's 2006-2007 Annual Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept the Children and Families Commission's 2006-2007 Annual Report

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no impact to the County of Stanislaus associated with acceptance of the Commission's annual report. The Children and Families Commission has independent authority and responsibility for program operations and has independent fiduciary responsibility for fiscal operations. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Commission budgeted more than \$11,300,000 to support programs that serve children 0 through age 5 and their families.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2007-840

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Grover
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman O'Brien

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

In November of 1998, California voters approved Proposition 10, which added a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarette products to fund education, health, childcare, and other programs for expectant parents and children through age 5. Proposition 10 was designed to address the lack of public funding and support for early childhood development in the wake of a growing body of scientific evidence indicating that the emotional, physical, social, and developmental environments to which children are exposed have a profound impact on their ability to reach their greatest potential in school and to become productive members of society. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission received approximately \$6,700,000 from tobacco taxes to promote the development and well-being of children 0 through 5 in Stanislaus County. Using reserves and other sources of funding, the Commission budgeted more than \$11,300,000 in 2006-2007 to support programs aimed at providing services to children.

As required by the Proposition, on December 8, 1998 the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance establishing the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission. Membership of this nine member Commission, which has a fiduciary responsibility for programmatic and fiscal operations that is separate and distinct from the Board of Supervisors, is made up of:

- One member of the Board of Supervisors (Dick Monteith)
- The County Health Officer (Dr. John Walker)
- Two County Department Heads (Denise Hunt, Ken Patterson)
- One representative of a local school district (Vicki Bauman)
- Four community representatives (David Cooper, Nelly Paredes-Walsborn, George Skol, and Dan Souza)

It is the Commission's vision that "all of Stanislaus County's children will thrive in supportive, safe, nurturing, and loving environments; are healthy, eager, and ready learners; and will become productive well-adjusted members of society." The Commission's mission is "promoting the development and well-being of children 0 through 5."

The Commission is implementing its vision and mission by working in four result areas:

- Improved family functioning
- Improved child development
- Improved health
- Improved systems of care

DISCUSSION: (Continued)

The following are some of the programs that were supported by the Children's and Families Commission in fiscal year 2006-2007:

Specialized Early Childcare Program

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Provides intensive childcare consultations, early assessments, outpatient treatment interventions, and parent labs. Sierra Vista Child and Family Services is a sub-contractor.

CARES (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) Program

Child Development Training Consortium

CARES provides stipends and professional development opportunities to childcare providers.

■ **CARES Track I (Family, Friends, and Neighbors Training Project)**

Provides health and safety training and information on other county resources that encourage licensure and continued training for informal childcare providers in five county School Readiness areas.

■ **CARES Entry Track II**

Provides stipend reimbursements to qualified childcare workers who have not completed requirements for the Child Development Permit. Professional Growth Advising and Permit also required and available to participants.

■ **CARES Permit Track III and IV**

Provides stipend reimbursements to qualified childcare workers who hold a Child Development Permit. Child Development Permit and Professional Growth Advising also required and available to participants.

Healthy Cubs

Stanislaus County Health Services Agency

Provides health access to uninsured children who are members of families with incomes at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level who do not qualify for publicly sponsored programs such as Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.

Ride Immunization Registry Provider Assistance Project

Health Services Agency

The Regional Immunization Data Entry (RIDE) project provides data entry assistance and training to private pediatricians and family practice providers to enter children 0 through 5 into the RIDE Immunization database.

DISCUSSION: (Continued)

School Readiness Programs

10 schools in 7 School Districts (Patterson, Turlock, Modesto, Waterford, Riverbank, Chatom, and Keyes)

Pre-kindergarten programs designed to improve the social, literacy, and motor development of children entering kindergarten.

Family Resource Centers (FRC)

Multiple sites countywide operated by six private non-profits

Provides services and family support programs for children and families including those at risk of abuse and neglect. Four FRCs are providing differential response (child protective) services to families under an agreement with Community Services Agency.

Annually, the Commission reports to the Board of Supervisors on progress made towards the goals embodied in Proposition 10 - "to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development and to ensure that children are ready to enter school". The 2006-2007 Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, Dan Souza and Denise Hunt, respectively, will present the 2006-2007 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval of this agenda item addresses the Board of Supervisors' priorities of ensuring a safe community, a healthy community, effective partnerships, and efficient delivery of public services.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE
FROM YOUR CLERK

**STANISLAUS COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT**

PART 1: COUNTY COMMISSION NARRATIVE

A. COUNTY COMMISSION PROFILE

1. Name of County: *Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission*

2. Alignment of Priorities with the Strategic Plan

Stanislaus County is located in the Central Valley with a total population of 497,804, 145,146 households, and 50,925 children 0-5. The demographic distribution of Stanislaus County is as follows¹:

- 38% Hispanic
- 37% White
- 3% African-American
- 1% American-Indian
- 2% Multi-racial
- 5% Asian
- 9% Other

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Nearly 20% of children in Stanislaus County live in poverty². The amount of children living in poverty in Stanislaus County is a strong indicator of the need for Proposition 10 funded services to this underprivileged population. Other demographic and geographic factors influencing the need for Prop10 funded services in Stanislaus County include²:

- 30% of adults 25 years and older have not successfully completed high school
- Only 20% of high school graduates meet requirements to enter a 4-year college
- Stanislaus County has one of the highest infant mortality rates in California

The Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission has revised its strategic plan for fiscal year 2006-2007 to align with the California Children and Families Commission result areas. The priorities for the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission are as follows:

Result Area 1: Improved Family Functioning

- Through respite care facility services, reduce child abuse and neglect of at-risk children 0 through 5
- Families with children 0 through 5 will be linked with accessible, culturally competent and family-centered services

¹ Source: Census 2006

² Source: Children Now, 2005

- Support parents with children 0 through 5 in their recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions

Result Area 2: Improved Child Development

- Increase the number of children 0 through 5 who receive health and developmental screenings
- Increase the number of fathers/males involved with children 0 through 5 in school preparation activities
- Educate and raise awareness of asthma in unlicensed Family, Friend, and Neighbor childcare settings
- Train, educate and raise awareness of asthma in licensed childcare settings

Result Area 3: Improved Health

- High risk pregnancies will result in a healthy birth
- Increase enrollment in health insurance
- Reduce injury to children by expanding car seat education throughout the county

Result Area 4: Improved Systems of Care

- Promote the development and well-being of children 0 through 5 in Stanislaus County

During fiscal year 2006-2007, the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission awarded over \$9.8 million to programs addressing the Commission's strategic plan. Each program that was awarded funding addressed at least one result area and one strategic goal. In addition, the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission aligned fiscal expenditures and reporting to be compliant with the expanded State audit guidelines. The Commission awarded funding and tracked expenditures by result area and agency type. During fiscal year 2006-2007, total program expenditures of 8.5 million by result area are as follows:

- Result Area 1: \$3,012,963
- Result Area 2: \$1,983,326
- Result Area 3: \$2,496,301
- Result Area 4: \$1,012,221

Additionally, the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission tracked expenditures as Program, Evaluation, or Administration to comply with audit guidelines. Expenditures for 2006-2007 are as follows:

- Program: \$8,815,205
- Evaluation: \$229,968
- Administration: \$158,135

3. Programs Supporting the Strategic Plan

Result Area 1: Improved Family Functioning

Specialized Childcare Consultation Program: SCCP has two components: Expanded early mental health services and child care consultation. The program is a result of collaboration between Leaps and Bounds (Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services) and Sierra Vista Child and Family Services Early Intervention. Both agencies designed the program based on existing mental health programs in early intervention and a needs assessment. The program is designed for children 0 through 5 and their parents as well as early education providers in family day care settings and formal education settings.

Strategic goal: *Families with children 0-5 will be linked with accessible, culturally competent, and family centered services.*

EI Concilio: The La Familia Counseling program consists of three components: Parents as Teachers (PAT), counseling (MSW), and family service advocacy. The PAT program assists parents in acquiring skills that will maximize their children's crucial early learning years through home visitation. The counseling component increases families' access to mental health services for issues such as substance abuse, depression, divorce, etc. The family service advocacy component allows families to access and utilize the community services that are available to them.

Strategic goal: *Families with children 0-5 will be linked with accessible, culturally competent, and family centered services. Support parents with children 0-5 in their recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions.*

2-1-1: 2-1-1 is an information and referral phone service for residents of Stanislaus County, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year free of charge. Proposition 10 funding in fiscal year 2006-2007 has supported the planning and implementation of a 2-1-1 system in Stanislaus County. The system will be fully operational in Fall 2007.

Strategic goal: *Families with children 0-5 will be linked with accessible, culturally competent, and family centered services.*

Family Resource Centers: The Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission provided funding to support 10 family resource centers. The family resource centers provide family support services to families with children 0 through 5 in Stanislaus County. Services offered through the Family Resource Centers include parenting education classes, mental health services, depression screenings, developmental screenings, school readiness activities, literacy programs, individual family needs assessments, case management, and Differential Response. Differential Response utilizes family resource centers as a key prevention strategy to address many challenges that families deal with. Family resource centers in Stanislaus County are a result of collaboration between Stanislaus County Community Services Agency and the Commission to engage families at-risk for abuse and neglect before the situation escalates into a substantiated child abuse case. The Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission and Stanislaus County Community Services Agency have created a partnership to provide joint funding to the following family resource centers:

- Turlock Family Resource Center
- Ceres Family Resource Center
- Family Support Network (does not provide Differential Response services)
- Westside Family Resource Network (three sites)

- Family Resource Connection (three sites)
- Hughson Family Resource Center

Strategic goal: *Families with children 0-5 will be linked with accessible, culturally competent, and family centered services.*

Laura's House: Laura's House is a clean and sober living facility that provides an environment and staffing to supervise, mentor, and model appropriate interactions between mothers and their children. Many of the women residing at Laura's House have had their children removed and placed in foster care. Staff at Laura's House develop and provide activities that promote interaction and bonding between the mothers and their children. This process allows the women to learn and practice parenting skills, while the children begin to trust their parents' supervision. Additionally, if a child has been placed in foster care, the activities and experiences offered at Laura's House assist the mothers in working toward the reunification process.

Strategic goal: *Support parents with children 0-5 in their recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions.*

Children's Crisis Center: The Children's Crisis Center provides immediate protection for high-risk children 0 through 5 during critical times of family instability allowing them to benefit from therapeutic play opportunities, nutritious meals and snacks, warm baths and showers, comfortable beds, clean clothing, reassurance, stability, and affection. The Center offers five sites throughout Stanislaus County. Services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to respite care, the center also offers case management.

Strategic goal: *Through respite care facility services, reduce child abuse and neglect of at-risk children 0-5.*

Result Area 2: Improved Child Development

Chatom School Readiness Initiative Program: Chatom Union School District operates the Chatom School Readiness Program located at Chatom Elementary School. The program provides a Kinder Academy, consisting of English Language Development, Math, learning centers, large motor skill development, and singing. The program also offered a variety of other opportunities to support children's readiness for school:

- Infant CPR Class
- Computer Technology Training
- Dental Health Program
- Car Seat Safety
- General Nutrition
- English Classes
- Positive Discipline/Consequences

Strategic goal: *Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities.*

Keyes School Readiness Initiative Program: Keyes School Readiness Program is operated at Keyes Elementary School by the Keyes Unified School District. The school

readiness program components include parent education, parent involvement, Kindergarten transition, increasing access to books and learning resources, and improving health of incoming Kindergartners. The program has identified the following specific needs:

- Kindergarten transition support
- Parent/child literacy support
- Increased parent education
- Increased access to books
- Increased access to health and dental services
- Increased support services for parents with young Children and Families

Strategic goal: *Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities.*

Patterson School Readiness Initiative Program: The Patterson Unified School District operates the Patterson School Readiness Program located at Grayson Charter School. The focus of the program is to support early literacy. The program has implemented the research based Latino Family Literacy Project in which parents get together and learn early literacy strategies. Because the area served by the program does not have a public library, a lending library has been created to make books and literacy resources available to families in which they can check out books weekly or biweekly.

Strategic goal: *Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities*

The program also provides opportunities for development of social, emotional, and behavior skills for school readiness through a Kindergarten transition program that takes place at Grayson Charter School for the duration of three weeks. The Open Court curriculum is used, and the transition program is dual immersion just like what the children experience when they officially start school. Additionally, the program offers the Parents As Teachers (PAT) program in which staff conduct developmental screenings and provide early childhood education for parents and social, cognitive, and developmental opportunities for children ages 0-5 also take place once a month in the home and once a month at the center.

Strategic goal: *Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities.*

Riverbank School Readiness Initiative Program: Riverbank Unified School District operates the Riverbank School Readiness program and two schools: Rio Altura and California Avenue. The program offers behavioral screenings, dental screenings, home visitation, a free book program, parent-child classes, literacy activities, and a Pre-K transition program.

Strategic goal: *Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities.*

Turlock School Readiness Initiative Program: The Turlock Unified School District operates an early intervention School Readiness Program, Project GROW. Project Grow is founded on the premise that serving children through families better prepares children to enter school ready to learn and succeed with sustainable results. The program, funded by the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, serves families and children from birth through age five who live in the Wakefield, Cunningham, and Osborn Elementary School attendance areas. All three schools are located in the west side of Turlock, an area with high unemployment and a predominant Hispanic population. The program offers parent and child classes, a Kindergarten latchkey program, Kindergarten Academy, parent resource library, father/male involvement, and an annual literacy fair.

Strategic goal: Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities.

Newman/Crows Landing School Readiness Initiative Program: The Newman/Crows Landing School Readiness program is located at Von Renner Elementary School. The program offers three program components: a 0-3 family services component, a 4-year old preschool program, and a Kindergarten bridge class.

Strategic goal: Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities.

Waterford School Readiness Initiative Program: The Waterford School Readiness Program is located at Moon Elementary School and focuses on behavioral and social skills in pre-K children. The program employs a mental health clinician five days a week to provide support to children, parents, and staff. The clinician provides counseling to the family and parenting classes. A family liaison also provides resources and services to the family that supports the mental health component. While the children participate in preschool, they receive more individualized instruction in small groups to help strengthen and support positive behavior and learning.

Strategic goal: Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive health and developmental screenings. Increase the number of father/males involved in school preparation activities.

Traveling Tales: Traveling Tales offers story telling kits to childcare providers throughout Stanislaus County in order to better prepare children for school as a result of regular participation in quality story times. The program provides training and support to childcare providers on how to effectively use the kits with children 0-5, as well as trainings for school age teachers (Kindergarten and 1st grade) on good storytelling techniques. The program offers 211 different themes of kits. Themes offered include nutrition, farm animals, weather, and occupations. The program uses the county library system to distribute the kits throughout the county, even in geographically isolated areas.

Strategic goal: Increase the number of fathers/males involved with children 0-5 in school preparation activities.

CARES: The CARES program is a statewide initiative designed to support California Children and Families Commission's School Readiness and Preschool for All initiatives. The program goal is to improve the quality of early care and education settings by encouraging higher education pursuits and skill attainment among early childhood

education providers. The program offers stipends and other resources to eligible participants to encourage the professional growth that in turn builds a more qualified, stable workforce. The Stanislaus County CARES project is composed of four Tracks: Track I (Family, Friends, and Neighbors), Track II (Entry Track), and Tracks III and IV (Permit and Degree Tracks).

Strategic goal: *To educate and raise awareness of asthma in unlicensed family, friend, and neighbor childcare settings. To train, educate, and raise awareness of asthma in licensed childcare settings.*

Result Area 3: Improved Health

Breastfeeding Coalition: The Breastfeeding Promotion Coalition of Stanislaus County addresses the low breastfeeding rates in Stanislaus County through a combination of education and marketing. The program targets pregnant women and their families, employers, prenatal providers, and pediatric providers to create an environment that promotes breastfeeding. The goal of the program is to increase the breastfeeding rates in Stanislaus County at birth, six months of age, and 1 year of age.

Strategic goal: *Improved health outcomes.*

Healthy Cubs: The Healthy Cubs program provides for medical coverage for pregnant women and children ages 0 through 5 by paying for medical care temporarily while assisting beneficiaries to apply for other public or private benefits to which they appear eligible. Healthy Cubs also provides emergency dental services to children 0 through 5 and pregnant women. Families are eligible for the Healthy Cubs program if they fall below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Strategic goal: *Increase enrollment in health insurance.*

Healthy Birth Outcomes: HBO is a program consisting of three components with the goal of improving birth and child health outcomes in Stanislaus County by increasing the number of babies born at term and at adequate weights. The program offers home visitation and intensive case management services to at-risk pregnant and post-natal clients of varying ethnicities and languages. A second program component is community-based support groups for pregnant and parenting women, providing health education and support to group participants in English and Spanish. Support groups are offered at ten locations throughout the county. The third program component is a countywide effort to provide outreach and education to pregnant women and providers of services to pregnant women.

Strategic goal: *High-risk pregnancies will result in a healthy birth.*

MOMobile: The MOMobile is a mobile medical unit owned and operated by Golden Valley Health Centers in collaboration with Doctor's Medical Center Foundation. The purpose of the MOMobile is to enable access to health care for children 0 through 5 and pregnant women by placing a fully equipped, mobile family health care clinic in areas that are underserved or geographically isolated. The MOMobile is stationed at four locations throughout the county: Keyes, Empire, and at two geographically isolated elementary schools in Modesto (Orville Wright and Shackelford).

Strategic goal: *Improved health outcomes.*

On the Safe Side: On the Safe Side is a safety awareness program designed specifically to address bicycle and pedestrian safety for preschool through first grade youth in

Stanislaus County. The program uses 'PC', the robotic car as well as Safe Moves City and helmet distributions to engage children in a fun, interactive learning environment.

Strategic goal: *Improved health outcomes.*

Keep Baby Safe: The Keep Baby Safe program is a comprehensive child passenger safety program for Stanislaus County. The program provides leadership, education, and activities to increase awareness of child passenger safety, increase car seat usage, and decrease car seat misuse.

Strategic goal: *Reduce injury to children by expanding car seat education throughout the county.*

Infant Mortality Study: The infant mortality study was funded by the Commission to identify the factors associated with the county's high infant mortality rate. The program is research-based and utilizes a variety of research methods to obtain complete data about infant mortality in Stanislaus County.

Strategic goal: *High-risk pregnancies will result in a healthy birth.*

Result Area 4: Improved Systems of Care

Healthy Start Support: Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) provides support to eleven healthy start sites throughout Stanislaus County. SCOE provides technical support to each of the sites by providing technical support to each of the sites by providing individual site visits at least three times annually in order to monitor the effectiveness of the programs. Networking and training opportunities are offered at each of the nine collaborative meetings throughout the year. Activities and programs offered through the Healthy Start programs include: Parenting workshops and classes, First Steps for Learning Literacy Program, kindergarten readiness programs, The Incredible Years Parenting Program, 2nd cup of coffee parent meetings, CHDP clinics, Access Dental mobile van, parenting teen counseling, child development, Healthy Eating habits, child birth preparation and breastfeeding, car seat safety, medical insurance application assistance, and food stamp eligibility.

Strategic goal: *Promote the development and well being of children.*

Regional Immunization Database Exchange (RIDE): Regional Immunization Data Exchange (RIDE) is a program that provides immunization data entry support to participating medical providers and on-going assistance as needed in order to enter data into the RIDE Immunization database. The program contracts with new immunization providers, conducts data integrity audits and updates records as necessary, provides community-based presentations, and attends health fairs.

Strategic goal: *Promote the development and well being of children.*

Families in Partnership (FIP): The Families in Partnership program is a collaborative effort between the Stanislaus County Chief Executive's Office, The Health Services Agency, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Probation, and Community Services Agency. The program supports families at high risk of having their children removed and placed in foster care. The goal of the program is to maintain and support the family unit.

Strategic goal: *Promote the development and well being of children.*

Substance Abuse Family Education Court (SAFE Court): SAFE Court is a court-based, multidisciplinary team approach with a strong judicial leadership role for the treatment and rehabilitation of parents whose substance abuse has significantly impacted their ability to adequately parent their children. With the judge acting as a team leader, social workers, county counsel, the parent's attorneys, children's attorneys, and treatment professionals work collaboratively to develop a coordinated strategy that is in the best interests of the children and their families.

Strategic goal: *Promote the development and well being of children.*

4. Strategies for Promoting Access for Underserved Populations

Stanislaus County is located in Central California, and is well known for agriculture. However, due to the large number of individuals employed in the agricultural industry, unemployment and poverty affect many families with children 0-5 in Stanislaus County.

Ethnically diverse populations have been historically underserved in Stanislaus County. The ethnic distribution of services provided by Prop 10 funded programs match the ethnic distribution of services provided by Prop 10 funded programs have also been extremely successful in outreaching and engaging with populations who have been historically underserved. The ethnic distribution of participants served during fiscal year 2006/2007 is:

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| ▪ 60% | Hispanic/Latino | ▪ <1% | American Indian |
| ▪ 21% | White | ▪ <1% | Multiracial |
| ▪ 2% | African-American | ▪ 1% | Other |
| ▪ 1% | Asian | ▪ 14% | Unknown |

Another underserved population in Stanislaus County is families that are geographically isolated, or families unable to access services due to language barriers. Many families live in areas of the county with limited access to transportation. Several Prop 10 funded programs have addressed this underserved population by collaborating with other programs that are able to increase families' access to services. Additionally, many programs offer transportation vouchers (for busses and taxis), bus tokens, transportation through the programs, or home visitation. During fiscal year 2006-2007, the Commission made services to geographically isolated areas of Stanislaus County a top priority. As a result, every area of Stanislaus County is served through Prop 10 programs. Additionally, every funded program offers services in English and Spanish, which decreases the language barrier that many families face.

In order to increase services to children with special needs, children are provided with a developmental screening. During fiscal year 2006/2007 alone, the family resource centers screened over 300 children. 20% of the children screened were referred to specialized services based on screening results.

5. Additional Program Highlights

Ceres Family Resource Center

Ceres FRC developed programs to support and empower families to be responsible for meeting the needs of their children. The Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children uses the family resource center model to effectively reach families and improve

outcomes for both families and the community of Ceres. The Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children is a community collaborative governed by a Community Advisory Committee. Programs are developed based on community needs and evaluated by community members and participants. Some of the ways the Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children has involved the community in program development are:

- Community Advisory Committee
- Focus Groups
- Community Needs Assessment
- Participant Surveys
- Annual Self Assessment of Programs

The programs operated through the FRC are targeted to Differential Response families and families with children 0-5. Some aspects of the FRC deal directly with the 0-5 child, such as working on parent/child interaction and school readiness activities. Most of the program aspects deal with support of the caregiver in parenting classes, working with case management, mental health services and help with basic needs.

The following list is the outcomes the program is working towards:

- Reduced child abuse and neglect in families receiving services at the FRC
- Reduced child abuse and neglect in families receiving caregiver education and support services
- Increasing caregiver linkages to mental health services
- Improve the development, behavior, and school readiness of young children birth through age five
- Increase access to a perinatal provider
- Increase the proportion of families with children 0 through 5 who are enrolled in a health insurance program and have an identified health care provider

Additionally, Ceres FRC hires staff from the communities they serve whenever possible. Program specialists who run parenting programs have child development backgrounds; family advocates have social work backgrounds and experience working directly with families. The staff at Ceres FRC resembles the community it serves, so families can relate easily and feel comfortable accessing the services.

Waterford School Readiness Program

The Waterford School Readiness Program provides a mental health clinician is available five days a week at the school to provide support to children, parents and staff. The clinician provides counseling to the family and parenting classes. This counseling has a positive effect on families and helps parents learn new strategies that they can use on their children. The program is research-based on a program that indicates children who have attended quality preschools are better prepared for Kindergarten. Research proves that most children are more successful in school when their parents provide positive guidance and discipline and have a strong support in their schooling.

The Waterford Child Development program is committed to recognizing the diversity of each family and each child. Sixty-nine percent of the families in the program are Hispanic and 41% of these have English as their second language. All of the classrooms have bi-lingual staff in them to meet the children's needs in Spanish. Teachers support the family by asking parents for ideas about activities that they can incorporate into their lesson that would represent the families' culture. All parents are welcomed into the classrooms and parent socials are held monthly so parents can get to know other parents and begin networking.

The overarching outcome for the Waterford School Readiness Program is that all children will be provided with the best experience possible to help them be ready for Kindergarten. Outcomes for the program are measured by a variety of methods including:

- Adapted Desired Results Developmental Profile
- Family Background Survey
- Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
- STAR Tests
- CAT6 Tests

Local Story

Healthy Birth Outcomes Story

Rose was referred to Healthy Birth Outcomes from the county jail. She was a substance user, a smoker, and pregnant for the first time. Rose had anger management and behavioral health issues and was estranged from her family. The father of her baby was not involved with her at the time. She began her prenatal care from jail. She was lacking support and upon release from jail, needed assistance in resuming prenatal care; obtaining Medi-Cal, help with obtaining basic needs, drug rehabilitation, and housing. She was initially difficult to engage and fearful. She also had doubts about her parenting abilities and was unsure if she wanted to keep her baby or release the child for adoption. The Public Health Nurse persevered and opened her to case management services. She received assistance in getting into First Step, a substance rehabilitation program, and did the inpatient component.

The nurse and social worker helped Rose apply for Medi-Cal and basic needs support, and followed up her prenatal care appointments. Because Rose also felt the need for mental health counseling, and depression screening indicated need for in-depth follow up, both First Step staff and HBO team helped Rose get into counseling (she was eventually prescribed medication). The HBO team also provided education, guidance, and reinforcement. Rose also attended parenting classes at First Step.

Rose delivered a term infant weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces who was negative for substances. She did not quit smoking, but did decrease her cigarette smoking. She initiated breastfeeding, but stopped prior to six months. Rose graduated from the First Step Program, and reunited with her family. Her mother welcomed her back and allowed Rose and her child to come live with her, and the father of her child came back into her life in a positive way. Rose developed increased attachment to her child and confidence in her mothering skills by the time HBO completed services with her and her child and continued to remain sober.

B. COUNTY EVALUATION SUMMARY

1. Narrative Summary of Evaluation Activities

A. Evaluation Activities Completed

The Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission conducts an annual evaluation of funded programs using a variety of data sources in order to obtain an accurate representation of each program. Data sources include quarterly reports and outcome based scorecards. The programs' contracts, scopes of work, and budgets were also reviewed to obtain data. Data was collected through the Proposition 10 Evaluation Data System (PEDS), site visits, interviews, and annual reports. The accumulation of the data allows for a content analysis evaluation of funded programs.

Additionally, the School Readiness Initiative Programs are evaluated using an evaluation team from California State University, Stanislaus. The School Readiness Program Evaluation employed multiple data sources: (1) a Kindergarten readiness assessment completed by the teacher at the beginning of Kindergarten, (2) a family interview, (3) a structured test of early literacy development administered mid-year, and (4) a socio-emotional skill assessment completed by the teacher mid-year. The assessment tools are described below.

The Adapted Desired Results Developmental Profile (ADRDP) assesses children's readiness for Kindergarten. It asks teachers to rate children's competencies in 24 areas important for school success by indicating whether each skill is fully mastered, almost mastered, emerging, or not yet developed. The questions were drawn from the *California Desired Results Profile*, a more comprehensive instrument that provides age-level performance standards for programs funded by the California Department of Education. The ADRDP includes questions from the preschool, Kindergarten, and first grade forms.

The Family Background Survey (FBS) is used to gather information from families about: (1) services received by the child and family during the 0-5 years, (2) family environment, (3) literacy-building activities that occur at home, and (4) parent participation in their child's educational activities. The researchers developed the Family Background Survey with the assistance of the School Readiness Leadership Team of Stanislaus County; several questions were drawn from the statewide SR parent interview and the California Even Start Family Literacy Performance Information Reporting System.

The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment tool asks children to complete a series of timed tests to gauge their fluency in skills that are essential for literacy development. The tests were developed at the University of Oregon as part of a comprehensive effort to establish benchmarks for literacy development. DIBELS (6th edition) for Kindergarten includes the five tests shown below. This report summarizes the results for tests conducted in English.

The Student Social Skills Questionnaire (SSSQ) asks teachers to report on children's classroom behavior mid-year by scoring the incidence of six social-emotional behaviors as never (scored as a 1), sometimes (2), often (3), or very often (4). Three positive behaviors (child accepts peers' ideas for group activities, child forms and maintains friendships, and child comforts or helps other children) and three negative behaviors

(child argues with others, child fights with others, and child gets angry easily) are assessed. Summary scores for positive and negative interaction behaviors can be calculated by assigning scores according to the numerical system shown above, with 1 indicating a low score and 4 indicating a high score.

These six questions, developed by Gresham and Elliott as part of the Social Skills Rating Scale in 1990, were normed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in a longitudinal study of Kindergarten children in 1998-99. That sample included 22,782 children enrolled in public and private Kindergartens; the children were drawn from different racial/ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

The readiness assessment by Kindergarten teachers (ADRDP) occurred 6-8 instructional weeks into the Kindergarten year. Research assistants conducted the literacy assessments in the interval between the 4th and 6th instructional month (or 16th and 24th instructional week). The socio-emotional assessment was done at approximately the same time. Teachers and SR staff members conducted the family interview between October and December 2006.

B. Evaluation Findings Reported³

Result Area 1: Improved Family Functioning

Specialized Childcare Consultation:

- 85% of parents reported a decrease in parental distress during treatment
- 96% of participating families showed a reduction in risk factors for abuse and neglect
- 95% of participating children demonstrated improvement in behavior within day care and social environments

EI Concilio:

- 70% of identified families have shown an increase in utilization of specific community services
- 85% of participating children increased their developmental and intellectual growth
- 80% of participating parents showed an increase in parenting skills and knowledge

2-1-1:

- An application to operate the 2-1-1 system was approved by the California Public Utility Commission
- Program software and equipment was purchased

Family Resource Centers:

- 60% of families received long-term case management services
- 52% of parents attended parenting education or support groups
 - 92% of those parents reported an increase in parenting knowledge
- 43% of children 0-5 received a developmental screening

³ For 2006/2007 fiscal year

- 10% of those children were referred to specialized services based on developmental screening results

Laura's House:

- 98% of participating children showed improved behavior and communication skills

Children's Crisis Center:

- 97% of participating adults were able to keep their children safe, resolve their immediate crisis, and preserve the family unit

Result Area 2: Improved Child Development

Chatom School Readiness:

- 82% of Kindergartners who attended preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills
- 29% of Kindergartners who did not attend preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills

Keyes School Readiness:

- 46% of Kindergartners who attended preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills
- 40% of Kindergartners who did not attend preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills

Patterson School Readiness:

- 70% of Kindergartners who attended preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills
- 79% of Kindergartners who did not attend preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills

Riverbank School Readiness:

- 9% of Kindergartners who attended preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills
- 34% of Kindergartners who did not attend preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills

Turlock School Readiness:

- 13% of Kindergartners who attended preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills
- 10% of Kindergartners who did not attend preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills

Waterford School Readiness:

- 44% of Kindergartners who attended preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills
- 100% of Kindergartners who did not attend preschool displayed emerging or established literacy skills

Traveling Tales:

- 59% of participating children showed an increase in their vocabulary

- 80% of childcare providers reported an increase in their children's interest in books and storytime

CARES:

- 100% of family childcare providers completed 1 unit of college coursework or 18 hours of professional growth
- 56% of participants from 2005-2006 returned to participate in 2006-2007

Result Area 3: Improved Health

Breastfeeding Coalition:

- Breastfeeding rates in Stanislaus County increased by 1.5% between June 2006 and June 2007

Healthy Cubs:

- 35% of participants were converted to comprehensive health care coverage through Medi-Cal, Healthy Families or Kaiser Child Plan
- There were 6,093 medical office visits for beneficiaries

Healthy Birth Outcomes:

- 92% of babies were born at term or 37 weeks and greater
- 93% of babies were born at adequate weight of 2500 grams or more
- 100% of participating women received prenatal care

MOMobile:

- 838 children received health care services
- 45 women received prenatal care services

On the Safe Side:

- 84% of participating children were able to remember and repeat the six safety messages
- 81% of parents reported their children behaved according to the six safety messages they learned

Car Seat Safety:

- 97% of participants displayed an increase in knowledge after completion of coursework

Result Area 4: Improved Systems of Care

Healthy Start Support:

- 100% of families reported increased knowledge in accessing medical, dental, vision, and mental health care (Robertson Road Healthy Start)
- 100% of teen parents reported they felt better prepared and educated on family health issues (Downey Healthy Start)

RIDE:

- Provider participation increased by 40%
- Immunizations increased by 2%

Families In Partnership:

- 97% of participating children remained out of foster care upon completion of services

SAFE Court:

- 98% of participating parents completed their case plan requirements
- 100% of participating parents had their juvenile court dependency dismissed after program completion

C. Policy Impact of Evaluation Results

The Commission uses evaluation in order to determine the effectiveness of funded programs, as well as to further strengthen and build capacity of all Commission funded programs. The Commission views evaluation as an on-going process in which questions are selected, framed, and answered in order to better understand program effectiveness and promote program improvement.

The Commission also uses evaluation as a guide for future strengthening of Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission funded programs. The annual evaluation allows the Commission to make informed, objective program decisions. Additionally, the evaluation allows the Commission to successfully communicate program results to all appropriate stakeholders. Overall, the evaluation is used as a collaborative tool between the Commission and funded partners to evaluate progress, share lessons learned, and make continuous programmatic improvements to achieve the Commission vision that *"All of Stanislaus County's children will thrive in supportive, safe, nurturing, and loving environments; are healthy, eager, and ready learners; and become productive well adjusted members of society"*.

On an annual basis, the Commission reviews the evaluation to guide funding and policy decisions. The evaluation was designed to determine the effectiveness of Prop 10 funded programs, as well as to further strengthen and build capacity of the programs. Additionally, the evaluation is used to demonstrate the impact of funded programs on Stanislaus County, and as a tool in the strategic planning process.