



August 17, 2015

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Attached please find a document which is offered as a way to document and cite sources for many of the subjects that will be covered in our presentation this Tuesday, 8/18/15.

We realize that you receive many proposals that make claims and some of those claims reference savings through greater efficiency. We have also referenced many claims of the benefits of the CASA program, including measurable financial efficiencies, as well as many direct benefits to the children we serve.

In our case, those claims are actually based on scientific research that has been conducted over the years and published in appropriate industry recognized journals and government agency publications. One example is a comprehensive study conducted by the Department of Justice and the Office of Investigator General of the United States on the effectiveness of CASA nationally. Other studies cited tend to also be either national or regional studies which also evaluate the results produced by CASA Advocates.

As you will see, we have also sought to back up claims of areas where our county is particularly challenged from a child welfare system perspective, in an effort to highlight the need for continued support of the CASA role within the system. These facts are also referenced and source documents have been produced for your review.

Lastly, we have also done our best to update the existing data on how many California county governments have contracts for services with their local CASA programs and to what degree they support them. The last published data was in 2011 conducted and published by the Judicial Council on behalf of California CASA. Therefore, we knew some folks might question the reliability of data that was essentially five years old, since it reported on surveys done in 2010. The results of our survey were quite insightful:

- Like CASA El Dorado, much of the court support for local CASA programs went away after the budget cuts of 2012 at the state Judicial Council.
- However, county government funding of CASA programs actually increased in the past five years, in part we suspect of the loss of court support in many counties.
- County government spending to 14 counties increased 17% to over \$1M and the median average of funding grew from \$50,000 in 2011 to \$73,000 in 2015.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this documentation. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Best regards,


John Adams
Executive Director

Take a Stand. Make a Difference. Change a Child's Life Forever.

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Reference Document for Board of Supervisors Presentation, August 18, 2015

The objective of this document is to offer some references for source documents relative to some of the subjects covered in the BOS presentation by CASA El Dorado on August 18th, 2015.

FUNDING: We start with documentation that speaks to state funding by counties for CASA programs. This includes data that has been excerpted from a California CASA program survey of 2010 data, which was published in 2011, funded and produced by the Judicial Council of California. Unfortunately, due to significant budget cuts that occurred to the Judicial Council in the state budget of 2012, they have been unable to produce a similar document since then. This is also the same reason we lost our funding from the El Dorado Superior Court that same year, because of the cuts that occurred at the state level.

In preparation for this presentation, in an effort to offer a more updated picture of the county government and court level funding for CASA programs in California; we conducted a survey this past week, using our List-Serv email list for all California CASA programs.

While we did not have time to hear from every program, we did hear from most and the results are very enlightening. A summary of our findings follows:

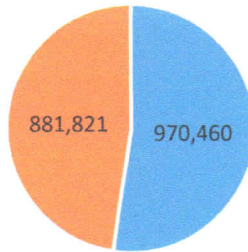
- **Court Funding:** We conclude that local court funding which was present in 15 CASA programs in California in 2010 has been cut dramatically, in terms of the number of programs that receive it. We could only find 3 programs that still receive court funding today. This is likely for the same reason it was cut in El Dorado County, again as a result of the significant overall cut taken by the Judicial Council in 2012. That said, it is possible that some of the programs that did not report back due to time limitations, may be ones which are still receiving court funding.
- **County Government Funding:** Conversely, we found that County Government funding in California is still supporting at least 14 CASA programs, which all reported some form of county government funding, versus the 16 programs in 2011.

Significantly, we also discovered that ***overall county government funding actually went up***, despite having a couple of less programs receiving it. Four of the fourteen counties are receiving funding via federal or state, pass-through grants which is then administered by the respective county H&HS and this may be pulling the overall funding up as well. Although the 2010 Judicial Council survey did not include this level of data, we suspect that the fact that some counties are getting more creative about finding ways to leverage pass-through grants to help fund advocacy

services with their CASA program, are positively impacting the overall funding. When you view the median average funding amount for general fund versus a pass-through grant, this seems to give credence to this theory.

2010 Funding by Source

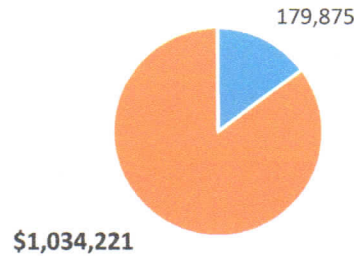
Total = \$1,852,281



■ Court ■ County

2015 Funding by Source

Total = \$1,214,096



■ Court ■ County

As these charts show, while funding overall went down by an estimated 35% because of the impact on the court system, **county government funding actually grew by about 17%, from \$881K in 2010 to \$1.3M in 2015.** Similarly, the **median average of county government funding went up from \$50,000 2010 per program to \$73,872 in 2015.**

Again, our best conjecture as to the dynamics of these changes is that it obviously reflects the dramatic effect that the Judicial Council budget cuts had on the local superior courts and in turn on their ability to fund their local CASA program. Since this is precisely what happened to us in El Dorado County, this makes great sense to us and resonates as being true. The increase in overall county government funding, is likely related to this as well, by virtue of some counties doing their best to fill in for this void by either increasing funding, or deciding to fund for the first time.

It is likely that in the past five years some counties may have either reduced and/or cut their funding, while others have stepped in. However, the net effect on the overall funding and the median average is a significant increase in both. As noted earlier, there is also a possibility of some counties starting to collaborate on state or federal pass-through grants, which may also be a factor in the increases.

The following two pages will provide you 1) a snippet from the 2011 Judicial Council survey report which is where the total funding and median average funding numbers were gleaned from and 2) details results from the survey we conducted this past week in order to provide you with updated data for California programs funded by their local county.

California Data from 2011 Judicial Council Report

This chart was taken from the California Judicial Council 2011 report and shows that the average funding from California county governments was \$50,000 at that time. It also shows that the average funding from the Judicial Council to CASA programs was \$56,100. This is about what CASA El Dorado receives as well and has received for years, based on our contract for services. We also receive about \$9,000 in Title IVE funding specifically for training. This is also administered by the Judicial Council. We do not receive any other funding from the federal or state government and as you know the court funding which averaged \$55,000 for many years, went away in 2012. All of our funding data and other related financials were also submitted to the county comptroller's office in February of 2015.

Table 6. Detail of funding sources for 2010.

Funding Source	Receiving Programs (n =41)	Median Funding	Total Aggregate Funding	Total Statewide Funding
Public				
State: Judicial Council	41	\$56,100	\$2,218,900	11%
State: Other*	5	N/A	\$819,121	4%
Court	15	\$50,000	\$970,460	5%
County	16	\$50,000	\$881,821	4%
City	7	\$10,601	\$86,801	<1%
Federal: Title IV-E	39	\$8,366	\$515,833	3%
Federal :Non Title IV-E**	26	\$37,750	\$1,630,356	8%
Private				
Foundation grants	30	\$47,180	\$3,195,402	16%
Corporations	26	\$19,743	\$1,067,562	5%
Individual donors	36	\$37,649	\$3,260,423	16%
United Way	14	\$7,523	\$260,322	1%
Community service	19	\$5,000	\$180,166	1%

August 2015 Survey Conducted by CASA El Dorado

As indicated previously, this data represented feedback from the majority of California CASA programs but not all. It is possible that there are a few more programs that receive either county or court funding. However, we do not believe the overall effect of any remaining programs would be dramatic. The story that this chart tells is of reduced funding from the court and increased funding from the county governments. We are one of those programs that lost court funding and hope to now garner ongoing support from our county government as a commitment to serving abused and neglected children. Candidly, we are not seeking a one-time “gift” or “contribution”. We **are** seeking a real **partnership** through an extension of our contract for advocacy services; rooted in a fundamental acknowledgement that we have a shared responsibility to these children through this public/private contract.

CALIFORNIA COUNTY/COURT FUNDING SURVEY August, 2015				
County Government Funding				Superior Court
	GEN FUND	HHS/STATE	COMMENTS	COURT
Butte	25,000			
Fresno		194,000	CAPIT & PSSF Grants administered by county HHS	
Kern	92,750			
Mendicino	50,000		Match to Judicial Council funding	
Monterey	50,000			
Placer		50,000	MHSA Grant	
Riverside	30,000			
Sacramento				97,875
San Bernardino		176,000	SB 163 Wrap-around services	72,000
Santa Cruz	92,338			
San Diego	44,133			
San Mateo	100,000			
San Joaquin	66,000			
Shasta	10,000			
SLO		54,000	Wrap around services	
Yolo				10,000
Totals	\$560,221	\$474,000		\$179,875
<u>Summary/Averages</u>				
Total number of programs responded with funding = 16				
Total General Fund = 10 Programs reported				
Total HHS/STATE = 4 Programs reported				
Total Court = 3 Programs reported				
Note: SB County had both county & court funding				
Total County Government Funding \$1,034,221				
Median Average County Government Funding = \$73,872				
Median Average General Fund (solely) = \$56,022				
Median Average Court Funding = \$59,958				

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS: We realize full well that the county is approached by many organizations and some who tout “evidence based practices”. The efficacy cited in the presentation includes:

- Reduction in recidivism of 50%
- Half as likely to experience long-term foster care
- Improved placement stability
- Improved performance in school
- More services ordered by court

Therefore, our goal is to cite the sources of either **regional or national scientifically conducted studies** that is behind these claims, as well as others that were not noted in the presentation.

The references are as follows:

John Poetner and Allan Press, “Who best represents the interests of the child in court?”; Child Welfare, 1990, 69(6): p. 537-549

University of Houston and Child Advocates, Inc., “Making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children”: Research on the effectiveness of a Court Appointed Special Advocate; 2009 Child Welfare, 88(6): p. 23-46

Youngclarke, “A systematic review of the impact of court appointed special advocates”; Journal of the Center for Families and Children and the Courts, 2004

Office of Inspector General, Audit Report 07-04, December 2006

This last document was as a result of Congress ordering the Office of Inspector General to conduct an audit on the effectiveness of CASA programs nationally. This audit was conducted by the OIG in conjunction with the Department of Justice. It is a 96 page study that is very comprehensive and is readily available if anyone from the county ever wants to review it.

Recidivism Rate: In addition to these scientific studies cited, as a reminder in 2014, CASA El Dorado was able to validate that our reentry rates for foster youth who had the services of a CASA advocate were less than 6%. We accomplished this with the cooperation of H&HS and shared this data with each of the Board of Supervisors in individual meetings during 2014. This included current Supervisors Mikulaco and Veerkamp and subsequently with Supervisor Frentzen upon her arrival later that year.

The significance of this 6% (or less) rate of reentry is that it is completely in line with studies (i.e. Youngclarke cited above), which show that nationally CASA programs have an average of 6% of reentry, while the child welfare system at large is double that number at 12%. Our methodology was to simply analyze how many kids came back into our care between two cohort years of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. For each cohort we looked out 12 months to see if any of the cases closed during those two years returned to us. In 2009-10 we closed 79 cases and only four of them returned within the next 12 months for a 5% reentry rate. In 2010-11 we closed 74 cases and only 3 of them returned within the next year for a 4% rate. Unfortunately, CPS was unable to conduct their own analysis of their data in the same straightforward manner, because of the way it is structured for the CWS/CMS system. However, it is on the basis of the validation of our numbers and logical deduction of what we do know about the county reentry after reunification rates, that we **firmly** believe that we are **at least twice as effective** at keeping kids from returning to child welfare system – in sync with national studies.

CURRENT CPS CHALLENGES: At the onset, we believe it is both fair and necessary to state that we appreciate the renewed leadership and focus that the latest Director of Health and Human Services has brought to the department this past couple of years. We believe changes have been and continue to be made within the department overall and CPS specifically, that represent a focus on best practices and tied to the overarching goal of continuous improvement.

To that end, we are very humbled by our inclusion in the Foster Youth Human Trafficking task force, at the behest of the H&HS Director. CASA is the only non-public agency invited to be at the table thus far. We see this task force focused on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) as one of the real bright spots in the CPS domain and one that we believe the county should be proud of. Together we are focused on a list of “high risk” children that currently averages between 25-30 children. The goal is for us to be able to serve each one of these identified youth with a CASA Advocate, as part of our collaboration on the task force. However, the challenge of course is that we lack the funding to do so. On average we serve around half of them today as a note of interest. The proposed reduction in county funding would obviously further impact our ability to serve these at-risk youth that we are targeting on the task force.

We are also very interested in exploring ways that we might deepen the relationship with CPS by offering a Family Finding service in addition to our normal Advocacy services, as several other CASA programs in California have already done. This is a program that leverages existing CASA advocates supported by existing CASA staff, to implement a process that overlaps and augments that which the county does in terms of finding relatives (connections) for children when they enter the foster care system. The goal is to at minimum find relatives who can provide a vital connection for that child and in some cases possibly even become a guardian and/or adoptive parent. These are examples of “kinship care” as it is commonly known. The advantage that the CASA Advocate has is the ability to leverage the relationship with the child which is built on trust. That allows us to perform a “Family Mapping” procedure which helps uncover potential leads that may find more relative connections. Many studies over the years have shown that kinship care as opposed to foster care, typically yields many benefits in terms of both short and long-term outcomes. It is one of the dynamics that has gained both state and national attention and has resulted in an increased system-wide focus on kinship care for as many kids as possible.

As a note of interest, all of the data in this section of the presentation and this document comes from a public source (website) known as CWS/CMS and it is administered by University of California at Berkeley: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/default.aspx

The following charts relate to the other items cited in the presentation that had to do with our inability to keep pace with state averages in the following areas:

- We have too many kids in group home placements which is not good for the children and the most expensive form of foster care
- We are not placing enough children in kinship care with relatives where they do better and their placements cost less
- Our kids do not enjoy as much stability in their placements as kids statewide do; the effect on outcomes should be obvious to everyone
- Many of our children are placed far from their home of origin which is one of the factors that affects stability of placement

Again, our reason for highlighting these issues is because we sincerely believe that more kids served by advocates can improve many of these outcomes. Additionally, by working more closely together on things like Family Finding we can potentially decrease the number of group home placements and increase placements with relatives, some of whom may also be closer to their home of origin.

Distance from Home Address to Placement Address

April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

For Children Still in Care 12 Months after first entry

Stratified by Placement at 12 Months with Kin or Non-Kin

This chart shows that our placements with non-kin have a much greater chance of being beyond 11 miles from the home address of the child – relative to the state average. There is a 22% greater probability that a child will be placed more than 11 miles away if they are in El Dorado County. Placing children far from their home of origin creates multiple problems for the children and their families. It often means that the child will be removed from their school as well as their home and lose that additional element of consistency from their lives.

Some of these children are placed in group homes. Some counties such as San Bernardino are using SB 162 funding to use CASA advocates for wrap around services in the home, as a conscious alternative to placement in a group homes. These group home placements cost the county more than \$7,000 per month per child just for housing. Family-Finding services from CASA might also help reduce this number, if additional kinship care can be identified and leveraged for some of these children.

	<1 Mile	1-5 Mile	6-10 Miles	11+ Miles
California Non-kin	9.4%	26.1%	17.1%	47.4%
ED County Non-kin	15.2%	3.0%	12.1%	69.7%

Entries into Foster Care by Placement Type

The next chart on the following page shows new entries to foster care, for the year period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. What it is showing is what type of foster care placement these children are provided, once they enter foster care. You can see for yourself that the state average during that period for all counties was that 26.6% of these kids were in foster care. However, El Dorado County was only 19.6, or seven points below the state average. In real numbers we had 112 children that were part of this year analysis. If we were able to get our average closer to the state average of 26.6% - that would mean that close to eight additional children would be in kinship care with a relative, instead of foster care with a stranger. Again. This would also likely result in better outcomes and reduced foster care costs for the county. What is even more striking in this chart, is the **21.4% in group home placements** for El Dorado County, versus **6.8% for the state average** based on all counties. This represents about **14 additional kids** in group homes during this time period, which in turn represents close to **\$100,000 per month** in payment to the group homes alone for housing these kids.

Entries to Foster Care

Agency Type = Child Welfare

Apr 1, 2014 to Mar 31, 2015

Selected Subset: Episode Count: **First Entry**

Selected Subset: Number of Days in Care: **8 days or more**

California

Placement Type	Placement Type											All
	Pre-Adopt	Kin	Foster	FFA	Court Specified Home	Group	Shelter	Guardian	SILP	Other	Missing	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Pre-Adopt
Kin	.	26.6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	26.6
Foster	.	.	17.7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	17.7
FFA	.	.	.	43.6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	43.6
Court Specified Home	0.1	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Group	6.8	.	.	.	.	.	6.8
Shelter	3.6	.	.	.	.	3.6
Guardian	1.5	.	.	.	1.5
SILP	0	.	.	0
Other
Missing
Total	.	26.6	17.7	43.6	0.1	6.8	3.6	1.5	0	.	.	100

[How to get your graph](#)

El Dorado

Placement Type	Placement Type											All
	Pre-Adopt	Kin	Foster	FFA	Court Specified Home	Group	Shelter	Guardian	SILP	Other	Missing	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Pre-Adopt
Kin	.	19.6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19.6
Foster	.	.	22.3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22.3
FFA	.	.	.	31.3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	31.3
Court Specified Home	0.9	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.9
Group	21.4	.	.	.	.	.	21.4
Shelter
Guardian	4.5	.	.	.	4.5
SILP
Other
Missing
Total	.	19.6	22.3	31.3	0.9	21.4	.	4.5	.	.	.	100

This chart shows that we are lagging the state trend of decreasing the number of Children with Entries over the last ten years: 10% decrease for state and 2% for El Dorado County

California Child Population (0-17) and Children with Child Maltreatment Allegations, Substantiations, and Entries
 Children with Entries
 Agency Type=Child Welfare
 California

Age Group	Interval										
	JAN2004-DEC2004	JAN2005-DEC2005	JAN2006-DEC2006	JAN2007-DEC2007	JAN2008-DEC2008	JAN2009-DEC2009	JAN2010-DEC2010	JAN2011-DEC2011	JAN2012-DEC2012	JAN2013-DEC2013	JAN2014-DEC2014
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Under 1	6,413	7,145	7,131	6,853	5,940	5,571	5,490	5,479	5,711	6,166	6,219
*1-2	4,864	5,239	5,269	5,103	4,878	5,014	4,950	4,522	4,560	4,853	4,739
*3-5	5,803	6,177	6,050	6,022	5,408	5,465	5,488	5,633	5,626	5,813	5,678
*6-10	8,171	8,383	8,127	7,728	6,920	6,649	6,399	6,324	6,717	7,134	7,284
*11-15	7,983	8,253	8,210	7,824	7,136	6,621	6,219	6,101	5,994	5,919	5,846
*16-17	2,072	2,384	2,513	2,530	2,533	2,335	2,134	2,019	2,200	2,134	2,143
Total	35,306	37,581	37,300	36,060	32,815	31,655	30,680	30,078	30,808	32,019	31,909

[How to get your graph](#)

El Dorado

Age Group	Interval										
	JAN2004-DEC2004	JAN2005-DEC2005	JAN2006-DEC2006	JAN2007-DEC2007	JAN2008-DEC2008	JAN2009-DEC2009	JAN2010-DEC2010	JAN2011-DEC2011	JAN2012-DEC2012	JAN2013-DEC2013	JAN2014-DEC2014
	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n	n
Under 1	20	24	35	21	20	27	12	16	24	22	22
*1-2	24	25	21	28	35	33	22	28	27	28	18
*3-5	38	26	24	24	41	24	32	26	38	33	28
*6-10	46	36	33	46	61	34	40	33	52	45	41
*11-15	37	35	47	40	58	47	41	30	48	41	47
*16-17	9	14	11	20	14	16	17	6	12	6	12
Total	174	160	171	179	229	181	164	139	201	175	168

Stability of Placement: This chart demonstrates that we are below the state average as it pertains to the number of new entries that are still in either the first, or second placement, at the end of one year. 73.8% statewide are still in the first or second placement; 60.5% of our kids are still in first placement, almost a 14% difference.

California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)

University of California at Berkeley

Placement Stability

Entries during 6-month period: Still in care at 12 months

Oct 1, 2013 to Mar 31, 2014

Selected Subset: Episode Count: First Entry

	Still in care	Children in placement	%
County at 12 months	number	number 1, 2	
California	6,976	5,148	73.80%
El Dorado	38	23	60.50%

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2015 Quarter 1 Extract.

Program version: 1.10 Database version: 6625E96B

In closing, we would like to reiterate that our shining a light on some of these issues is done so simply to highlight the fact that H&HS needs us to be serving more kids – not less. We know based on proven results, that we can have an even greater impact on these areas of concern with your continued support. Thank you for allowing us to present this data and for your continued partnership.