

Briefing to Board of Supervisors

In December of 2019 by resolution the Board of Supervisors formed the El Dorado Commission for Youth and Families. The Commission's stated purpose is "to improve outcomes for youth and families by providing coherent and effective support within the County." As its first initiative, the Commission has begun coordinating an integrated, transparent, and data-driven evaluation of the system of local services to which young people and families have access to provide for the social, emotional, educational, and/or health support they need to thrive. By evaluating the overall well-being of the County's youth, identifying gaps in services, and developing recommendations for improvements, the Commission will encourage El Dorado's public, nonprofit, and private agencies to coordinate access to service and ease the burden of navigating across public agencies and community partners.

Since the first Commission meeting in October 2020, the Commission has compared available outcome data for El Dorado County to statewide averages to determine where we may be seeing more success and where we may want to focus resources to improve our outcomes for youth and families. The Commission solicited input from community experts in the areas of physical health, behavioral health, early childhood, transition aged youth, education, child welfare services, youth probation, substance use disorders, domestic violence, and homelessness to determine acute areas of concern which may be overlooked in local policy and resource coordination and to learn more about these issues from those working in these areas. The Commission formed an ad hoc committee to analyze the information from members and Commission meetings. Commissioners discussed the recommendations of the ad hoc committee and came to the following conclusions:

1. Although continuous improvement and evolution of interventions is always warranted, El Dorado County data shows strengths in the areas of education, child welfare services, and youth probation.
 - a. Education:
 - i. The number of high school graduates who enroll in college is 2.75 times higher than the state average
 - ii. 80% of El Dorado County children age birth to 5 are read to by an adult every day, compared to the state average of only 64%
 - iii. 60% of El Dorado County students feel connected to their schools, compared to 55% in the state of California.
 - b. Child Welfare Services:
 - i. Child Welfare is meeting or exceeding National Standards in the areas of:
 1. Maltreatment in Foster Care
 2. Recurrence of Maltreatment
 3. Permanency within 12-24 months of entering Foster Care
 4. Permanency after 24 months of entering Foster Care
 5. Placement Stability

6. Timely investigation of Child Abuse/Neglect

- c. Probation:
 - i. The number of foster youth on probation who exit to permanency within one year is nearly 2.9 times higher than the state average
- 2. The Commission identified several areas where improved access to and provision of service should be considered for targeted intervention, including the areas of behavioral health, domestic violence, and substance use disorders.
 - a. Behavioral Health:
 - i. 20% of students have reported that they have considered suicide, which is 25% higher than the state average
 - ii. 36% of students report chronic sadness and hopelessness
 - b. Domestic Violence
 - i. El Dorado received 6.2 calls per 1000 residents, which is higher than the California rate.
 - c. Substance Abuse
 - i. The number of substance-affected infants at birth is 235% higher than the state average
 - ii. 56% of pregnancy hospitalizations include a substance use diagnosis, compared to 35% statewide

The Commission will now move to engage with community stakeholders to identify recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to target the most challenging areas for our youth and families.