

## **Program Descriptions**

### **Home Visitation**

*Funding: 100% CAPIT*

The Home Visitation program will focus on supporting the parent as well as supporting parent-child interaction and child development in at-risk family homes. Families at-risk will be determined by community referral and through the Children and Parents Resource Team (CPRT). The high quality model employed will be either: 1) affiliated with a national model and be currently certified or credentialed by the national office of that program model; or 2) federally-funded and authorized to provide the program model. Home visitation begins with the assessment of family member knowledge and skills. Based on the results of the assessment, in-home education including but not limited to teaching positive parenting skills, developmental stages expectations, housekeeping, homemaking and organizational skills will be delivered. Parents will also be connected to community resources and the provider will complete follow-up assessments to monitor effectiveness.

This program fulfills a need for delivering services to at-risk families who are isolated by rural locations, transportation challenges or other situations which may make travel difficult. These are families who are known to be at-risk but may not be able to participate in suggested services because of their travel challenges. The target population will be families with children five years of age or younger and will be culturally and linguistically appropriate to the population served. In addition to provider reports on family demographics, service effectiveness and family satisfaction the HHSA will measure the effectiveness by tracking if those families served become involved with CPS thereafter.

### **Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities**

*Funding: 66% CBCAP*

The El Dorado County CAPC participates in child abuse and neglect prevention services by funding, coordinating and participating in Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. These activities include the Kid's Expo which targets families with children ages 1 - 10 years and brings together nearly 100 local agencies to provide a variety of hands on activities and share information about their family and children's services. The CAPC also produces a family service guide, flyers, places banners and assures media awareness of this special month. These activities increase community connections, concrete supports, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children.

### **Community Child Abuse Prevention Education**

*Funding: 34% CBCAP*

This program focuses on the needs of the community regarding child abuse and neglect prevention. Many of these trainings are delivered through partnerships with Infant Parent Center, Family Connections anger management and parenting programs, the California School Age Families Education (Cal SAFE) program, Transition Age Youth - Independent Living Program

(ILP), high school senior child development classes, child care providers, foster parent training, and public health nursing. Each training class will include a section discussing community resources for child abuse prevention and a Family Service Guide with contact information for all of the resources discussed, and more, will be distributed.

Mandated Reporter is geared to recognizing signs of at-risk families with an emphasis on prevention. A Mandated Reporter Training Handbook is included and covers the following areas: prevention education, community resources for child abuse and neglect prevention, The California Child Abuse Neglect and Reporting Law; Identification of Environmental Problems, Parental Clues, Physical and Behavioral indicators; Guidelines to Determine Reasonable Suspicion; and Major Treatment Issues. This training fulfills a need for community professionals to be able to recognize at-risk families, signs of child abuse or neglect, know how to report these concerns as well as education regarding prevention concepts, services and other resources within El Dorado County. The target population is social workers, teachers and other personnel, physicians and other health-care workers, mental health professionals, child care providers and law enforcement officers.

El Dorado County has had several cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) injuries and a current need was seen to address this danger with community training. This 90 minute training includes printed training materials, demonstration with a SBS simulator doll, and tools for coping to help parents and caregivers avoid shaking a child. The target population is families with infants.

During 2005-2007 the El Dorado County Multidisciplinary Death Review Team reviewed four child deaths and three of them were found to involve unsafe sleeping habits. The implementation of Safe Sleeping Habits Education was seen as an important need for families who engage in co-bedding or co-sleeping or who have infants or children who do not have proper bedding in the home. This is a 1 hour training which includes printed training materials and education on safe co-bedding practices. This training is usually given in conjunction with Shaken Baby Syndrome training unless otherwise requested.

Effectiveness will be determined by the number of parents educated and the number of cases of these types of abuse reported during the years of the plan, and pre and post tests completed by training participants. The types of education offered each year may be changed according to community needs and will be documented and approved during Annual SIP Update process.

### **Parent Leadership Development**

*Funding: 10% of PSSF - Family Support Services*

The Parent Leadership Development program is a dynamic training program designed to empower parents to advocate for their families, become change agents for their children and work constructively to gain a voice for children and families. It will increase parents' confidence and competence in their parental capacity. Parent Leadership Development is an effective program designed to engage parents and support them as they address the challenges of parenting, gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent a "parent voice" to help shape direction for their families, programs and

communities. These parents will be encouraged to become members of the CAPC, community collaboratives, community volunteer organizations such as CASA and serve as mentors for parents both at-risk and involved in CWS.

Immediate participant impacts include increased knowledge of community resources, government policies and regulations, development of new skills and confidence to move into meaningful leadership roles, improved advocacy and communication skills that are critical to having their voices heard and their needs met, establishment of relationships with community leaders and peers, and increased tolerance and appreciation of diverse opinions and perspectives. Long term outcomes to our community include parent leaders engaged in meaningful leadership roles in community based and government organizations, a Parent Advisory Council for CAPC, and a sustainable network of parents to support parents in the Child Welfare System as mentors can then be developed.

This is part of SIP Strategy 3: Implement Parent Engagement, Training and Mutual Support Program.

### **Family Preservation & Time-Limited Reunification**

*Funding: 20% PSSF - Family Preservation (FP) Services and 20% PSSF - Time-Limited Reunification Services (FR)*

This program is used to support services to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages, to improve parenting skills and increase relationship skills within the family to prevent child abuse and neglect, while also promoting timely family reunification when children must be separated from their parents for their own safety. Access to these services will be through HHSA approved community referrals and the HHSA DR program. The program is funded by Family Preservation and Family Reunification components of PSSF.

Services will include:

#### Substance Abuse Treatment

This service will include sessions of therapeutic counseling, client treatment plans and written reports, substance abuse testing and treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient group counseling sessions, individual counseling sessions, residential treatment and transitional housing services to address and treat Client's identified or diagnosed problems including but not limited to social, psychological, substance abuse, medical and/or other problems.

#### Parenting Classes

This program is designed to help people become the parents they want to be, the parents their children deserve in order to have a safe, secure and loving childhood. There will be specific parenting classes for certain child age groups, in-depth (52 week) classes, classes addressing co-parenting and parent-child interactive therapy.

#### Individual, Group or Family Counseling/Therapy/Classes

This program will include, but not be limited to, therapeutic counseling, psychotherapeutic counseling, classes and/or training programs, anger management, domestic violence and other

related services to address and treat a client's identified or diagnosed problems including but not limited to social, psychological, substance abuse, medical and/or other problems.

### Transportation

Transportation to any of the above services can be funded by PSSF Family Support Services or Time-Limited Family Reunification Services.

Effectiveness of the above FP services will be determined by provider reports detailing client demographics, service effectiveness and client satisfaction. The HHSA will also track the clients served to determine if they became involved with CPS after receiving these services. For FR services the HHSA will track the number of families reunified who have received services funded by the PSSF FR component.

### **Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework**

*Funding: 10% PSSF Family Support Services*

Five Protective Factors are the foundation of the Strengthening Families Approach: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. Research studies support the common-sense notion that when these Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes.

Strengthening Families /Protective Factors Framework Trainings will be brought to the community, attended by home visiting program providers, parents, Family Resource Center staff, mental health providers and other community based organization staff. Each year a specific Protective Factor will be focused on until all of them have been addressed. These activities address many of the underlying issues contributing to child abuse and neglect. Some of these contributing issues noted the CSA include the need for more community connections and collaboration, concentrating on family strengthening, building concrete supports and the need for parent mentors to increase the strength and stability of families.

### **PSSF Adoption Promotion and Support**

*Funding: 40% PSSF - Adoption Promotion and Support Services*

This program is used to remove barriers which impede the process of adoption when children cannot be safely reunited with their families and to address the unique issues adoptive families and children may face.

El Dorado County adoption social workers are assigned as secondary case workers during Concurrent Planning. Part of their secondary assignment is to determine permanency options for children to prepare in the event the children are unable to reunify with their birth parents.

The HHSA currently employs two full time adoption social workers and one supervisor that attend to the adoption services provided by the County. The Adoptions Unit is currently referring families to private adoption agencies to have their home studies completed given the workload issue. The Adoptions Unit is not able to do home studies as the two social workers are focusing on the court related child welfare activities. With the support of the PSSF funding

an additional social worker will be added to the Adoptions Unit. The goal is to be able to complete some of the home studies for families who are matched with the child that has been in their home during the court dependency. The adoption social workers will be working closer with the families to assist them with the adoption process and any issues that may come up during the home study process.

The Adoptions Unit supervisor will continue to provide post adoption services to families that have finalized their adoption. The HHSA continues to carry Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) cases until the child has reached the age of eighteen or twenty-one. Post adoption services consist of providing referral information to the families, out of home placement information, etc.

As part of maintaining the AAP caseload, the Adoption Supervisor is responsible for providing information about therapists in the area that provide adoption related counseling services, works with our local adoption agencies and knows when they are having activities for families who have adopted, such as social activities, and provides this information when families call asking about groups. These agencies also have support groups and the HHSA will provide this information. The supervisor is also responsible for working with families regarding adoption subsidies. They assist the families in identifying the required documentation that is needed when an increase is being requested for the AAP grant. We determine with their assistance if the grant is to be increased and the reason for the increase.

Post-adoption services also include maintaining records and when a request is received from either adult adoptees or birth parents asking for information, the information that is allowable is provided. Research efforts also take place, including reviewing contact forms to try to connect birth parents and their children if they have both signed the waiver and it is on file. If criteria are met, the supervisor will assist in providing addresses to one another and assist in making the connection.

A procedure and tracking system for number of clients served, demographics, effectiveness and client satisfaction is being developed and implemented by the start of this plan, July 1, 2012.