



August 30, 2022 DFCS Continuum of Learning Questions & Answers



CSA/SIP Update

1 No questions

Relative Placements

2 How many dependents are currently in the system?

- 720 as of the last DFCS monthly data sheet.
- We have the monthly Fact Sheets posted on the DFCS site at [Department of Family and Children's Services - Social Services Agency - County of Santa Clara \(sccgov.org\)](http://www.sccgov.org/department-of-family-and-childrens-services-social-services-agency-county-of-santa-clara). Click on DFCS Reports on the bottom left.

3 Can you explain pain-based behaviors?

- Pain-based behaviors are normal reactions to traumatic experiences. It is an acknowledgment that the behaviors that we see from kids are a result of their experiences and the associated pain.

4 Some of the concerns we have heard from relative caregivers:

- Delays to permanency (especially Termination of Parental Rights)
- Not knowing who is responsible for checking updates from court(s) etc (Adoption Social Worker (SW)? Children's attorney? Santa Clara County (SCC) attorney? SCC Appellate attorney?)
- Finding information / advocacy
- Lack of history / information in pre adoption disclosure documents (especially regarding prior periods in care, genetic conditions, etc.)
- Not being included on SCC email lists (having to wait for info to be forwarded)
- Not being advised of benefits/allowances that the children are entitled to (eg: back to school clothing allowance, the Covid allowance, etc.)
- Poor communication from school(s) (eg: why caregivers not contacted when principal and police officers spoke to children regarding a serious incident)

For these items we can take these back to see how we can address through possible procedural and/or policy modifications. It might be good for someone to connect with you as well to get more details.

5 How can we support a mother who want to reunification with her child, and how can we guide her.

- Connect with the Social Worker to possibly be a part of that team.

6 What is IPS?

- Intensive Permanency Services

Where can I sign up for IPS?

- Reach out to Elsie.Marenco-Mejia@ssa.sccgov.org who is the supervisor for the Family

Finding Unit.

Do IPS social workers have a behavioral health background?

- It is not a requirement because they do not provide therapy but IPS workers participate in extensive training with Alia in terms of grief and loss. Additionally, Alia participates in consultations with the social workers to work around the healing process and relationship building.

Case Study

7 Regarding fathers not involved....oes DCFS provide any support to mothers in getting child support?

- DFCS supports Child Support- both to suspend when DFCS is involved if needed and a \$ impact to families when children are removed and to support single parents whether mothers or fathers in obtaining child support from the other parent.

8 Any opportunities or misses you want to add about the father?

- Included dad in CFT (Child Family Team meeting) and always looking for him to get him involved. Engaged the dad's family to get him engaged. Paternal relatives showed up when dad did not. AND just to clarify, case is closed. Youth is back with the mother-connections with the father- and extended family wrapping support around the mother and youth in the community with supports.

9 What is the County doing to re-establish STRTPs (Short Term Residential Treatment Program) in Santa Clara County?

- The Board approved today a contract with Advent Youth Ministries to implement an STRTP within Santa Clara County.

Is one STRTP enough?

- As we are looking at supporting home-based environments, we are looking at specialized homes that support youth at an STRTP level - we currently have that available and we are increasing.

10 Acronyms

- HOTH – Parisi - House on the Hill- Substance Abuse Treatment program for mothers.
- CSEC - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children - DFCS has a specialized team in partnership with Behavioral Health and Community Solutions - also known as the Transformation Team
- CFT - Child and Family Team meeting - required before any removal or shortly after; or when a safety plan has been developed or any changes in placement and before a family exits DFCS to support any transitions and after care services.
- STRTP- Short Term Residential Treatment Program
- AWOL- leaving a program or home
- LACY - Legal Advocates for Children and Youth.. .partnership with court partners