

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

128



**FROM: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
October 27, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Submission of the 2008 County Self Assessment (CSA) Report to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Department of Public Social Services to submit the attached 2008 County Self Assessment Report to the California Department of Social Services.

**BACKGROUND:**

The County Self Assessment (CSA) provides information on child welfare service delivery strengths, areas needing improvement, and strategies for future exploration during the System Improvement Plan (SIP) process. It is the second in a series of three (3) reports that is required by the State in order to measure successful child welfare outcomes. The CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Three-Year Plan was submitted to the State on September 18, 2008, the CSA is due to the State by November 29, 2008, and lastly the System Improvement Plan (SIP) requires submission to the State in March, 2009. Beginning March 30, 2009, the CAPIT/CBCAP/PSSF Three-Year Plan will be integrated into the CSA and SIP.

*Susan Loew*

Susan Loew, Director

(CONTINUED – 2 PAGES IN TOTAL)

**FINANCIAL DATA**

Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
Annual Net County Cost:	\$0	For Fiscal Year:	2008

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE

BY: *Debra Courmoyer*  
Debra Courmoyer

**County Executive Office Signature**

Policy

Policy

Consent

Consent

Dept Recomm.:

Per Exec. Ofc.:

Craig Cass for Probation

Alan M. Crogan, Chief Probation Officer  
Departmental Concurrence

3.35

**TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**DATE: 10/27/08**

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**SUBJECT: 2008 County Self Assessment (CSA)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Legislature passed AB 636 (Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001), enacting the Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability Act. The Act requires counties to focus on efforts to improve outcomes. As part of the continual review process, AB 636 requires counties to provide an annual update of program priorities, timelines, and action steps that will achieve the stated improvement goals.

The County System Improvement Plan of 2006 identified three (3) outcomes for improvement: 1. A reduction in abuse in out-of-home care; 2. A reduction in abuse when children are not removed from their homes; and 3. A reduction in re-entry into foster care. These outcomes served as focus areas for the current County Self Assessment process.

On May 15, 2008, the DPSS Children's Services Division (CSD) in partnership with the Department of Probation and Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County (PCARC) launched its County Self Assessment process. Over 115 Riverside County community partners and CSD staff joined together to discuss the impact to the community when children and youth re-enter the foster care system. Immediately following the reentry impact discussion, partners were asked to consider the possible causes of child reentry.

Feedback collected from the initial CSA meeting was used to develop eight (8) focus areas. These focus areas were used to collaboratively examine strengths, resources, gaps, and needs as they relate to child reentry into foster care. Meeting thirteen (13) times throughout the County, CSD staff and community partners spent the month of July working towards comprehensively evaluating Riverside County's child welfare system.

On July 14, 2008, over 75 community partners and CSD staff again met to hear presentations on the preliminary findings from each of the eight (8) workgroups. All participants were afforded the opportunity to comment on the findings of each work group, and to present each work group with recommendations for additional group discussion and analysis.

On September 15, 2008, over 70 community partners and CSD staff met to conclude the CSA process, initiate the SIP process, and discuss future work toward the goal of reducing child reentry into foster care. Partners and stakeholders were provided with a summary of the strategies that had been identified by the workgroups during the CSA process. As common themes existed in the strategies identified by each of the workgroups, the strategies were consolidated into the following five (5) overarching areas for strategic improvement:

- Relevant Management Information Systems
- Foster/Relative Caretaker Training, Recruitment & Retention
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff/Provider Training
- Agency Collaborations

Community Partners and staff will meet on November 5, 2008 to prioritize the strategies identified during the CSA process. Those strategies will become activities or milestones under each of the aforementioned overarching areas for strategic improvement and will be used to support Riverside County's SIP goal of reducing child reentry into foster care over the next three (3) years.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** No County funds are required.