

125
**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
 September 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Response to the 2010-11 Grand Jury Report: Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Children's Service Division, Child Protective Services, Blythe

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendation regarding Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Children's Service Division, Child Protective Services, Blythe.
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized responses to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

BACKGROUND: On July 26, 2011, the Board directed staff to prepare a draft of the Board's response to the Grand Jury's report regarding Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Children's Service Division, Child Protective Services, Blythe.

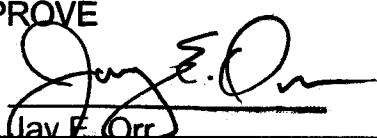
Section 933 (c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to the matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

90dayresponsef11DPSSBLYTHE09.11

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| FINANCIAL DATA | Current F.Y. Total Cost: | \$ N/A | In Current Year Budget: |
| | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ | Budget Adjustment: |
| | Annual Net County Cost: | \$ | For Fiscal Year: |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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

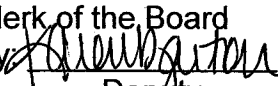
BY: 
 Jay F. Orr

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Buster, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Benoit and Ashley
 Nays: None
 Absent: Tavaglione and Stone
 Date: September 20, 2011
 xc: EO, Grand Jury, Presiding Judge, DPSS, Recorder

Kecia Harper-Ihem
 Clerk of the Board
 By: 
 Deputy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.89 – 07/26/11 | District: | Agenda Number:

ATTACHMENTS FILED

3.3

WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Departmental Concurrence

Dept's Recomm.: Consent Policy
 Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

**2010-11 GRAND JURY REPORT
DPSS Children's Service Division, Blythe**

A. FINDINGS

Finding 1: Temporary Shelters

Testimony revealed that social workers are contacted several times a month to remove children from their homes in the Blythe area during late evening or early morning hours for alleged neglect or abuse and are held in the CPS office. This is because there are no temporary shelters available. Two (2) social workers must remain with these children to ensure the child's safety and well-being until an appropriate placement can be arranged.

Response 1:

Respondent disagrees partially with the finding.

In the Blythe office, there are occasions when two social workers are required to remain in the office with children while a placement is being located. This is dependent on the number and ages of the children removed that require placement and the amount of supervision needed while waiting for placement.

There is one Foster Family Agency home available in Blythe that will take children on an emergency basis; however, their capacity is limited and they cannot always accommodate the number of children removed at a single time (i.e., sibling sets). To enhance the local capacity for foster care, the Division will be initiating new foster parent recruitment efforts.

Finding 2: Foster Homes

In the fiscal year 2003-04, there were seven certified foster homes in Blythe, but at the time of this current report there are only two. In emergency situations foster homes may be utilized as temporary shelter homes.

Due to the low number of foster homes and lack of shelter facilities in Blythe, children must be transported to Indio or in some cases other communities as far away as Moreno Valley, Riverside, Corona and Fontana or Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County. These trips can take up to 6-8 hours. This multiplies the time and expense incurred by the county, and the added emotional stress on the individual social workers as well as the anxiety placed on the recently displaced children.

Investigation revealed foster parents have reported they were not always provided access to necessary resources and training (e.g., health services, mental health services, and special education services) to adequately provide for children's needs.

Response 2:

Respondent agrees with the finding (see clarification).

Several of the foster care homes in Blythe that were available in 2003-2004 have since adopted children that were placed in their care and voluntarily removed themselves from being an active foster home. There are currently three Licensed Foster Family Homes and one Foster Family Agency home in the City of Blythe.

Due to the limited availability of foster care placements in the City of Blythe, children are sometimes transported outside of the immediate area and at times, out of the entire desert region for placement. Generally these placements are short term while assessing and certifying relatives for placement. Many of the current caregivers located in Blythe are relatives.

With regard to services and resources, this is addressed more fully in response to Finding and Recommendation 4 below. Despite the services that are available, foster parents in the Blythe community do express ongoing concerns about the lack of services and resources for children in placement. They report a lack of training to meet the needs of the children, lack of transportation resources and lack of advanced medical services requiring them to transport for follow up appointments to Loma Linda Medical Center in most instances.

Training for foster parents in the Blythe Community has been minimal. There is some on-line training available; however, caregivers would like training on more advanced topics to assist them to care for the children being placed in their homes. The local Community Colleges do receive funding for foster parent training; however, Palo Verde College has not offered this service to caregivers. DPSS will initiate discussions with Palo Verde College regarding the need for ongoing training for foster parents and pursue the development of this resource for the Blythe community.

Finding 3: Safety Security

At the time of this report, the exterior doors at the Blythe CPS office do not close completely when the staff enters at the back of the building, consequently the alarm system is not always dependable. Although there is lighting in the front of the building, it functions intermittently.

Investigation and inspection of the Blythe CPS office revealed there are two security cameras on the rear of the building. However, the poor resolution and improper placement negates the camera's reliability, making identification of people or vehicles virtually impossible.

Further investigation revealed that vehicles often operate in an unsafe manner within the interior of the parking lot near the CPS entrances utilized for moving children into and out of the facility.

The geographical and physical settings of the office, especially in relation to other county facilities attracts a variety of individuals, including vagrants. The necessary night utilization of the facility, usually involving children, presents a definite security issue.

Response 3:

Respondent disagrees partially with the finding.

The exterior doors, inadequate lighting and security camera issues were referred to County Facilities Management and these issues are in the process of being corrected.

The concern about the parking lot has been addressed with the Landlord and there is a plan to place speed bumps in both the front and rear parking lots.

The CPS location is not isolated from other County programs. The building is currently co-located with Adult Protective Services and adjacent to the DPSS Temporary Assistance Programs office. Additionally, County Department of Mental Health and Family Services of the Desert are also adjacent to the CPS/APS office. The immediate availability of these services in one location allows customers to more readily access the services they need to complete their case plans.

Finding 4: Services

The Blythe CPS social workers and their clients have limited access to local community services and county support systems in the Palo Verde Valley area. These support services are required for individualized intervention to families, which in turn, allow the opportunity for children to be raised in homes free of abuse and neglect. Examples of services required by families through CPS programs include parenting classes, drug treatment and testing, psychotherapy, life skills training services, transportation services and support services to relatives and foster caretakers. Many of these necessary support services are only available at distant locations such as Indio, Riverside or Moreno Valley.

Interviews revealed excessive travel times to receive required services negatively impact social workers' ability to effectively and efficiently manage their caseloads.

Due to minimal staffing levels, the Blythe Office of the Department of Mental Health is only able to respond to emergency CPS referrals. A Mental Health Clinical Therapist is needed to expand mental health services capacity to provide both routine and emergency counseling for CPS clients.

Blythe CPS workers must often travel long distances to receive their required professional training.

In an attempt to coordinate CPS activities, quarterly meetings are currently held between representatives of CPS, Mental Health and Probation Departments. However, these meetings are too infrequent to best meet the needs of the affected families.

Response 4:

Respondent disagrees partially with the finding.

DPSS currently contracts with Family Services of the Desert to provide a range of services to children and families in the Blythe area. These services include parenting, counseling, anger management and domestic violence programs.

The County Department of Mental Health provides out patient mental health services to adults and children to include crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, medication management and a drug court program.

Parents are referred out of the Blythe area for residential substance abuse programs due to a lack of these programs within the Blythe area.

The Department of Mental Health has a full time clinician available to provide the services outlined above Monday through Thursday from 8am-6pm.

Training for Blythe social workers is being offered locally. Social Workers are now provided training opportunities via online courses, web-based courses and DPSS Staff Development Officers providing on-site training. Additionally, a Training Mentor Supervisor has been traveling to the Blythe office one day per month to provide mentoring and training on-site.

The quarterly meetings held between Mental Health, Probation and CPS have been changed to monthly meetings to better address the needs and concerns related to services in the Blythe community.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1:

DPSS recruit and establish contracts with local licensed facilities to provide temporary shelters for placement of children who are removed from their homes during late evening and early morning hours.

Response 1:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Beginning in September, the Department's Children's Services Division - Permanency, Placement and Desert Regions will target community events that will outreach to the Blythe community for new foster homes. DPSS' goal is to inform the community of the need for qualified, supportive families willing to care for children who have experienced abuse or neglect from their families. Informational/recruitment meetings will be organized and held with the Blythe Child Abuse Council, community leaders, school administrators and faith based leaders to provide information on the need for foster homes in Blythe and the surrounding area.

As part of the Department's Family to Family program, foster parent recruitment materials have been developed that are distributed through schools. The Department will provide these materials to the schools which can be distributed to students to be taken home to parents.

Current relative caretakers will be contacted and informed of the need in Blythe in an effort to recruit them to become County Licensed Foster Homes. As noted previously, several of the foster care homes in Blythe have since adopted children that were placed in their care and voluntarily removed themselves from being an active foster home. However, DPSS will follow up with former foster parents to confirm that there weren't other reasons for no longer participating and to explore whether they would be open to fostering again.

This targeted recruitment effort will be implemented in early September and will be ongoing for the Department.

Recommendation 2:

DPSS implement a well orchestrated recruitment effort to expand the number of certified foster care homes and shelter care facilities available in the Palo Verde area. Establish new foster care provider contracts and/or re-activate contracts with foster care providers for child placement, with approval of Community Care Licensing in Blythe and Indio.

Response 2:

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The Department's response to this recommendation is the same as number 1.

Recommendation 3:

Blythe CPS routinely inspect all entrances to ensure the doors properly close and the alarm system functions correctly. Report any maintenance problems to Riverside County Economic Development Agency (EDA) Real Estate Division.

Blythe CPS routinely inspect lighting in both front and rear of the building and report any maintenance problems to Riverside County EDA Real Estate Division.

Blythe CPS ensure that all security cameras are in working condition, DPSS to upgrade and expand coverage of the cameras, and the picture quality, as needed. DPSS place an additional security camera in the front of the building to cover the entrance area of the adjacent parking lot.

DPSS request Riverside County EDA Real Estate Division to contact the property owner to install speed bumps in the back and front parking lots for safety of the employees and children.

Response 3:

The recommendation has been implemented.

The CPS supervisor routinely checks all entrances to the building and ensures the alarms are operating correctly. The rear door has been repaired by County Facilities Management. Any future problems will be reported immediately.

The lighting is inspected by the CPS supervisor to ensure it is operating correctly and immediately reports problems to DPSS Facilities Management. On July 14, 2011, a request was submitted for the Landlord to install additional lights in the front and rear of the building.

DPSS Facilities Manager will regularly inspect security cameras to insure that they are operating correctly. On July 18, 2011, a request was sent and a quote received for replacing the security cameras. Installation of the equipment will be scheduled in the near future.

On July 19, 2011, a request was submitted for the Landlord to order and install speed bumps in both the front and rear parking lots adjacent to the building.

Recommendation 4:

DPSS contract with local educational institutions such as School Districts, Palo Verde College and Local Non-Profit Agencies to obtain needed child and family social services in areas such as parenting classes, drug treatment and life skills training.

DPSS fund a Clinical Therapist position assigned to the Blythe Mental Health Clinic. This position would expand capacity to provide mental health services for adults and minors referred by Blythe CPS.

DPSS conduct required training of Blythe CPS social workers in Blythe, for example, one trainer coming to Blythe to train six or more social workers as opposed to six persons traveling to Indio or Moreno Valley.

Blythe CPS hold monthly meetings between CPS, Mental Health, Probation and other support services deemed appropriate, in order to coordinate the efforts of each department.

Response 4:

The recommendations have been implemented.

Many of the recommended services have been in place and available within the community. DPSS Children's Services Division currently contracts with Family Services of the Desert to provide a range of services. This contract is specific to the Blythe community and includes individual and group counseling, 12-week parenting group, 16-week anger management, 16-week children's services focused child abuse anger management and domestic violence programs.

In addition, the Department of Mental Health provides a Licensed Clinician to provide individual counseling and crisis intervention. The Department of Mental Health also provides a substance abuse counselor to provide substance abuse treatment services. These services are available in the Blythe office Monday through Thursday from 8am to 6pm and include: outpatient mental health treatment for adults, adolescents and children to include assessment, crisis intervention, individual counseling, medication management, case management, referral and consultation.

Currently, there are a number of community agencies that social workers refer families to for intervention and services. These agencies are:

- California Department of Rehabilitation
- Blythe Family Clinic
- Family Service Center
- Blythe Drug Abuse Program
- House of Miracles - substance abuse treatment
- Hopeful Start - substance abuse treatment
- ACES – AA/NA meetings
- METCALF – inpatient substance abuse program for males
- Parent Project – parenting classes' specific to teen years
- Palo Verde College – parenting classes

In an effort to provide training, support and updates to the Blythe Social Services staff, the Division has ensured that a Regional Manager, Office Support Supervisor and a Training Region Supervisor travel to the Blythe office monthly since February 2011. Over the first part of 2011 our Children's Services Staff Development Officers traveled to Blythe to provide specific training on two subject matter areas and efforts are being made to continue providing on-site training to Blythe staff as well as web cast and online courses.

The Children's Services Division has initiated monthly meetings with Mental Health, Probation and local school personnel to ensure coordination of efforts. In addition, the Blythe Children's Services Supervisor attends the following monthly meetings:

Community Youth Intervention – monthly at the Blythe Police Department attended by the School District, Sheriff's Department and Judicial Officers

Blythe Community Luncheon – monthly and facilitated by the School Districts to include Prison Staff, Hospital, Probation, Mental Health and Community members

Prevent Child Abuse Blythe Collaborative - held monthly and attended by community members.

DPSS will initiate discussions with Palo Verde College regarding the need for ongoing training for foster parents in the Blythe community.

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

506



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 26, 2011

SUBJECT: 2010-11 Grand Jury Report: Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Children's Service Division, Child Protective Services, Blythe

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board instruct Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Children's Service Division, Child Protective Services, Blythe, to forward to the Executive Office – within 30 days – a draft of the Board's response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury that pertain to the Department's operational areas; and direct the Executive Office to submit draft responses to the Board within 60 days.

BACKGROUND: The attached report has been issued by the Grand Jury.

Section 933 (c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court within 90 days.

Draft responses received from the affected department will be consolidated and presented for the Board's consideration; the response ultimately approved by the Board will then be forwarded to the Grand Jury as required by statute.

Attachment
30dayDPSS07.11

Departmental Concurrence

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| FINANCIAL DATA | Current F.Y. Total Cost: | \$ N/A | In Current Year Budget: |
| | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ | Budget Adjustment: |
| | Annual Net County Cost: | \$ | For Fiscal Year: |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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: *Christopher M. Hans*
 County Executive Office Signature Christopher M. Hans

Policy
 Policy
 Consent
 Consent
 Dep't Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Buster, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
 Nays: None
 Absent: Tavaglione
 Date: July 26, 2011
 xc: E.O., DPSS, COB

Kecia Harper-Ihem
 Clerk of the Board
 By: *[Signature]*
 Deputy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** | **Agenda Number:** 3.89

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD



RECEIVED
JUN 28 2011
County of Riverside
Dept. of Public Social Services

CC: Loew
Deporto

RIVERSIDE COUNTY GRAND JURY

(951) 955-8990 OFFICE • (951) 955-8989 FAX

June 28, 2011

Susan Loew, Director
Riverside County DPSS / CPS
4060 County Circle Drive
Riverside, CA 92513

Subject: 2010-11 Grand Jury Report: Riverside County Department of Public Social Services,
Children's Service Division, Child Protective Services, Blythe

Dear Ms. Loew:

Please note that Penal Code Section 933 et seq., specifies that you respond within ninety days. Further, it specifies that this report be kept **confidential for a minimum of two working days** prior to public release. The contents of this report will be made public after the close of business **June 30, 2011**.

Sincerely,

Manuel J. Jimenez, Foreperson
2010-11 Riverside County Grand Jury

MJJ:gs
Attach.

2010-2011 GRAND JURY REPORT

Riverside County Department of Public Social Services Children's Service Division Child Protective Services, Blythe

Background

The Children's Services Division of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) provides individualized interventions to families in which abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred.

Children's Services Division offers comprehensive core services to children and their families within the boundaries of six (6) geographical regions: Desert, Mid-County, Valley, Metro, West corridor, and Southwest. The Desert geographical region extends from Palm Desert in the west to the Arizona border in the east and Riverside County lines on the north and south.

The Blythe Child Protective Services (CPS) office budgeted positions and actual staffing are as follows:

| Position Title | Budgeted | Actual |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Social Worker Supervisor | 1 | 1 |
| Social Worker V | 5 | 5 |
| Office Assistant III | 1 | 1 |
| Social Services Assistant | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 8 | 7 |

Each Social Worker manages an average caseload of approximately 38 children. The core services include:

- Central Intake Center – A hotline for receiving information from community members and professionals dealing with children regarding suspected abuse or neglect in specific families.
- Emergency Response – Children's Services staff members who access and intervene in situations of alleged abuse and neglect.
- Court Dependency – Staff members present cases to Juvenile Court for adjudication when children and families are in need of court intervention.

- Court Services – Children’s Services Court Officers prepare and present child abuse and neglect cases to Juvenile Court and communicate specific information on court proceedings to assigned social workers.
- Family Maintenance – Provide services to families whose children are able to remain safely in their own home while services are being provided to alleviate the risk of further abuse or neglect.
- Family Reunification – Services designed to help remedy the underlying causes of abuse and neglect, which when corrected would allow a child to return safely to his/her home.

The CPS office in Blythe is located in the Desert geographical region. This office is responsible for providing necessary services to children and their families in the Palo Verde Community, as well as to the schools and Probation Department. The Blythe CPS office is in a leased facility in a somewhat isolated location on the east end of a shopping center.

Blythe is the furthestmost city in eastern Riverside County, approximately 100 miles east of Indio. The DPSS Indio office serves as the major support service center for the Blythe CPS office. Blythe has a population of approximately 21,000, of whom 8,000 are incarcerated in two (2) nearby state prisons. Blythe has primarily an agricultural based economy with few employment opportunities. The Blythe unemployment rate is currently 15.10%

Several findings in this report are identical or similar to conditions identified in the 2003-2004 Grand Jury Report concerning the Blythe CPS office. Findings in both reports concern staffing, temporary shelters, security and access to community services.

Findings

Temporary Shelters

1. Testimony revealed that social workers are contacted several times a month to remove children from their homes in the Blythe area during late evening or early morning hours for alleged neglect or abuse and are held in the CPS office. This is because there are no temporary shelters available. Two (2) social workers must remain with these children to ensure the child’s safety and well-being until an appropriate placement can be arranged.

Foster Homes

2. In the fiscal year 2003-2004, there were seven certified foster homes in Blythe, but at the time of this current report there are only two. In emergency situations foster homes may be utilized as temporary shelter homes.

Due to the low number of foster homes and lack of shelter facilities in Blythe, children must be transported to Indio or in some cases other communities as far away as Moreno Valley, Riverside, Corona, and Fontana or Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County. These trips can take up to 6-8 hours. This multiplies the time and expense incurred by the county, and the added emotional stress on the individual social workers as well as the anxiety placed on the recently displaced children.

Investigation revealed foster parents have reported they were not always provided access to necessary resources and training (e.g., health services, mental health services, and special education services) to adequately provide for children's needs.

Security and Safety

3. At the time of this report the exterior doors at the Blythe CPS office do not close completely when the staff enters at the back of the building, consequently the alarm system is not always dependable. Although there is lighting in the front of the building, it functions intermittently.

Investigation and inspection of the Blythe CPS office revealed there are two security cameras on the rear of the building. However the poor resolution and improper placement negates the camera's reliability, making identification of people or vehicles virtually impossible.

Further investigation revealed that vehicles often operate in an unsafe manner within the interior of the parking lot near the CPS entrances utilized for moving children into and out of the facility.

The geographical and physical setting of the office, especially in relation to other county facilities attracts a variety of individuals, including vagrants. The necessary night utilization of the facility, usually involving children, presents a definite security issue.

Services

4. The Blythe CPS social workers and their clients have limited access to local community services and county support systems in the Palo Verde Valley area. These support services are required for individualized intervention to families, which in turn, allow the opportunity for children to be raised in homes free of abuse and neglect. Examples of services required by families through CPS programs include parenting classes, drug treatment and testing, psychotherapy, life skills training services, transportation services and support services to relatives and foster caretakers. Many of these necessary support services are only available at distant locations such as Indio, Riverside or Moreno Valley.

Interviews revealed excessive travel times to receive required services negatively impact social workers' ability to effectively and efficiently manage their caseloads.

Due to minimal staffing levels the Blythe Office of the Department of Mental Health is only able to respond to emergency CPS referrals. A Mental Health Clinical Therapist is needed to expand mental health services capacity to provide both routine and emergency counseling for CPS clients.

Blythe CPS workers must often travel long distances to receive their required professional training.

In an attempt to coordinate CPS activities, *quarterly* meetings are currently held between representatives of CPS, Mental Health and Probation Departments. However, these meetings are too infrequent to best meet the needs of the affected families.

Recommendations

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Riverside County Department of Mental Health
Riverside County Department of Public Social Services,
Child Protective Services
Riverside County Economic Development Agency
Real Estate Division**

1. DPSS recruit and establish contracts with local licensed facilities to provide temporary shelters for placement of children who are removed from their homes during late evening or early morning hours.

2. DPSS implement a well-orchestrated recruitment effort to expand the number of certified foster care homes and shelter care facilities available in the Palo Verde area. Establish new foster care provider contracts and/or re-activate contracts with foster care providers for child placement, with approval of Community Care Licensing, in Blythe and Indio.
3. Blythe CPS routinely inspect all entrances to ensure the doors properly close and the alarm system functions correctly. Report any maintenance problems to Riverside County Economic Development Agency (EDA) Real Estate Division.

Blythe CPS routinely inspect lighting in both front and rear of the building and report any maintenance problems to Riverside County EDA Real Estate Division for repair.

Blythe CPS ensure that all security cameras are in working condition, DPSS to upgrade and expand coverage of the cameras, and the picture quality, as needed. DPSS place an additional security camera in the front of the building to cover the entrance area of the adjacent parking lot.

DPSS request Riverside County EDA Real Estate Division to contact the property owner to install speed bumps in the back and front parking lots for safety of the employees and children.

4. DPSS contract with local educational institutions such as school districts, Palo Verde College and local non-profit agencies to obtain needed child and family social services in areas such as parenting classes, drug treatment and life skills training.

DPSS fund a Clinical Therapist position assigned to the Blythe Mental Health clinic. This position would expand capacity to provide mental health services for adults and minors referred by Blythe CPS.

DPSS conduct required training of Blythe CPS social workers in Blythe, for example, one trainer coming to Blythe to train six or more social workers as opposed to six persons traveling to Indio or Moreno Valley.

Blythe CPS hold *monthly* meetings between CPS, Mental Health, Probation and other support services deemed appropriate, in order to coordinate the efforts of each department.

Report Issued: 06/28/2011
Report Public: 06/30/2011
Response Due: 09/26/2011