



Addendum #1. Resource Family Recruitment and Retention

Legislative Issues

Board Strategic Priority:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance, and Increase Organizational Capabilities

Issue:

To successfully implement the Continuum of Care Reform, San Joaquin County needs sufficient foster care families and support services to provide the care and placement needs of the children in our community.

Legislative Platform:

Support legislation that increases resource family retention and targeted recruitment efforts, including Intensive Services Foster Care providers, and enhances support services available to resource families to ensure the available local placement resources meet the needs of the community.

Background:

In 2015, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 403, also known as Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which advances California's long-standing goal to move away from the use of long-term group home care by increasing youth placement into family-based care. In this new system, Resource Families play a critical role in the life of children in family-based care.

When out-of-home placement is needed to keep the child safe, Child Welfare Services (CWS) and the Probation Department make diligent efforts to identify, consider and evaluate relatives, family friends, and those closely tied to the family as the primary placement options. When the aforementioned individuals cannot be a placement option for the child, CWS or Probation make efforts to actively recruit and support Resource Families that are able to keep the child or youth connected to their community and culture. Resource Families work together with CWS or Probation staff and the child's family to successfully return the child to their parents. The purpose of a Resource Family is to provide a child with a feeling of safety, permanence, and well-being.

While the State Legislature continues to provide funding to address the needs of counties to provide additional Resource Families there are still not enough placements to address the needs of foster youth in the County.