



Dave Cortese

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2020

County’s Center Will No Longer Process Children Who Need Foster Care
Cortese’s Call for Alternatives to be Presented at January 14 Board Meeting

Santa Clara County’s Receiving, Assessment and Intake Center (RAIC) is no longer processing or holding children who need foster care as the Department of Family and Child Services moves toward a new model.

As of January 2, abused or neglected children who are removed from the homes of their parents or caregivers will be assessed at a few locations and then assigned to foster care placement within 24 hours.

In November 2019, Supervisor Dave Cortese called for immediately halting the use of RAIC for short-term care and for proposals with alternative options to RAIC after receiving troubling reports of the treatment of children who were held there. Cortese also had made repeated calls for reforms that focused on the safety of children and the challenges faced by the staff.

“For the sake of the children, we need to place them within 24 hours of being removed from places where they have been traumatized,” said Supervisor Cortese, who is vice chair of the Children, Seniors and Families Committee. “We do not want to be responsible for further traumatizing these vulnerable children who we

are supposed to be protecting. I am hopeful that this new approach will move us toward that goal.”

In a January 2 memo to Supervisors from Robert Menicocci, Social Services Agency Director, it was announced that the last child was discharged from RAIC on January 1, and the County’s Department of Family and Child Services would close the RAIC on Enborg Lane in San Jose.

Going forward, children removed from their homes will be placed in a few locations for short-term assessments while placements are identified but not for longer than 24 hours. In the rare cases that immediate foster care placement is not available, the DFCS has identified homes where the children can stay temporarily.

A detailed report will be presented to the Board at its first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 14.

Supervisor Cortese first called for a moratorium on the use of the RAIC site and proposals for alternatives on November 5, 2019. At a Board meeting on November 19, 2019, Supervisors received a report outlining the County services received by youth awaiting long-term placement, along with assurances from administration that alternatives to RAIC were being explored.

For more information, call the Office of Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030. The agenda for the [January 14](#) meeting will be available by 5 p.m. on January 8.