COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Social Services Advisory Commission

FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 WORK PLAN

Jesús L. Orosco, Chair
Sonja Cvitanich, Vice Chair
Chata Alfaro
Rosemary Baez
Steven Barron

Andre Chapman
Edward Silverman
Rebecca Hellwig
Erin O’Brien

Rolanda Pierre-Dixon
Betty Siemer
Craig Wolfe
(3 vacancies)
MISSION STATEMENT:

The Social Services Advisory Commission assesses community social service needs, provides policy guidance to the Board of Supervisors and the Social Services Agency, and establishes effective working relationships with the Santa Clara County community organizations concerned with social services.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The Social Services Advisory Commission was established by Ordinance NS 300.267 adding Chapter XI (commencing with section A18-200) of Title A, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 24\textsuperscript{th}, 1978. The by-laws were adopted and the purpose is as follows:

a) To assess community Social Services needs.
b) To provide policy guidance to the Board of Supervisors and Department of Social Services.
c) To establish effective working relationships with the various community organizations concerned with social services.
# FISCAL YEAR 2009 - 2010 WORK PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL / OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>PRIORITY RANKING</th>
<th>TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION</th>
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| 1. Recommend policy and practice changes that safely reduce over-representation of children of color in the Child Welfare System | • Be informed on Department strategies  
• Quarterly DFCS reports on Plan (Jesus)  
• Monthly update by Children of Color Task Force (Craig/Andre)  
• Identify effective strategies in the community that provide input and voice into the Plan. (Steve/Erin/Rosemary)  
• Develop and present recommendations to Department and Board of Supervisors (Executive Committee) |                  |                          |
| 2. Recommend specific policy and practice changes that improve access to service for immigrants and refugees | • Be informed on Department strategies  
• Invite refugee and/or immigrant forums to provide quarterly updates. (Sonia)  
• Request SSA reports on accessibility of culturally and linguistically appropriate services and gaps for immigrant and refugee populations (Jesus)  
• Complete the survey and focus group process  
• Develop and present recommendations to Department and Board of Supervisors (Executive Committee) |                  |                          |
3. **Recommend specific policy and practice changes that minimize long-term placement in Foster Care and promote safe, permanent connections.**

- Be informed on program, policy, and budget issues
- Request that Department presents a quarterly update on those aspects of the Plan that relate to placement and permanency (Jesus)
- Provide best practice, permanency data to the Commission; i.e. monthly articles (Craig)
- Bi-monthly report out on Best Practices Committee (Ed)
- Develop and present recommendations to the Department and Board of Supervisors (Executive Committee)

4. **Recommend specific policy and practice changes of an effective Differential Response program that promotes safety to children and families and reduces entry into dependency system.**

- Be informed of program, policies and Department strategies
- Ask for Differential Response quarterly reports from MEMO-CW Department (Jesus)
- Update from Department on policy and practice changes relative to child safety; i.e. the Death Review and Child Death Review Committees (Rolanda)
- Consider recommending updated comprehensive Differential Response Report conducted by FIRST 5 (Steve)
- Develop and present recommendations to the Department and Board of Supervisors (Executive Committee)
5. Recommend specific policy and practice changes to ensure that every child who exits the system has the skill sets to successfully transition to adulthood.

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<th>Action(s)</th>
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<td>- Be informed of program policies and Department strategies</td>
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<td>- Request an annual update (Craig)</td>
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<td>- Representation at DFCS Integration Team meeting for access and report back on annual reports (Craig)</td>
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# PRIOR YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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<tr>
<th>GOAL/OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING GOAL</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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| 1. Develop one to three strategies to implement policy and practice changes that ultimately reduce over-representation of children of color in the system | ♦ Invite representative from La Raza Roundtable for purposes of information sharing & collaboration.  
♦ Dovetail onto the public forum sponsored by La Raza Roundtable and Victor Garza.  
♦ Review the data points related to socio-economic factors  
♦ Determine specific percentage targets from African American and Latino families.  
♦ Advocacy Comm develops Plan of Action.  
♦ Present strategies for policy & practice change recommendations to the BOS  
♦ Review new literature regarding over-representation of children of color in CWS. | • Invited – Did not attend  
• Contacted – On-going  
• Completed  
• In Progress  
• Not Completed in FY08-09  
• Not Completed in FY08-09  
• Completed |
| 2. Implement a plan to include recommendations for specific policy and practice changes that improves access to service for immigrants and refugees. | ♦ Review reports on Workforce Development  
♦ Request specific information on unmet needs of immigrant and refugee populations.  
♦ Provide definitions on “immigrant populations.”  
♦ Request SSA presentation on accessibility of culturally and linguistically appropriate services for immigrant & refugee populations.  
♦ Identify services available for immigrant and refugee populations.  
♦ Make recommendations to ensure that immigrants & refugees have culturally & linguistically services to help them remain independent and/or able to provide kin care. | • Not Completed  
• In Progress  
• In Progress  
• Completed  
• Completed  
• In Progress |
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<th>3.</th>
<th>Implement a plan to include recommendations for specific policy and practice changes that minimize long-term placement in Foster Care and promote permanent connections.</th>
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<tr>
<td>♦</td>
<td>Request the Dept present its plan &amp; strategies for minimizing long term placement in Foster Care &amp; promote permanent connections to the Comm.</td>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Assess the primary tools utilized by the Dept to achieve permanency</td>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Make recommendations regarding need to both increase permanent connections and placements</td>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Make recommendation for QA component to ensure every child has a concurrent permanency plan.</td>
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<th>4.</th>
<th>The implementation of all recommendations contained within the report <em>Differential Response</em>, prepared for SCC SSA, DFCS, Funded y FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, prepared by: Linda Carpenter</th>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Have report posted for new commissioners to access and review.</td>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Request the Dept to present to Commission on which recommendations were completed, and which ones were not and why not. Focus on Family Resource Centers and schools.</td>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Recommend a standardized report from DFCS to track the efforts of Differential Response.</td>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Review Diff Response reports and analyze data.</td>
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<td>♦</td>
<td>Consider making recommendations on the use of Prop. 63 funding to address the needs of DFCS families with emphasis on collaboration at the community-based services level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed – See SIP Report</td>
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<td>In Progress</td>
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<td>Completed and On-Going</td>
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## FISCAL YEAR 2009 - 2010 ONGOING PROJECTS

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<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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| ♦ Develop a Commission Dashboard. | • Develop Work Group for Commission Dashboard (Jesus, Craig, Erin)  
• Updates at every Commission Meeting on 2010 Goals  
• Reports from various committees – monthly or quarterly as per meeting schedule –  
  • Children of Color Task Force – Bi-Monthly (Andre & Craig)  
  • Refugee and Immigrant Forum – Quarterly (Sonja)  
  • Dept SIP – Placement & Permanency Goals – Quarterly (Jesus)  
  • Best Practice Committee – Bi-Monthly (Ed) |
| ♦ Maintain a full Commission and ensure full participation by a. foster families, immigrants and refugees, and other persons who receive services from the Social Services Agency. b. system partners and stakeholders | • Commissioners who are unable to attend a particular meeting will ask to be briefed by committee chairs.  
• Nominate a point person for recruitment activities |
| ♦ Budget oversight. | • Will Lightbourne will be requested to present proposed budget including impacts to five priority areas.  
• Assess impact and develop recommendations (Advocacy Comm) |
| ♦ Ensure that activities are related to goal of safety, resources, and services | • Develop indicators to support the goal of safety, resources and services (Steve and designee) |