

Hearing – State of San Francisco’s Foster Care System
Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
February 27, 2020



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Children with Allegations of Abuse or Neglect in San Francisco




- 115,367 children in San Francisco
- 5,128 children with Allegations in 2018 (4.4%)

2,045 Children in 1,313 Investigations

(1.8% of all Children in San Francisco)




 = 1,000 children

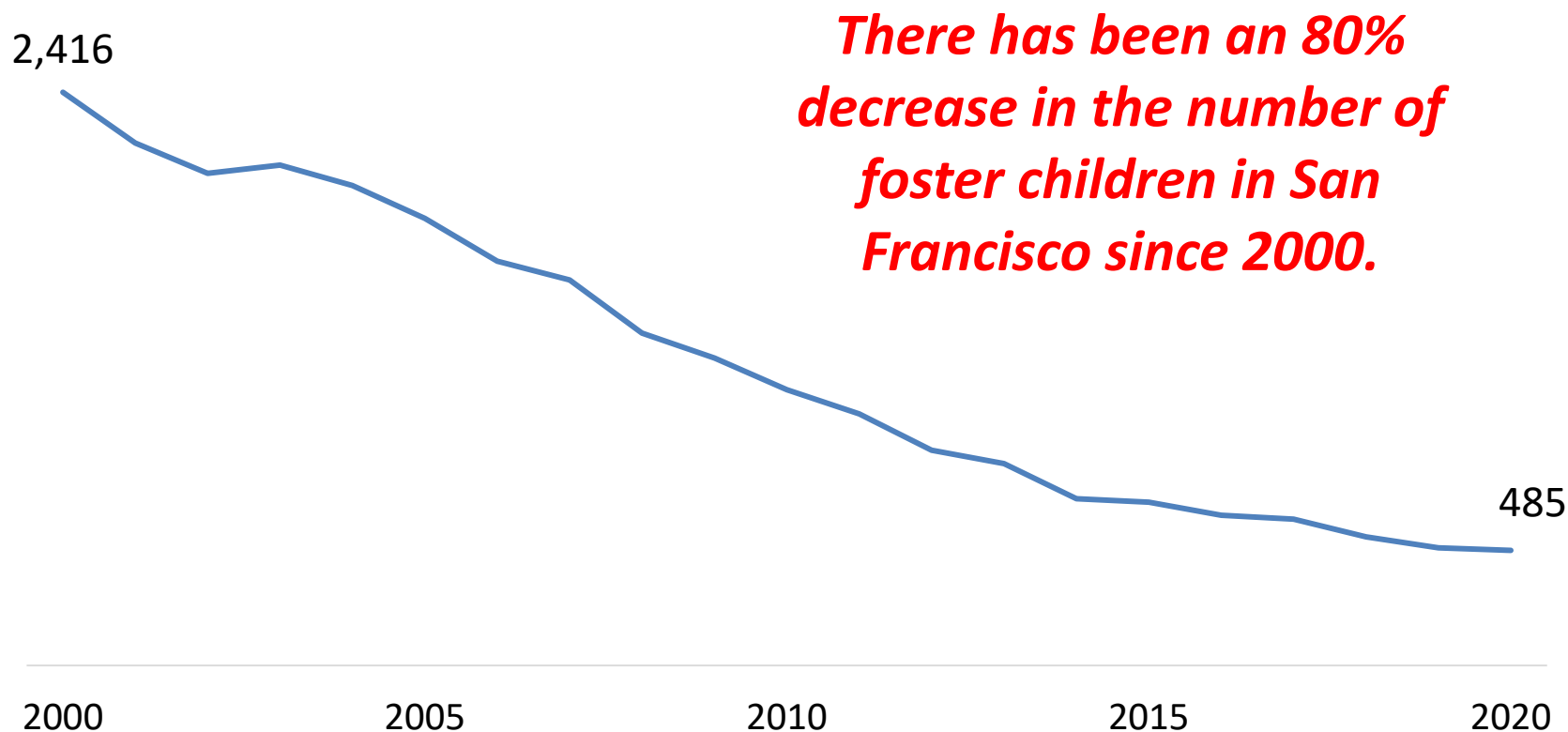
290 Children Entering Foster Care

(.25% of all Children in San Francisco)



 = 1,000 children

Number of San Francisco Children in Foster Care



Data is from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project. It is a point-in-time value from January 1st of each year and includes youth 0-17 in placements (not including guardianships and non-foster care placements)



Foster Care Demographics

485 Children in Foster Care as of January 1, 2020

Gender	Count	Percent
Male	247	51%
Female	238	49%

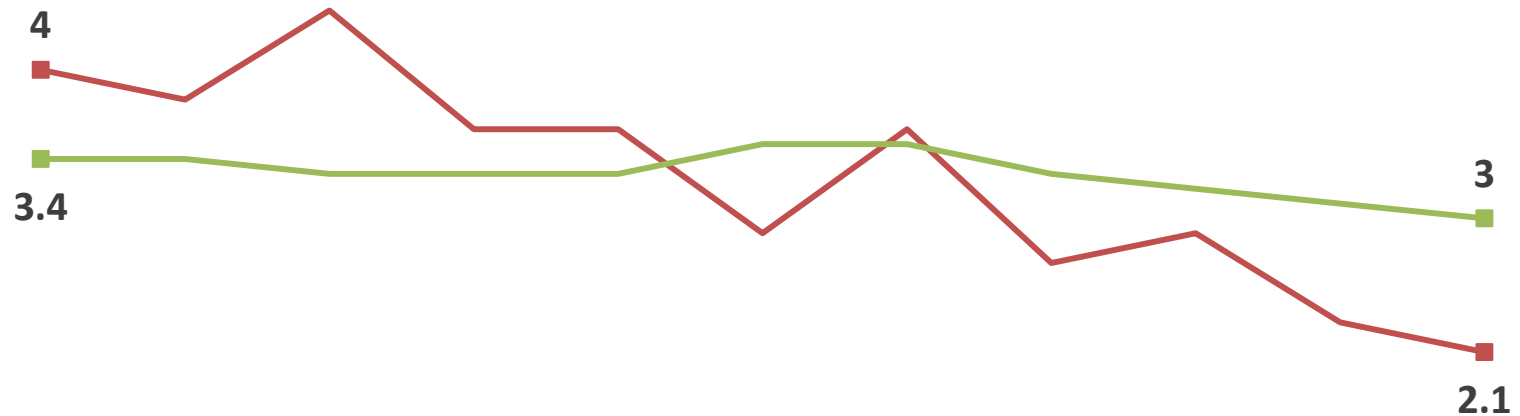
Ethnicity	Count	Percent
Black	242	50%
Hispanic/Latinx	123	25%
White	93	19%
Asian/PI	23	5%
Native American	2	<1%
Unknown	2	<1%

Age	Count	Percent
Under 1	47	10%
1 to 5	149	31%
6 to 12	126	26%
13 to 17	163	34%



All Entries into SF Foster Care

Number of Foster Care Entries per 1,000 Children



The rate of children entering foster in San Francisco has been nearly halved over the last decade while the State as a whole has decreased at a much smaller rate.

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

— San Francisco — California (Excluding San Francisco)

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)

- ❑ Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 403 on October 11, 2015
- ❑ Comprehensively reforms placement and treatment options for children in foster care
- ❑ Establishes the Resource Family Approval process to provide uniform placement and adoption assessments for relatives and non-relatives (NOTE: ‘Foster Parents’ are now ‘Resource Families’)
- ❑ Research that shows that a family, home-based structure:
 - Enables children to transition through their stages of development more successfully
 - Improves the outcomes for children in foster care

The Fundamental Principles of CCR

- ❑ All children deserve to live with a committed, nurturing, and permanent family that prepares them for a successful transition into adulthood
- ❑ Services follow the child (continuity of care)
- ❑ Child and Family Voice and Family Centric Services (Child and Family team meetings)
- ❑ Reduction/Elimination of group homes with focus on family based care

Congregate Care / Groups Homes

Before CCR Implementation

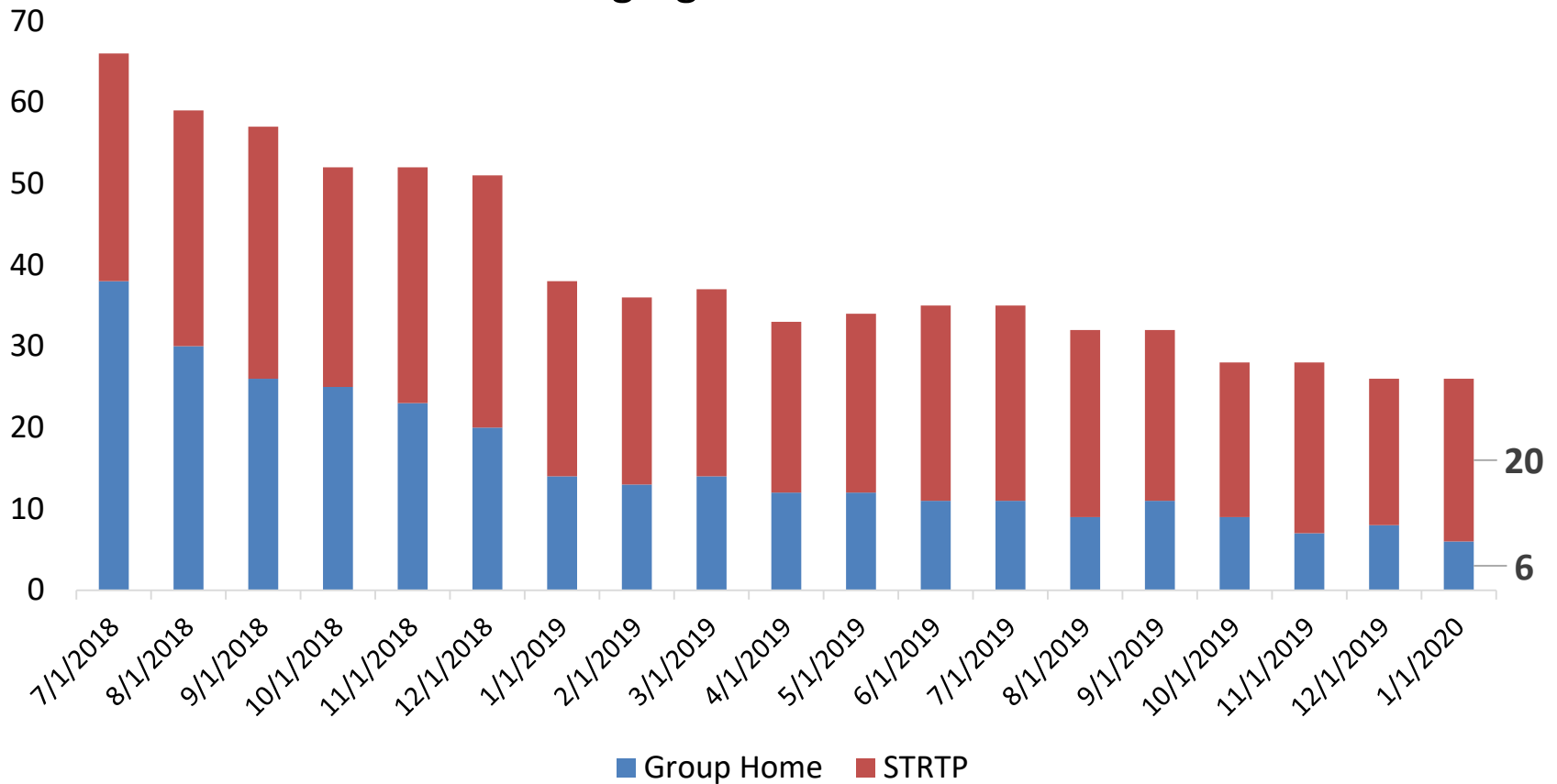
- ❑ Congregate Care included Group homes and long-term residential treatment facilities

After CCR Implementation

- ❑ Short-term residential treatment programs (STRTPs) to replace group homes – placement limited to 6 months
- ❑ Service array for STRTPs must include mental health services (and requires a mental health contract with DPH)
- ❑ STRTPs must be accredited by a national accreditation organization

Reduction of Group Home and Congregate Care Placements

Children in Congregate Care on the First of Each Month



Children in Out of County Care

- 469 Foster Care Placements (children aged 0-17)*
 - 144 in SF (31%)
 - 325 Out of County (69%)
 - 131 (40%) are with relatives
 - 194 (60%) are with non-relatives or family friends
 - **41%** of ALL foster care placements are with non-relatives outside of San Francisco (194 of 469)
 - 23 youth are placed out of state and 18 (78%) of them are with relatives

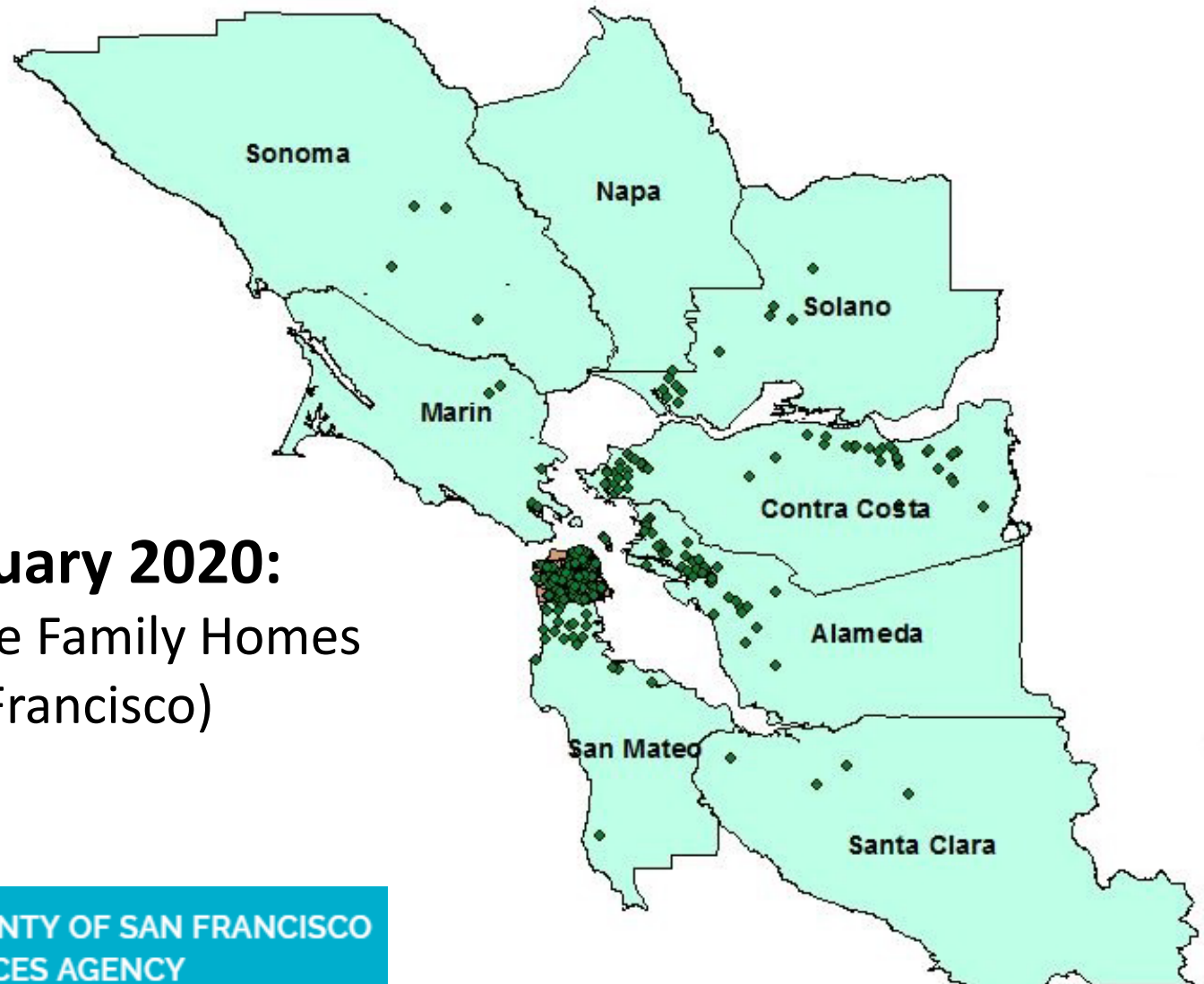
*Does not include children who are awaiting placement.



Foster Care Placements by County

Placement County	Count	Percent
San Francisco	144	31%
Contra Costa	91	19%
Alameda	43	9%
San Mateo	20	4%
Other Bay Area Counties	41	9%
Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties	56	12%
Other California Counties	53	10%
Out of State	23	5%

Current Resource Family Homes in the Bay Area



As of February 2020:
273 Resource Family Homes
(158 in San Francisco)



Demographics of Resource Family Homes

- Race/Ethnicity of the Foster Care Provider:
 - 55% Black
 - 19% White
 - 18% Latinx
- Location of the Foster Care Provider:
 - 58% in San Francisco (up from 56% in 2017)
 - 13% in Contra Costa (up from 11% in 2017)
 - 10% in Alameda (up from 9% in 2017)
 - 6% in San Mateo (up from 5% in 2017)

Resource Family Assessment

Before CCR Implementation

- ❑ Foster families, relative caregivers, NREFMs, and adoptive families have slightly different assessments

After CCR Implementation

- ❑ All family-based care providers are called "Resource Families"
- ❑ Resource Family Approval (RFA) provides uniform placement and adoption assessments for relatives and non-relatives completed at beginning of placement

Current Resource Family Recruitment Strategy

- Special recruitment team at HSA
- Presentations at various community events
- Presentations at business organizations
- Distribution of recruitment materials throughout San Francisco

Current Resource Family Retention Efforts

- Monthly Convenings
- Child Care (ongoing, respite and emergency)
- Pre-service and Ongoing Training Opportunities
- Financial Support/Clothing Allowance/Furniture
- Mentor Program for Caregivers

Resource Family Recruitment Initiative

Environmental Scan of SF:

- Found a lack of general awareness of the need for foster homes

Public Information Campaign:

- Recently launched advertising campaign will:
 - Reintroduce public to the critical need for foster families within SF and,
 - Compel people to take action to help kids stay in their communities

Goals:

- Raise awareness
- Identify 100 new resource families in San Francisco

Public Information Campaign

Communications Strategies:

- Advertisements: billboards, Muni, social media, internet radio, digital
- New foster parent recruitment website: Foster-SF.org
- Leverage media partnerships
- New marketing materials

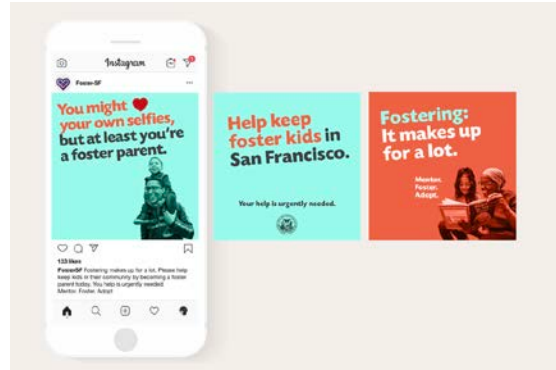
Themes featured throughout the campaign:

- **Help SF kids stay in their communities**
- **This problem is solvable:**
 - 100 families could make all the difference and help keep kids in their community.
- **There are many ways to get involved to help support youth in need:**
 - Mentor. Foster. Adopt. Donate.

Messaging Journey



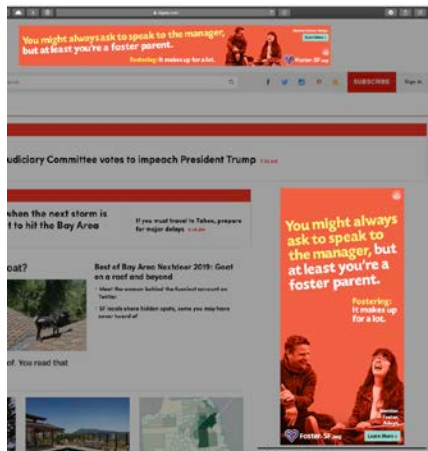
Transit Ads



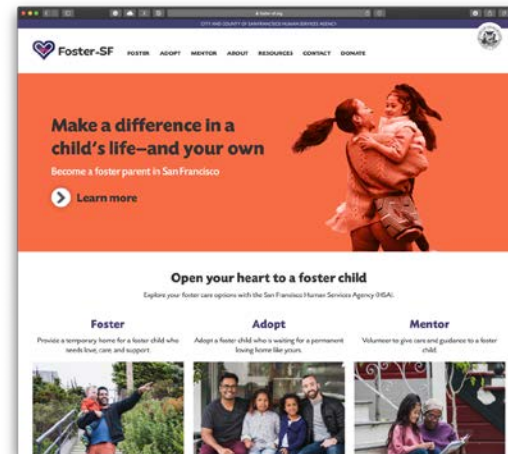
Social Media



Pandora Radio



Digital Web Ads



Recruitment Website





Foster-SF

FOSTER

ADOPT

MENTOR

ABOUT

RESOURCES

CONTACT

DONATE

Make a difference in a child's life—and your own

Become a foster parent in San Francisco



Learn more



Open your heart to a foster child

Explore your foster care options with the San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA).

Foster

Provide a temporary home for a foster child who needs love, care, and support.



Adopt

Adopt a foster child who is waiting for a permanent loving home like yours.



Mentor

Volunteer to give care and guidance to a foster child.

