



SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Family and Children Services: Disproportionality and Prevention

Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

October 28, 2021



Presentation Overview

1. Family Violence Council Recommendation and Areas of Implementation
2. Additional Efforts to Address Disproportionality and Increase Focus on Prevention



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Family Violence Council Recommendation and Areas of Implementation



Overview

- **Recommendation** – “Transform the City’s Response to Child Welfare”
- **Description** – “Work with Family and Children’s Services (FCS) to address the overrepresentation of BIPOC families in child welfare and to increase the focus on prevention”
- **Areas of Implementation** – Six areas of implementation



Racial Equity Feedback Loop

“Develop and support use of the racial equity feedback loop at the child welfare hotline to better understand which families are screened in and out”

Progress Updates

- LA currently implementing racial equity feedback loop
- Looking into securing funding to implement in SF
- We believe will help us make better decisions across board



Data on Child Removals Age 0 to 1

“Gather discrete and disaggregated data on children 0-1 that child welfare removes from their families to develop a better understanding of the disproportionate removal of BIPOC children, age 0-1, and removal in cases where birth parent has substance use disorder”

Progress Updates

- We are beginning to analyze and make sense of this data



Redefine neglect

“Join state and national efforts to redefine neglect, due to poverty only, so that there will no longer be FCS involvement due to poverty only”

Progress Updates

- Working with Casey Family Program and Safe and Sound on this
- Have put topic forward for state legislative agenda
- Relatedly, currently improving processes of connecting families to social safety net programs



Domestic Violence Training

“Explore training opportunities and collaboration with domestic violence partners to understand policies regarding ‘failure to protect’ and domestic violence”

Progress Updates

- Roundtable discussions with DV service providers last summer to learn how to better serve DV affected families
- Those discussions will resume in 2022, and will include this topic



Law Enforcement Cross-Reporting

“Explore best practices in cross-reporting between child welfare and law enforcement”

Progress Updates

- Working with SFPD on cross reporting when DV is present
- In the process of publishing a new cross-reporting policy



Informing Parents of Their Rights

“Join national efforts to inform parents of their rights before FCS investigation begins”

Progress Updates

- Citywide Prevention Plan



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Additional Efforts



Disproportionality

- Staff Training – Working With and Across Differences
- Practice Improvements
 - Including community partners in team meetings
- Engagement with Partners and the Community
 - BIPOC Family Justice Community Summit
 - Strengthening Families and Community Task Force
 - Court System



Prevention

- Family First Prevention Services Act signed into federal law in 2018, and is beginning to be implemented in California
- Act introduces new federal revenue streams for interventions that aim to prevent entry into foster care
- FCS will be working with community partners and CDSS in the coming years to learn how to leverage this federal policy development to prevent maltreatment and the need for foster care locally





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Thank you!

Questions?

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