

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Family and Social Services

FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer



DATE: Wednesday, October 20, 2021
TIME: 1:30 PM

THIS MEETING WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND EMPLOYEES WHILE THE COUNTY REMAINS UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND/OR WHILE COUNTY OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND SOCIAL DISTANCING.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING, PLEASE CALL AS FOLLOWS:
Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 599 009 090#
[MS Teams Meeting Link](#) (Ctrl + click to follow link)

AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Two (2) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. Call to Order
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Department of Children and Family Services/ Department of Mental Health/ Department of Probation:** Continuum of Care Reform Update.
- III. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment

System of Care

Cluster Update

9.29.21



1

Background



- AB2083 Goal *“more effective and timely services for children in foster care”*
- Overall Goal = Service Success
- Inter-Agency MOU Interagency Partnership/Collaboration
 - Developed over 2 years FY 19-20 & 20-21
 - Includes DCFS, DMH, Probation, DPH, DPSS, Juvenile Justice, SELPAs, LACOE, and 7 Regional Centers
- Combined CCR, Katie A and SOC Workgroups
 - Effective June 2021
- Developed an Interagency Partnership to begin to problem solve system issues and come up with creative, innovative, shared solutions to help families heal

2

Since the Last Update....



- **Monthly Meetings**
- **Goals**
 - Promote Effective Cross System Partnership
 - Increase Leadership Alignment
 - Increase CANS informed CFT Practice (More Individualized & Effective Case Plans and Timely Service Delivery)
 - Data & Information Sharing
- **Development of subcommittees**
 - Youth with Complex Needs (engage all partners)
 - Data Sharing (CIO)

3

Getting Started



Developing a Series of Town Hall Meetings w Youth and Families

- “Storming the System Barriers”
- In concert with CDSS efforts
- Identifying youth and stakeholder representatives from each agency
- Developing tentative agendas for 3 separate town halls – one with youth, one with stakeholders, one with families
 - Setting the Stage – SOC purpose
 - Their vision for improved outcomes “nothing about me without me”
 - 3 improvement areas identified by SOC –
 - **tools** - assessment, forms, data-sharing, etc.
 - **communication** - process between agencies, team members, etc.), and
 - **innovation** – new ideas/strategies/programs/initiatives

4

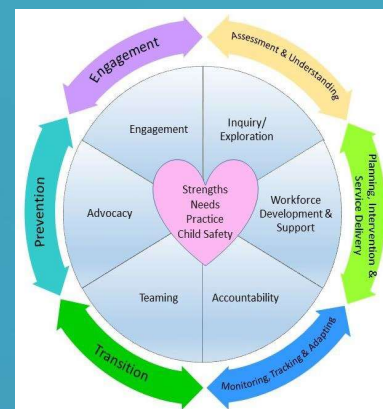
Additional Action Steps



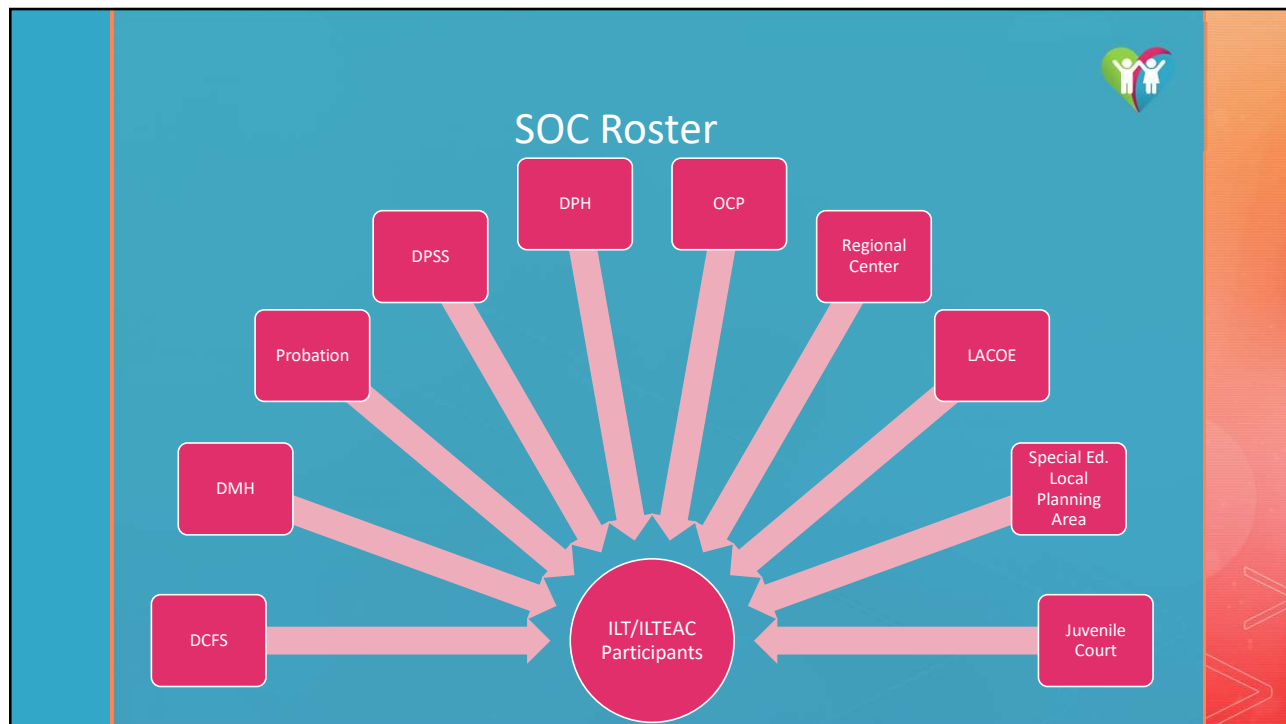
- “Seeing thru Our Client’s Eyes” via Process Mapping
- Developing a Series of Town Hall Meetings with Youth and Families
- Agreeing to one definition of “youth with complex needs”
- Establishing Criteria for elevating complex cases
- Exploring ways to expand OCP Pilot Services
- Alignment of CANS into practice
- Initiated Partnerships with:
 - CIO on data sharing and universal release
 - Office of Violence Prevention TPI
 - Juvenile Diversion Division

5

SCPM → CPM Practice Wheel



6



7

Next Steps...

- **Continue to cultivate a shared responsibility for helping children, youth, and families**
 - Leadership Alignment/Opportunities for Braided Funding/Quality of Partnership
- **Continue to provide transparent, innovative foundational system support**
 - Process mapping/Tools/Documents/Agreements
- **Ensure the ICPM perspective (including the CANS shared assessment tool) is fully incorporated into the process**
 - Shared Inter-agency definitions/criteria/timeliness of case planning/

8

Questions?



Quarterly CCR/COVID-19 FSS Cluster Update

September 29, 2021

INTERAGENCY SYSTEM OF CARE (SOC)/AB 2083 WORKGROUP

See attached PowerPoint deck.

CONTRACTS ADMIN DIVISION COMPLIANCE UPDATE

STRTPs

On July 6, 2021, CAD Compliance accompanied the Second District Senior and Children's Deputies to the three Deliaann Lucile dba Delilu Achievement Home, STRTP locations, with representatives from DMH, OHCMD, Probation, and the Auditor-Controller STRTP Ombudsman. This STRTP subsequently decided to close and youth will be transitioned by October 14, 2021. At the time DCFS received notification there were 13 placed youth and as of September 23rd, four youth have transitioned and nine remain placed.

Site visits were also completed on August 24, 2021 to the two Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys STRTP locations with the Second District, DMH and OHCMD.

General Compliance News

The Contract Monitoring and Reporting System (CMRS) has launched with two Compliance Reviews successfully completed within the module and the report launch is in process (DCFS BIS is working to finalize this process). Testing of the module for the Needs and Services Plans (NSP) began on September 27, 2021. Training for Providers on the NSP module will be scheduled and conducted in October and November 2021, with a target release date of November 30, 2021.

The BIS Division updated CMRS on September 27, 2021 to add the Quality Assurance Module. The Fiscal Compliance Module will begin development on October 18, 2021 with a target date to complete development by March 2022. The target date for the completion of the Board Deputy Module is June 2022.

The Auditor-Controller (A-C) released the updated Contract Accounting and Administration Handbook. The A-C completed a series of the 32 Hour Countywide Contract Monitoring Training updated with the new Handbook in July and August 2021.

OUT OF HOME CARE MANAGEMENT DIVISION (OHCMD) UPDATE

OHCMD Transition Protocols

The OHCMD transition protocols upon STRTP closures have continued, which are collaborative and highly effective. CSWs and agencies will continue to be engaged and supported when developing and implementing transition plans for youth. OHCMD QA schedules weekly calls including the case carrying staff, Service Bureaus, CLC, DMH, and have included YDS and providers when necessary through closure, which has allowed for teaming and proactive planning. In doing so, the final transition plans have

continued to reveal reports by CSWs that a large percentage of youth are transitioning to lower levels of care. As of September 27th, 49% of youth have transitioned to other STRTPs from STRTP closures that have occurred 2019. As reported during the previous quarter, we have only recorded one youth throughout all transitions dating back to 2019 that transitioned to a Temporary Shelter Care Facility (TSCF) upon STRTP closure.

Note: There is a significant difference between the number of youth requiring transition plans because the STRTPs were not placing up to capacity. For example, D&M only had 7 youth placed and therefore requiring transition plans, but their capacity was 30.

STRTP Status Update

COVID-19 Impact:

Over the past three months, June to August 2021, there has been an influx in Special Incident Reports documenting confirmation of exposures and COVID-19 testing in the STRTPs to include both staff and placed children, youth and Non Minor Dependents. Consequently, there has been a host of outbreaks and exposures resulting in a few agencies limiting their intakes for new placements for an extended timeframe. (An outbreak is defined by three or more residents/staff testing positive. However, per DPH staff there is an anticipated change in the total being decreased to two or more.)

The STRTP agencies that have reported COVID19 exposures and/or positive test results has include: Eggleston, Dangerfield, Delilu, Dream Home Care, Five Acres, Fleming and Barnes, Sycamores, Leroy Haynes, Mary's Shelter, Mindful Growth, Penny Lane, Rancho San Antonio, St. Anne's, Trinity Youth Services, Virtuous Woman, Vista Del Mar Community Treatment Facility and their STRTP.

There continues to be great collaboration between DCFS, Probation, DMH, and DPH to provide support and resources to the STRTPs to include providing written guidance, delivering Personal Protective Equipment (when there is a need), scheduling regular collaborative calls, and site visits.

Technical Assistance:

The DCFS, Probation, and DMH continue to work collaboratively with Providers and provide Technical Assistance. The areas of concern that continue to require TA include:

- STRTPs without DMH contracts (i.e. provisionally licensed STRTPs) tend to struggle to provide necessary intensive mental health services;
 - STRTPs have experienced some difficulties with successfully submitting Medi-Cal claims and accessing funding to pay for mental health services;
 - STRTPs report lack the time needed to provide the necessary service delivery due to excessive paperwork, bill Medi-Cal for services rendered and/or as of recent have requested additional funding to provide the services through the fiscal year;
 - STRTPs with/without DMH contracts have demonstrated inability to hire or maintain staffing to provide services needed;
- Use of controlled substances by residents, particularly marijuana and alcohol, on STRTP campuses;
- Chronic Runaway behavior;
- Appropriate/necessary restraint procedures routinely resulting in allegations of physical abuse against staff;
- Residents' exhibiting extreme physical aggression toward STRTP staff;

- Limited ability/success in preventing TSCF residents and STRTP residents from co-mingling when both programs are located on the same campus;
- CSEC activity;
- Residents either not being stepped-down when less restrictive placement settings are available for them or, conversely, being moved from one placement to another when they are not ready to be stepped down (due to the STRTP timeframe);
- Limited coordination/communication between STRTP child care staff and STRTP clinical staff;
- Limited supports available to STRTP staff who regularly intervene in the most volatile situations (e.g.: Crisis Intervention Specialists).
- Limited variety of activities available to meet residents' wide range of interests, needs, and strengths (particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic);
- Inability to practice prudent parenting due to recent changes in state laws/provisions (e.g. cell phones, runaways);
- Sexual activity among residents; and
- Physical altercations among residents.

PROBATION CHILD WELFARE (PCW) OUT OF HOME CARE UPDATE

STRTPs

As of September 27, 2021, Probation Child Welfare (PCW) currently has 157 youth in STRTPs and 26 youth with Resource Families. At this time, Probation does not have any FFA placements. Probation foster youth were relocated from Penny Lane as the result of the agency's contract termination which is effective September 30, 2021. There are no Probation foster youth remaining at the Penny Lane sites. Another home, DeliLu will terminate their contract, effective December 31, 2021; however, there are no Probation foster youth placed with this agency.

Resource Family Approval

From January 1, 2017 – Present, PCW approved a total of **143** Resource Families. Of the 143 families approved, **44** families surrendered their RFA approval (applicant no longer wished to keep their approval), **10 (ten)** families' approval was forfeited (the family did not respond during their annual update after multiple attempts to reach out to them), **2 (two)** families transferred their approval to another County, and **3 (three)** families transferred their approval to DCFS.

The total number of denied PCW cases are **34** and denied DCFS courtesy cases are **three (3)**, with a total **37 denied cases**. Over a 3-year period, **121** PCW families withdrew and **twelve (12)** DCFS families withdrew from the RFA process bringing the total of withdraws to **133**.

PCW currently has **53 cases pending and in various stages of the approval process**. This includes DCFS, PCW & Community referrals).

From January 1, 2021 – Present, PCW received **67 RFA applications**. **From January 1, 2021 to present**, the RFA Team approved **21 PCW** families and **10 DCFS** Courtesy case families (employees of DCFS) **(the application for these approvals could have been received during 2020 or 2021)**. **3** families were denied, and **26** families withdrew.

The total of approved PCW families remaining is now **54, which includes the nine (9)** approved community referrals).

Media-Based Recruitment Campaign

Community Referrals

Through the campaign, PCW received a total of **152 Community Referrals** from 2019-Present as follows:

- Pending – **39**
- Approved – **9**
- Surrendered – **1**
- Withdrew – **14**
- Cease Review - **8**
- Closed (no application) – **79**
- Transferred RFA approval – **1**
- Inactive Status - **1**

Two (2) families approved by DCFS transitioned to accept Probation foster youth, making the total number of available families 11. Of the 11 approved families, we had one (1) youth placed, who recently transitioned to Independent Living, and one (1) youth placed who remains with the family and is attending public High School. We have two (2) youth currently in the matching process, with visiting on-site initiated.

Forever Friends Program

Also, through the Campaign, PCW had tremendous success with the recruitment of Forever Friends. From 2019 to present, our stats are as follows:

227 Applicants

90 Approved and Matched with Agencies for all foster youth served by both DCFS and PCW.

Due to COVID, the program was off to a very slow start with Residential quarantining and Forever Friends not wanting to expose youth; however, we now have 15 of the 90 Matched with youth that they continue to visit with and build connections. One (1) Forever Friend is now an approved Resource Family!!

42 Live Scan/Criminal Backgrounds Cleared and in final approval process.

The Forever Friends Program was recently introduced to two (2) DCFS-only sites, Hillside and Five Acres, due to multiple CSW referrals from those agencies, and to two (2) more joint agencies, Hathaway Sycamores and Trinity. We now have Forever Friends placed at **14 STRTPs**.

INTENSIVE SERVICES FOSTER CARE (ISFC) UPDATE

ISFC since inception January 2019 through August 2021

Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) provides specialty mental health services (SEBN Serious Emotional and Behavioral Needs) or medical health treatment (SHCN Special Health Care Needs), delivered by a Foster Family Agency in a specialized ISFC resource family home. ISFC is intended to be a short-term intervention to stabilize youth placed in home settings by providing intensive supports and services.

Youth, ages 6-21, are eligible for SEBN ISFC if stepping down from higher levels of care (congregate care, temporary shelter care, psychiatric hospitalizations) or with a Level of Care (LOC) assessment in order to avoid those higher levels of care. Youth, ages 0-21, are eligible for SHCN ISFC as determined by a Level of Care (LOC) assessment.

The following information reflects data regarding Los Angeles County's Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Program since its inception in January 2019 through August 2021:

- Currently, there are 20 Severe Emotional and Behavioral Needs (SEBN) ISFC FFA providers and 10 Serious Health Care Needs (SHCN) ISFC FFA providers.
- As of the end of August 2021, there were 116 youth and 110 homes in the program. Of the 110 homes, 16 are SHCN homes, 10 of which have SHCN youth placed, 4 with a vacancy, 1 that is inactive, and 1 pending a LOC determination for possible elevation to SHCN ISFC. Of the 116 active ISFC youth, 11 of them are SHCN youth.
- There have been a total of 359 ISFC placements; 16 have been SHCN placements, the rest SEBN. Of these placements, the following is a breakdown by gender, age, and number of graduations and disenrollments:
 - By gender: 163 Females (45%) and 196 Males (55%)
 - By age:
 - (0-5) = 14 youth (4%)
 - (6-12) = 192 youth (53%)
 - (13-17) = 137 youth (38%)
 - (18-20) = 15 youth (4%)
 - There have been 105 graduations; the breakdown of the youth's placement upon their graduation are:
 - Stay in ISFC home at lower LOC: 58 youth (56%)
 - Stay in ISFC home for adoption: 2 youth (2%)
 - Stay in ISFC home for legal guardianship: 1 youth (1%)
 - HOP: 18 youth (17%)
 - RFH: 7 youth (7%)
 - FFA: 3 youth (3%)
 - SILP: 3 youth (3%)
 - Relative: 3 youth (3%)
 - THP: 1 youth (1%)
 - NREFM: 1 youth (1%)
 - Adoptive Placement: 7 youth (7%)
 - Legal Guardian: 1 youth (1%)
 - There have been 138 disenrollments; Of these, 62 (45%) were positive disenrollments and 76 (55%) were negative disenrollments.

- Taking into account the total number of graduations (105) and positive disenrollments (62), there were 167 (69%) positive exits from the program.
- A graduation means the youth met or at least made sufficient progress on his/her mental health goals. A disenrollment means they discharged before meeting their mental health goals.
- Disenrollments are categorized as either positive or negative. The youth's subsequent placement will often indicate if it is positive or negative with a return to Home of Parent or replace with a relative, NREFM, or adoptive home identified as positive. A negative disenrollment means they were replaced to a STRTP, were AWOL or hospitalized for 14 days so their bed was closed, or the ISFC Resource Parent submitted a 14-day notice for removal.
- However, a disenrollment that is the result of insufficient support or ineffective engagement of youth or RP, or youth or RP refusing to continue with placement in that home is categorized as negative, regardless of the youth's subsequent placement (i.e. Youth ended up in a D-rate home but RP had given a 14-day notice).
- The following table reflects information related to Portability:

Successful Port (1 MGM, 1 Mat Aunt, 1 NREFM, 7 RFH, 1PGM)	11
Port in Progress (2 Adult sibs, 1 Mat Aunt, 3 RFH, 1 MGM)	7
Started Porting Process (RFA10 submitted) but discontinued	28
Top reasons for discontinuing:	
• Youth in their care replaced (i.e. went HOP or RP requested removal)	9
• Changed their mind	8
• Misc (i.e. RP became unresponsive; Unable to approve back-up cgr, adult son sleeping in living room, or because of prior substantiated allegations; Open investigation/OHC hold; Enhanced rate; Ported as regular FFA RP only)	11
RP and ISFC Provider Currently Connected	5
RP and ISFC Provider Previously Connected Fell Through	103
• No longer interested	51
• Youth replaced	17
• Sticking with Wraparound/ IFCCS	10
• Misc (i.e., enhanced rate, overwhelmed, no backup, LG complete, unresponsive, etc.)	25
RP referred but not moving forward to ISFC	438
• Youth not returning to home from hospital	157
• No response to repeated attempts	108
• No FFA	82
• LG/Kingap/Adoption finalized	15
• Received Enhanced Rate	14
• Sticking with non ISFC FFA	11
• Misc (i.e., overwhelmed, open case, background check issues, too many youth in home, home doesn't meet FFA standards, Regional Center placements, TBS instead, etc.)	51

UPDATES:

- During this last quarter, 13 of the 38 discharges (34%) resulted in the ISFC youth remaining in the ISFC home at a lower Level of Care. Of the 13 who remained with their ISFC resource parent(s), 3 of them will be adopted, 1 will go into legal guardianship, and 1 was adoptively placed. Permanency is always the ultimate goal; however, it can mean the loss of an ISFC home for future high-risk youth.
- Regarding Portability for this last quarter, there was one successful port by a paternal grandmother that took 5 months to approve, while 4 other cases did not complete the process for the following reasons:
 - 1) Having an open investigation
 - 2) Resource Parents changed their minds because the youth preferred to keep their Wrap or IFCCS team so the Resource Parents ported to be FFA Resource Parents only, not ISFC Resource Parents.
 - 3) Youth was replaced with a NREFM
 - 4) Resource Parent backed out because she had been applying the Prudent Parent Standard when using her back-up babysitter, but the FFA was requiring that this back-up babysitter be cleared through the live-scan clearance process.

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVALS (RFA) UPDATE

Recruitment Update

From April to June 2021, 868 community households created a Binti account; 558 households completed the online orientation; and 167 were recruiting dropout. 362 community RFA applicants were assigned an Outreach and Recruitment CSW to begin the initial work and engagement of becoming a resource parent. Outreach and Recruitment completed the Prep Work for 241 cases that were assigned to an RFA Assessment CSW to complete the approval process.

Community outreach included:

- Three drive-thru recruitment events in South El Monte, West LA and Santa Monica.
- Participation in the Project Youth Pride event

There were three 3 virtual recruitment events:

- A forum with The NETwork LA ERG with a focus on “black and brown and LGBTQIA+ youth”
- Two recruitment events in partnership with the City of South El Monte.

Our recruitment partnership continued with RaiseAChild C) including a “Streetlight Banner Campaign” from April 2021 to June 2021 for National Foster Care Awareness Month in May. Also, in partnership with RaiseAChild a campaign called “Pride and Community”, was conducted from March 2021 to June 2021 to recruit new resource families by tapping into “cold leads” and foster/adoptive families that are no longer active (4 virtual information sessions were associated with this campaign).

In addition, we partnered with FosterAll for “Love Has No Limits”, a faith based campaign from March 2021 to May 2021 to recruit resource families from all faith communities. Lastly, we launched the Juntos con los Niños social media campaign to recruit Latino resource families, which will run in June and July 2021.

RFA Approvals & Denials

As of 08.6.2021, there are 14,795 approved families. Relatives/NREFM make up 13,088 (88%) of the approved homes and Community applicants account for the remaining 1,707 (12%). There have been a total of 12,389 withdrawals and 1315 denials. The RFA team is focused on quality engagement and diligent efforts with RFA applicants to complete thorough and timely assessments for safe placement homes for children. For homes with emergency placement, the 2021 median time from emergency placement to approval is now down to 114 days, a further reduction of 4 days from the previous report.

Adoption Recruitment Update

For this quarter, 3 virtual adoption matching events were held with the help of RaiseAChild. Social workers, sometimes with the help of the CASA worker, presented information to families about waiting children. Recently videos of the children, when available, have been added to the presentations. With the help of the ‘I Belong Project’, 18 children in need of an adoptive family were videoed. Further, videos that were taken in March, in partnership with the ‘Love Has No Limits’ campaign, were shown during this period to various churches around the county to recruit new adoptive families. 33 new professional photos were taken of our waiting kids and featured on the Heart Gallery LA website. A large Heart Gallery photo shoot is scheduled for October and at the same time, another video shoot is being arranged as it is apparent that showing videos is effective in engaging the families. An average of 11 children were presented at each of the monthly virtual matching events and an average of 33 families attended these. There were also 4 virtual matching events and 3 in-person, outdoor matching events working with Kidsave, for older youth needing permanency with families interested in hosting (mentoring) and/or adopting. Further, during this period, potential matches for a total of 86 children were generated. It is unknown yet how many will result in an adoptive final placement.

STRTPs and Resource Families

Bed Capacity and Current Vacancies as of September 27, 2-21

Approved Residential/
Community Treatment
Facility Providers
20
Number of Sites
64



Current Probation
Youth in STRTPs
157

Males 135	Females 22
--------------	---------------



Current STRTP
Vacancies
138

Beds
available for Probation Youth

Male
Vacancies
110

Female
Vacancies
17

Vista Del Mar
STRTP – 5
CTF - 6
Male and Female

Number of
Approved Resource
Families
54



Number of Youth
Residing with
Resource Families
26

Males
23

Females
3

Number of Forever
Friends
143