

FY 2017-19 Budget Workshop Board Inquiry Form

Board Member	
Williams	
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Inquiry Number: 18-Addendum

Department: SOCIAL SERVICES

Date: 5/26/2017

Page(s) April Workshop Powerpoint: PP 23-25

Request/Question:

How will the proposed reduction in Social Services staff impact the caseload sizes for the respective programs: Child Welfare, Adult Protective Services and Foster Care?
Are there "industry standards" that recommend best practices in re: caseload sizes?

Addendum to Response given for BIF #18 at the April Workshops: Child Welfare Services

The proposed reduction for Child Welfare Services (CWS) staff includes 1 Division Chief-Operations, 2 Department Business Specialists, and 2 Administrative Office Professionals. As the proposed reduction is to support staff it will not increase caseloads directly. CWS continues to ensure child safety with timely investigation in our emergency response program being the highest priority. However, as social workers will need to spend more time on administrative tasks, we may see a corresponding decrease in the amount of time they have for their primary case management responsibilities including face to face contacts.

CWS Average Monthly Workload vs. Social Worker FTE by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Total Open Cases	Total Referrals Received	Total Workload	Total CWS SW FTE	AVG per FTE
14-15	693	423	1116	63	17.7
15-16	630	462	1092	59	18.5
16-17 (YTD)	544	428	972	55	17.7

Over the last several years CWS has struggled to meet two Federal Outcomes, **3-P1 Permanency in 12 Months**, and **3-P5 Placement Stability**, while meeting targets for all other Measures for which data is available.

Measure	Federal Standard	Santa Barbara County Performance FY 14-15	Santa Barbara County Performance FY 15-16	Santa Barbara County Performance FY 16-17 (YTD)
3-S1 Maltreatment in Foster Care	8.5	6.43	7.12	6.98
3-S2 Recurrence of Maltreatment	9.1	5.1	6.5	Data Not Available
3-P1 Permanency in 12 months (entering foster care)	40.5	30.3	36.2	Data Not Available
3-P2 Permanency in 12 months (in care 21-23 months)	43.6	50	47.9	57.7
3-P3 Permanency in 12 months (in care 24 months +)	30.3	26.7	36.4	41.9
3-P4 Re-entry to foster care within 12 months	8.3	7.8	Data Not Available	Data Not Available
3-P5 Placement Stability	4.12	4.62	4.31	4.61

Response: Child Welfare Services Cont'd

3-P1 Permanency in 12 Months

This measure looks at timely permanency including family reunification, guardianship, and adoption. An increase in CWS Social Workers will allow for active engagement of the family in case planning, service delivery, and frequent visitation, which are critical to timely reunification. This will also allow for more frequent and consistent contact with resource families to complete caregiver assessments and ensure they have necessary services to meet the needs of the children in their care, which is essential to timely permanency through guardianship and adoption.

3-P5 Placement Stability

This measure looks at the rate of placement moves for children in foster care. An increase in CWS Social Workers will allow for active engagement of the family and caregivers in making placement decisions, relative finding efforts, pre-placement visits, placement matching assessments, and referrals for support services for caregivers to maintain the child in a stable placement.