

Cover Sheet

Agency Name: Sacramento County

Project Name: **Ruby Slipper Project**

Unit (if applicable): FR, PP and Adoptions Programs

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Highlights

Sacramento County's California Permanency for Youth Project, known as the Ruby Slipper project, has moved from the planning stage to the action stage. Some of our accomplishments are:

1. As of September 2006, nine of the 45 youth we have been working with have a change in legal status (adoption, guardianship or reunification) in process, four have a lifelong permanent connection and 26 have a potential lifelong connection. The other six are still working on finding a lifelong connection.
2. We've spread the Permanency Staffing (formerly the Adoption/Guardianship Staffing) from the Ruby Slipper project to all of our placement programs. The Permanency Staffing includes a new document that is intended to help facilitate a team discussion regarding all aspects of permanency not just adoption and guardianship.
3. Our Permanency Partners team is going strong in assisting social workers in the Placement programs. Permanency Partners is a collaboration between the Adoption, Permanent Placement and Family Reunification Programs. The goal is to assist the placement worker in educating and explaining to the current caretakers the different permanency options available for youth. Permanency options include return to birth parent, adoption, guardianship, or establishing a lifelong connection.
4. Our permanency handbook (modeled after Alameda County's), "There's No Place Like Home: A Guide to Youth Permanency" has been published and is being distributed to youth, resource families, social workers, our community partners, etc. This was a project our Youth Leaders took on and accomplished.
5. We have developed a "Youth Permanency Talking Points" document that is a tool that can be used anytime a staff person from a child welfare service agency is having a training or discussion regarding youth and/or permanency. These talking points are intended to help promote the importance of permanency for youth and to educate others in regards to youth permanency issues. Our hope is that they will be used in all situations regarding youth and that someday these points will be common knowledge.
6. We have participated in the Sacramento County Heart Gallery for the second year in a row.
7. We have worked with Sacramento State University on a curriculum regarding foster youth that includes permanency. The curriculum has been provided to all Department Heads at Sacramento State University.

Some activities that were not accomplished last year will be included in this year's plan.

Sacramento County Family Permanency for Youth Project Plan:

Goal #1: Continue to create a culture and practice in Sacramento County that provides permanent families or committed connections for all Sacramento County foster children and youth.

Objectives:

1.1 Administrative policy and practice consistently supports permanent outcomes.

1.1.1 Activity: Permanency staffing is held for each child to determine what it would take to find a permanent family.

Performance indicators: Court report will reflect permanency staffing results

Responsibility: County social workers and supervisors

Due: Completed. Want to continue to monitor and improve.

1.1.2 Activity: Review and modify current Adoption/Guardianship Staffing guideline to reflect change in practice and name.

Performance indicators: Revised guideline

Responsibility: FR, PP & Adoption Program Specialist

Due: June 2007

1.1.3 Activity: Monitor number of referrals to Destination Family, Family Finder/US Search and CAP Kids.

Performance indicators: Referral numbers will be reported at the CPYP monthly meeting

Responsibility: Sierra Adoption Services and CPS

Due: Ongoing.

Goal #2: By 3/31/07, 8 youth between 11 and 18 years old from the Permanent Placement and Adoption Programs will be receiving services to find and prepare them for permanent families or committed connections.

• **Objectives:**

2.1 Identify 8 youth to receive services to find and prepare them for permanent families or committed connections.

2.1.1 Activity: Identify youth participants

Performance indicators: Youth are identified

Responsibility: Permanency Placement and Adoption's social workers

Due: March 2007 - **Completed**

2.1.2 Activity: Develop tracking and data collection system on 8 target population youth.

Performance indicators: Tracking system and document are in place

Responsibility: CPYP Committee

Due: April 2007

2.2 Prepare youth for permanency

2.2.1 Activity: “Preparing Youth for Permanency, The 3-5-7 Training” is offered to community partners, social workers, supervisors and managers

Performance indicators: Attended training

Responsibility: CPYP Committee

Due: March 2007 – June 2007

2.2.2 Activity: “Research to Practice: Creating Permanency for Foster Youth” training offered to social workers and supervisors

Performance indicators: Attended training

Responsibility: Training and Staff Development

Due: March 21 - 22, 2007 - **Completed**

2.2.3 Activity: Suggest that CPYP offer the Darla Henry training to our Mental Health providers and that the training be one half day.

Performance indicators: Email sent to Cheryl Jacobson

Responsibility: Terry Clauser

Due: April 2007 - **Completed**

2.3 Find permanent families or committed connections for youth.

2.3.1 Activity: Create and utilize Child Available form for older youth.

Performance indicators: Court report will reflect activity and outcome

Responsibility: Debra Williams and Adoption Program

Due: June 2007

2.3.2 Activity: Develop a process to obtain comprehensive medical, mental health, educational and behavioral information in regards to the youth and to be shared with the caregiver.

Performance indicators: Process developed

Responsibility: CPYP Committee

Due: September 2007

2.3.3 Activity: Sacramento County will join SAS and Placer County to develop resource curriculum for families moving toward permanency with youth.

Performance indicators: Adoption Program rep will join workgroups

Responsibility: Mary Tarro, Joe Walsh

Due: June 2007

2.3.4 Activity: Ensure that children and youth are aware of their sibling(s) and where their sibling(s) resides

Performance indicators: Sibling information will be in court report

Responsibility: All court programs and Administrative Review Hearing Officer

Due: May 2007

Goal #3: Services are in place to sustain and support the established relationship between the connections/families and youth.

Objectives:

3.1 Identify what services are wanted and needed to sustain long-term relationships for connections/families and youth.

3.1.1 Activity: Conduct focus groups with connections/families and youth

Performance indicators: A list of what is wanted and needed will come out of each group.

Responsibility: KSSP Planning Committee and Sierra Adoption Services

Due: June 2007

3.1.2 Activity: From the information gathered at the focus groups, develop a plan that will lead to maintaining and sustaining permanency for youth.

Performance indicators: A work plan will be developed and implemented.

Responsibility: CPYP Committee and KSSP Planning Committee

Due: August 2007

3.2 Identify what services for connections/families and youth are currently available in Sacramento County.

3.2.1 Activity: Conduct focus groups with connections/families and youth

Performance indicators: A list of current services will come out of each group.

Responsibility: KSSP Planning Committee and Sierra Adoption Services

Due: June 2007

Goal #4: Resources are in place to continue to support and facilitate improved permanency efforts.

Objectives:

4.1 Continue effective public/private/community partnerships.

4.1.1 Activity: Have annual youth permanency celebrations to recognize the work that is being done.

Performance indicators: The celebrations

Responsibility: CPYP Committee and Sierra Adoption Services

Due: September/October 2007

4.1.2 Activity: Have “FR Success” celebrations to recognize families that have reunified.

Performance indicators: The celebrations are held

Responsibility: Permanency Re-Entry Committee

Due: August 2007

4.1.3 Activity: Youth permanency is reinforced in all conversations.

Performance indicators: Talking points are utilized

Responsibility: CPS and Partners

Due: Ongoing

4.2 County demonstrates commitment to youth permanency by removing fiscal barriers to permanence

4.2.1 Activity: Sierra Adoption Services will continue to advocate for resources for youth permanency with the Board of Supervisors

Performance indicators: County budget reflects the Board’s commitment to permanency

Responsibility: Sierra Adoption Services

Due: Ongoing

4.3 Systems and technology are in place to facilitate documentation and quick access to documentation.

4.3.1 Activity: Create a web page on the Sacramento County Internet to store permanency information and permanency resource documents that will be available to all stakeholders.

Performance indicators: Web page created

Responsibility: CPYP Committee and Laurie Slothower

Due: November 2007