

Appendix D

Dolores Carr, Supervising Family Court Judge
Karen Blinstrub, Executive Director of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

Announcement and Letter to the Family Law Community and Service Providers

CARE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE – FAMILY COURT SERVICES

The Superior Court and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County have entered into a new and innovative partnership under a two and a half year grant awarded by the FIRST 5 Commission of Santa Clara County. This opens unprecedented opportunities to provide prevention and early intervention services to children, five years and younger, and their families who are involved in the Family Court system. Our collaboration envisions that these children and families who are often in crisis, will be offered the health, developmental and social services necessary to weather their families' breakup and to assist them to succeed in life.

This vision is the foundation on which Care Management Initiative – Family Court Services (FCS) is built. Our objective is to support the healthy development of children. Our Initiative will:

- **Create a network** of quality programs, services and activities;
- **Coordinate** prevention, intervention, and intensive intervention services to children, prenatal through five-years-old, and their families;
- **Secure access** through coordination of multiple programs, services, and activities identified by the families in the **5 focus areas** of 1) early care and education services, 2) parenting and family support; 3) health and social services; 4) neighborhood initiatives, and 5) program infrastructure and administration through the Care Management Program;

- **Identify and address gaps** in needed services and the over- and under-utilization of existing services;
- **Prevent** families with children prenatal to five-years-old from entering Dependency Court;
- **Foster community collaboration** to enable the coordination and integration of existing services and infrastructures; and
- **Be a major catalyst** for systemic change within the Family Court System.

The target population for this grant project is children prenatal through five years of age, whose families represent a wide range of families across Santa Clara County. All of these families are separated or divorced, many of whom are frequently in crisis as a result of instability, lack of income, conflict, and disruption in their home life. These families and their children are potentially high risk due to serious problems including child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse, and extreme conflict and they have difficulty accessing the needed services and interventions.

The Initiative will staff the courthouse with Care Managers who will provide personal support and assistance to families in securing resources and services in the community aimed at protecting the safety and welfare of their children, enhancing their development, and improving family functioning.

An assessment will be conducted to determine the services needed by these families, as well as obstacles to access. The survey below is a first step in looking at developing programs and strategies to increase the percentage of families who will provide safe, stable and loving homes for their children.

- c) Do not know where these services are
- d) Work during the day
- e) Do not speak English
- h) There is a long waiting list
- i) Live too far away from the services
- j) Other _____

The following special services listed below are needed for families with young children in our system: *(Please circle all that apply)*

- a) Home based parenting services
- b) Re-connection counseling for children with a long absent parent
- c) Therapeutic supervision for parents and emotionally traumatized children
- d) High Conflict Family Programs for families of children who may be emotionally traumatized due to high conflict in the family.
- e) Divorce education/Co-parenting groups designed to protect children from family conflict and promote healthy development.

f) Other *(Please describe)* _____

Other comments: _____

Your opinion is very valuable. Thank you for completing this survey.

Please mail this survey to:

Family Court Services, 170 Park Center Plaza, San Jose, CA 95113