

**San Luis Obispo County  
Departments of Social Services and Probation**

*County Self-Assessment*

Every three years the County Departments of Social Services and Probation are required by the federal and state governments to conduct a performance review and develop a plan for improvement. The process begins with a Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR), in which Social Workers, Deputy Probation Officers and supervisors are engaged in discussions about case practice. After the PQCR is completed, the County Self-Assessment begins.

The purpose of the County Self-Assessment process is to analyze, in collaboration with key community partners, the County's performance on eight critical **child welfare** outcomes. In addition to the outcome indicators, seven systemic factors must also be considered when analyzing the County's performance on the outcomes. (See reverse side for a list of the outcomes and systemic factors.) Together, the Department of Social Services and the Probation Department will identify the programmatic strengths and needs as these relate to their distinct populations.

There is no objective standard by which the County must assess its performance, and therefore, no "pass" or "fail" associated with the County Self-Assessment. However, the County must identify strengths and areas needing improvement. The areas needing improvement will be addressed in the System Improvement Plan (SIP).

The SIP is the final part of the review process. The SIP outlines the areas of improvement the County will work to address, and identifies strategies and tools the County will implement to achieve these improvements. The SIP serves as an improvement guide for the next three years, after which the PQCR/CSA/SIP process begins anew.

You, as a community partner, are an integral part of the CSA process. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. And for you, this provides an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the Departments of Social Services and Probation, as well as other community partners,
- Network with members of your community, and
- Provide valuable input that will help shape our Departments' future.

*Thank you for your participation!*

# Outcomes and Systemic Factors

## Systemic Factors

- The effectiveness of the State's systems for child welfare information
- The effectiveness of the State's systems for case review
- The effectiveness of the State's systems for quality assurance
- Training of child welfare staff, parents, and other stakeholders
- The array of services that support children and families
- The agency's responsiveness to the community
- Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention

## Outcomes

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
- Children are maintained safely in their homes whenever possible and appropriate
- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations without increasing reentry to foster care
- The family relationships and connections of the children served by the CWS will be preserved, as appropriate
- Children receive services adequate to their physical, emotional and mental health needs
- Children receive services appropriate to their educational needs
- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs
- Youth emancipating from foster care are prepared to transition to adulthood