

Monterey County
Family and Children's Services
HHHS Committee Report
January 2024 Data

INTRODUCTION

Monterey County Family and Children's Services (FCS) offers child protective services, foster care services, and adoption services to children and youth in Monterey County. The mission of FCS is to prevent the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. Service goals strive to keep children and youth safe and within the protection of a permanent family.

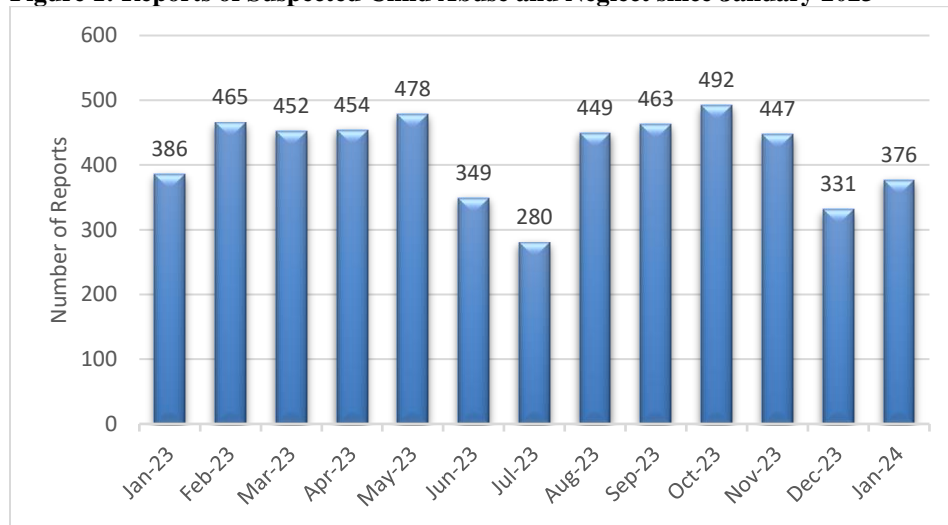
This report provides an update on FCS outcomes and Corrective Action Plan. The data is current as of February 1, 2024.

INTAKE

I. Data

- A. Figure 1 shows the monthly reports of suspected child abuse or neglect received in Monterey County over the past year.

Figure 1: Reports of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect since January 2023



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- B. In January 2024, Monterey County received 376 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Figure 2 displays the response priority for those referrals. 157 referrals required an in-person investigation.

Figure 2: Intake Response Determinations, January 2024

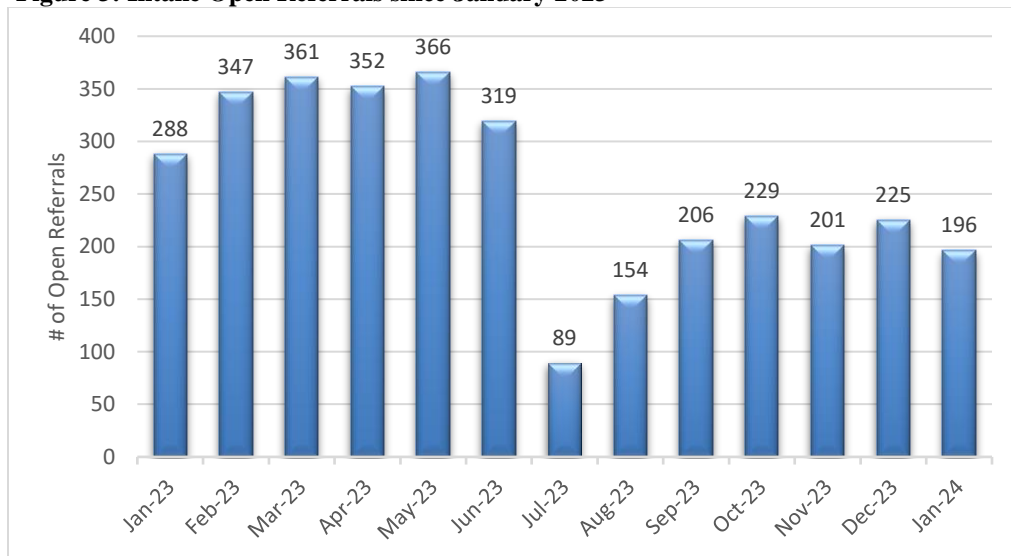
Response Priority Rates	Count	%
Immediate	65	17.3%
Within 10 Days	92	24.5%
Evaluate Out	189	50.3%
N/A Secondary	0	0.0%
Not Determined	30	8.0%
Total	376	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

II. Open Referrals

As of January 31, 2024, there were 196 open referrals in the Intake Units. The majority of the open referrals are referrals that social workers have evaluated out, but they are still pending closure due to missing documentation.

Figure 3: Intake Open Referrals since January 2023



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

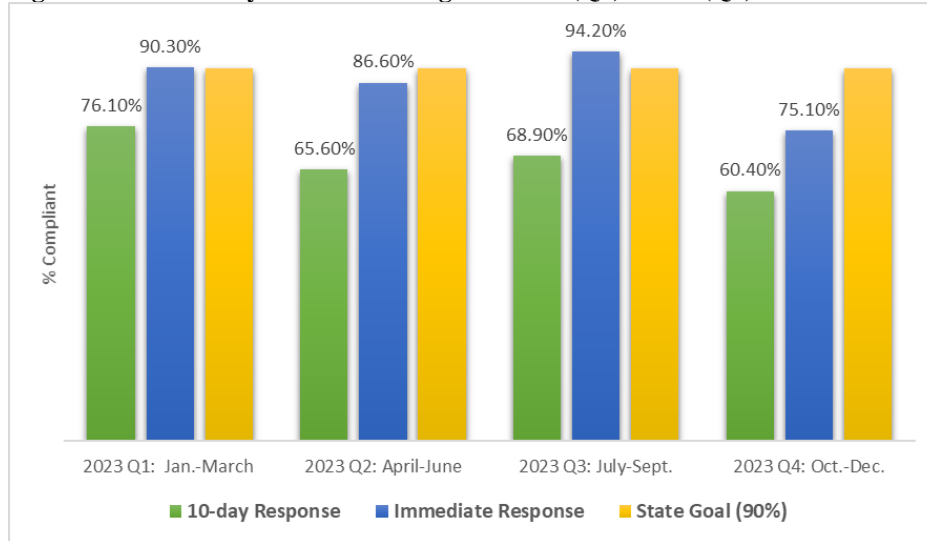
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

I. Data

A. AB636 Measure 2B: Referrals by Time to Investigation

This is the state measure of timeliness to investigation for referrals that required either an immediate or 10-day response. This means that either an in-person contact was completed or attempted within the required timeframe. Figure 4 shows timeliness to investigation each quarter of the past year. The state goal is 90% compliance. In 2023, Monterey County averaged 67.75% compliance for 10-day referrals and 86.55% compliance for immediate referrals for the past year.

Figure 4: Referrals by Time to Investigation 2023(Q1) – 2023(Q4)

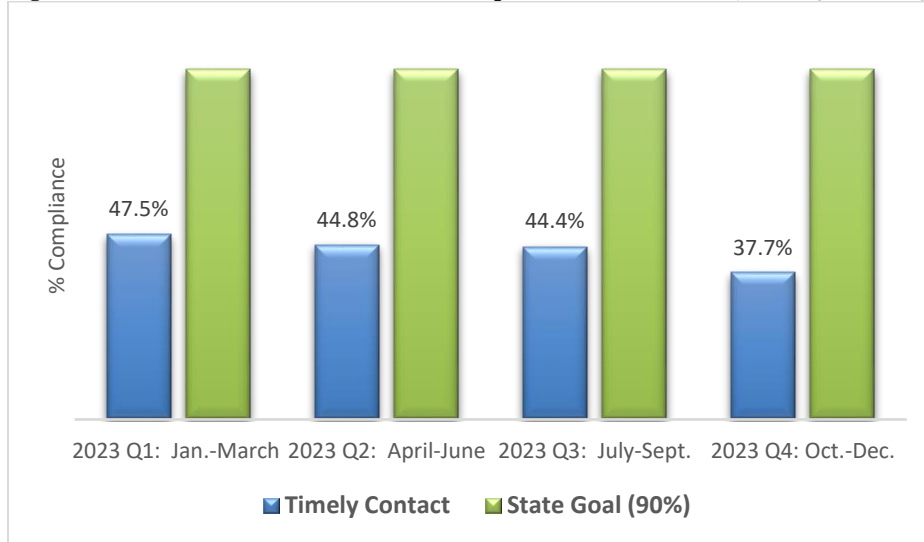


Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

B. State Measure 2D: Time to First Completed Referral Contact (Quarterly)

This is the state measure of contacts that were completed timely for immediate or 10-day response during the selected quarter. Figure 5 shows that Monterey County averages a 43.90% timely contact rate for referrals received in 2023. The state goal is 90%.

Figure 5: State Measure 2D: Time to First Completed Referral Contact, 2023(Q1)-2023(Q4)



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

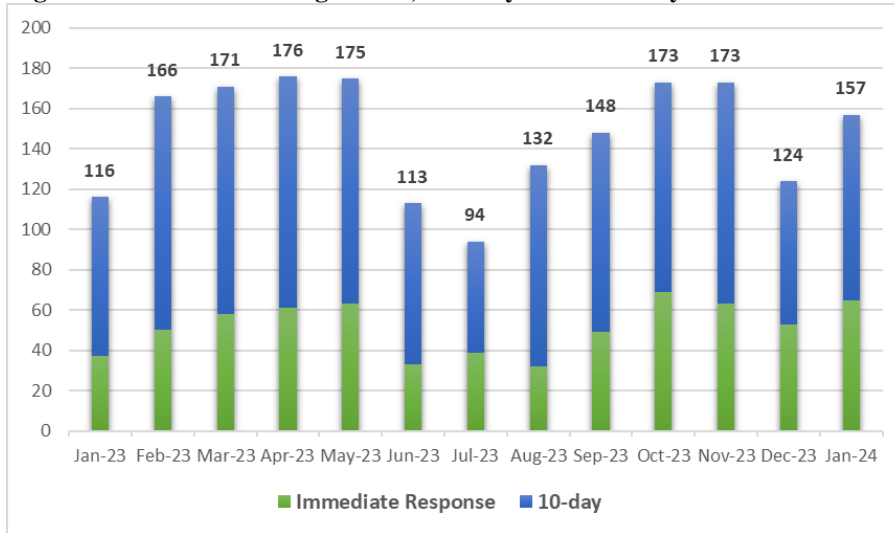
II. Caseloads

A. Assignments

In January 2024, there were 157 referrals assigned to the ER Units for an in-person investigation, and 65 of those referrals required an immediate response.

Figure 6 shows referrals assigned to social workers in the ER Units for the past year.

Figure 6: ER Referral Assignments, January 2023-January 2024



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

B. Open Referrals

During January 2024, there were 1,142 open referrals that required an in-person investigation throughout the month, as can be seen in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Investigation Time for Open Referrals, January 2024

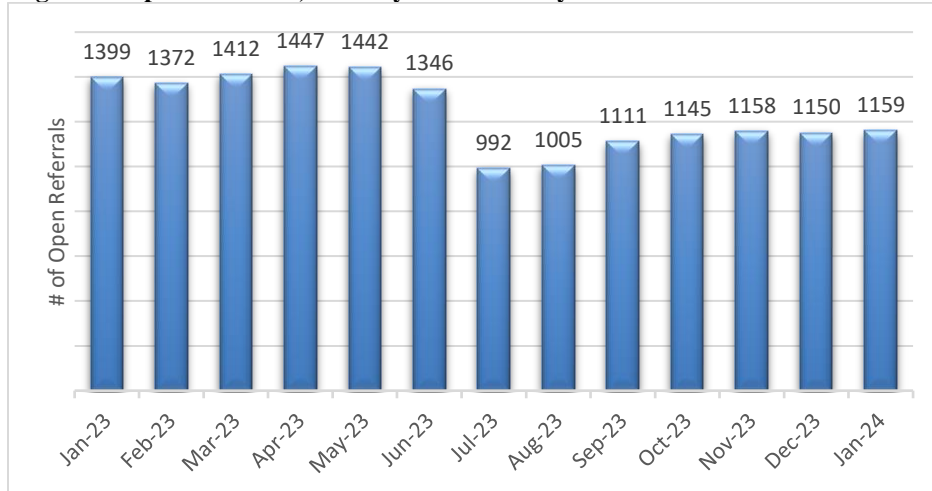
Days Open		Count	%
0 to 7 Days	<div style="width: 4.9%; height: 10px; background-color: blue;"></div>	56	4.9%
8 to 14 Days	<div style="width: 4.1%; height: 10px; background-color: magenta;"></div>	47	4.1%
15 to 30 Days	<div style="width: 5.6%; height: 10px; background-color: cyan;"></div>	64	5.6%
31 to 60 Days	<div style="width: 9.5%; height: 10px; background-color: green;"></div>	109	9.5%
More than 60 Days	<div style="width: 75.8%; height: 10px; background-color: yellow;"></div>	866	75.8%
Total		1,142	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

C. Open Referrals Over Time

Figure 8 shows the total number of referrals in both Intake and Emergency Response Units on the last day of each month in the last year.

Figure 8: Open Referrals, January 2023-January 2024



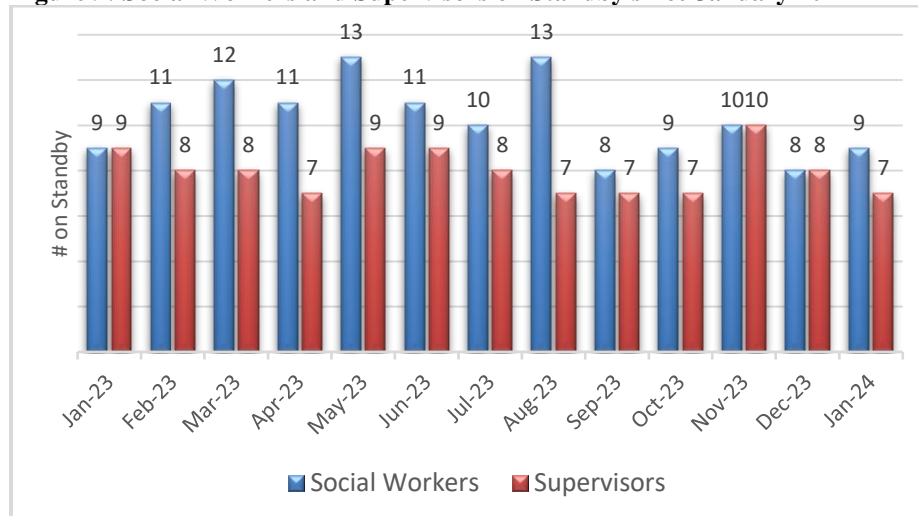
Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.

STANDBY

I. Data

- A. As can be seen in Figure 9, there were 9 social workers and 7 social work supervisors who worked standby in January 2024.

Figure 9: Social Workers and Supervisors on Standby since January 2024



- B. In January 2024, standby social workers received 256 calls during non-business hours.

FAMILY STABILIZATION

I. Data

- A. In January 2024, there were 37 cases open in the Family Stabilization Unit. Figure 10 displays the amount of time elapsed since the cases opened.

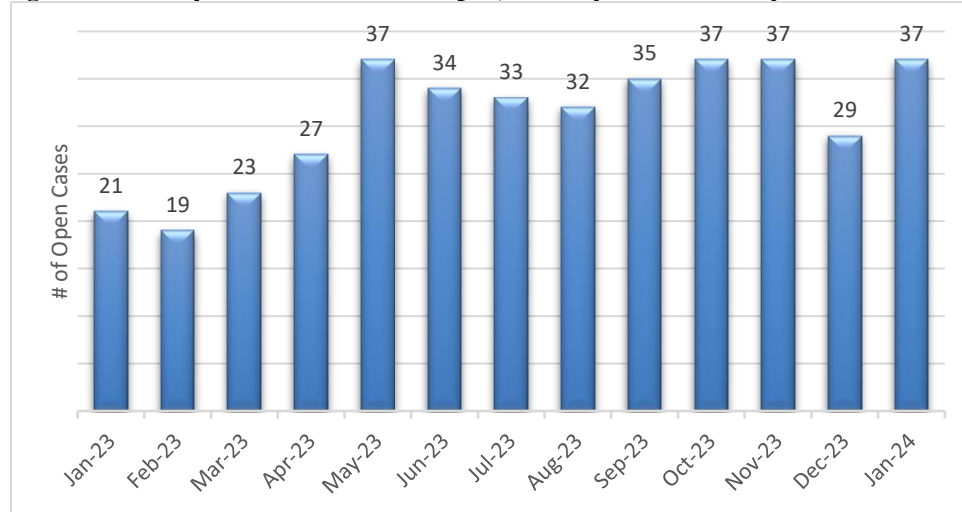
Figure 10: Family Stabilization Cases Open, January 2024

Time Open	Count	%
Under 3 Months	8	21.6%
3 to 6 Months	9	24.3%
6 to 9 Months	12	32.4%
9 to 12 Months	6	16.2%
12 to 18 Months	2	5.4%
18 Months or More	0	0.0%
Total	37	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

B. Open Cases

Figure 11: Family Stabilization Cases Open, January 2023 - January 2024



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL

I. Data

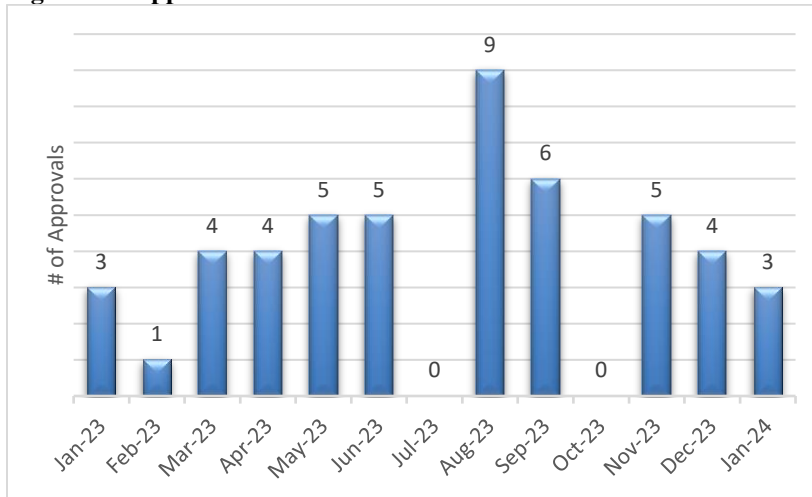
- A. In January 2024, FCS approved three new resource family home. FCS has 177 active resource family homes, which are broken down as follows.

Type of Home	#
Community (unmatched)	91
Relatives/Near-kin (matched)	86
Total Active RFA Homes	177

Source: Binti version 55db4f0

- B. Figure 12 shows total resource family approvals since January 2023

Figure 12: Approvals



Source: Binti version 55db4f0

RESOURCE AND SUPPORT UNIT

I. Data

- A. In January 2024, Monterey County had 189 children in out-of-home care. As reflected in Figure 13, 17.5% of children were placed in a relative or near-kin resource family home.

Figure 13: Placements by Facility Type, January 2023

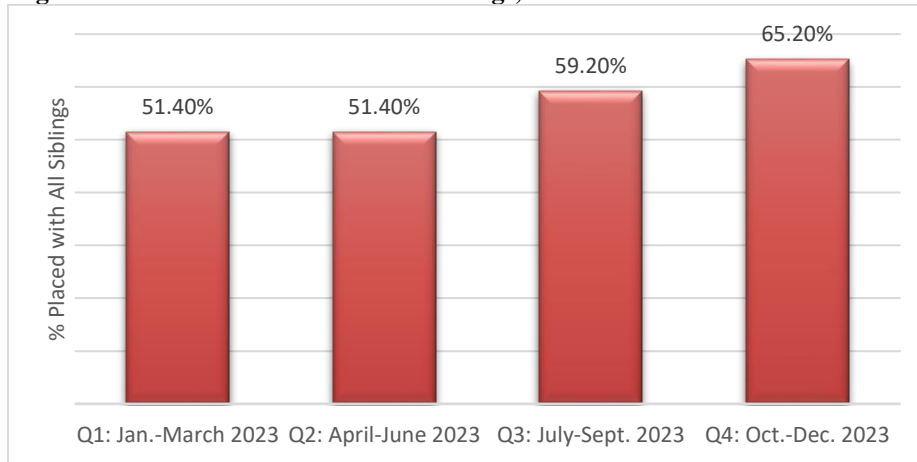
Placement Facility Type	Count	%
Foster Family Home	0	0.0%
Group Home	8	4.2%
RFA - Relative/NREFM Home	33	17.5%
RFA - Resource Home	67	35.4%
Foster Family Agency	25	13.2%
Supervised Independent Living	16	8.5%
Guardian Home - Non-Dependent	40	21.2%
Guardian Home - Dependent	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	189	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

B. AB 636 Measure 4A: Placement with Siblings

This state measure shows the proportion of children who were in a placement setting with all or some siblings. Figure 14 displays data from 2023 for children who were placed with all of their siblings.

Figure 14: Children Placed with All Siblings, 2023



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- C. In January 2024, 58.3% of foster children with siblings were placed with all of their siblings as can be seen in Figure 15.

Figure 15: Siblings Placed Together, January 2024

Placement Type	Count	%
Placed with All Sibs	56	58.3%
Placed With Some Sibs	11	11.5%
Not Placed With Any Sibs	29	30.2%
Total	96	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- D. In January 2024, 50.3% of foster children in Monterey County had experienced only one placement.

Figure 16: Placement Episodes, January 2024

Placement(s) In Episode	Count	%
One Placement	99	50.3%
Two Placements	40	20.3%
Three to Five Placements	28	14.2%
Six or More Placements	22	11.2%
Missing Placement Count	8	4.1%
Total	197	100%

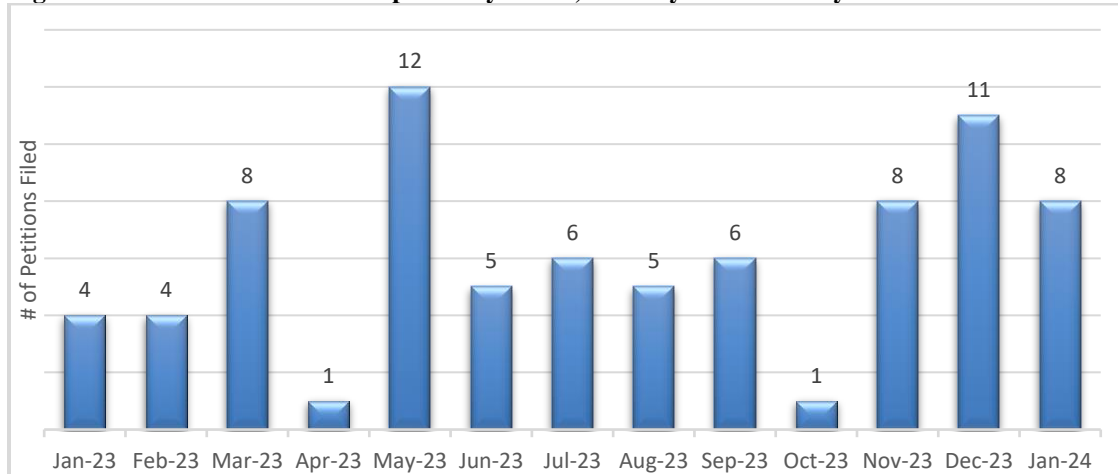
Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

COURT

I. Data

- A. In January 2024, there were 8 petitions filed with Dependency Court. Figure 17 shows the number of petitions that have been filed over the past year.

Figure 17: Petitions Filed with Dependency Court, January 2023-January 2024



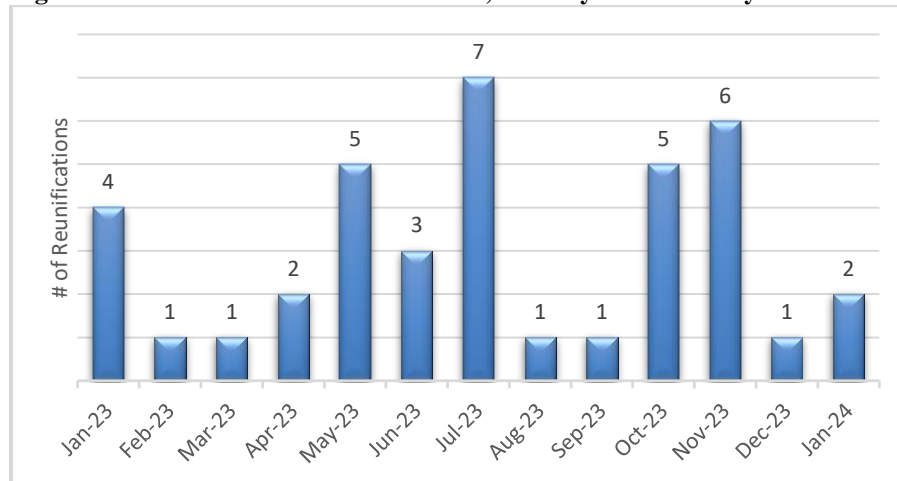
Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND FAMILY MAINTENANCE

I. Data

- A. As can be seen in Figure 18, there were two children who reunified with their parent(s) in January 2024.

Figure 18: Number of Children Reunified, January 2023-January 2024



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- B. As can be seen in Figure 19, there were 55 open family reunification cases in January 2024.

Figure 19: FR Open Cases, January 2024

Time Open	Count	%
Under 3 Months	6	10.9%
3 to 6 Months	4	7.3%
6 to 9 Months	21	38.2%
9 to 12 Months	8	14.5%
12 to 18 Months	8	14.5%
18 Months or More	8	14.5%
Total	55	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- C. As can be seen in Figure 20, there were 29 court family maintenance cases open in January 2024.

Figure 20: Court-ordered Family Maintenance Open Cases, January 2024

Time Open	Count	%
Under 3 Months	2	6.9%
3 to 6 Months	0	0.0%
6 to 9 Months	3	10.3%
9 to 12 Months	0	0.0%
12 to 18 Months	3	10.3%
18 Months or More	21	72.4%
Total	29	100%

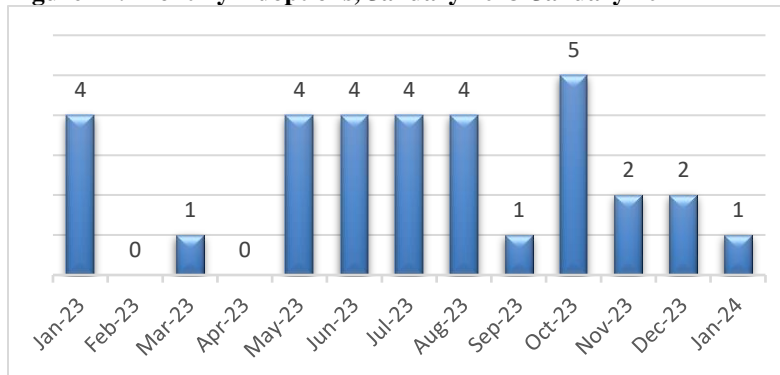
Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

ADOPTIONS

I. Data

- A. As can be seen in Figure 21, there was one adoption finalized in January 2024.

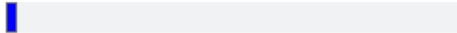
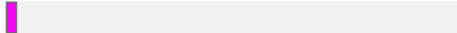


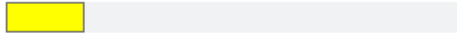

Figure 21: Monthly Adoptions, January 2023-January 2024



Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- B. In January 2024, there were no legal guardianships established by the Dependency Court.
- C. Figure 22 shows that there were 40 open adoptions cases in the Adoption Unit in January 2024.

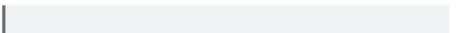
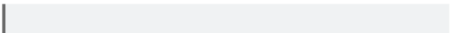
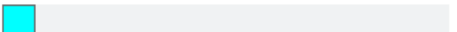
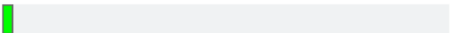
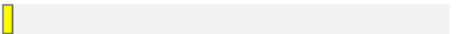

Figure 22: Open Adoptions Cases, January 2024

Time Open		Count	%
Under 3 Months		1	2.5%
3 to 6 Months		1	2.5%
6 to 9 Months		2	5.0%
9 to 12 Months		2	5.0%
12 to 18 Months		7	17.5%
18 Months or More		27	67.5%
Total		40	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- D. In January 2024, there were 40 open non-related legal guardianship cases as can be seen in Figure 23.

Figure 23: Open Non-Related Legal Guardianship Cases, January 2024

Time Open		Count	%
Under 3 Months		0	0.0%
3 to 6 Months		0	0.0%
6 to 9 Months		3	7.5%
9 to 12 Months		1	2.5%
12 to 18 Months		1	2.5%
18 Months or More		35	87.5%
Total		40	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

PERMANENCY PLANNING (PP)

- I. Data
- A. In January 2024, there were 27 open foster care cases in the PP Unit, as can be seen in Figure 24.

Figure 24: Open Foster Care Cases in the PP Unit, January 2024

Time Open	Count	%
Under 3 Months	0	0.0%
3 to 6 Months	0	0.0%
6 to 9 Months	1	3.7%
9 to 12 Months	1	3.7%
12 to 18 Months	3	11.1%
18 Months or More	22	81.5%
Total	27	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- B. In January 2024, there were 32 open extended foster care cases for young adults 18 to 21 years old in the PP unit as can be seen in Figure 25.

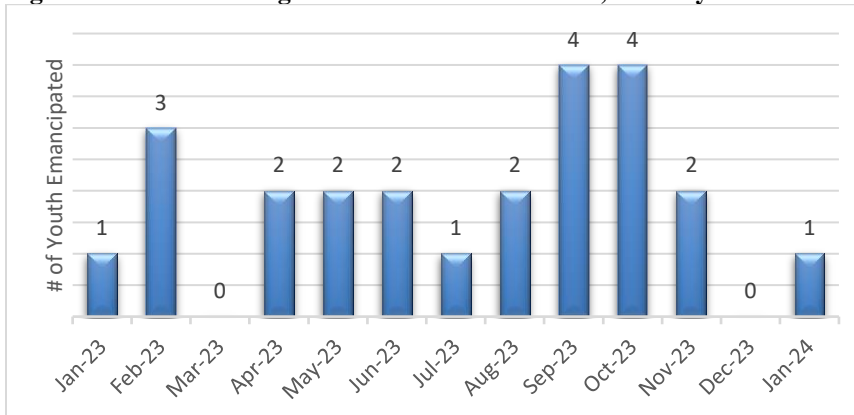
Figure 25: Open Extended Foster Care Cases in the PP Unit, January 2024

Time Open	Count	%
Under 3 Months	0	0.0%
3 to 6 Months	2	6.2%
6 to 9 Months	1	3.1%
9 to 12 Months	0	0.0%
12 to 18 Months	0	0.0%
18 Months or More	29	90.6%
Total	32	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- C. In January 2024, there was one emancipation from foster care since the youth reached 21 years old. Figure 26 shows the number of youth who have emancipated from foster care in Monterey County since January 2023.

Figure 26: Youth Exiting Foster Care in the PP Unit, January 2023-January 2024






Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

CFSR MEASURES

- I. **CFSR Measure P1: Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Care** is a state measure of all children who entered foster care in the selected 12-month period and calculates the percent who achieved permanency within 12 months of their removal. This measure presented in Figure 27 is for children who entered foster care between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.




Figure 27: CFSR Measure P1

Permanency Within 12 Months	Count	%
Permanency 	6	6.8%
No Permanency 	82	93.2%
National Goal 	36	40.5%
Total	88	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- II. **CFSR Measure P2: Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Care** is a measure of all children who have been in foster care for 12-23 months and achieve permanency. The measure presented in Figure 28 is for children who have been in foster care for 12-23 months since January 1, 2023.




Figure 28: CFSR Measure P2

Permanency Within 12 Months	Count	%
Permanency 	13	52.0%
No Permanency 	12	48.0%
National Goal 	11	43.6%
Total	25	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

- III. **CDSS CFSR Measure P3: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 24 Months or More** is a measure of all children who have been in foster care for 24 months or more on the first day of the selected 12-month period and determines what percent were discharged to permanency within 12 months of the start of the period. The measure presented in Figure 29 include children who have been in foster care for 24 months or more since January 1, 2023.


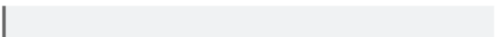

Figure 29: CFSR Measure P3

Permanency Within 12 Months		Count	%
Permanency		14	33.3%
No Permanency		28	66.7%
National Goal		13	30.3%
Total		42	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

IV. **CFSR Measure P4: Reentry to Foster Care** is a measure that looks at the number of children who entered foster care in the selected 12-month period, were discharged to reunification or guardianship within 12 months, and reentered foster care within 12 months of their discharge date. Figure 30 includes children who entered foster care between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

Figure 30: CFSR Measure P4

Reentry Within 12 Months		Count	%
No Reentry		12	100.0%
Reentry		0	0.0%
National Goal		1	8.3%
Total		12	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

V. **CFSR Measure S2: Recurrence of Maltreatment** measures recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months of substantiations that occurred between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022 as shown in Figure 31.

Figure 31: CFSR Measure S2

Recurrence of Maltreatment		Count	%
Recurrence		28	12.8%
No Recurrence		190	87.2%
National Goal		20	9.1%
Total		218	100%

Source: Safe Measures version 5.2.1

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

In December of 2022, as a result of a State onsite visit, Family & Children's Services (FCS) entered into a CAP with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

- I. The CAP was finalized with the CDSS– Children’s Services Operations Bureau and is comprised of 7 sections and the required revisions:

A. Record Remediation

1. Ensure proper documentation and evaluation of Suspected Child Abuse Reports (SCARs) from the Mandated Reporter inbox.
 - a. Cease the alteration/deletion of records noted in the 2022 On-Site Finding Report. The emails in the Mandated Reporter inbox should not be deleted until they are accurately and completely documented in CWS/CMS, and only after the program manger has verified that they have been properly documented.
✓ **COMPLETE**
 - b. Correct the records that have already been altered or with the incorrect date of receipt of the SCAR
✓ **COMPLETE**
 - c. Reviewing and reassessing all the intake inbox SCARs to ensure appropriate responses are determined and then treating those responses as if the immediate or 10-day response were reported the day of the review. In other words, if a SCAR reported in 2021 needed an immediate response then, an ER worker should go out and investigate it immediately now. If it would have warranted a 10-day response, then there must be an in-person contact within ten days of the review/reassessment.
✓ **COMPLETE**

B. Record Maintenance and Retention

1. Develop internal retention policy.
✓ **COMPLETE**
2. Develop processes for SW’s to upload/import documents to CWS/CMS.
✓ **COMPLETE**

C. Intake and Screening

1. Better integrate Structured Decision Making (SDM) into FCS policies and procedures.
 - ✓ Revise FCS Policies and Procedures
✓ **COMPLETE**
 - ✓ Distribute the revised FCS Handbook chapters and accompanying Practice Guide to all social work staff
✓ **COMPLETE**
2. Development of updated policies and procedures for the Intake units.
✓ **COMPLETE**
3. Development of a rotation schedule for Hotline staff to ensure that calls that come into the Hotline are answered.
 - a. Due October 31, 2024
4. Development of regular supervision meetings with all Intake social workers.
✓ **COMPLETE**

5. Modify processes of how SCARs are submitted, reviewed, and assigned timely.
 - a. Update FCS website with Mandated Reporter FAQ hyperlink
✓ **COMPLETE**
 - b. Peer to Peer SCAR Collaboration
✓ **COMPLETE**
 - c. Collaborate/build relationships with law enforcement, schools, and county hospitals.
✓ Due November 30, 2024
6. Develop processes for timely closures of intake referrals – evaluate outs.
 - a. Due November 30, 2024
- D. Emergency Response and Investigations
 1. Development of updated policies and procedures for the ER units.
 - a. Part I
✓ **COMPLETE**
 - b. Part II
✓ Due May 31, 2024
 2. Develop processes for timely closures of ER referrals.
 - a. Develop the process
 - i. Due May 31, 2024
 - b. Close out all ER Referrals
 - i. Due November 30, 2024
 3. Develop processes for thorough investigations and documentation.
✓ **COMPLETE**
 4. Modify processes and ensure regular supervision between supervisors and social workers.
✓ **COMPLETE**
 5. Develop processes for reassigning/distributing caseloads for social workers on a leave of absence or no longer employed at FCS.
✓ **COMPLETE**
- E. Practice and Intervention
 1. Safety plans
✓ **COMPLETE**
 2. The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool.
 - a. Due November 30, 2024
- F. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
 1. Develop processes for ICWA practices from intake to adoption, consistent with Division 31 regulations and the ICWA Desk Reference Guide.
 - a. Due July 30, 2024
- G. Training
 1. Training for all staff, including management, on the penal code requirements for SCARs and the CDSS's MPP intake requirements.
✓ **COMPLETE**
 2. Establishing a regular schedule of trainings for all intake and ER staff as refreshers and for any updates to the laws or regulations.

✓ **COMPLETE**

3. Clarify, train staff, and monitor standards for the evaluating out of referrals such that the decision to evaluate out a referral conforms to the SDM Policy and Procedures Manual (30 days).
 - a. Due July 31, 2024
4. Safe Measures training for all staff (director, program managers, supervisors, and social workers).
 - a. Due July 31, 2024

II. Progress

- A. FCS has completed 19 out of 27 corrective actions.
 - a. Since the last report, more detail has been provided in the CAP, which has increased the total number of action items from 21 to 27.
- B. FCS has also began an robust continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts to ensure continued improvement efforts around both practices and policies
- C. When FCS entered into the CAP in December 2022, the agency had 27 social worker and social work supervisor vacancies. As of February 7, 2024, FCS now has only 9 vacancies.