



MONTEREY COUNTY

Family & Children's Services

Laura Neal, Deputy Director
May 3, 2022



TOPICS TO COVER

- FCS Overview
- Staffing and Services
- Questions





**INTAKE,
EMERGENCY RESPONSE (ER),
COURT
AND
VOLUNTARY SERVICES**

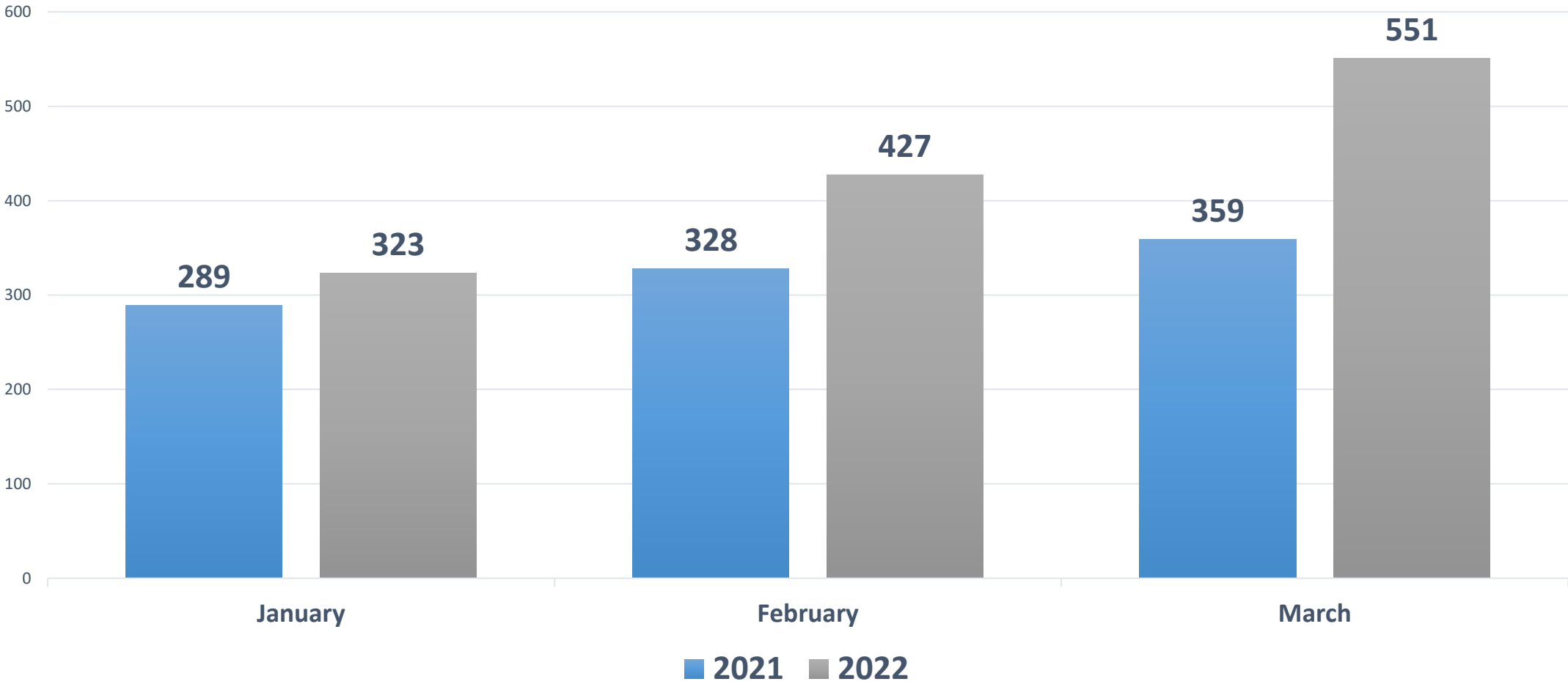
Intake Unit

One Intake Unit

- One supervisor
 - Six social workers
 - Two office assistants
- This is the area that must be open 24/7 with standby for after hours
 - Intake social workers receive calls made to the hotline by community members reporting child maltreatment
 - Intake determines whether we respond within 24 hours or 10-days to each referral
 - Once determination is made by Intake to screen in the referral it's assigned to an Emergency Response (ER) unit for investigation
 - **Average 433 calls per month**
 - **Average 72 calls and screening decisions per social worker each month**
 - **Supervisor must disposition all referrals received within 30 days**

INTAKE

Reports Received



ER Units

Three ER Units

- Three supervisors
- Fifteen social workers
- Three social service aides

Within 30 days, social workers must:

- Make in-person contact with the family either immediately, within 24 hours, or within 10 days (depending on screening).
- Meet with the parent(s)/guardian(s), all children, and at least one collateral to be considered a complete investigation.
- Enter documentation for all investigation activities.
- Submit the referral to the supervisor for disposition.
- **Avg. 160 referrals per month – avg. 10 investigations per social worker per month**

- *FCS is currently receiving more referrals than there are staff to receive them*
- *Nearly 35% of all families return to Intake for another referral within 3 months of previous investigation*

ER TIME TO INVESTIGATIONS

3/2022

Time to Investigation - By Referral		Count	%
Did the social worker initiate an in-person investigation within the required timeframe?	Investigation Timely	134	61.2%
	Investigation Not Timely	85	38.8%
	Pending Investigation	0	0.0%
	Total	219	100.0%

C-1: Time to Investigation - By Child		Count	%
Did the social worker initiate an in-person investigation within the required timeframe?	Investigation Timely	183	59.6%
	Investigation Not Timely	124	40.4%
	Pending Investigation	0	0.0%
	Total	307	100.0%

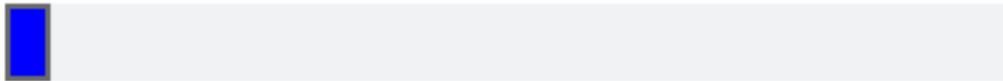
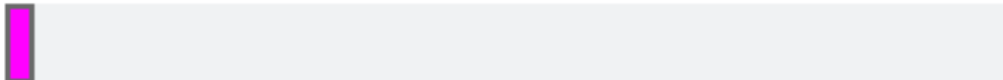



ER TIME TO DOCUMENTATION

3/2022

Elapsed Time Between Contact...	Count	%
Less Than 1 Day	16	4.3%
Within 1-5 Days	59	15.9%
Within 6-10 Days	8	2.2%
Within 11-15 Days	5	1.3%
More Than 15 Days	5	1.3%
Entry Precedes Contact	0	0.0%
No Contact Reported	278	74.9%
Total	371	100%

ERT TIME TO REFERRAL CLOSURE

3/2022

Days Open		Count	%
0 to 7 Days		57	4.6%
8 to 14 Days		38	3.0%
15 to 30 Days		124	9.9%
31 to 60 Days		144	11.5%
More than 60 Days		885	70.9%
Total		1,248	100%


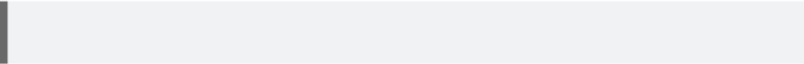
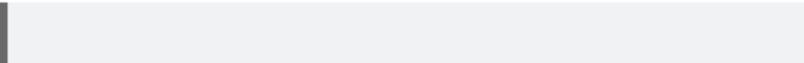


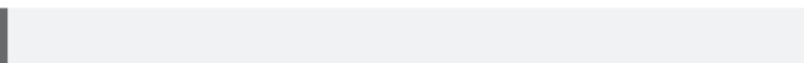
Court Unit

One Court Unit

- One supervisor
 - Three social workers
 - One court officer
 - One office assistant
 - One social service aide
- Investigate allegations of the court petition to determine jurisdiction and make disposition recommendations
 - Develop the case plan in partnership with the family and children over the age of 10 years
 - Arrange and supervise the parent/child visitations
 - Jurisdiction/Disposition reports must be completed within 30 days of removal.
 - Court Officer writes and files all of the petitions and maintains the Dependency Court Calendar.
 - **8 open cases**
 - **Average 2.67 cases per social worker**

Open Cases in the Court Unit

3/2022

Time Open		Count	%
Under 3 Months		7	87.5%
3 to 6 Months		0	0.0%
6 to 9 Months		0	0.0%
9 to 12 Months		1	12.5%
12 to 18 Months		0	0.0%
18 Months or More		0	0.0%
Total		8	100%

Family Stabilization Unit

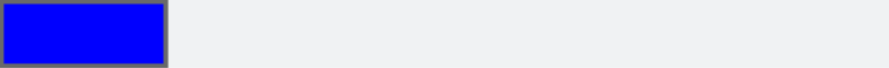
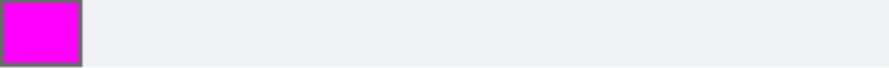
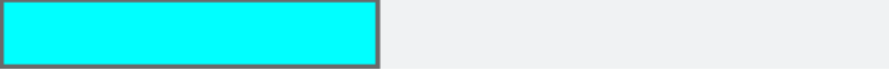
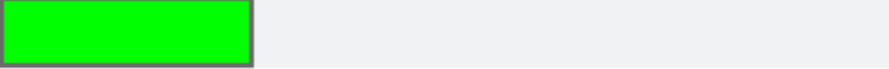
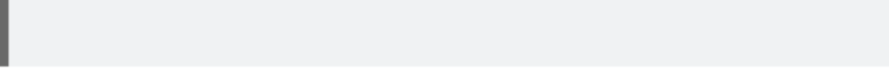
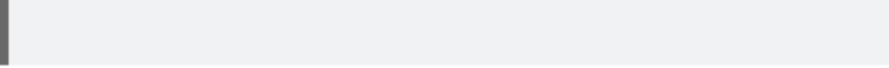
(Voluntary Services)

One FS Unit

- One supervisor
 - Five social workers
 - One social service aides
- Goal is to keep children with families and within their communities
 - Safety threats and risk factors exist
 - Family is willing to work with FCS while keeping kids at home
 - Parents participate in case plan services
 - Social workers meet at least once weekly in family home
 - Secondary prevention efforts
- **Average 12.3 cases per social worker**
 - **63 Cases open**
 - **Average 12.3 cases per social worker**

RISK LEVEL FOR VOLUNTARY CASES

3/2022

Risk Level		Count	%
Low		12	19.0%
Moderate		6	9.5%
High		27	42.9%
Very High		18	28.6%
Child Missing		0	0.0%
Missing Assessment		0	0.0%
Total		63	100%



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA) AND PLACEMENT

RFA UNIT

One RFA Unit

- One supervisor
- Four social workers
- One primary office assistant
- One office assistant
- Process applications resource parents (**average 22 applications per SW**)
- Training, home inspection, background check, family evaluation
- Emergency placements with relatives prior to RFA approval
- Process bi-annual renewals (**203 approved resource parents = 50.75 renewals per social worker**)

RFA Data

Average time to approval = 151 days



Resource Parents are Necessary

- FCS analyst assigned to foster recruitment
- Assess current pool of approved families and what is needed
- FCS needs families for sibling groups
- FCS needs families for teenagers with special needs
- FCS participates in general targeted and child specific recruitment efforts

RESOURCE & SUPPORT UNIT

One RSU

- One supervisor
- Three social workers
- One office assistant
- Placement matching and stabilization
- Prevent child foster placement disruptions
- Support resource parents
- Attends all pre-custodial CFT meetings and follows the family until closure.
- **203 approved resource parents**
- **Avg. 67.7 per social worker**

Placement Data

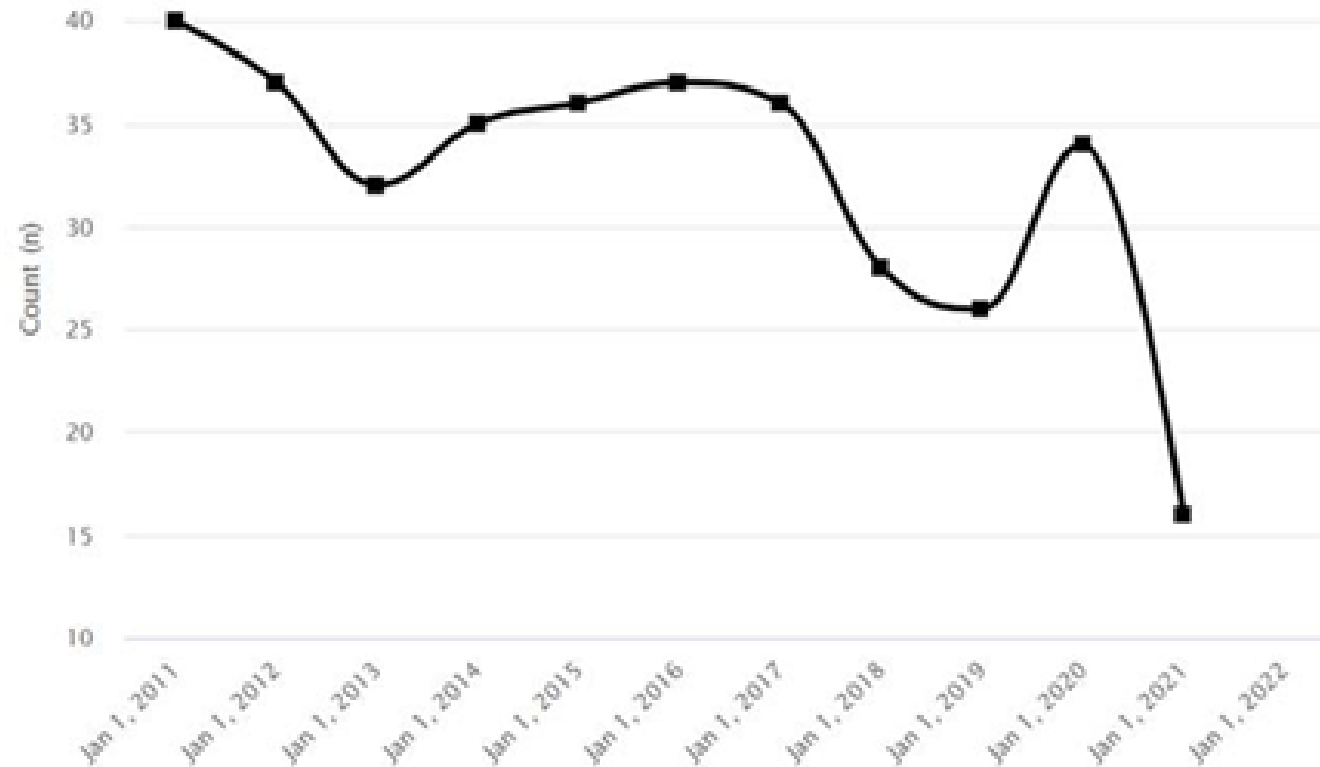
3/2022

Placement Facility Type	Count	%
Foster Family Home	0	0.0%
Group Home	5	2.3%
Relative/NREFM Home	34	15.9%
Resource Home	79	36.9%
Foster Family Agency	31	14.5%
Supervised Independent Living	20	9.3%
Guardian Home - Voluntary	45	21.0%
Guardian Home - Dependent	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	214	100%

27% are relatives & NREFM

Congregate Care

- As of March 2022, Monterey County has 5 foster youth placed in congregate care.
- Placements in congregate care have decreased by 88% since 2011





REUNIFICATION (FR) AND FAMILY MAINTENANCE (FM)

FR/FM UNITS

TWO FR/FM Units

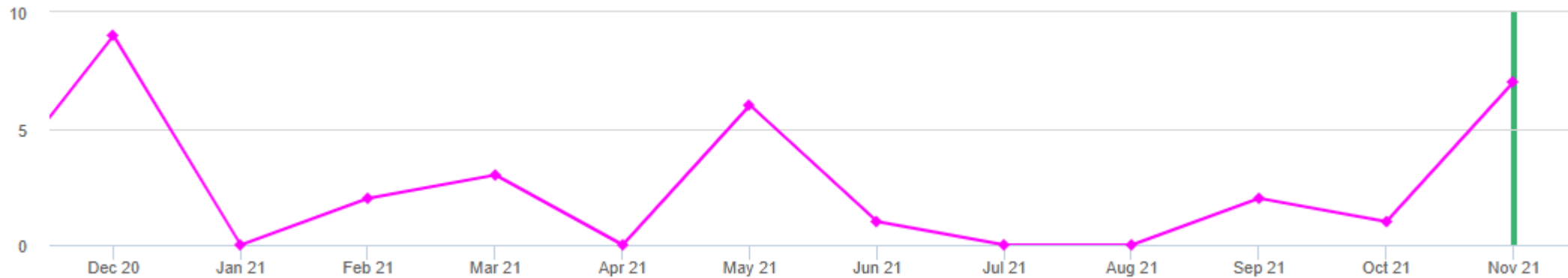
- Two supervisors
- Seven social workers
- Five social service aides
- 6-18 months up to 24 months
- Driven by case plan (referrals to drug treatment, mental health services, intimate partner violence, and parenting).
- Visitation
- Monthly home visits
- Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings
- Family Finding/Network Building
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- **79 open cases 3/2022**
- **Avg. 11 cases per social worker**

Reunification Data

12/2020-11/2021

Monthly Average = 3

Rate = 50%



FM Cases Time Open

3/2022

Time Open		Count	%
Under 3 Months		0	0.0%
3 to 6 Months		1	7.1%
6 to 9 Months		0	0.0%
9 to 12 Months		3	21.4%
12 to 18 Months		0	0.0%
18 Months or More		10	71.4%
Total		14	100%



ADOPTIONS

ADOPTIONS UNIT

One Adoptions Unit

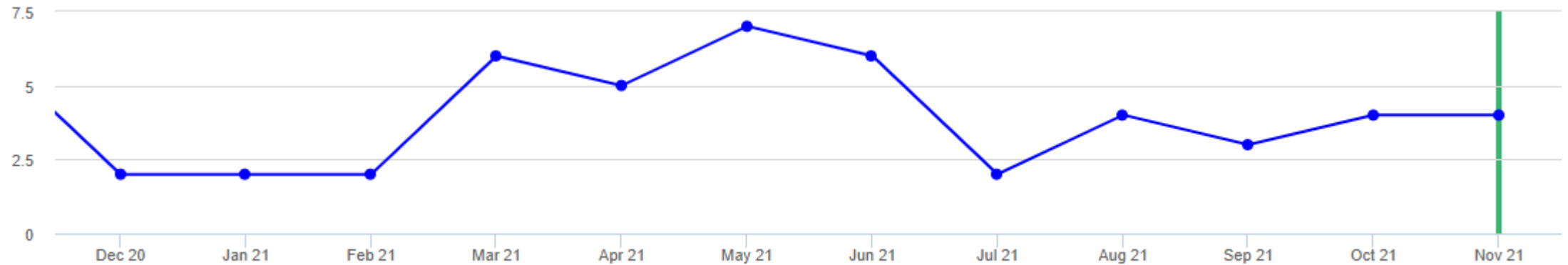
- One supervisor
 - Three social workers
 - One AAP social worker
 - One office assistant
 - One social service aide
- **Prioritization of placement options for adoption:**
 - ✓ Siblings together
 - ✓ Relatives or non-relatives familiar with the child(ren)
 - ✓ Resource parent adoption
 - ✓ General adoption
 - ✓ Post finalization and AAP
 - **90 cases pending adoption 3/2022** – avg. 30 per social worker
 - **871 Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) Cases 1/2022** (1 AAP social worker)
 - **45 Non-related legal guardianships 1/2022** – avg. 15 cases per social worker

Adoptions

12/2020-11/2021

Total = 47

Monthly Average = 4





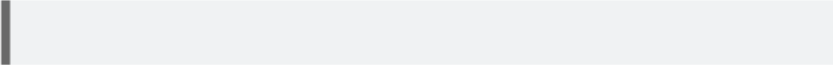
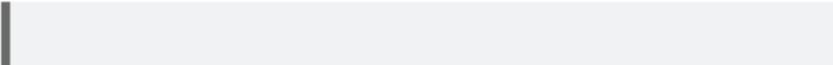


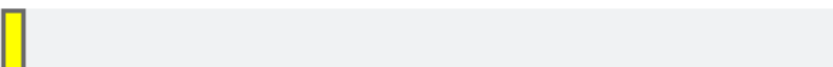

PERMANENCY PLANNING

PP UNIT

One PP Unit

- One supervisor
 - Five social workers
 - One office assistant
- Permanency Option only when reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship have been ruled out.
 - Active Supportive Intervention Services for Transition (ASIST)
 - Family Finding/Network Building
 - CFT Meetings
 - Independent Living Program (ILP) – workshops, TILP services, funding (i.e. graduation stipend, transportation, CDL, etc.)
 - 34 open cases under 18
 - 37 open cases 18 and older
 - **Avg. 14 cases per social worker**

Teens with no Permanent Plan

Time Open		Count	%
Under 3 Months		0	0.0%
3 to 6 Months		0	0.0%
6 to 9 Months		0	0.0%
9 to 12 Months		0	0.0%
12 to 18 Months		1	2.9%
18 Months or More		33	97.1%
Total		34	100%

Non-Minor Dependents (NMD's)

- **Eligibility:**

- ✓ At least 18 but under 21 years old
- ✓ Must be subject to FC placement on their 18th birthday
- ✓ High school, enrolled in post-secondary education, employed at least 80 hours per month, program designed to gain employment, or medical condition.
- ✓ Develop a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

- **Placement Options:**

- ✓ RFA
- ✓ Transitional Housing Placement Program for NMD's (THP-NMD)
- ✓ Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)
- ✓ STRTP – only until age 19 and have medical condition

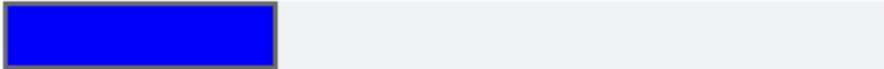
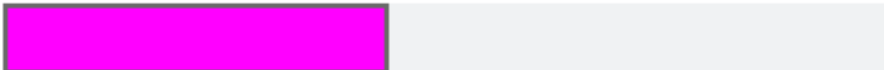


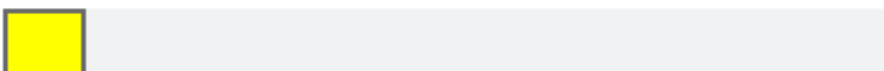
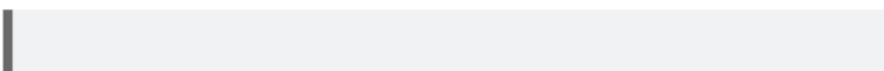
NMD Data

- From 12/2020-11/2021
 - 7 youth entered extended foster care
 - 3 emancipated at 18 years old
- There are currently **37** NMD's in Monterey County

Time Open	Count	%
Under 3 Months	0	0.0%
3 to 6 Months	0	0.0%
6 to 9 Months	0	0.0%
9 to 12 Months	0	0.0%
12 to 18 Months	3	8.1%
18 Months or More	34	91.9%
Total	37	100%

Reasons Exiting Foster Care

Q4 2021

Exit Reason		Count	%
Adoption		10	31.2%
Reunification		14	43.8%
Emancipation		2	6.2%
Guardianship		3	9.4%
Other		3	9.4%
Not Recorded		0	0.0%
Total		32	100%

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)

- As part of the Bipartisan Budget Act, which was signed in to law in February 2018
- Enacted to turn the focus of the child welfare system toward keeping children safely with their families and decrease the number of children entering foster care
- The law also created the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
- A list of evaluated and tested prevention services and programs



Questions