



*Pathways to
Safety...*

**Differential Response in Monterey
County**

What is Differential Response?

- Differential Response versus Traditional Response
- DR provides earlier and more diverse responses to emerging signs of family problems by partnering with community resources to support families before difficulties escalate and child removal is required
- Based on the concept that child safety is the mutual responsibility of communities and child welfare agencies
- In Monterey County it is referred to as Pathways to Safety

Core Beliefs & Practices

- Families can resolve issues more successfully when they voluntarily engage in services, supports, and solutions
- Children are safer and families are stronger when communities work together
- Family Centered Approach (Family-Driven case plan development)
- Strong Public-Private Partnership behind the design, development, and implementation of Differential Response in Monterey County
- Data-Informed Decision Making in Program Design and Management

Pathways to Safety Model



Pathways to Safety Timeline

Differential Response Research, Development and Planning (2004)

Pilot Implementation (2006)

Path 1 & Path 2 Implementation Countywide (2007)

Path 3 Implemented (2011)

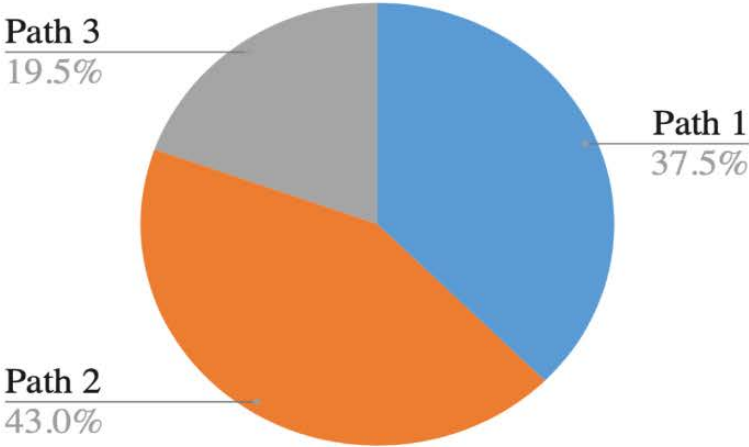
Research Partnership with CSUMB (2016)

COVID-19 shift to remote engagement & case management (2020)

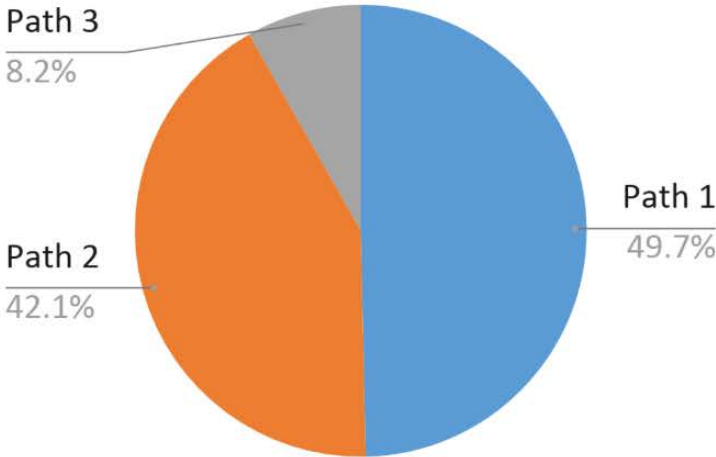
Accomplishments & Outcomes

Pathways to Safety has responded to over 30,000 referrals since 2007

Referrals by Path, 2020-2021 (n=2496)



Referrals by Path, 2019-2020 (n=3399)



Accomplishments & Outcomes

- Successful Engagement with Families:
 - Path 1 25.6%
 - Path 2 20.0%
 - Path 3 41.4%
- Improved Family Functioning
 - 81% of families completing program (90-days) demonstrate measurable improvement
 - Parenting Capabilities 48%, Environment 20%, Child Well-being 19%
- Subsequent referral to Child Welfare within 90 to 180 days of initial referral

	Engaged	Not Engaged
Path 1	13.1%	13.8%
Path 2	12.0%	15.0%
Path 3	12.7%	17.8%



Intake and Emergency Response Standards of Practice Changes

PREPARING FOR FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT



Restructure of Intake (Hotline) and P2S Referrals

❖ Old System:

- ✓ No geographic assignments
- ✓ Combined caseload of immediate and 10-day referral response times
- ✓ Unable to develop community relationships
- ✓ Cost of time and money
- ✓ Referral assignments immediate (within 24 hrs.) or 10-day response
- ✓ Joint SW & FRS first home visit for 10-day referrals
- ✓ Evaluate outs (Path 1) sent directly to P2S

❖ New System

Dedicated SW's to:

- ✓ South County
- ✓ Salinas/North County
- ✓ Peninsula

SW Referral assignment:

- ✓ Expedited 2-4 hour response
- ✓ Immediate- within 24 hour response
- ✓ 5-day response
- ✓ Continue to refer evaluate outs (Path 1) to P2S
- ✓ Path 2 & 3 to become Path 2
- ✓ Families have the opportunity and choice for P2S linkage at the conclusion of unfounded investigation



Second Shift- Meeting Community Needs

Stand-by System for After Hours

- ✓ Team of SW's available after hours to investigate referrals made between the hours of 5pm-8am, holidays and weekends
- ✓ Caused multiple SW assignments to one family
- ✓ Delayed investigation outcomes
- ✓ Financial cost to DSS

Second Shift Implementation

- ✓ Made infrastructural changes to create a 4th ER unit of SW & supervisor
- ✓ 1-family 1-social worker model
- ✓ Effective May 1, 2021 second shift will respond to all referrals from 3pm to midnight
- ✓ The 4 ER units rotate to cover 2nd shift for 30 days at a time following the investigation timeframes
- ✓ Meeting the needs of our children and families
- ✓ Huge cost savings to DSS

Community Collaborations and Partnerships

South

- ✓ Teams of dedicated SW's
- ✓ Less travel and cost
- ✓ Targeted recruitment planning
- ✓ Develop partnerships with community leaders including our indigenous families
- ✓ Creating services unique to demographics and community needs

Salinas/North

- ✓ Teams of dedicated SW's
- ✓ Less travel time and cost
- ✓ Targeted recruitment planning
- ✓ Developing relationships with Church partners to develop One Church One Child
- ✓ Creating new partnerships at CASP to increase diversity of service providers for our families

Peninsula

- ✓ Teams of dedicated SW's
- ✓ Less travel time and cost
- ✓ Targeted recruitment planning
- ✓ Strategies developed to address over representation of African American children in foster care
- ✓ Evaluate mandated reporters- trends for reporting only on families of color

Family First Prevention Services Act

- ✓ Title 4-E reimbursement to child welfare for numbers of children in foster care
- ✓ New and exciting way to leverage Title 4-E reimbursement by preventing children from entering foster care
- ✓ Identify candidacy population
- ✓ Create a continuum of primary prevention services to match with child and family needs
- ✓ Need intimate partner violence program development
- ✓ Need Family Drug Court
- ✓ Continue to partner with community agencies to create an array of evidence based prevention services for children, youth, and families