

County Child Welfare.....From Page Four

progress toward meeting established federal and state level of compliance. The SIP outlines the goals and strategies the department have identified to assist with performance improvement and federal/state compliance.

Peggy Price, Director of Social Services, told the board that in the child welfare target improvements goal for this outcome measure is to decrease the current performance from 10.8 percent to 8.3 percent over the next five years, by increments of 0.5 percent each year, through the following strategies: improve child safety and reduce recurrence of maltreatment and foster care re-entry by implementing the Safety Organized Practice framework into social work practice in Imperial County. Price further added that the target improvement goal is to remain below the National Standard of 8.3 percent over the next five years.

Imperial County Child Welfare Services has seen a fluctuation in the percentage of children who are experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment. The percentage of Recurrence of Maltreatment had dropped from 20.2 percent in 2011 to 9.60 percent in 2012, yet the very next year it was back up to 19.9 percent. Though it dropped again in 2014 to 10.40 percent, the County understands that this is a measure that needs to be addressed.

"Child Welfare Services and the Probation Department enjoy a strong collaborative relationship and have work diligently to improve outcomes for children and families," Price told the

board. "The departments remain committed to working together and utilizing resources to continue to focus on improving safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for children and families as the County moves forward in the implementation of the new SIP goals."

Price mentioned that there is also a target improvement goal to increase the number of electronic child welfare case files from zero to 80 percent over the next five years, with the first year allotted to research and purchase the electronic system and 20 percent of cases transferred to the electronic system each subsequent year, through the implementation of an

electronic filing system for all Child Welfare cases.

In the foster and adoptive parent licensing area, the target goal is to increase the percentage of Resource Families recruited each year by 15 percent and increase the number of Resource Families retained at the end of each year by 15 percent. The most resounding concern for both Child Welfare and probation is the need for more placement options. As of March 2016, there were 355 children in the placement for Imperial County and there were only 88 Foster Family homes and 99 Relative homes. Child Welfare Services actively attempts to place with relatives first, but the

existence of or lack of relatives in a child's home community cannot be controlled.

"The County attempts to meet the needs of the Hispanic population by recruiting foster and adoptive parents in both English and Spanish. The department has dedicated licensing staff that are responsible for ensuring community presence and awareness of the need for foster and adoptive families," Price stated.

Price told the board that this report will be given to the County Board of Supervisors on a periodic basis. The report was unanimously approved by the supervisors.

Residents Invited To Imperial Dive-In Friday Night

The City of Imperial will be holding a Dive-In at the city pool on West Barioni from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 16. There will be no charge to swim and a free movie will be screened as well.

The *LEGO Batman Movie* will begin at dusk. Drinks and snacks will be on sale.

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