



Reuniting and Preserving Families: A Focus on Cross Systems Collaboration

DCFS SAPC

A collaboration between the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control



Who We Are:



**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH)
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC):**

Administers over \$200 million funds allocated to the County for prevention/treatment services with 185 community based agencies.

Oversees special services that address the complex and multiple needs of program clients.

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Who We Are:



Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS):

Provides quality child welfare services and supports so children grow up safe, healthy, educated and with permanent families.

GOALS:

- *Improve child safety*
- *Decrease length of stay in foster care.*
- *Reduce reliance on out-of-home care*
- *Self-sufficiency*
- *Increase child and family well-being*
- *Enhanced organizational excellence*

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PSSF Background



Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993

Appropriated nearly \$1 billion nationwide over a five-year period for services to:

- Prevent or eliminate the need for out-of-home placements of children.
- Promote family strength and stability.
- Enhance parental functioning.
- Protect children.
- Assess and make changes in state and local service delivery systems.

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PSSF Funding – Los Angeles County



Federal funding - Los Angeles County:

- Provided to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
- DCFS collaborated with SAPC in 2006.
- County budget in 2006 was \$3.2 million.
- California Department of Social Services (CDDS) extended Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) contracts through 2013.

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L. A. County PSSF –TLFR Program



Providing Safe and Stable Families Time-Limited Family Reunification (PSSF-TLFR)

- One or more children have been removed from parental custody for 15 months or less.
- Addresses the impact of substance use on families in Los Angeles County.
- Parents and/or caretakers must enter alcohol and other drug treatment services.

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PSSF Impact in California



Los Angeles County...

- From 1999 to 2011 the number of children in foster care was reduced by 72 percent.
- Length of stay in foster care reduced from two years to one.
- Saved \$15 million in funding in foster care costs.

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Programs under PSSF:



Family Support Services...

- Provides prevention and early intervention services.

Family Preservation Services...

- Offers child, individual and/or family therapy, in-home counseling and behavior management.

Adoption Promotion Support Services...

- Provides ongoing support to the families before, during, and after the adoption.

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Programs under PSSF:



*Time-Limited Family Reunification Services...

- Provided to families where children have been removed from parental custody for fifteen (15) months or less.
- Parents and/or caretakers have been directed to enter alcohol or other drug (AOD) treatment services as a part of their family reunification plan.

*Time-Limited = Any adult, parent or caregiver, of a child who has been placed in out of home care for a period of 15 months or less is eligible.

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Time-Limited Family Reunification



STEP 1: Connecting Families to Treatment

DCFS Children's Social Worker (CSW):

- ✓ Identifies eligible participants in need of AOD treatment services.
- ✓ Refers participants to the Community Assessment Services Center (CASC) for assessment and treatment referral.
- ✓ Referrals are made based on the CASC nearest to the participant's residence (zip code).

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What is the CASC?



The Community Assessment Services Center (CASC)

- Entry point for any person seeking AOD treatment services.
- One CASC Lead Agency per SPA.
- Nineteen CASC Assessment Sites located throughout LA County.
- Has access to County-wide network of programs.
- Timely appointments for assessment and treatment usually within two days.



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Time-Limited Family Reunification



STEP 2: Engaging Participant through Assessment

CASC Assessor :

- ✓ Administers the validated, standardized Addiction Severity Index (ASI) instrument.
- ✓ Notifies DCFS CSW of ASI results within 48 hours.
- ✓ Makes treatment referrals and notifies DCFS CSW.

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Time-Limited Family Reunification



STEP 3: Treatment and Reunification

Treatment Providers:

- ✓ Provides family counseling and support.
- ✓ Notifies DCFS CSW of participant's progress and changes.
- ✓ Participates in DCFS Multidisciplinary Team Meetings (TDMs).

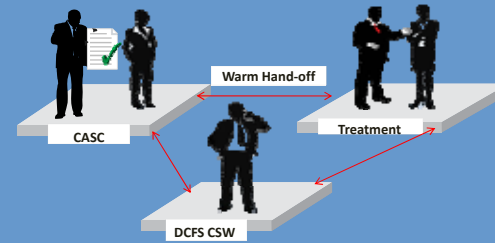
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The Collaborative Process: PSSF-TLFR



The **CASC** provides a warm hand-off to treatment agency and informs **DCFS CSW**.



The **Treatment Agency** verifies participant's admission to treatment.

The **Treatment Agency** keeps **DCFS CSW** aware of treatment changes.

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PSSF-TLFR Families Served



CASC Assessments

Participant Activity	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10
CASC Appointments scheduled	903	1,427	1,433
Participants Assessed	575	830	820
Positive Assessments	556	819	782
Negative Assessments	13	16	22
No Show for Assessments	304	559	581

SOURCE: Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS)

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PSSF-TLFR Families Served



Assessment Results

Assessment Results	FY 07-08	FY08-09	FY09-10
Positive Substance Use Only	507	792	741
Positive Substance Use & Suspected Mental- Health Issue	39	29	50

SOURCE: Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS)

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PSSF-TLFR Families Served

CASC Referrals to Treatment

Treatment Modality	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10
Residential Substance Use Treatment	184	272	244
Outpatient Substance Use Treatment	321	478	423
Total Referred to Treatment	505	750	667

SOURCE: Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS)

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PSSF-TLFR Families Served

Results of Referrals

Participant Activity	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10
Showed for Treatment	369	547	463
Refused Treatment Referral	10	17	24
No Show for Treatment	57	95	83
Pending Waiting Referral	12	44	88
Pending Appointment	76	85	111

SOURCE: Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS)

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PSSF-TLFR Families Served

Results of Treatment

Providers Report	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10
Showed for Treatment	369	547	463
Completed Treatment Plan	162	167	186

Reunification Reports:

- For fiscal year 2007-08, 77* participants were reunified with their children.
- For fiscal year 2009-10, approximately 71** participants were reunified with their children.

*Data received from DCFS CWS-CMS system; **Data received from Treatment Providers

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PSSF-TLFR Families Served

Lessons Learned

- The need for an evaluation program specific to TLFR.
- Continuous need for training with both DCFS Regional and Treatment staff.
- The need to keep lines of communication open.




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Program Challenges



- Individuals enrolling late into the program.
- Ongoing need to educate staff about the program.
- Engaging participants to extend their length of stay.
- Obtaining timely and uniform data input by the CASC and the Treatment Provider.
- Obtaining reunification data from DCFS specific to SAPC outcome results.
- Funding cuts to PSSF programs.



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Promoting Safe and Stable Families Time-Limited Family Reunification Program

Questions & Answers