

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 28, 2025
2:30 p.m.

Supervisor Lena Tam, Chair
Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas

Location: Susan S. Muranishi County
Administration Building
Board Chambers
1221 Oak Street, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Services (CSEC) [Attachment](#)

Presenters

Michelle Love, Assistant Agency Director, Department of Children and Family Services
William Nguyen, PhD, Division Director, Department of Children and Family Services

Summary

The Department of Children and Family Services gave a presentation on the CSEC program that gave information on:

- CSEC Program Goals
- Program Achievements
- CSEC Data
- Building Internal Infrastructure & Capacity
- Direct Supports to Youth and Non-Minor Dependents (NMD)
- Partnering with the Community
- Upcoming Projects

CSEC Program Goals:

- Create policies and practices that center around the prevention, treatment, and support of youth/NMD that are at-risk or are victims of CSEC
- Build capacity within our staff so that they can effectively assess and support youth/NMD that are at-risk or are victims of CSEC
- Partner with other community agencies departments, and organizations to create a community of safety against the sexual exploitation of children and young adults.

Achievements:

- 2014 SB 855 created the CSEC Program.
- 2015 Implementation start of SB 855
- SSA/DCFS Interagency CSEC Steering Committee created
- 2019 CSEC Mou with local public agency and community partners
- 2021 DCFS Root to Bloom CSEC Workgroup
- Contracted Lived Experience Consultant: Ummra Hang
- 2022 Cool Aunt Series Launch
- DCFS Root to Bloom Hosted Virtual Community Event
- 2023 Awarded \$60,000 in micro-grants to the community
- 2024 DCFS hosted regional Becoming Me T4T
Renewed contract with Ummra Hang
Became a member of Mayor's Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (MACHT)

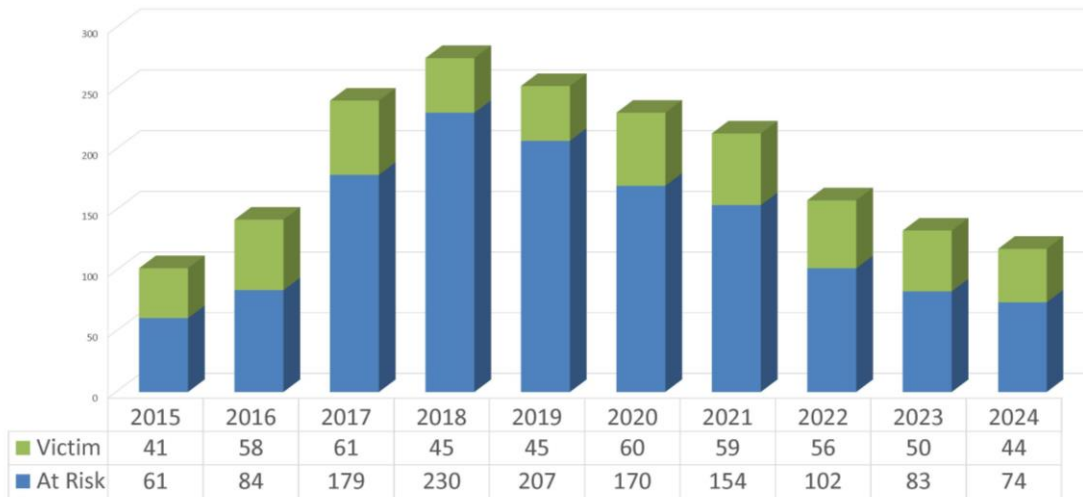
- 2025 Updating CSEC MOU and adding new community partners
2nd Round of micro-grants to the community forthcoming

CSEC Data:

CSEC Victim Type (2024):

- 64% At-Risk
- 22% Victim in Family Reunification
- 11% Victim before Foster Care
- 3% Victim while Absent from placement
- 2% Victim in Family Maintenance

Youth Victim vs Youth At-Risk from 2015-2024



Building Internal Infrastructure & Staff

Capacity:

- Root to Bloom Workgroup
- Live Experience Consultant
- The Cool Aunt Series
- Becoming Me Training

Direct Supports to Youth and NMD:

- CSEC Discretionary Funds
- MISSEY Contract
- WCC Contract

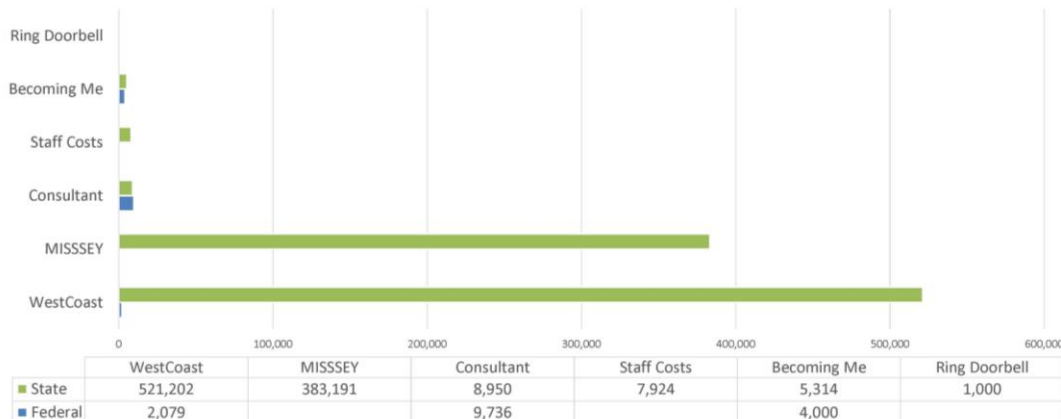
CSEC Expenditures

Actual and Projected FY24/25

- Federal Allocation = \$24,769
- State Allocation = \$1,025,403

Actual & Projected Totals = \$15,815
Actual & Projected Totals = \$927,580

Remaining = \$8,954
Remaining = \$97,823



Future Projects:

- Reconvening the DCFS CDEC Steering Committee
- Updating the CSEC MOU to include new partners and to align with recent CDSS updates
- Second round of Community Micro-grants to support community work and efforts that target CESC issues/concerns in the community
- Hosting another Regional Becoming Me Training for Trainers

Partnering with the Community:

- CSEC Steering Community
- Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking (PACT)
- MACHT
- SafetyNet Roundtable

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Speakers

There were no speakers on this item.

Committee Feedback

Supervisor Fortunato Bas would be interested in having a one-on-one with the CSEC Program team to discuss ways the county can help fill in any gaps to service the CSEC population.

Action

This item was informational only and required no committee action.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Child Abuse Prevention Services

[Attachment](#)

Presenters

Michelle Love, Assistant Agency Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Carlyn Steward, Program Manager, Department of Children and Family Services
Colette Katuala, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Department of Children and Family Services

Summary

The Department of Children and Family Services presented an overview of the Child Abuse Prevention Services; Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, & Treatment (CAPIT) and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Contracts; American Rescue Plan (ARPA): CBPAP Supplement; mandated reporting to community supporting; county prevention plan; and community pathways.

Child Abuse Prevention Council & Task Force

- The Task Force reviews community needs, conducts site monitoring, sets priorities, and recommends funding allocations to the Board of Supervisors.
- Membership includes County staff, parent advocates, youth advocates, retired social services professionals, and community partners.
- The Council supports prevention education, public awareness, and coordination across countywide partners.

CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention & Treatment)

- Funds prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for children and families with identified risk factors.
- Services are free, accessible countywide, and based on unmet community need.
- Providers include Calico Center, American Indian Child Resource Center, La Clínica de la Raza, EBAC, Ruby’s Place, Family Paths, and others.

CBCAP (Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention)

- Supports community-based efforts to strengthen families, increase protective factors, and reduce the likelihood of abuse or neglect.
- Includes public awareness campaigns and resource coordination across multiple agencies.
- Annual allocation used to support prevention-focused community services.

ARPA: CBCAP Supplemental Funding

- Federal ARPA supplement expands community-based prevention supports, allowing the County to broaden access to early intervention and outreach.

Strong Families Alliance of Alameda County

- A network of CAPIT-funded providers coordinating child safety and family support activities.
- Focus on cross-referrals, ensuring families connect to supports that build at least one protective factor.
- Uses protective factor surveys and goal attainment measures to track outcomes.

Prevention Month and Community Awareness

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, with coordinated events, awareness campaigns, and countywide engagement.

Prevention Pathways & Mandated Reporting Updates

The Department of Children and Family Services presented on the shift from a solely mandated-reporting model toward a “Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting” model, emphasizing early community supports that reduce unnecessary Child Welfare involvement.

Key elements include:

- Increasing family access to voluntary supports prior to a suspected abuse report.
- Increasing training on updated California laws for mandated reporting.
- Building a stronger countywide Prevention Network that aligns services across community providers, schools, healthcare, and social services.

Purpose

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Speakers

There were no speakers on this item.

Committee Feedback

There was no committee feedback on this item.

Action

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Foster Care Program Update

Attachment

Presenters

Michelle Love, Assistant Agency Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Mia-Buckner Preston, Division Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Jef Samp, Program Manager, Department of Children and Family Services
Melissa Fegurur, Program Manager, Department of Children and Family Services

Summary

The Department of Children and Family Services provided an update on foster care trends, resource family recruitment, Transitional Shelter Care Facility operations, and system efforts to increase housing and placement stability for children and Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs). The presentation highlighted:

- Current Foster Care population data
- Placement types for children (0–17) and NMDs (18–20)
- Resource Family Approval (RFA) process and recruitment strategies
- Kin-First Accelerator Program
- Updates on the County’s Transitional Shelter Care Facility (TrSCF) and emergency housing capacity

Foster Care Population Trends

Children Ages 0–17:

- 690 children in out-of-home care.
- Most common placement type: Relative Resource Families (44.1%), followed by Foster Family Agencies (21.8%) and Community Resource Families (12.8%).
- 253 children remain at home with parents/guardians in open cases receiving Family Maintenance services.

Non-Minor Dependents (Ages 18–20):

- 228 NMDs in out-of-home placements.
- The largest proportion (45.2%) are in Transitional Housing Programs, followed by Supervised Independent Living Placements (30.3%).

Resource Family Approval (RFA)

The presenters reviewed the structured approval process consisting of:

- Background checks & home assessment
- CPR/First Aid and 12.5-hour training
- Comprehensive family evaluation, interviews, and written report

Resource Capacity & Recruitment Efforts

- Alameda County continues to work to increase RFA-approved homes; the total number of homes has fluctuated over the past eight years.
- Recruitment includes community events, emergency care solicitations, and new video-on-demand RFA orientations.
- Dedicated recruiter Felicia Brown coordinates with regional partners and supports the resource parent community.

Kin-First Accelerator Program

- The program reflects a statewide effort to ensure children remain safely with family whenever possible.
- Alameda County is a statewide leader in kin placements, with ongoing collaboration with CDSS, Casey Family Programs, and community partners to streamline approval processes for relatives.

Transitional Shelter Care Facility (TrSCF) Updates

- The Hayward TrSCF closed in July 2024; a new County-owned site in Castro Valley is being prepared.
- The TrSCF will remain a licensed, confidential, unlocked facility serving children and NMDs entering or transitioning within foster care.
- The facility is staffed by WestCoast Children’s Clinic and provides a Therapeutic Milieu environment for up to 72 hours.

- State mandates require reduced reliance on the shelter, particularly for children ages 0–6, and minimizing stays beyond 72 hours.

Purpose

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Speakers

There were no speakers on this item.

Committee Feedback

There was no committee feedback on this item.

Action

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: CalFresh Program Update

Attachment

Presenters

Andrea Ford, Agency Director, Social Services Agency
 Roland Shao, Program Specialist, Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration

Summary

The Workforce and Benefits Administration provided an update on the CalFresh program, including caseload data, benefit trends, outreach campaigns, SUN Bucks, the Restaurant Meals Program, ABAWD requirements, and efforts to address EBT electronic theft. The presentation included:

- CalFresh program overview
- CalFresh Awareness Month outreach
- 2024 and 2025 SUN Bucks updates
- Restaurant Meals Program rule changes
- ABAWD time-limit categories
- EBT skimming, cloning, and benefit theft protections

CalFresh Program Overview

CalFresh (SNAP) provides food assistance to eligible households using EBT cards. Applications can be submitted online, by phone, mail, fax, or in person.

CalFresh Awareness Month (May 2025)

Theme: “Increase Your Food Dollars.”

Goals: raise awareness, dispel myths, and support eligible households in applying.

Partnership with the Alameda County Community Food Bank and numerous CBOs.

Special outreach includes a BART Lake Merritt Station takeover featuring 102 ad spaces promoting CalFresh enrollment.

SUN Bucks (Summer EBT)

2024 SUN Bucks

- Provided \$120 in food benefits per eligible child during summer months.
- 76.9% PIN activation rate statewide with nearly \$500M in food purchases.

2025 SUN Bucks

- Operational period: June 1 – September 1, 2025.
- Eligible children receive \$40/month, for a total of \$120.
- Streamlined eligibility for children receiving CalFresh, Medi-Cal, or CalWORKs, and for students approved for free/reduced meals.

Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)

Beginning May 19, 2025, only household members who are aged (60+), blind, disabled, or homeless will qualify—household eligibility no longer applies when only one member meets the criteria.

ABAWD Update

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) are adults 18–54, able to work, with no dependents. ABAWDs who do not meet the work requirements or an exemption, are limited to receiving 3 full months of CalFresh within a 36-month timeframe, however California has been able to waive this limitation. California received an extension on this waiver on January 2025, and it will last until January 31, 2027.

EBT Electronic Theft

The Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration reviewed current trends in EBT theft including skimming, phishing, and card cloning, and ongoing fraud-prevention strategies.

As of February 2025, Alameda County is serving approximately 112,000 CalFresh households and 177,000 CalFresh individuals. The distribution of recipients by district:

- District 1: 12%
- District 2: 18%
- District 3: 27%
- District 4: 20%
- District 5: 22%
- N/A: 1% (people transitioning out of the county)

Demographics

- Gender: Female 56%, Male 44%
- Age Range: 0-17 y/o 27%, 18-64 y/o 50%, 64+ y/o 23%
- Ethnicity: Unknown/No Response 25%, Hispanic 22%, Black 19%, Other 14%, Chinese 8%, White 7%, Vietnamese 3%, and Filipino 2%
- Language Preference: 73% English, 12% Spanish, 7% Cantonese, 3% Other, 3% Vietnamese, 2% Mandarin, and 1% Farsi
- Approximately 12,000 Homeless CalFresh Households
- Approximately 15,000 Homeless CalFresh Individuals
- Approximately 25,000 SSI CalFresh Households
- Approximately 29,000 SSI CalFresh Individuals

Total CalFresh benefits issued in Alameda County in February 2025: \$33.8+ million

- From March 2024 to February 2025, a total of approximately \$397 million in CalFresh benefits were issued in Alameda County, an average of approximately \$33.1 million per month
- Results in \$611+ million a year in local economic stimulus in Alameda County, or approximately \$51 million per month
 - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that every dollar in CalFresh benefits generates \$1.54 in local economic activity

Purpose

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Speakers

There were no speakers on this item.

Committee Feedback

There was no committee feedback on this item.

Action

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Social Services Agency Draft Strategic Plan Attachment

Presenters

Andrea Ford, Agency Director, Social Services Agency
Hanna Hamilton, Policy Director, Social Services Agency

Summary

The Agency presented an update on the development of the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, including its methodology, stakeholder engagement activities, and continuity from the 2019–2024 Strategic Priorities.

Key areas of the report included:

- Overview of the Office of Policy, Strategy & Innovation (PSI)
- Mission, vision, and core values
- Outcomes and lessons learned from the 2019–2024 Strategic Plan
- Strategic planning approach for 2025–2030
- Stakeholder engagement and all-day planning retreat
- Next steps for finalizing the new plan

Office of Policy, Strategy & Innovation (PSI)

- PSI oversees legislative analysis, budget monitoring, and strategic planning.
- Staff teams include policy analysts, data and evaluation analysts, and program development personnel.

Mission, Vision & Core Values

- Mission: Promote the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities.
- Vision: Strengthen self-sufficiency and family stability through collaborative partnerships.
- Core Values: Respect, Integrity, Customer Service, Initiative, Responsibility.

2019–2024 Strategic Plan Overview

- Identified eight strategic goals aligned with Alameda County’s Vision 2026.
- Established a foundation for systems improvement that is being carried into the next planning cycle.

2025–2030 Strategic Planning Approach

- Emphasizes a participatory, strengths-based process.
- Encourages bold, creative thinking and focuses on internal systems, collaboration, and resource efficiency.

Stakeholder Engagement Session

- Held on March 19, 2025, bringing together internal and external partners to identify shared priorities.

All-Day Planning Retreat

- Conducted on April 16, 2025, facilitating deeper discussions on Agency strengths, gaps, and future opportunities.

Next Steps

- Continue synthesizing stakeholder input.
- Draft strategic goals, objectives, and implementation framework for 2025–2030.
- Present the finalized Strategic Plan later in 2025.

Purpose

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position

Other:

Speakers

There were no speakers on this item.

Committee Feedback

Supervisor Fortunato Bas is interested in ensuring that the Strategic Plan for 2025-2030 is created with a holistic approach. Supervisor Tam also stressed the importance of having a fund reserve to allow for pivoting.

Action

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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