

# Del Norte County Family First Comprehensive Prevention Plan



November 30, 2023

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was enacted under Public Law 115-123 in 2018. Among its many components, it created a prevention services program that allows states the option to access uncapped Title IV-E federal financial participation for the provision of specific evidence-based mental health, substance use, and in-home parent skill-based services to children at imminent risk of entry into foster care, their parents or kin caregivers, and pregnant or parenting youth in foster care. This includes kin caregivers of children who are not placed by a Title IV-E agency and are qualified for prevention services. The intent of FFPSA is to increase the availability and early access to quality prevention services for children, parents, and kin caregivers to help children remain at home while simultaneously reducing the use of foster care placements.

California's Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) program was established in the Welfare and Institutions Code 16585 through 16589 as an opt-in program for county and tribal Title IV-E agencies to develop and implement Title IV-E prevention services as part of comprehensive prevention, early intervention services to address child wellbeing and reduce out of home placement. These Title IV-E programs are a foundational component of the larger comprehensive prevention planning for the State FFPS program. All County Letter (ACL) 22-23 describes the process for county child welfare and probation departments to develop and submit their Comprehensive Prevention Plans (CPP) to address primary secondary, and tertiary prevention and intervention strategies and services that support the ability of parents and families to provide safe, stable, and nurturing environments for their children.

Del Norte County opted into the State Block Grant on March 17, 2022, with the intent of submitting a CCP. This is a joint effort between Child Welfare and Probation, along with their System of Care partners, with Child Welfare designated as the lead agency. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) acknowledged receipt on March 17, 2022. This CPP is congruent with Del Norte County's larger System of Care values, that the Children's System of Care (CSOC) in Del Norte County will promote and facilitate interdepartmental and interagency cooperation and collaboration in the establishment and enhancement of a community-based, comprehensive System of Care, which seeks to ensure that all Del Norte County residents will be self-sufficient in keeping themselves, their children and their families safe, healthy, at home, in school/employed, and economically stable, regardless of the agency door by which children and families enter.

Del Norte County has a rich System of Care partnership and is shifting to a focus on prevention and early intervention in collaboration with public and private partners within and throughout the county to address and improve the social determinants of health. Del Norte County's vision is to improve the health and overall functioning of the community by enhancing prevention services at every level and ensuring children and families have access to the support and resources they need. These services are to be delivered in the least restrictive, least stigmatizing manner through community-based settings appropriate to meet the community's needs, thereby dramatically reducing child abuse and neglect, and entries into care.

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## **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

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The principles of Del Norte County's System of Care are aligned with the effort of this CPP: to develop and maintain service systems consistent with public/private, community-based, school-linked and family partnership, which can intervene early or prevent problems with at-risk children, youth and families; to promote and provide services, which are outcome-focused, client and/or family-centered, strength-based, culturally competent, comprehensive, which encourage families to access resources in the least restrictive, least stigmatizing community-based settings to meet their needs. The Del Norte County Children's System of Care (CSOC) Interagency Leadership Team (ILT) assumes responsibility for approval and ensuring implementation of the CPP.

<b>Del Norte County System of Care Interagency Leadership Team</b>	
Ranell Brown	<i>Health and Human Services Agency Director</i>
Shiann Hogan	<i>Behavioral Health Manager</i>
Katy Hampson	<i>Social Services Manager</i>
Lonnie Reyman	<i>Probation Chief</i>
Jeff Harris	<i>County Superintendent of Schools</i>
Mary Block	<i>Redwood Coast Regional Center</i>

Comprised of the Health and Human Services Agency Director (Ranell Brown), Behavioral Health Manager (Shiann Hogan), Social Services Manager (Katy Hampson), Probation Chief (Lonnie Reyman), County Superintendent of Schools (Jeff Harris), and Redwood Coast Regional Center Director (Mary Block), this group meets monthly and has been overseeing the work of the Planning Body.

The Planning Body for the CPP in Del Norte County is called the Steering Committee, and is comprised of representatives from:

1. Del Norte County Public Health – Shelby Bodenstab
2. Del Norte County Behavioral Health – Karina Crowell
3. Del Norte County Probation Department – Emily Johnson
4. Del Norte County Child Welfare Services – Kyle Frazee, Katy Hampson
5. Del Norte County Social Services (including staff from Self-Sufficiency, Employment/Job Training and Placement, and Homelessness Services) – Rebecca Green
6. Resilient DNATL – Amber Weir
7. Del Norte County Child Abuse Prevention Council – Christine Slette
8. Del Norte County Wraparound – Sierra Desnoyers
9. Coastal Connections – Alex Garcia
10. Crescent City Foursquare Church – Roger Bodenstab

The Steering Committee oversaw the collection and evaluation of information regarding Del Norte's resources, data, community needs, and program development and sustainability to create this CPP. The Steering Committee provided monthly updates to the Del Norte County ILT and incorporated their feedback into next steps, culminating with this CPP. Moving forward, the Steering Committee will meet

quarterly to review data and discuss outcomes of the prevention efforts quarterly with the ILT and receive guidance accordingly.

Within the auspices of the Steering Committee's Planning Body, Del Norte County Juvenile Probation Department officers reached out to multiple youth during stays at the Juvenile Detention Facility to solicit their feedback, as well as other youth who are on or have successfully completed probation and their parents, and none could identify a service or resource that could have helped youth from entering the probation system. Del Norte County Independent Living Program staff reached out to multiple non-minor dependents and current and former foster youth to solicit their feedback as well, and all youth declined to provide feedback. Parents who've had a prior child welfare case have not yet been invited to participate in a prevention services survey, but the Steering Committee is developing a process for polls and surveys to help guide the continuous quality improvement process.

Del Norte does or does not have a foster family agency or FFA homes in the county, so this was not a partnership that could be included in the local planning process. While Del Norte County's System of Care (SOC) holds high value for both parent and youth partners, these programs have not been sustainable locally, and there has not been a consistent process for engaging those with lived expertise. As noted above, developing the CPP has created new energy to hold regular listening sessions with community members with direct system experiences. Child Welfare staff will begin soliciting feedback from parents during the California-Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) Case Reviews, and in conjunction with the C-CFSR and Cal-Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) efforts, Del Norte County is developing a process to include community members with lived expertise into stakeholder groups and the Steering Committee moving forward to support implementation, sustainability, and effectiveness of the CPP.

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## ***CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION, PARTNER ENGAGEMENT***

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Cross-sector collaboration and planning began in 2022 with both formal meetings as well as individual outreach to various agencies to inform how and if the county should opt in. This led to rich conversation at all levels, with excitement and commitment to build a meaningful plan for the community. Early CPP planning stalled due to changes in Child Welfare leadership. When new leaders were in place in the late summer of 2023, prevention services were revisited and Del Norte County requested, and the California Department of Social Services granted, an extension for this CPP. The County's Interagency Leadership Team was also re-forming at this time but has actively provided both structure and guidance for the process and empowered the cross-sector collaborative to develop this plan.

As noted above, the Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from Child Welfare, Behavioral Health, Probation, Social Services, Public Health, Resilient DNATL, CAPC, Wraparound, Coastal Connections, and Crescent City Foursquare Church.

The Steering Committee will continue to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of Del Norte's CPP. Data and outcomes related to the enhanced prevention efforts outlined in the CPP will be reviewed at the Steering Committee on a quarterly basis and brought to the ILT the following month for their review. Both the ILT and Steering Committee are committed to ensuring that the CPP is implemented fully, and that the prevention services array is yielding the desired changes.

There are potential challenges around workload capacity as there isn't a dedicated coordinator for the Steering Committee. As this responsibility will fall to individuals and agencies to absorb, this component will be monitored closely and modified if the added data management provides too cumbersome within the existing resources.

In conjunction with the C-CFSR and Cal-OAR efforts, Del Norte County is developing a process to engage and include community members with lived expertise into stakeholder groups and the Steering Committee moving forward to support implementation, sustainability, and effectiveness of the CPP. Feedback will be welcomed from all partners to ensure that the prevention efforts are of benefit to impacted communities. Del Norte will solicit feedback around prevention in C-CFSR and Cal-OAR focus groups and ask for feedback when cases are closed in court. Del Norte will also offer listening sessions for stakeholders twice yearly moving forward for consumers of Child Welfare, Probation, and Welfare to Work services to provide updates about prevention efforts in the community and receive feedback about the effectiveness of services and additional recommendations the community may have. Additionally, monthly meetings will be convened beginning in 2024 to allow agencies the opportunity to share information about their services and resources, and create space for partners to see if/how services overlap, where nuanced gaps might be, and see opportunities to improve collaboration to support shared families and ensure needs are met.

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## ***TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION***

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We respectfully acknowledge the land of Del Norte County is the ancestral land of the Yurok and Tolowa who are the Indigenous People of this land, as well as potentially unrecognized people. We recognize this land was taken repeatedly with no compensation or regard for the lives and traditions of the original people. We honor our Yurok and Tolowa tribal neighbors for their contributions as stewards of the land and their sustained existence.

Del Norte County strives to have strong and positive working relationships with all our tribal partners. Our hope is that this plan will build upon and strengthen our current relationships and guide future phases of plan implementation. One of our largest barriers for consistent collaboration continues to be staff shortages amongst agencies. While we have developed internal policy and procedure in conjunction with each tribe's preferred methods of contact, employee turnover within each agency impacts our ability to facilitate consistency. However, Del Norte County recognizes that our tribal partners have their own sovereign and successful programs that can be accessed by shared family and community members. One of our most successful programs currently is the Joint Family Wellness Court in collaboration with the Yurok tribe. This program is designed to support Yurok families through the child welfare system in conjunction with both the Superior Court and Yurok Wellness Court in order to offer the highest level of

support and supervision to families. This model allows families to participate in more frequent court hearings which are facilitated by both Superior Court and Yurok Wellness Court judges in a talking circle format. Using this model, we are able to bring together far more services providers than previous child welfare services models could facilitate. Additionally, both the Yurok Tribe and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation offer and facilitate their own programs such as parenting classes, wellness programs, substance abuse programs, victim services and a wide variety of community engagement programs directed towards tribal traditions, culture and sovereignty. Some of these programs are open to the public and our shared families have the opportunity to participate in these culturally appropriate platforms. Del Norte County continues to value our partnership with all tribal partners and will continue to invite them to participate in plan implementation moving forward.

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### ***INTEGRATED CORE PRACTICE MODEL (ICPM)***

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The county's CPP development has been informed and supported by California's Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) in several ways. System wide use of ICPM, as part of the AB 2083 work, has provided a common language and framework from which partners have co-designed this CPP, and from which the System of Care as a whole will approach its prevention services modeling and delivery.

As the plan has developed and evolved, partners have centered on ICPM's principles and behaviors, which are premised in the following realizations:

- Effectiveness of both the prevention planning/design and the eventual service array is integration (partnership) dependent and a unified practice model is the relational adhesive of that partnership.
- Prevention services are a critical aspect in the challenge of building family/community voice, striving to address disproportionality and over-representation, and build equitable and inclusive care for children and families.
- All System of Care partner agencies and leaders are responsible for planning and executing this CPP.
- The CPP process is Collaboration and Teamwork dependent principles which are paramount and obvious in the ICPM, and are anchors for performance competencies.
- A continuum of prevention is inherently trauma informed, and the aligned implementation of the ICPM is a centerpiece of a trauma-centered delivery system.

#### ***AB 2083 MOU and CPP Oversight***

The county's AB 2083 compliant MOU articulates a clear and centered role for ICPM. Prior and planned training across partnerships include provisions to ensure that all staff from agencies and contractors who are directly involved in the delivery of services are aware of the components, principles, purpose and role of the ICPM. It also contains commitments from ILT signatory agencies to mutually use the principles, values, and practice of the ICPM as guidance and direction in developing the county's shared values, core components and standards of practice in delivery of timely, effective, collaborative and integrated services to children, youth and families.

The Del Norte County ILT will receive quarterly updates about the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services outlined in the CPP from the TRC to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts.

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## ***SERVICE AND ASSET MAPPING***

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In preparation for developing the CPP, Del Norte County reached out to multiple community groups and stakeholders (both professionals and those with lived expertise) to solicit feedback and better understand both resources and unmet needs. Moving forward we will continue to assess provider capacity and capabilities, system capacity and capabilities, and existing policy supports. The community has acknowledged that existing resources are beneficial but often happen in silos, and there is a collective commitment to change. Components to intentionally tend to in implementation of the CPP included ensuring meetings were regularly scheduled, ensuring information is shared broadly and communication is transparent and effective.

Through the work of the Steering Committee, the county mapped all local resources addressing primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services. In addition to celebrating the efforts that have created a strong foundation for FFPS in Del Norte County, developing the CPP has highlighted the need to bridge interagency communication. Of specific need is a community resource guide, which we believe will help to build awareness of resources, understand referral criteria and processes, improve collaboration between agencies, and help inform additional prevention opportunities for the community moving forward. Del Norte intends to create a hub to connect local prevention partners through CalPrevents in early 2024.

Many of the prevention services are school-based and include:

- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Tobacco Prevention Program
- Culturally Responsive Practices
- Social Emotional Learning Strategic Plan
- Community Schools Partnership Programs
- Health Screening
- Mental Health Screenings (SAEBRS)
- Nutrition Services
- After School Program
- Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP)
- Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS)
- Home Visits
- Family Engagement Liaisons
- E-wellness Centers
- School counseling
- Mental Health Referral Process
- Care Closets



- Tier 2 site teams
- Redwood Coast Indian Career Pathway (RCICP)
- Title IV-E Indian Education
- Foster/Probation Youth Services
- Early Childhood Education
- Student Success Team Meetings
- McKinney-Vento Programs
- MHSSA Services

#### **Behavioral Health Primary and Secondary Services**

- Reach for Success
- Coastal Connections
- Boys and Girls Club of the Yurok Tribe
- Family Resource Center
- Strengthening Families
- Community Outreach, Providing Education
- Del Norte County Recreation Department
- Connecting the Dots - Del Norte

#### **CalWORKs and Social Services Secondary Services**

- Family stabilization Program
- Housing Support Program
- Welfare to Work
- Linkages
- Childcare
- CalFresh Healthy Living
- CalFresh Employment & Training (CFET)

#### **Public Health Department**

- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program to provide breastfeeding education and general nutrition supports for pregnant women and their children up to age five
- California Children's Services
- Maternal, Children and Adolescent Health Program
- Child Health and Disability Prevention Program
- Immunization Program

## **Resilient Del Norte and Tribal Lands Primary and Secondary Services**

### **Primary**

- SPAN (State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program)
- COVID Education Program
- Diabetes Education Program
- NorCal 4 Health Program
- Home Visiting Program
- Fresno ACE project
- Maternal Wellness Program
- Young Minds
- GROW (Growing Resilience Through Outdoor Wellness)

### **Secondary**

- Sex Education Equity (S.E.E.) Project
- Cal Fresh Healthy Living
- Every Woman Counts
- CalAIM: Enhanced Care Management
- HEAL (Healing, Equity, Advocacy & Leadership)

## **Crescent City Foursquare Church Primary Services**

- Laundry Love
- Care Free Breakfast
- Celebrate Recovery
- Youth Activities/Group

## **Probation Secondary and Tertiary Services**

- ServeSafe
- Shower/Laundry Program
- College Prep
- Resume Prep
- Forward Thinking Journaling
- MRT/Substance Abuse
- Seeking Safety
- Anger Management
- Recreational Therapy
- Paxton Patterson Program
- Gardening Program
- Incredible Years
- Anger Replacement Therapy

All Probation Primary Services are currently being offered at the Youth Opportunity Center

**Additional community based primary prevention services include:**

- Local Oral Health Program
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Keep Baby Safe (car seat usage and installation coaching)
- Tobacco Control Program
- Nurturing Parenting/Early Childhood Education
- Tribal Services
- Suicide Prevention Task Force
- Friday Night Live

**Additional community-based prevention services include:**

- Child Abuse Prevention Council provides community education to raise awareness through health fairs, radio advertisements and community events and discusses trauma informed practices, culture of substance issues, building resilience, Five Protective Factors, reducing ACES, and other resources. Outreach services provided are partially or fully funded by OCAP/CBCAP/PSSF funding.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates provides community education to youth and adults: Positive Response: BioSocial Cognition (brain development, impact of social influences), Mindfulness: ATTA the tool (Awareness around emotions and applying tools to reduce emotional response and regulate the nervous system, Tertiary- CASA: Screen, train, and support volunteers to mentor and advocate for children/family to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences. Help connect children/families to resources and support. Conducts an independent investigation in child welfare cases and reports and provides recommendations to the court.

**Additional tertiary services include:**

- Nurse Family partnership – Public Health
- Healthy Families America (HFA) – Public Health
- Motivational Interviewing – Probation
- Probation and Child welfare services
  - including Differential Response
  - Voluntary and Court Family Maintenance Services
  - Independent Living Program for current and former foster youth
  - and child welfare services are grounded in Safety Organized Practice and the Integrated Core Practice Model
- Child and Family Teaming facilitated by Child Welfare and County Wraparound.
- County Behavioral Health Department supports mental health screening and youth mentoring, and the....
- Additional tertiary services through child welfare include Foster Youth Education programs and the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care, which includes psychotropic medication monitoring and oversight

Del Norte County will be looking to expand the tertiary services already being offered, though there is currently no plan on how to implement an expansion of existing tertiary services. Del Norte County will continue to monitor the implementation of the prevention plan and adjust to the most appropriate avenue for prevention efforts.

First 5 is a key player in this CPP in many ways, especially given the fact that 75% of Del Norte foster youth are five years old or less. First 5 is the anchoring partner for the Family Resource Center as a collaborative setting for building partnerships, and convening programs and resources important to children 0-5 and their parents. The First 5 Strategic Plan (2022-2027) is geared to improve the health of children (including prenatal services), improve school readiness (including parent literacy) and ensure children and parents have opportunity to gain knowledge of healthy food, good nutrition, and physical activity. The identified conduit for much of this work is specifically through support for the Family Resource Center so they can continue to be a hub for resources, referrals, programs, and collocated services for children and families.

Del Norte County's Child Abuse Prevention Council functions with minimal funding, but approximately five years ago regional funding led to a partnership with Building Healthy Communities. From that, Resilient Del Norte and Tribal Lands (Resilient DNATL) was formed.

With the assistance of the Cal Endowment and Think Place Del Norte began doing a community assessment (Empathy Interviewing). This led to a deeper understanding of the community's needs and struggles. From that a plan was designed to implement systems change, but paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the past three years the focus has been on supporting families impacted by COVID. Del Norte is preparing to complete a post-COVID community assessment and there is excitement and energy to begin working on an update plan for Systems Change and community collaboration.

The planning process for this CPP highlighted that each agency has been approaching prevention services with a siloed approach. While agencies seem to hold common vision and values around child abuse prevention, they haven't historically engaged in much communication or collaboration. This is the first attempt to develop a services array aggregation and we will be convening another stakeholder and provider meeting in early 2024 to create a structured forum where providers can share information. The Steering Committee will propose joining CalPrevents as a mechanism to share information locally, reduce redundancies and increase efficiencies, and build alignment and collaboration.

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## **TARGET CANDIDACY POPULATION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

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Del Norte County is at the northwest corner of the State of California and is adjacent to the State of Oregon on the north, and the western border is 37 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline. Del Norte County is rural with only one incorporated city (Crescent City) in its 1,230 square miles. Of the total area, 223 square miles are water, and most of the land is dominated by the mountainous terrain of the Coastal Range and the Klamath Mountains, including the Redwood National Park. In addition to other towns

and small cities of Bertch-Oceanview, Klamath, Fort Dick, Smith River, Gasquet, and Hiouchi, the County is home to the Elk Valley Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni Nation, and the Yurok Tribe of California.

Del Norte County consists of approximately 27,082 people in 9,531 households, with approximately 6,673 living in Crescent City. Approximately 29.7% of the households include children. The majority of residents identify as Non-Hispanic White individuals (63%), and a smaller proportion of the population represent Hispanic or Latino/a/X (19%), American Indian (9%), and other ethnic groups. 54% of the population are male, and 46% are female, and most people are between the ages of 25 and 54 (41%) with an average age of 39. Del Norte County has a strong civic participation and communities display strong social cohesion. 5,446 of the population are children and youth under the age of 18 in Del Norte County, and 20.5% (5,551) of the population is over the age of 65.

### Income and Earnings

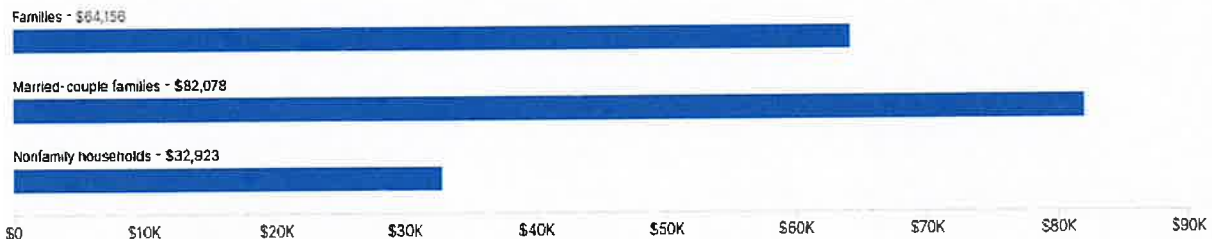
**\$53,280** ± \$5,046  
Median Household Income in Del Norte County, California

**\$91,551** ± \$471  
Median Household Income in California

S1901 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

### Median Income by Types of Families in Del Norte County, California

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S1901 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

For many families, poverty is a significant challenge. Labor force participation rates in Del Norte is 45%, which is much lower than that of California as a whole (63.3%) and the US (63%), and the unemployment rate is 6%. The per capita income is quite low, at \$20,809. Children are disproportionately represented here, as 31% of children under the age of 18 live below the federal poverty level. Racial and ethnic minority groups including Hispanic or Latino/a/X, Asian, and American Indian and Alaska Native population groups experience disproportionately higher rates of poverty as well; Hispanic or Latino/a/X persons experience poverty at nearly twice the rate (32%) of non-Hispanic individuals (18%).

The median household income in Del Norte County is \$53,280, where the median household income in California is \$84,907. About 17% of the county lives in poverty (compared to 12.3% statewide) and there are twice as many children benefiting from CalWORKs (183.7/1000) as the statewide average (80/1000). 54% of families earn less than \$50,000 annually, 25% of children live in poverty, and 13% of families earn less than \$15,000 per year. The number of single and teen parents is increasing, and reports of parental mental health and wellbeing are decreasing. For example, in 2020, 53% of parents felt hopeful about their future, but in 2022 that number had decreased to 42%. Similarly, in 2020, 43% of parents reporting finding positive ways to deal with stress, but that number fell to 34% in 2022.

Del Norte County student's average enrollment and attendance is higher than the state average, but fewer engage in college preparatory courses (19.5%) than the state (50.5%) or complete high school (87.6%) than the state (90.6%). 5.6% of Del Norte County students are homeless, compared to 3.8% in California, and there are almost twice as many Del Norte students living in food insecure households than the statewide average. In terms of healthcare, Del Norte County youth did better than the state average in having insurance, having a medical home, having required immunizations for kindergarten, requiring fewer hospitalizations for injuries, and their asthma diagnosis rate was half of the statewide average.

### Educational Attainment

**16.1%** ± 2.4%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Del Norte County, California

**37.0%** ± 0.2%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher in California

S1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

### Education Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older) in Del Norte County, California

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High school or equivalent degree - 31.0%

Some college, no degree - 25.1%

Associate's degree - 8.4%

Bachelor's degree - 10.5%

Graduate or professional degree - 5.6%

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35%

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S1501 | 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

While there have been some variations over the past decade, overall the number of children with reports of abuse or neglect (115.7/1,000) has decreased, but remains higher than the statewide average of 43.5/1,000. Generally speaking the types of allegations mirrors the state as a whole, but there has been a stark increase in domestic violence calls for assistance at 71.3/1,000 adults as compared to 6.1/1,000 adults in California.

Due to the smaller population of Del Norte County, it is more difficult to identify trends as one or two large sibling sets can dramatically change data points. Children under the age of one have the fewest allegations overall, but 92% of the referrals were investigated, making this the highest investigated age group in 2017. 24% of those referrals were substantiated. Conversely, children aged 16-17 had the highest number of allegations, but only 38% were investigated and 16% were substantiated, making this the second highest substantiation rate after children under the age of one year.

In 2018, data was similar for children under the age of one year, but children aged one to two years had the second highest substantiate rate at 20%. Children aged 16-17 had the third highest substantiate rate at 18% but the lowest investigation rate at 48%. In 2019, there was a dramatic decline in investigations,

especially for the group under the age of one year. Of the referrals received, only 55% were investigated, however 24% were substantiated. Again youth aged 16-17 had the lowest percentage of investigations but unlike prior years, had the lowest rate of substantiations at 2%.

In 2020, children aged three to five years had the highest percentage of investigations at 65%. Children aged two and younger had similar investigation rates and those under the age of one year continued to have the highest substantiate rates at 19%. Youth 16-17 had a 40% investigation rate but only a 4% substantiation rate. In 2021, children aged one to two years had the highest rate of investigations, but again children under the age of one had the highest substantiation rate; of the 56% of referrals that were investigated, 34% were substantiated. Youth aged 16-17 had the lowest investigation and substantiation rate.

Del Norte children have a rate of entry into foster care that is six times higher (18/1000 children) than the state average (3/1000 children). However, the median length of placement is five months shorter (31%) than the statewide median of 16 months. Almost half (46%) of the children in foster care are under one year old, and 29% are between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Del Norte County’s Native American children are markedly more likely to be placed into foster care (49/1,000) than white children (15/1,000). Although there continues to be marked disproportionality with our Native American Community that requires tending to, it has been decreasing over time. Eight years ago approximately 40% of youth in care were Native American, and now it is just above 20%.

**Current Total of all Placements by Type**

Placement Facility Type	Count	%
Foster Family Home	0	0.0%
Group Home	5	6.4%
RFA - Relative/NREFM Home	11	14.1%
RFA - Resource Home	43	55.1%
Foster Family Agency	10	12.8%
Supervised Independent Living	4	5.1%
Guardian Home - Non-Dependent	5	6.4%
Guardian Home - Dependent	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Current Total of all Native American Placements by Type

Placement Facility Type	Count	%
Foster Family Home	0	0.0%
Group Home	3	16.7%
RFA - Relative/NREFM Home	0	0.0%
RFA - Resource Home	7	38.9%
Foster Family Agency	3	16.7%
Supervised Independent Living	3	16.7%
Guardian Home - Non-Dependent	2	11.1%
Guardian Home - Dependent	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>

Questions the Steering Committee considered when identifying the target populations included, what would it look like to live in a community that prevented children and families from needing system involvement? And given the ongoing staffing challenges throughout the State, how can this CPP help ensure that the children who do require formal system support have the resources they need? Even when system involvement is necessary it causes significant stress, and sometimes other traumas, to children and their families; how can this CPP create support and resources moving as far upstream as possible?

Concrete data and anecdotal evaluation by the members of the Steering Committee finds the most worries are around poverty and substance abuse. Considering this with the information above, the existing services in the community, and working to identify children who are at risk of or experiencing child abuse and neglect, Del Norte County opted to move forward with the following target populations:

- Voluntary/Court Family Maintenance
- Probation Youth
- Children whose caregivers experience Substance Use Disorder

Given Del Norte's population, broad range of needs, and challenges in launching and sustaining an EBP in such a small jurisdiction, Del Norte County chose to move forward with Motivational Interviewing as the tertiary Evidence Based Practice in the CPP and intends to accept support from the California Department of Social Services around model fidelity and continuous quality improvement.

As a component of this CPP, Probation is launching a Youth Opportunity Center for youth aged 12-17. Referrals for the service center will primarily come through Del Norte's MDT weekly meeting, staffed by partners from Behavioral Health, Probation, Education, and Child Welfare. Referrals by outside agencies



and community partners such as, but not limited to Child Welfare Services, Probation, Behavioral Health, Del Norte County Unified School District, Tribal Partners and other Law Enforcement Agencies, will be referred to the Inter-Agency Case Management Team/Multi-Disciplinary Team at the weekly meetings, currently scheduled every Tuesday at 10:30AM. Through this process the team helps identify and arrange the best secondary and tertiary service options.

### **The Youth Opportunity Center**

The Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) is a place where youth on probation supervision and youth who are at-risk of justice involvement or out of home placement via child welfare can participate in programs and services meant to offer them opportunities to change the trajectory of their lives and a safe place in which to do so.

The Youth Opportunity Center Eligibility Requirements are youth between the ages of 12-17 and meet at least one of the following:

- Youth on Formal or Informal Supervision through Probation
- Youth who have been referred from a Law Enforcement Agency
- The Probation Department received a report or referral from a Law Enforcement Agency for the youth
- The youth regularly refuses to obey reasonable and proper directions of their parents, guardian, or custodian
- The youth is beyond the control of their parents, guardian, or custodian
- The youth has violated any ordinance of the city or county regarding curfew
- The youth has been truant from school according to specific criteria
- The School Attendance Review Board or Probation Officer has determined that available services are insufficient or inappropriate to correct the habitual truancy of the minor
- The youth failed to respond to directives of the SARB or Probation Officer or to services provided

Additional eligible populations to access services at the Youth Opportunity Center

- Children/Families Receiving Voluntary or Court-Ordered Family Maintenance Services
- Homeless or Runaway Youth
- Children Whose Caretakers Experience Substance Use Disorders

All services currently being provided by Probation will be available to eligible youth at the Youth Opportunity Center.

Any family that does not fit the criteria to access services at the Youth Opportunity Center will receive prevention services through County Wraparound after assessment by Child Welfare Services and the MDT. County Wraparound will offer intervention and pre-placement prevention services in conjunction with Voluntary Family Maintenance services and cases in order to establish equity, build lasting relationships and ultimately prevent removal by connecting each family with case specific services and

resources. Additionally, referrals to services may be made in the scope of the hotline/intake screening process. Referrals to community partners such as Public Health and tribal partners will continue to be made in order to provide prevention services prior to systems intervention.

Del Norte would like to expand SUDS service delivery for pregnant and parenting adults as this is a clear need, and the bulk of children in out of home placement are under the age of five. However, with the finite timeframe for Block Grant expenditures and the absence of federal funding for at least the next three years, it is not feasible to launch another EBP to address this need.

Del Norte County would also like to continue to explore developing a community pathway as a component of a Phase Two CPP Implementation process. A priority population would be existing CalWORKs families not already in an open CWS case. Del Norte hopes to identify additional “right doors” to supports and services. By ensuring child-serving community agencies know what services are available, have a clear understanding of child safety threats, disproportionality, implicit bias, and the consequences of over surveillance, and enhanced skills to build engagement and motivation to change, the vision is to bolster connections for the families and build engagement into the existing resources in the community. This will also help to narrow the focus for families that truly require the support of Child Welfare Services.

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## ***LOGIC MODEL***

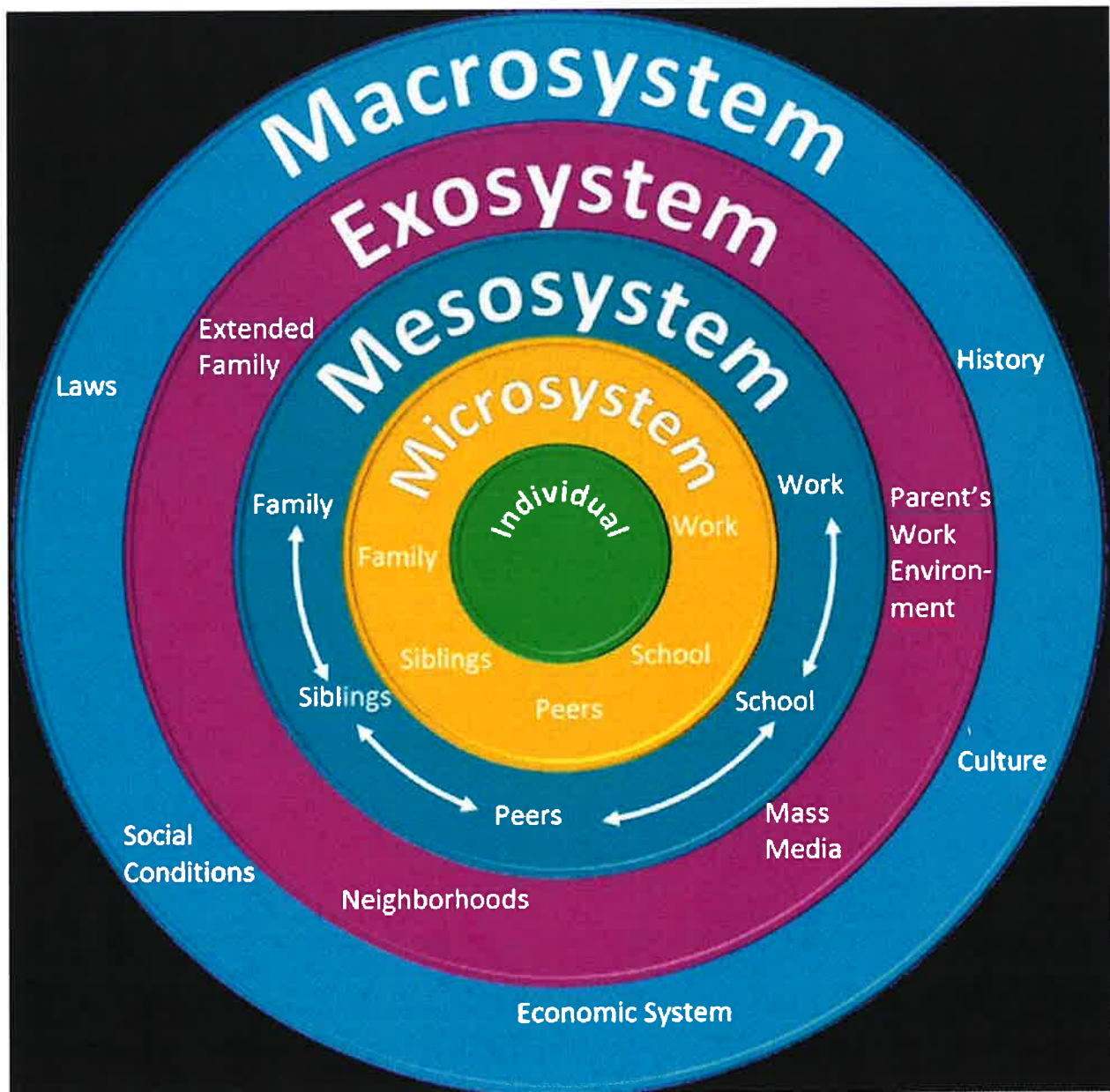
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The need to expand primary and secondary prevention efforts, as well as access to services and tertiary efforts, has never been more pressing. Residents in Del Norte County suffer disparately when compared to the state as a whole. Substance abuse, and the impacts thereof, perpetuates this generational trauma. The goal of this plan is to expand prevention services overall and improve the health and wellbeing of the community.

Del Norte sees this as the best way to create a community-wide system to improve the social determinants of health and reduce child abuse and neglect. By training county and community providers in Motivational Interviewing, developing high fidelity wraparound, maximizing Healthy Families America and Nurse Family Partnership, and availing community-based paths to accessing services in a culturally responsive manner that reduces barriers and stigma, Del Norte County residents will have greater access to secondary and tertiary interventions to prevent the need for these families to have formal system involvement. Although the hub of many of these services are through Probation, it is still available to the community as a whole. This is relevant for all three Target Population groups (children and families in voluntary or court ordered Family Maintenance cases, Probation Youth, and children whose caregivers experience substance use disorder).

Social Services envisions with the collaboration of accessible youth centered services offered at the Opportunity Center that there will be a decrease in the need for out of home care for our community's youth. By offering increased available and accessible mental health services, youth will have the ability to identify and address their traumas and experiences and learn tools to work on their own mental

wellbeing and resilience. With youth learning tools to stabilize their mental health they will have better odds at remaining stable in their family units and community rather than having unmet mental health needs that impact their daily living behaviors which escalate them towards out of home placement whether that is through probation, psychiatric or child welfare services. Formal system interventions in Del Norte already acknowledge that families are the experts of their own lives and want to develop a community pathway in Phase Two. By providing opportunities to connect children and families to services through a community provider, individuals will be more likely to engage in a service. If families' concrete and unique needs are met, fewer children will enter care and the social determinants of health for the community as a whole will improve.



As demonstrated and supported by Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, services provided by multiple systems shall be client centered and client driven in order to identify how to best meet the needs of the family. By utilizing Integrated Core Practice Model, Safety Organized Practices, ongoing collaboration with community agencies and tribal partners if applicable, the systems surrounding the clients and families will build on their strengths and wrap around support and services. By working together with frequent and ongoing collaborating, the Steering Committee and ILT will be able to implement planning and services suited to the family's needs.

The network of providers is already integrated and committed to achieving this vision of fewer youth in care, addressing existing substance abuse and preventing addition in the current generation of youth, and helping families develop additional skills to improve parent-child relationships and increase positive child behaviors. If youth must enter care, this service array is geared to facilitate reunification and prevent re-entry. In addition to participation outcomes, Del Norte will continue to use the Protective Factors Survey to assess individual, family and community-wide progress. By sharing common language, interventions, and goals, the community pathway can also help to expand Child and Family Teaming to set families up for success and support long term needs. Engaging natural supports and helping families be better able to handle crises that will inevitably arise is imperative, and achievable with this plan.

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## ***SPENDING AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN***

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Del Norte CWS and Probation cannot improve the well-being of children, youth, and families alone. A collaborative effort between human services departments is needed in order to enable a safer, stronger, thriving, and more connected community. Therefore, sustainability planning goes beyond funding, as prevention services are a shared responsibility and not exclusive to Title IV-E agencies. A robust network of community stakeholders is crucial to ensuring lasting change. An effective stakeholder community assists with identifying and maximizing community resources, creating long-term buy-in, and institutionalizing novel policies and practices within their unique populations and organizations. Consequently, Del Norte County Children's System of Care Interagency Leadership Team, Steering Committee, and Community Partners will be vital for sustainability of the services provided through this CPP. Expected potential barriers to the sustainability of these services include:

- The continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on in-person prevention services;
- Workforce needs across the prevention services continuum, including staff turnover and high caseload sizes which can have lasting effects on rural services;
- The expense and low update/completion rates of evidence-based interventions;
- Delays in building and launching CWS-CARES to be able to accurately track services and draw down title IV-E prevention services funding;

- Ongoing disproportionality and other inequities that impact American Indian/Alaska Native, low-income and other marginalized communities;
- The overall organizational culture shift to focus on prevention, while extremely important, is a significant change that will take time and adjustment, and can even result in resistance at times;
- The community perception of CWS, which is oftentimes not a positive one, and how this could impact efforts within the community pathway;
- Community distrust/hesitancy engaging with government systems;
- Structural barriers and existing systems preventing a collaborative culture where there is shared accountability and coordination can be most effective;
- Statutory requirements and regulatory limitations hampering multi-departmental coordination efforts, including braided/blended funding in which Del Norte will rely on;
- Lack of capacity across systems in data sharing and integration to better serve clients;
- User navigation barriers hindering community members from accessing the array of services available to them;
- Lack of services tailored to client needs; and
- Ad hoc approach to community partnerships, which hinders meaningful relationships, shared decision-making, and co-creation of effective solutions.

Del Norte County will strengthen the collaboration between all child and family serving departments serving at risk families within our community. Del Norte County will develop shared responsibilities across departments, uplifting prevention and promotion and the implementation of FFPS, with an emphasis on addressing social determinants of health and other social conditions that impact the ability for children, youth and families to thrive. This plan will re-imagine how we will address equity, community co-creation from those with lived experience to support a plan that will meet the needs of all children, youth and families.

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## **APPENDICES**

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### Data Sources:

Del Norte County Community Health Report 2019 and CFSR System Improvement Plans

US Census Bureau

First Five Strategic Plan 2022-2027

CCWIP

KidsData



**KIM JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**ATTACHMENT B- ASSURANCES TEMPLATE**

**Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) Program Assurances**

County of Del Norte

Instructions: These assurances must be submitted by local child welfare services (CWS) and probation agencies that opt into the FFPS Program and are a required component of the local comprehensive prevention plan (CPP). These assurances will remain in effect unless changed by the submission of updated assurances and an updated CPP. Any changes to the local CPP must include resubmission of these assurances.

**Title IV-E Prevention Program Reporting**

In accordance with section 471(e)(5)(B)(x) of the federal Social Security Act and California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 16587(d)(9), Del Norte Co Health and Human Services, (Name(s) of participating child welfare services and/or probation agency) is providing this assurance, consistent with the local CPP and the California Title IV-E Prevention Services State Plan, to collect and report to the CDSS information and data required for the FFPS Program, including all information and data necessary for federal financial participation, federal reporting, to determine program outcomes, and to evaluate the services provided. This includes, but is not limited to, child-specific information and expenditure data.

**Child Safety Monitoring**

In accordance with section 471(e)(5)(B)(ii) of the federal Social Security Act and California WIC sections 16587(d)(7)-(8), the Del Norte Co Health and Human Services (Name(s) of participating child welfare services and/or probation agency) assures it will provide oversight and monitoring of the safety of children who receive services under the FFPS Program, including oversight and monitoring of periodic risk assessments throughout the period of service delivery. The agency further assures it will monitor and oversee the safety of children and periodic risk assessments for children who receive FFPS program services through its contracted community-based organizations. If the local child welfare and/or probation agency determines the child's risk of entering foster care remains high despite the provision of the services, the agency assures that it will reexamine the child's prevention plan during the 12-month period. In the case of an Indian child, the agency assures the assessments, and any reexamination of the prevention plan will be conducted in partnership with the Indian child's tribe.

**Workforce Development and Training**

In accordance with section 471(e)(5)(B)(viii) of the federal Social Security Act, the Del Norte Co Health and Human Services (Name(s) of participating child welfare services and/or probation agency) assures it will adhere to the FFPS training plan as outlined in the California Title IV-E Prevention Services State Plan, and ensure caseworkers within both the community and Title IV-E agency pathways under the FFPS program are supported and trained in assessing what children and their families need, connecting to the families they serve, accessing and delivering the needed trauma-informed and evidence-based services, overseeing and evaluating the continuing appropriateness of the services, and all other foundational requirements, including but not limited to, understanding how the requirements of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and implementing state laws intersect with prevention services provided through the community based and Title IV-E agency pathways.

### **Trauma-Informed Service Delivery**

The Del Norte Co Health and Human Services (Name of participating child welfare services and/or probation agency) assures that in accordance with section 471(e)(4)(B) of the federal Social Security Act and California WIC section 16587(d)(6), each service in the CPP provided to or on behalf of a child will be provided under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma, including historical and multigenerational trauma, and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address trauma's consequences and facilitate healing.

### **Model Fidelity for Evidence-Based Programs and Continuous Quality Improvement**

In accordance with section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(II) of the federal Social Security Act and California WIC sections 16587(d)(10) and 16587(d)(11)(A), the Del Norte Co Health and Human Services (Name of participating child welfare services and/or probation agency) assures that services provided in the CPP will be continuously monitored to ensure fidelity to the practice model, to determine the outcomes achieved, and to refine and improve practices based upon information learned, using a continuous quality improvement framework, developed in accordance with instructions issued by the CDSS. The agency agrees to participate in state level fidelity oversight, data collection, evaluation, and coordination to determine the effectiveness of a service provided under the FFPS program.

### **Equitable and Culturally Responsive Services and Supports**

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-16-22, and consistent with California Five Year Prevention Services State Plan, the Del Norte Co Health and Human Services (Name of participating child welfare services and/or probation agency) assures that the implementation of interventions, services and supports should be equitable, culturally responsive and targeted to address disproportionality and disparities experienced by black, indigenous, and people of color, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and plus (LGBTQ+) children and youth.

## Coordination with Local Mental Health

In accordance with section 471(e)(10)(C) of the federal Social Security Act and California WIC section 16588(f)(3), the Del Norte Co Health and Human Services (Name of participating child welfare services and/or probation agency) assures the agency will establish a joint written protocol, based on the model developed by the CDSS and Department of Health Care Services for use among the child welfare agency, probation department, behavioral health agency, and other appropriate entities to determine which program is responsible for payment, in part or whole, for a prevention service provided on behalf of an eligible child.

### Signatures

Signature: These assurances must be signed by the official with authority to sign the CPP and submitted to the CDSS for approval.



Signature of Authorized CWS Representative

11/29/2023

Date



Signature of Authorized Probation Representative

11/30/23

Date

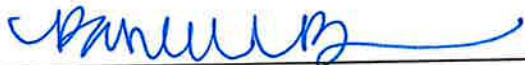


appropriate to meet the community's needs, thereby dramatically reducing child abuse and neglect, and entries into care.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Ranell Brown, Director  
Del Norte County Health and Human Services

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Lonnie Reyman, Chief  
Del Norte County Probation

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Shiann Hogan, Manager  
Del Norte County Behavioral Health

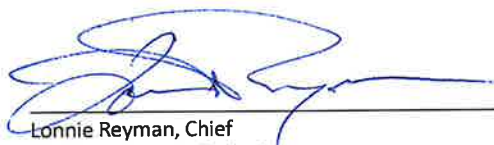
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