

County: **Placer County**

Date of TBS Meeting: **5-06-2009**

Type of Meeting: **Decision-Maker**

1. Are the children and youth in the county who are Emily Q. class members and who would benefit from TBS, getting TBS?

There was extensive discussion among the decision making group regarding this topic. Participants agreed that there are very likely a few children in Placer County who fit the class member requirements who may not be receiving TBS services, but it is likely that these children are not known to our Children's System of Care (CSOC) at any given time. The Placer County CSOC is rather unique in that children become known or are referred to CSOC from a wide variety of service sectors, including public health, juvenile justice, probation, the courts, office of education, local school districts, physicians, etc. Placer County SMART Policy Board already meets on a regular basis to ensure that agencies above continue to discuss issues common to Placer County children and families in need, and to equally ensure that all parts of the system are aware of resources available. The goal has been, and continues to be, more streamlined and coordinated services for children and families. It was noted in the discussion that a number of children in the SOC have also been receiving TBS-like services, which is referred to as Family Support Counselor (FSC) Services in CSOC. Some Wraparound families also benefit from this level of service.

2. Are the children and youth who get TBS experiencing the intended benefits?

In the past three years, a total of 35 clients have received TBS services in Placer County. Of these 35, only 11 have required placement after receiving TBS services. We believe that this number would have been much higher had the clients not received the service, and as a result, clients who have received TBS services did experience the intended benefits. These results were reviewed briefly with the group.

3. What alternatives to TBS are being provided in the county?

Placer County offers a service to clients which is very similar to TBS, and are provided by the Family Support Counselor (FSC) Team. The FSC Team is comprised of staff members from Mental Health, Education, and Probation, and referrals to the team can come from Mental Health, Education, Probation, and the Child Welfare System; anywhere in our system of care. When children are referred to the FSC team, they are provided with one-on-one behavioral support services by a BA level counselor. All counselors who provide FSC services are supervised by a licensed clinician. Also, like TBS, the FSC worker is not the "case worker" assigned to the case, but is generally an ancillary service provider. The case is managed elsewhere in CSOC by a Master's level staff person. The client is also typically receiving other types of mental

health or child welfare services. FSC services are generally short-term (3-6 months) and are provided in the community and in the client's home. While this is a bit longer than many TBS services, the parameters around the service are very similar. Placer County has offered this service to its clients for many years, and one key difference is that it has not been limited to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Another Placer County service, RAFT, is a second alternative to TBS which has been in place for a number of years. Rallying Families Around Together (RAFT) is a Wraparound service. Wraparound services are resource intense, client-centered services which are provided to the entire family with the goal of keeping the client in the home.

A third alternative to TBS in Placer County are the services that a client receives while they are placed in Juvenile Hall. Placer County has a Social Worker who is assigned to Juvenile Hall to help facilitate the client's treatment, and to help them transition successfully back into the community.

4. What can be done to improve the use of TBS and/or alternative behavioral support services in the county?

Historically, community and educational forums such as the one held and described in the companion document have not been attended in large numbers by potential TBS recipients or their parents. This held true for the forum held later in May and described in the companion document, despite the forum being posted in county office reception areas, at public libraries and coffee shops, on the Placer County website, through our MHSA email distribution lists, to our Managed Care Network Providers, to our Placer County Network of Community Providers, distributed to our Native Network and our Latino Leadership Council, etc. During the Decision Making Meeting described in this document, we discussed the fact that prior efforts were met with limited public attendance, and that ideally, Placer could offer TBS information at even more points within the system of care, such as in court meetings, at individual schools, during MHSA meetings, at community locations, churches, etc. and that we should also use our Native Network and Latino Leadership Council as other avenues for continued information dissemination.

Also, similar to the Community Meeting, it was suggested that information regarding TBS services should be brought to staff regularly, during Team Meetings and mandatory training, so staff are continually reminded to determine if clients on their caseloads fit the criteria for TBS services.

Additional Comments:

At this meeting, county decision makers reviewed and discussed DMH Notice 08-38. They reviewed the Nine-Point Plan developed under the direction of the Special Master Rick Saletta. This Decision Making group discussed what it meant for Placer County to be defined as needing to adhere to Level I requirements at this time, discussed ramifications for Placer County children and families, and addressed the above four questions as directed in the amendment. This forum was to include county decision makers from a variety of areas. In attendance were the Child Welfare Director, the Placer County Office of Education Assistant Superintendent, the Placer County Office of Education Director of Prevention Services, Assistant Director of the Children's System of Care, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Director of Health and Human Services/Public Health Officer, and Chief Probation Officer. Additional members who were invited but not in attendance include: members of the Superior Court, Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Divisions; Placer County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools; and Parent Advocates from United Advocates for Children and Families. Most of the TBS services offered in Placer County are delivered by Placer County staff members in the Children's System of Care; however, there is one local TBS Provider who was invited and helped present at the Stakeholder Forum. Additional discussion around how this fits with Placer County SMART Policy Board's mission and values for the Children's System of Care was explored.

Placer Attendees:

We did not keep an attendance roster for the Stakeholder group as some public members are reluctant to attend and/or participate if they know a sign in is required or requested. We will make every effort to do so in the next series of meetings if this is required.

As for the Decision Making Meeting, the attendees were:

Judge Colleen Nichols Superior Court, Placer County
Richard Burton, M.D. - Director Health and Human Services and the Public Health Officer
Tad Kitada, Director Prevention Services Placer County Office of Education
Richard Knecht, Social Services Director
Michael Lombardo, Assistant Director Children's System of Care
Steve Pecor, Chief Probation Officer
Rene Regacho-Anaclerio, Assistant Superintendent, Placer County Office of Education

Invited attendees included:

Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Superintendent of Schools, Placer County Office of Education
Eugene Gini, Judge, Placer County Superior Court - Juvenile Delinquency Division
Commissioner John Ross, Superior Court - Juvenile Dependency Division
Michael Cholerton, Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Sandena Bader, Parent Advocate of United Advocates for Children and Families