

Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner: Superior Court High Conflict Families (STEP)	Date: January 10, 2007
Number of Children Served: 86 children representing 78 families. 23 children were new enrollments to the program. 27 children were continuing and 36 children exited.	Ages: 0 yr (1), 1 yr (15), 2 yr (15), 3 yr (20), 4 yr (21), 5 yr (7)
When Served: April 20, 2006 to January 10, 2007	Gender: Ethnicity: 45-Male 57 - Caucasian 41-Female 18 – Multi racial 10 – Hispanic 1 – Asian
Conversation Participants: Elaine Owen, Amy Rudd, Chris Trejo, Sabina Pellissier, Suzanne Feris, Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Cathy Ferron, Janice Critchlow, Janey Crider	
Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents served through this program will cooperatively co-parent and facilitate a nurturing environment, resulting in emotionally healthy children. • Parents will demonstrate sustained ability to resolve parental conflict independent of the court, utilizing community resources as needed. 	
Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographics (number of 0-5 served by gender, age, ethnicity, and when services were provided) utilizing the First 5 Placer Demographic Tool. • Placer Early Childhood Outcome Screens • Client Exit Survey Summary • Post graduation assessment of sustained ability to resolve conflict independent of the court (phone contact) 	

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Demographics

Most children exited successfully, meaning there was a 90 day evaluation and no services other than financial were needed. Other reasons for exiting are moves out of area or referral to other services.

Most families that are exiting have children in the 4-5 yr age group. Families usually exit after a minimum of one year because it takes time to learn new behaviors.

Client Exit Surveys: Both parents combined responses:

Overall it was reported that communications between parents (each other) and their children had improved thus positively affecting the environment for the child (ren).

76% of parents who exited felt they were better able to co-parent.

78% of parents felt they were better able to provide a nurturing environment for their children. By eliminating the constant conflict, the child's environment is so improved that the children are able to settle down and relax.

86% of parents report they are able to promote positive mental and emotional child development. This is the area of greatest improvement on the survey. 14% rated themselves the same, but these parents were already at a high level of ability to promote positive mental and emotional child development.

80% of parents responded that their children were better able to cope with issues after participating in this program.

76 % of parents rate their ability to resolve parental conflict independent of the court as better.

Question 7 speaks directly to the sustainability outcome and shows the highest level of improvement. This indicates that parents learn they lose power when they have to allow the court to make decisions for them.

Overall participants are meeting the goal of co-parenting.

As a group, the parents that have been through the program and exited are better able to cooperatively co-parent and provide a nurturing environment. They are also better able to communicate with the children and promote positive mental and emotional development for their child (ren).

Placer Early Outcome Screens (children are screened at intake and again 90 days-6mo)

For the group as a whole, the overall scores show the same trend at intake and the last screen, however, there is a significant amount of improvement from intake to the last screen.

The lowest scores were for indicators #2 and #10.

Ind 2: Safe: not being physically, sexually or emotionally abused by others
72 have improved and 4 have declined. When parents are engaged in conflict around the child, the children suffer emotionally.

Ind 4: Safe: demonstrates self-comforting behavior
67 improved, 14 stayed the same, and 5 declined.
Parents' behavior was much improved due to staff constantly making parents aware of their actions and how those actions affected their children. The parents' behavior directly affected their children's ability to achieve this indicator.

Ind 7: Healthy: Free of exposure to illicit drugs, alcohol and other environmental hazards.

55 improved, 27 stayed the same, and 4 declined.

Ind 10: Achieving appropriate level of emotional development

67 improved, 15 stayed the same, and 4 declined.

Children are being emotionally abused at intake due to the high conflict and custody battles. After participating in the program, children show significant improvement.

Ind 11: Living in a safe, stable and nurturing environment

66 improved, 18 stayed the same, 2 declined

Ind 12: Interacting appropriately with all other persons at current residence.

64 improved, 20 stayed the same, and 2 declined.

Conflict also comes from boy/girl friend, grandparents, babysitters etc. These conflicts are usually behind the scenes and more difficult to identify.

Ind 18 Parent/Caregiver Experiencing a positive relationship with the child.

67 improved, 19 stayed the same, 0 declined.

Ind 19: Engaged in positive parenting and child development practices.

66 improved 17 stayed the same, and 3 declined.

If parents are involved in STEP, they are constantly reminded of the brain development message and how their conflict affects their child's development.

The outcome screens support the exit surveys, that parents are more able to cooperatively co-parent their children.

For the groups of children who participated in this reporting period, these children are emotionally healthier than they were at intake.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

The program needs to continue to offer what is being offered now to continue to achieve good results.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

It was a highlight to hear a dad reiterate the brain development message in court.

Next Steps:

Post graduation assessment survey results will be presented at the next learning conversation or submitted to First 5 as part of a report.

Ask parents if their child has been identified with special needs as part of the intake process.

Add the question number to each page of the exit interview graphs for easy comparison.

When rating children using the Early Childhood Outcome Screen for indicator 7, consider secondhand smoke as a serious health factor.

At next review pick 3 anomalies from the parent exit survey responses and compare these scores with the corresponding child's Early Childhood Outcome Screen,

Attach First 5 brochures to the court contracts to inform families of other services available.

Prepare for next learning conversation the beginning of May or to submit written report and participate in the state report.