

Brief Summary of Kevin S. and CAP Pilot

I. The Settlement

- Over four years ago, a landmark settlement was reached with CYFD and HSD to reform system of care for kids in foster care system.
- It is a bold collaborative blueprint that the State has repeatedly confirmed that it provides the necessary focus and work-plan established for reform.
- It utilizes national experts in this subject area referred to as Co-Neutrals to help with the implementation. But, ultimately, the implementation responsibilities lay at the feet of these agencies.
- It sets a number of specific and ambitious **targets** that CYFD and HSD agree to achieve in the coming years.
- The targets are detailed in four appendices. They include:

1. **A Trauma-Responsive System of Care**
2. **Least Restrictive and Appropriate Placements**
3. **Indian Child Welfare Act**
4. **Behavioral Health Services**

- Four years later, while some progress has been made, the state has failed to fulfill the core provisions and promises to these children and families.
- Children continue to stay in offices, remain stuck and suffer in more restrictive placements instead of home like placements with supportive services that have not been created. Children are not timely evaluated. Delayed progress in implementation that results in adverse impact on these kids, every day, for past four years. There is an urgency for these kids.
- This is not just a failure by CYFD but also HSD in building a network of care. Without the ability to access these services, not only do kids suffer but this also discourages foster parents and CYFD workers who are seeking access to services for these kids.
- In an effort to address critical issues with urgency, the parties have entered into a Corrective Action Plan that includes collaborative pilots in two communities, Dona Ana and San Juan counties.

II. Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and Dona Ana Pilot

- The Coordinated Action Plan Pilot Team will provide concrete, community-specific recommendations on how to address identified challenges and barriers realistically and effectively to ensure successful implementation of a culturally supportive, trauma-responsive, and identity-affirming system of care for children/youth in CYFD's custody.
- This includes recommendations on how to fill in any existing service gaps and/or further develop services, including behavioral and mental health services.

- Primary areas of focus for the Pilot Team:
 1. **Keeping youth in safe, family-based settings in their local community.** Identify strategies to expand the number of culturally responsive and reflective resource (foster) homes available to provide home-based care for children and youth in Doña Ana including, but not limited to (a) Levels of foster care, (b) Foster Care Plus, (c) Barriers and solutions, (d) Native families and (e) Older Youth.
 2. **A highly skilled and supported workforce.** Identify strategies around CYFD staff recruitment and retention, aimed at ensuring reasonable caseload standards are achieved and maintained.
 3. **An accessible, trauma-responsive system of care**
 - a. Build a system that thoroughly understands the unique needs of each child/youth in State's custody and has the holistic services needed to address these needs. Building, strengthening and/or expanding access to timely and appropriate trauma-responsive behavioral and medical health services in Dona Ana County.
 - b. Screenings and assessment are timely and conducted to facilitate appropriate referrals to services and to ensure a deep understanding of our children and youth's needs.
 - c. Comprehensive services are readily and easily accessible to address the unique and intersectional needs of our children, youth and families.
 - d. Identify service delays and gaps; improve/address the Individual Planning Process (IPP) meetings.
 - e. Improve/address care coordination with the MCOs.
 - f. Improve/address utilization of the Crisis Assessment Tool (CAT) and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS).