

Mission Statement: The mission of the Family Engagement Unit is to create an environment that will help families:

- ❖ Receive accurate assessments;
- ❖ Identify and access appropriate services;
- ❖ Learn advocacy skills; and
- ❖ Develop supportive relationships



Vision Statement: The vision of the Family Engagement Unit is to provide parents, families and caregivers a network of life-trained supportive advocates who can draw on their own personal life experiences in order to provide them with in, support, guidance, and ~most importantly~ hope as they navigate through the child welfare system and re-claim their place as both a parent and as a healthy, functioning member of their community.

There are two distinct programs in the Family Engagement Unit:

EIOS (Early Intervention Outreach Specialists) are our Substance Abuse experts.

They can:

- ❖ Attend TDM Meetings and MDCCs;
- ❖ Do assessments and make recommendations regarding the appropriate level of treatment;
- ❖ Identify appropriate programs and help family members get into appropriate programs;
- ❖ Provide families and staff with a Daily Treatment Program Availability List;
- ❖ Follow-up and support the family members that we work with;
- ❖ Help families develop Relapse Prevention Plans.

Parent Partners can help families:

- ❖ Understand the Child Welfare System;
- ❖ Understand their case plan and access services as outlined in the case plan;
- ❖ Attend TDM Meetings and Mediations with parents, if requested;
- ❖ Help parents to organize their important court papers in a Parent Handbook;
- ❖ Provide fathers with information that is "dad specific" through the use of a Father's Handbook;
- ❖ Help parents of medically fragile children have the information and the support that they need in order to address their child's medical condition;
- ❖ Help parents through travel training and role playing;
- ❖ Help family members interface with other stakeholders (education, mental health, relative liaison, housing, benefits, etc.);
- ❖ Help families learn how to handle conflict with an adult attitude.

Note: The EIOS and Parent Partner programs are not a service and **should not** be in the Case Plan or Court Report.

What EIOS and Parent Partners do not do: Testify, supervise visits, transport, sponsor, translate, take sides; act as caseworkers, counselors, or attorneys, take referrals (this is a voluntary program).

Some deliverables from these two programs:

- ❖ Centralized Courthouse Resources;
- ❖ Resource Centers in each office;
- ❖ Resources available at TDM Meetings;
- ❖ Resource Blasts;
- ❖ Making County Resource Letters available to staff;
- ❖ Publication of a quarterly Father Facts;
- ❖ Navigation Orientation in:
 - ❖ Treatment Programs;
 - ❖ Visitation Programs;
 - ❖ For Incarcerated Parents at the West County Detention Facility;
- ❖ Participation in the RDS Workgroup and Foster Parent Orientations;
- ❖ Participation in Pride Training;
- ❖ Participation in the Katie A. Workgroup;
- ❖ Participation on the Parent's Advisory Group at UC Davis;
- ❖ Participation in training, workgroups, and technical assistance at both a local, state, and national level.

The Parent Partner Program received the California Parent Leadership Award at their conference in 2010.



"It makes a difference to that one"

This brochure was prepared for you by people who want you to be successful. It is a publication of the Family Engagement Unit of Contra Costa County. We hope that you find it helpful. If you feel that you need more help in navigating the Child Welfare system, feel free to call:

925-602-6956

and ask for an EIOS (drug and alcohol liaison) or a Parent Partner (a parent just like you), who went through the Child Welfare system and was successfully reunited with their child or children, and who now helps other parents understand how to navigate the system. Your participation is voluntary. Both of these programs are **free**.

Prepared and distributed by the Family Engagement Unit of Contra Costa County Children and Family Services and the Child Abuse Prevention Council

4/1/14

E Early
I Intervention
O Outreach
S Specialist

EIOS Mission:

The EIOS mission is to SUPPORT, EDUCATE and ADVOCATE for individuals and families whose lives have been affected by substance abuse.



Need support and help with any substance abuse issues?

How can we help??

The purpose of an EIOS is to find and assist you with the right information regarding assessments, treatment programs or other resources which may pertain to your case.

Helping you to develop a plan that may be helpful, for you and your family, is how we can help.



Do you need help to find a court approved Parenting Class or Domestic Violence class?

We work with the Parent Partners to help you reunify with your family. We understand that this situation can be stressful and confusing, but

You are not alone

We will work with you and your Social Worker to explore the different options available to you and make recommendations.