

## **RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT**

Report Title: Collaborative Community Quest

Report Date: June 14, 2022

Response by: Department of Health & Human Services

### **FINDINGS**

1. The county agrees with the findings numbered F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6.
2. The county partially agrees with the findings numbered F7 and F8.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Recommendation numbered R3 will be implemented.
2. Recommendation numbered R4 is in the process of being implemented

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages attached: 4



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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**FROM:** CONNIE BECK, DHHS DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** RESPONSE TO 2021-22 GRAND JURY REPORT "COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE QUEST"  
**DATE:** AUGUST 16, 2022

In the Grand Jury Report, "Community Collaborative Quest," the Grand Jury has requested that the Department of Health & Human Services respond to Findings 1 through 8 and Recommendations R3 through R4. I am proposing the following response as detailed below.

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**FINDINGS**

Finding 1: Although tribal community representatives engage with Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services' Child Welfare Services (DHHS-CWS), tribal members and compliance monitors have expressed dissatisfaction with the process and outcomes of engagement. (R1)

**Agree**

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Finding 2: Although DHHS-CWS has established an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program, Humboldt County does not have a specified Office of Tribal Affairs to address matters of importance to the County's sovereign nations including child protection and extending to justice-related issues as well as cultural protocols and social services. (R1)

**Agree**

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Finding 3: Humboldt County does not have a specified Office of Tribal Affairs to promote County-Tribal partnerships facilitating collaboration through coordination of intergovernmental services while respecting tribal sovereignty. (R1)

**Agree**

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Finding 4: DHHS-CWS created a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program which provides needed oversight of Child Welfare Services.

**Agree**

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Finding 5: The pandemic slowed efforts to fully meet the requirements of the Stipulated Final Judgment. However, DHHS-CWS has maintained necessary levels of critical care and developed new programs and resources.

**Agree**

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Finding 6: DHHS-CWS has moved into a hybrid work model by which employees work in the office and from home. Advantages include video conferencing for training opportunities, family team meetings and information-sharing. (R2)

**Agree**

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Finding 7: Community Task Force meetings have become dominated by DHHS-CWS rather than serving as "community" collaboration. These meetings do not provide for the variety of input intended by the Stipulated Final Judgment. (R3)

**Partially Agree**

DHHS-CWS has held 21 Community Task Force meetings to date. The Community Task Force meetings held under the Final Judgment were co-chaired by the Humboldt County Office of Education Superintendent, as well as a local Resource and Adoptive Parent, who facilitated the welcome and meeting openings. Agenda items related to the Stipulated Final Judgment were covered at the Community Task Force meetings, and input was solicited and provided by participating community members, as found in the Community Task Force meeting agendas and minutes:

<https://humboldt.gov/AgendaCenter/Search/?term=&CIDs=31,&startDate=&endDate=&dateRange=&dateSelector=>.

DHHS-CWS agrees that additional community collaboration in meeting facilitation would be beneficial.

Finding 8: The Child Protection Reporting Guide (CPRG) is the primary purpose of the Community Task Force; however, it is currently in draft form and is not available to the general public. DHHS-CWS has created a Request For Proposals (RFP) whereby not the County but an outside organization will be responsible for promoting community awareness and access to this guide. (R4)

### **Partially Agree**

The Community Task Force was charged with multiple tasks, one being the development of a Mandated Reporter Guide. A soft launch of the Humboldt County Child Protection Reporting Guide (CPRG) was completed in September of 2020, when it was made available to all Community Task Force members, as well as mandated reporters from pilot sectors. The CPRG is currently available publicly online at the following link: <https://cprg.app.evidentchange.net/humboldt/>), and a printable pdf version of the CPRG is also available at that same link. DHHS-CWS is currently developing a Request for Proposals to contract with an outside organization who will be responsible for the ongoing sustainability, including promoting community awareness and providing information and training resources on the CPRG to the community at large.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation 3: Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends participating Task Force agencies share hosting and organizing for the Community Task Force quarterly meetings. (F7)

### **This recommendation will be implemented.**

DHHS-CWS will solicit interest from Task Force agencies to host and organize the Community Task Force meetings, however DHHS-CWS cannot guarantee that agencies will volunteer for this responsibility.

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Recommendation 4: Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends two versions of the Child Protection Reporting Guide be made available both in print and online; one for mandated reporters familiar with the terminology and another version with language understandable to the general public. (F8)

### **This recommendation is in the process of being implemented.**

The CPRG is currently available both in print and online:

<https://cprg.app.evidentchange.net/humboldt/>

The web address for the CPRG has been shared with all Community Task Force members. DHHS-CWS is currently developing a Request for Proposals to contract with an outside organization who will be responsible for the ongoing sustainability, including promoting community awareness and providing informational and training resources on the CPRG to the community at large. The informational and training resources will be designed to provide community members who opt to use the CPRG with detailed information on the purpose, terminology used, and an overview of the functionality of the CPRG. DHHS-CWS is not planning to develop two separate versions of the CPRG, one for mandated reports and one for non-mandated reporters.