



UPSTREAM INVESTMENTS

It is easier to build strong children than to fix broken lives.

Appeal Committee Agenda

May 9, 2012 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
3600 Westwind Blvd. Santa Rosa, CA

All supporting documents are available at www.SonomaUpstream.org and at the Board of Supervisors office at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours. For accessibility assistance with this agenda or supporting documents, please e-mail Info@SonomaUpstream.org or call 707.565.5800.

2:00 Welcome, Introductions, Agenda, Minutes ACTION ITEM

Review of Appeals Process

Statement on behalf of the Portfolio Review Committee

Marla Stuart will make a statement on behalf of the Portfolio Review Committee

Statement on behalf of Appealing Agency

Petaluma People Services Center may make a prepared opening statement

Deliberation

The Appeal Committee may deliberate and ask questions before making their decision

Public comment

Please limit comments to 3 minutes

Closing statement

Petaluma People Services Center may make a closing statement

Decision ACTION ITEM

Review Appeals Procedures

3:30 Adjourn

Appeal Committee Members

*David Koch, Sonoma County Probation (Chair)
Kathleen Kane, Community Development Commission
Peter Rumble, Sonoma County Health Services*



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It is easier to build strong children than to fix broken lives.

Report to the Portfolio Appeal Committee
**Regarding Cooperative Parenting and Divorce submitted by
Petaluma People Services Center**

May 9th, 2013 2:00-3:30 p.m.
3600 Westwind Blvd., Santa Rosa, California

Representing the Portfolio Review Committee
Marla Stuart, Human Services Department

Cooperative Parenting and Divorce Program Description

The Cooperative Parenting and Divorce Program is a video-based, psychoeducational program designed to assist divorcing parents or divorced parents in reducing parental conflict and the risk of factors that influence the child's post-divorce adjustment. The program addresses the relationship between separate households created as a result of divorces. It is designed to improve the quality of the parental relationship in situations of joint custody, separate maintenance, change of custody, and paternity.

Application Timeline

April 25, 2012.....First submission of Cooperative Parenting and Divorce

August 17, 2012Application review process completed. **This program was denied Tier 2 placement due to concerns about the manual**

September 27, 2012 ...Second submission of Cooperative Parenting and Divorce. This is a new application and is given to two new reviewers.

January 29, 2013Application review process completed. **This program was denied by both reviewers for Tier 2 placement due to concerns about the evaluation**

Discussion

1. Tier Requested

Petaluma People Services Center (PPSC) has submitted Cooperative Parenting and Divorce for Tier 2 of the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs. The Portfolio Review Committee has determined that PPSC's implementation does not meet the criteria for Tier 2 in the area of evaluation. PPSC has requested an appeal hearing.

2. Appeal Right

Organizations who are not satisfied with the decision of the Portfolio Review Committee have the "right to appeal the decision. The organization may appeal the accuracy of the decision but may not appeal the tier criteria. (In other words, they may appeal on the basis that they do in fact meet the criteria, but they may not appeal based on the idea that the criteria should be changed.)" The Upstream Policy Committee has approved the Appeal Process.

3. Evaluation (as required for Tier 2)

Good evaluations assess performance, measure impacts on families and communities, and document successes. With evaluation information, programs are able to direct limited resources to where they are most needed and most effective for their clients and communities. **The evaluation should suggest positive outcomes and reflect the design of the program being submitted.** A credible evaluation will result in a report that includes the following components.

- a. PURPOSE: Reason(s) that the evaluation was conducted.
- b. AUDIENCE: Intended audience and their information or decision-making needs.
- c. QUESTIONS: Research questions that the evaluation answered.
- d. LITERATURE REVIEW: A review of the literature that informed the development of the program and the evaluation.
- e. METHODS: Data collection methods (for example, surveys, interviews, document review, observation, focus groups) with an explanation of confidentiality, anonymity, consent, objectivity, sampling, pilot testing, and reliability/validity.
- f. ANALYSIS: Appropriate descriptive and inferential analysis.
- g. RECOMMENDATIONS: Discussion of the analysis, conclusions, and recommendations.

Note: Tier 2 applicants may submit "outside" evaluations. "Outside" evaluations are of the program as implemented and evaluated by another agency. These are permissible as long as the Portfolio applicant's implementation matches the evaluated program. Strict fidelity in

terms of adherence, dose, quality of program delivery and participant responsiveness is not required, as with Tier 1 applications. Tier 2 criteria state that the evaluation should suggest positive outcomes **and reflect the design of the program being submitted.**

4. Review of Cooperative Parenting and Divorce for the Portfolio

The Portfolio Review Committee has determined that the **program design does not reflect the evaluation.** Both reviewers stated that PPSC’s **client population** for this program differs substantially from the **study population** in the evaluation.

Is the evaluation acceptable?	Response
a. Purpose	Yes
b. Audience	Yes
c. Questions	Yes
d. Literature Review	Yes
e. Methods	Yes
f. Analysis	Yes
g. Recommendations	Yes
h. Are the outcomes of the evaluation acceptable?	Yes
i. Does the program design reflect the evaluation?	No

The evaluation was conducted on court-mandated, high to moderate conflict parents.

The evaluation submitted with the application states and that the study was approved by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals for the purpose of determining the effectiveness of Cooperative Parenting and Divorce “now being mandated for certain ‘moderate to high conflict’ separated and/ or divorcing parents” (p.2). The evaluation also states that “more research is warranted to explore what criteria should be used to determine which parents would benefit the most from training” (p. 22).

PPSC’s client population includes parents with a range of conflict levels and they may or may not be court mandated to participate.

When questioned about the link between the population studied in the evaluation and their client population, PPSC provided this response: *Participants are not necessarily low to moderate conflict – nor are they all necessarily voluntary. Some parents call because they have been court ordered to participate in parenting classes, and some parents are moderate to high conflict. PPSC does not require that parents be court ordered to participate. We expect results to be similar to that of the control group. Our post survey indicated improvement in their relationships with their children, and a decrease in parental conflict.*

5. Portfolio Review Committee Recommendations

- a. Uphold the Portfolio Review Committee recommendation to deny Tier 2 placement because the program design is not reflected in the evaluation.
- b. Invite PPSC to re-submit Cooperative Parenting and Divorce for Tier 3 using data from pre and post tests on their own client population.

Larissa Heeren

From: Elece Hempel [elece@petalumapeople.org]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 8:47 AM
To: Larissa Heeren
Cc: Marla Stuart
Subject: PPSC appeal for Cooperative Parenting and Divorce

Evidence-based practice involves complex and conscientious decision-making which is based not only the available evidence but also on patient characteristics, situations, and preferences. It recognizes that there is individualized and ever changing and involves uncertainties and probabilities. These individualized guidelines of best practices inform the improvement of whatever professional task is at hand. The question regarding Evaluation; that the cohort studied was tested on those who are court ordered to participate, with high to moderate conflict parents. PPSC does not require participants to be court ordered to participate, however we to believe that data gathered from our current program, reflects that most families to do not seek Cooperative Parenting and Divorce program unless one or both parents feel that the level of conflict is heightened by the divorce. Research supports that although divorce seems insurmountable when in the midst of the turmoil, there are interventions that can be made. Using preventative measures more universally will have the most impact in the long term. Although all children are different and that cultural differences abound, that EBT counseling does make and impact with the children surviving divorce.

*EBT practice is a philosophical approach that is in opinion to rule of thumb traditions. EBP may be defined as treatment choices based not only on outcome research but also on **practice wisdom and the test groups all reported what is to be conflict (page 23).** The research data conclusion is the Cooperative Parenting and Divorce program **helps all parent improve their co-parenting abilities and diminishes their frequency of negative behaviors.** All facilitators conducting the co-parenting seminars Marriage and Family Therapists licensed or interns very strict guidelines for supervisor, and have been trained in EBT practice and fidelity to the model. However, key elements in using the best evidence to guide the practice of any professional included the development of questions using research-base evidence, the level and types of evidence to be used and the assessment of effectiveness after completing the task or effort.*

It is all about community,
-elece

Elece Hempel
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PPSC is dedicated to improving the social and economic health of our community by providing programs that strengthen the dignity and self-sufficiency of the individual.

Our Agency values DIVERSITY whatever your ethnicity, religion, country of origin, language, abilities, sexual orientation, or gender. **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**