



ALTERNATIVE
FAMILY
SERVICES

UPSTREAM RESOLUTION of ALIGNMENT
Aligning Alternative Family Services Practices and Activities
With the Upstream Investments Initiative

Resolution: May 2, 2012-1

RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Alternative Family Services, Inc.

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is sponsoring a community-wide strategic initiative called Upstream Investments with the following mission: To facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments vision for all residents of Sonoma County is that poverty is eliminated and all people have an equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative is designed to target the following factors:

Social and economic factors
Poverty and racial/ethnic disparities
Community conditions
Public opinion, public policy, and laws

Family and individual factors
Family dysfunction
Negative peer influences
Early antisocial behavior

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to promote four community goals:

1. The whole community is engaged in supporting the healthy development of children.
2. Community members have access to education and training and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.
3. All community members are well sheltered, safe, and socially supported.
4. Sonoma County has a thriving diverse economy that produces economic security for all.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to expand funding for Model Upstream Programs and also seeks to promote organizational practices that support the Upstream Vision.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Strategic Initiative promotes the implementation of outcomes-based practices including Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices, and Emerging Practices.

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WHEREAS, Twenty-two indicators of success will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 12. Improved higher education |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 13. Improved housing affordability |
| 3. Reduced youth drug use | 14. Reduced homelessness |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 6. Reduced teen births | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 7. Reduced obesity | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 8. Improved pre-school attendance | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 9. Improved 3 rd grade reading | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 10. Improved 3 rd grade math | 21. Reduced unemployment |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 22. Improved health insurance rates |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Alternative Family Services shares the Upstream Investments mission, goals, commitment to improving the indicators of success, and vision and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

- ✓ Explain how the Organization's mission/vision are aligned with the Upstream mission/vision.

Alternative Family Services (AFS), a California not for profit organization with offices and programs throughout the San Francisco Bay and Metropolitan Sacramento Areas is headquartered in Sonoma County. Currently AFS operates four programs in Sonoma County all of which are aligned with Upstream mission and vision:

Foster Care Services: AFS operates approximately 50 therapeutic foster homes in Sonoma County for Sonoma County dependents. Children in placed with AFS by County Human Services to alleviate the neglect and maltreatment they have suffered. During placement all destructive behaviors are dealt with including alcohol and drug use, school attendance, school achievement, access to higher education, addressing homelessness, addressing mental health issues including depression, contact with law enforcement, youth employment and propensities towards violence. All AFS Sonoma County clinical staff are fully trained in the Triple P evidenced based practice and use these techniques regularly in its work.

Adoption Services: AFS is a fully licensed Adoptions Agency assisting its foster parents to adopt their foster children when legally appropriate. Adoption is the ultimate irrevocable act in ensuring youth connectedness, there is no higher degree of connection than full legal adoption. Further the act of adoption is the single best thing that can be done to ensure attention to all of the Upstream Investment indicators of success.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF): This project, on contract with Sonoma County Human Services receives referrals of families from that agency who have come to the attention of those authorities as being at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. These cases have not yet risen to a level that requires formal, legal intervention. The purpose of this program is to provide supports and preventative services so that formal intervention does not become necessary. Virtually every one of the Indicators of Success might be addressed in any given PSSF case. As mentioned above,

AFS staff use the Tier I Triple P evidenced based practice in the regular performance of their duties in this program.

Triple P Parent Education Program: This program, also on contract with Sonoma County Human Services receives family referrals from the county *specifically* to deliver the Tier I Triple P Parent Education program to clients. Very similar to the PSSP program this program is organized as a separate program because of it's separate funding source and its higher emphasis on Triple P delivery. Again any one or possibly all of the Indicators of Success might be addressed with any given family case in this program.

- ✓ List which Upstream Indicators of Success are promoted by the organizations practices and programs.

✓

The following is the list of Indicators of Success most addressed by AFS Programs:

Reduced child maltreatment	Improved pre-school	Reduced homelessness
Reduced youth binge	attendance	Reduced juvenile arrests
drinking	Improved 3 rd grade reading	Reduced domestic violence
Reduced youth drug use	Improved 3 rd grade math	Reduced gang membership
Reduced youth depression	Improved high school	Improved youth
Reduced teen births	completion	connectedness
Reduced obesity	Improved higher education	Reduced poverty

- ✓ Make a commitment to submitting the Organization's programs to the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs. Or, list the Organizations' programs that are already on the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.

The Board of Directors of Alternative Family Services hereby resolves to submit AFS Sonoma County programs to be included to the Board of Supervisors' Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.

- ✓ Identify the level of Organizational funding dedicated to upstream investments.

All of AFS programs, those mentioned above in Sonoma County plus additional Medi-Cal funded outpatient mental health services for foster children in other counties as well as the very mission statement of the agency are in virtual congruity with the Indicators of Success. In this context it is accurate to assert that ALL of AFS funding is dedicated to achieving the Indicators of Success as outlined by the Sonoma County Upstream Investment initiative.

- ✓ Describe any organizational practices that reflect upstream principles (such as strategic planning, policies, budget activities, resource deployment, or contracting).

Unlike a profit making entity that sets aside a portion of its resources towards social goals or upstream investments, AFS is a child and family serving not for profit entity whose core mission is essentially the same as that of Upstream Investments. Therefore ALL of our internal processes, including planning, budgeting, resource deployment, hiring, training, commitment to evidence based practice, data gathering and evaluation reflect upstream principles.

Describe collaborations with other organizations that promote Upstream Investments.


Under coordination provided by the Sonoma County Department of Human Services Division of Child and Family Services both the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program and the Triple P Parent Education Program are executed in close collaboration with other Sonoma County service providers, each utilizing its particular expertise and resources to best serve clients.

- ✓ List ways that the Organization is promoting community-wide knowledge and understanding of Upstream Investments (such as posting a link to SonomaUpstream.org on the Organization's website or including Upstream Investments in Organizational publications).

If approved for inclusion in the Board of Supervisors' Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs AFS will link its website to SonomaUpstream.org.

Approved and adopted the second day of May 2012, I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number May 2, 2012 - 1 was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Alternative Family Services.

Following Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 6
Nos: 0
Absent: 0

 5/2/12
President, Board of Directors of Alternative Family Services