



Together for a better future for Kern County's children FY 2018-19 Annual Report

Strengthening Families and Communities For 27 Years

Established by the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1992, the Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) proudly continues its mission to protect and enrich the lives of children in Kern County.

What Makes KCNC Unique

- ◆ Assists in collaborative planning and coordination of services to children and families.
- ◆ Supports Kern's Child Welfare Services Self Improvement Plan and operates The Dream Center, a one-stop for foster youth.
- ◆ Assists growth of effective family support programs by providing support, high quality training, and evaluation services.
- ◆ Serves as Kern's Child Abuse Prevention Council.
- ◆ Develops community leadership.

Child Abuse in Kern County: What Our Community Needs to Know

The prevention of child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility. It can be a matter of life and death. To report abuse or neglect, call the 24 hour, 7 days per week hotline at (661) 631-6011, (760) 375-6049 or dial 911.

Did You Know:

- ◆ **14,914** Kern County children were suspected of being abused or neglected —**41** children each day in 2018.
- ◆ **2,934**, an average of 8 children everyday, were later found to be victims of abuse or neglect in 2018.
- ◆ About **30%** of abused or neglected children **will later abuse their own children**, continuing the horrible cycle of abuse.
- ◆ In 2018, **6 child fatalities** which were determined to be abuse/neglect by law enforcement or the Coroner; 1 near fatality and 19 severe/serious injuries due to abuse or neglect.





2018/19 Achievements

By providing child abuse prevention education and awareness services; administering supportive services to families most at-risk of experiencing child abuse and neglect; and harnessing the power of community action toward meeting the critical needs of Kern County’s children and families, the Kern County Network for Children is helping to improve child safety outcomes for children and families in these three areas:

AWARENESS:

We raise awareness of child abuse and methods to prevent it so communities take action.

- Child well being and safety messaging from the Kern County Network for Children were the focus of 13 media stories reaching media stories reaching an audience of 737,470 community members via radio, television and/or print ads.
- 91 agencies, schools, and community groups were represented at 11 trainings addressing child welfare issues with an average of 85 attendees per training.
- KCNC’s *Community Call to Action* brought together 333 stakeholders from the Central Valley representing over 90 agencies, schools, and community groups for a special presentation and commit to making a difference for families who live in poverty.
- 91% of training attendees found Kern County Network for Children trainings beneficial and 91% reported feeling engaged as participants.

ASSISTANCE:

We work with community partners to offer effective prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for families who are at-risk of or who have experienced child abuse/neglect.

- 3,140 families and 8,184 children received services from Differential Response (DR) programs during the FY 2018-19 fiscal year.
- 1,886 families and their 5,045 children received comprehensive DR case management services in the FY 2018-19
- 220 parents received court ordered parenting instruction with a 76% FY 2018-19 completion rate.
- 29 parents successfully completed Visit Coaching services and reunified with their 64 children in total. The average pre-test score was 2.84 the average of post-test score was 4.0.

ADVOCACY:

We strengthen the community’s response to child maltreatment and foster youth through knowledge and leadership development.

- 36 service providers from 25 local agencies/organizations graduated from the *2019 Kern County Network for Children’s Leadership Development Class*.
- 15 Kern County Network for Children Accredited Community Collaboratives receive on-going technical assistance services.
- 86 service providers on average from at least 50 local agencies, schools, and community groups attend monthly *Kern County Network for Children General Collaborative Meetings* to learn about community resources and programs.
- Kern County Network for Children staff participate on **31** individual state and local committees, task forces and boards addressing child welfare, foster youth, juvenile justice and family assistance.

Kern’s Differential Response (DR) & Welfare-to-Work (WTW) Programs Partner to Increase Family Income & Self-Sufficiency

Poverty is the single best predictor of child abuse and neglect. Children who live in families with an annual income less than \$15,000 are 22 times more likely to be abused or neglected than children living in families with an annual income of \$30,000 or more (Children’s Defense Fund, 2005). Most families referred to Differential Response earned under \$19,790 annually during the FY 2017-18 (70%).

DR & WTW Programs Share Desired Outcomes

Welfare To Work (WTW) helps parents prepare for work, gain employment, and become self-sufficient. DR case managers incorporated WTW plan activities into DR Family Care Plans to help parents comply with WTW program requirements and assisted parents who were WTW sanctioned with curing their sanctions. DR clients also received referrals to needed services to remove barriers to employment and avoid financial sanctions, and were provided supportive services such as encouragement, problem solving, transportation, accompanying clients to appointments, and follow-up.

During FY 2018-19 **30%** of sanctioned DR families “lifted” their WTW sanction during case management. These families can now actively participate in the WTW program with the goal of becoming self-sufficient.

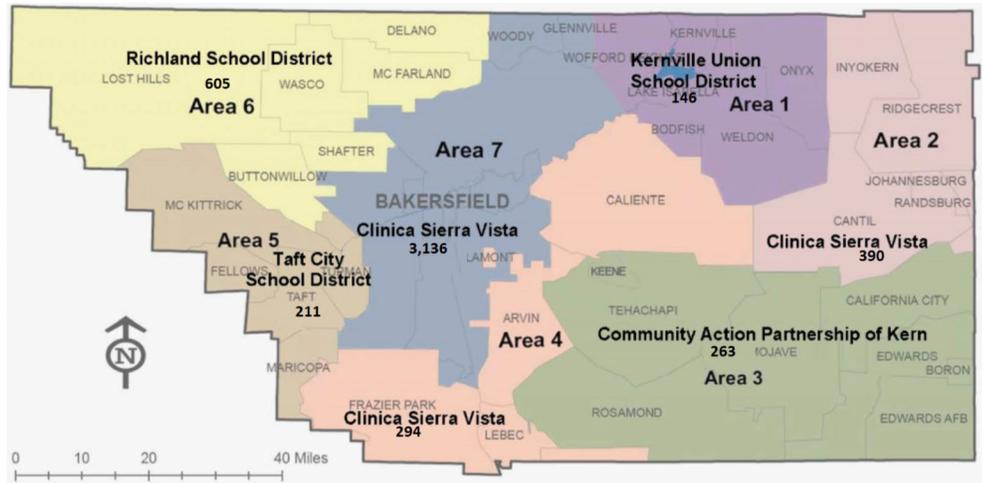




A Strategic Investment Kern County's Differential Response

Differential Response (DR) expands the ability of Child Protective Services (CPS) to respond differently to suspected reports of child abuse/neglect, by assisting families at the first signs of trouble. CPS Social Workers assess the referrals received and designate their safety risk level as either Path 1 (lowest), 2 or 3 (highest). Trained community-based organizations provide integrated case management. A Service Area approach is used to minimize administrative costs and ensure that DR services are available countywide.

Number of Kern County Children Receiving DR Case Management During FY 18-19



"I am not sure how my case manager did it, but she was always there for me and my family. I know we were a handful but she never complained and always found ways to help us. I will never forget her."
- DR Case Managed Parent

DR Improves Child Welfare Service Outcomes

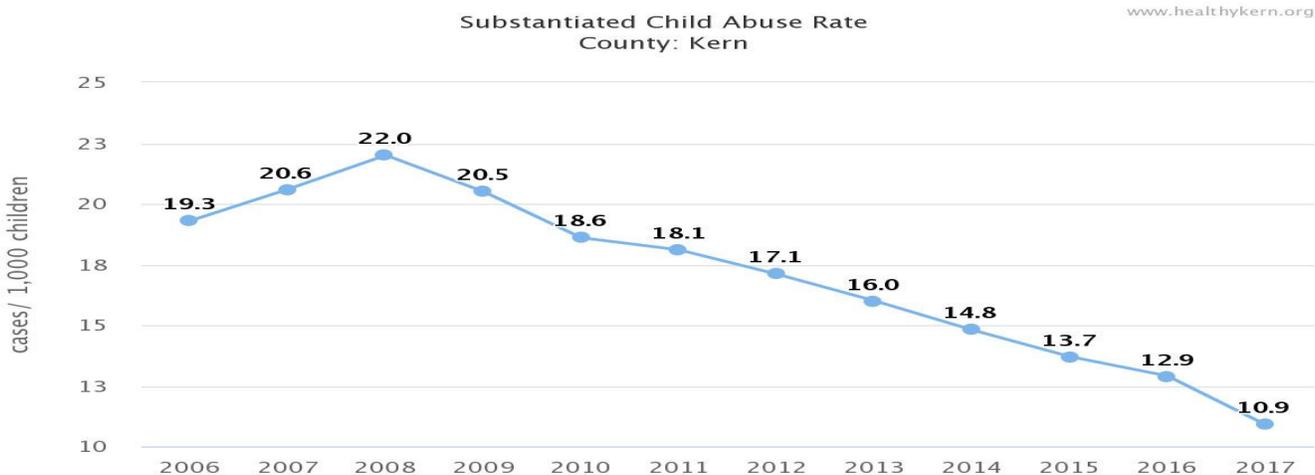
- 3,140 families and 8,184 children received direct services from DR programs during FY 2018-19.
- 1,886 families and their 5,045 children received comprehensive DR case management services during FY 2018-19, of these:
 - 72% of case managed families exited with completed case plans.
 - 99% of client families were satisfied with the DR case management services they received.

County Partnership Benefits DR Prevention Services

In the fall of 2012, the Kern County Board of Supervisors approved the first time use of County General Funds towards child abuse prevention. County funding allows DR to reach all families throughout Metro Bakersfield who are referred by CPS.

Metro Bakersfield DR Path 1 Referrals

- 716 families and 1,849 children received DR services.
- 384 families and 1,071 children participated in DR case management services.
- 79% of case managed Path 1 families exited with completed case plans.



Source: Child Welfare Dynamic Report System (2017)

Making a Difference For Current & Former Foster Youth



1801 & 1807 19th Street



Established in 2008, the Dream Center, named by founding foster youth who helped design service delivery, is Kern's only one-stop resource center for foster youth up to the age of 25.

Our Partners...



HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS YOUTH LAUNCHED - January, 2019

- ◆ Homeless Dream Center youth now have streamlined access to housing vouchers and/or rental assistance programs.
- ◆ Dream Center staff help housed youth receive mental health and/or other services, build life skills, and obtain/maintain employment so they can become self sufficient.

From January - June, 2019, 13 unaccompanied and 4 parenting homeless youth with a total of 7 children were housed.

DREAM CENTER BY THE NUMBERS:

- **815** youth visited Dream Center (unduplicated count). An average of **878** visits each month (duplicated count).
- **8,859** snack bags distributed.
- **1,924** hygiene kits & **823** emergency food bags distributed.
- **1,687** computer uses.
- **222** youth received clothing & shoes.
- **622** showers & **452** washer/dryer uses.
- Average of **10** youth participated in monthly leadership classes. 94% stated the classes helped increase their knowledge of research-based protective factors youth need to thrive.
- Average of **42** partner agency staff on site daily.

Kern County Network for Children (KCNC)

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