



HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

Many of the current partners of the Council began meeting informally in 1990 in an attempt to coordinate services for families and children. The County Board of Supervisors formally created the CSN in 1992 and the original Continuing Resolutions state:

The purpose of the Policy Council of the Children's Services Network is to provide leadership to all agencies and programs dealing with families and the development of comprehensive community services to children and their families. This will be accomplished by improving communication, planning, coordination and cooperation among youth serving agencies; identifying gaps and duplication in services; providing a forum for clarifying perceptions and expectation among agencies and between agencies and the community; establishing priorities for interagency projects; and implementing collaborative programs, both public and private, to better serve children and their families.

The Continuing Resolutions were updated in 1995 to restructure the governing Council to be more inclusive. Roles and duties included:

- Provide a planning and policy setting forum for children's services.
- Identify critical issues for study, recommendation and action.
- Communicate information between public and private agencies responsible for delivery of children's services.
- Serve as the community-based oversight council for grant applications and administration of family preservation programs and endorse appropriate grant applications.
- Develop an annual Children's Services Plan for review and support of the Board of Supervisors and district's school boards including strategic plan and results from prior year.
- Share and receive information about public and private agencies, and programs relating to children's services.
- Identify areas of service that would benefit from collaborative programming and formulate plans to implement interagency projects.
- Participate in fiscal and programmatic decisions relating to services for children and families in San Luis Obispo County, review departmental and organizational budgets, review and analyze the funds available to provide services to children



and families, and make budgetary recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and other relevant decision-making bodies.

In 2007, with participation waning, the CSN Council unanimously approved a redesign proposal aimed at streamlining the structure of the Network for improved effectiveness. As a result, the 2007-2008 year will be dedicated to this process. Changes include the elimination of standing committees, with the exception of the SAFE Management Support Team, and revisions to the various elements of governance (i.e. Continuing Resolutions, Membership, Procedures for Issue of Grant Support, and Issue Resolution Process). The CSN remains committed to coordinating a seamless system of care for the children of San Luis Obispo county.