

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE DEPENDENCY DIVISION

FILED

FEB 21 2008

In the Matter of

SRI International
DATA COLLECTION
FOR FAMILY WELLNESS
COURT

COURT ORDER

KIRI TORRE
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY *Kiri Torre* DEPUTY

GOOD CAUSE THEREFORE APPEARING, the Court hereby authorizes the SRI International research and evaluation group, acting in agreement with the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS), the Department of Alcohol and Drug Services (DADS), the Department of Mental Health, the District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Defenders and the Superior Court's Dependency Division to engage in research and data collection activities set forth in detail in the attached research agreement in order to track, identify and evaluate best practices in the Dependency Court system to develop and improve services to our families and children in Santa Clara County.

This Order is made on the following conditions:

The researchers shall be bound by the confidentiality provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 827 and 10850, and any information received shall be used exclusively for the purpose described above.

2. The researchers shall not publish, disseminate, or otherwise disclose, any identifying information pertaining to any dependent child of the court.
3. The researchers shall not publish any identifying information pertaining to any placement of any dependent child of the court.
4. The researchers shall obtain the informed, voluntary consent of all subjects participating in the research that are the age of 18 years or older.
5. The researchers shall obtain the informed, voluntary consent of all subjects participating in the research that are under the age of 18 years when developmentally appropriate and, or, the subjects are capable of consenting.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



2/21/08

Judge Katherine Lucero
Supervising Judge of Dependency Court



Date: February 21, 2008

To: Judge Katherine Lucero
Superior Court of California

From: Shari Golan

Re: Family Wellness Court for Infants and Toddlers Court Order

Below is a description of the procedures that will be used to obtain consent, and collect, protect, and use data as part of the evaluation of the Family Wellness Court for Infants and Toddlers.

Study Participants

Participants are pregnant women and mothers of children under age 3, who have methamphetamine or other substance abuse problems. These women also all have at least one substantiated case finding of child abuse or neglect and a pending case for petition to remove the child from the home. The intervention group will be comprised of women who are referred to the Family Wellness Court for Infant and Toddlers. The comparison group will be matched women served in previous years by the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency (SSA), Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS), who have not been referred to Family Wellness Court.

Consent Procedures

Parents/guardians will be asked to sign a consent form for their children and their own participation in the evaluation that will be valid for up to nine (9) years. Participants will also complete an Authorization for the Release of Information so that applicable agencies and evaluators can share information. Participants also may change their mind and ask that their information no longer be shared with or used by SRI. Participants will receive instructions for how to contact SRI to request that their information no longer be shared, if they change their mind.

Data Collection

Data collection will begin on March 10, 2008. Access to data by SRI will end 3 years past the conclusion of SRI's contract with SSA, on September 31, 2015. (Federal guidelines require SRI to keep any data collected in the study for 3 years beyond the end of the contract.) Data will be collected on individuals by the agencies serving them using multiple data systems (including the Child Welfare System database, UNICARE Medi-Cal billing data system, and other internal data systems of the partner agencies), as well as on paper data collection forms (including surveys of mothers at entrance and exit into the program; Mentor Mom contact logs; copies of Treatment Status Reports; and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County evaluation intake, follow-up, dosage, and KidConnections summary forms). In addition, reviews of Court case records may need to be conducted to abstract the data needed on the comparison group.

SRI will analyze the data collected on behalf of the SSA, as part of its Regional Partnership Grant from the Children's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Participants will be asked to the following data:

- ***Client information***: child's first and last name (as written on birth certificate), child's date of birth, child's place of birth, and child's gender. Mother's first and last name (as written on birth certificate), mother's date of birth, and mother's address (or zip code).
- ***Demographic data***: ethnicity/race, primary language, another language, age, educational level, income, marital status, living situation, substance abuse assessment results (drug of choice), CPS allegations (level of risk).
- ***Adult outcome data***: health insurance status (mother and children), physical health status (mother and children), mental health status, abstinence from drug use (results of drug testing), visitation status, children's placements, children's permanency and adoption status, and child welfare recidivism, employment status, housing status, transportation status, child developmental screening and assessment results, and unmet service needs.
- ***Service data***: substance abuse treatment, mental health assessment and counseling, Mentor Mom support, home visiting, and other services received; referrals made to other services.
- ***Client satisfaction data***: ratings from moms on their satisfaction with and the usefulness of various aspects of the Family Wellness Court intervention, including the quality of the interactions they had with staff involved in the Court intervention.

Data Safeguards

Information about the families within the interventions will be stored by using a system of unique numerical linking identifiers. Access to the identity of respondents will not be available to anyone other than authorized staff. Confidentiality requirements will be documented, and all research project team members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement indicating that they understand and agree to protect the confidentiality of all data. Within data files, data on respondents will be kept separate from identifying information (such as a child's name) by using a system of identification numbers to allow the necessary linkage yet prevent showing personal identification within a single table.

Data Uses

SRI will use the information collected on families to learn what services offered through the Family Wellness Court for Infant and Toddlers are effective in promoting permanency and well-being of children who are at risk of out-of-home placement. Lessons learned about effective practices will be shared with national audiences through reports, presentations, and journal articles, without names or other identifying information (such as a name or address) that might identify families or individuals.

Contact Information

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