

County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency

353 West Julian Street
San Jose, California 95110-2335



DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Damion Wright, Director, Department of Family and Children's Services

DS
DW

SUBJECT: E.2 – Bed Utilization at Parisi House on the Hill

At the December 19, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board requested information on utilization of beds at Parisi House on the Hill.

DFCS has an interagency agreement with the County's Behavioral Health Services Department to provide substance use treatment services for up to 10 women and up to 12 children, at any time, at the Parisi House on the Hill (Parisi) for residential alcohol and/or drug treatment. The program allows mothers and children to remain together in the residential program while substance use services are provided. The child must be under the age of five, and typically there is one child accepted per mother. Women may also receive services even if the child has been removed from her care and there is a family reunification case open with DFCS. The maximum length of stay is generally up to six months, but can be extended to nine months if needed. A discharge plan is completed and shared with DFCS prior to the discharge, whenever possible.

Referrals are made directly to Parisi by DFCS, and mothers are contacted to schedule an assessment. If the mother has already been assessed by a dependency court assessor, Parisi obtains a copy of that assessment and reviews and updates with the client.

Parisi also serves mothers who do not have a referral from DFCS and mothers who do not have an open child welfare case may be served through other community-accessible beds at Parisi house through referrals from Behavioral Health. Therefore, women have multiple avenues available to access residential substance treatment services. Parisi reports that there have been no clients turned away due to capacity issues since 2020. As mothers have various ways to access services, program data is provided for all clients served by Parisi rather than focusing exclusively on clients referred by DFCS. For example, at a point in time on January 8, 2024, over 45% of clients had some involvement with DFCS but only one was formally recorded as occupying a DFCS bed. The table below shows the participants served by Parisi in the past few years. The data reflects less than six months of referrals for FY 2023-2024.

Fiscal Year	Residential Clients
2018	49
2019	58
2020	62
2021	53
2022	65
2023	78
2024 (Partial)	34
Total	399