



# PATHWAY FORWARD

DFCS and Partner Response to the  
December 19, 2023  
Special Board of Supervisors' meeting

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The mission of Santa Clara County Department of Family and Children's Services is to keep children safe and families strong by partnering with their communities.

# MISSION



Protecting Children...  
Strengthening Families...  
Building Safe Communities.



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# Board Referrals

## A. Staffing and Personnel Concerns

Review of critical issues in managing staffing and workload.

## B. Child Welfare Laws

Analysis of existing regulations around services and interventions to abused and neglected children and their families.

## C. Programs and Services

Status update of programmatic need and solutions to support the most vulnerable youth.



## D. Monitoring and Oversight

Analysis of adherence to transparent processes, organizational performance, and system improvement.



### Strategic Framework

Achieve mission of child safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for families through safety goals.

## E. Data and Other Information

Analysis of several forms of data to better understand opportunities for input and direction by the Board.

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# Strategic Framework

DFCS' strategic framework outlines the results and the necessary conditions or changes that will ultimately lead to the desired outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being of children



## Safeguarding Children

Keep children safe and empower families by aligning community supports to the reduction of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

01

## Workforce Support and Development

Enhance the capacity, capability, and self-efficacy of DFCS staff through expansive support from DFCS leadership.

02



## Key Partnerships

Strengthen relationships with a wide range of community organizations and leaders in neighborhoods in which child abuse referral rates are high.

03



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# Safety Culture



Focus on continuous learning and improvement, and commitment to transparency and accountability; the ultimate goal is to keep children safe and families whole.



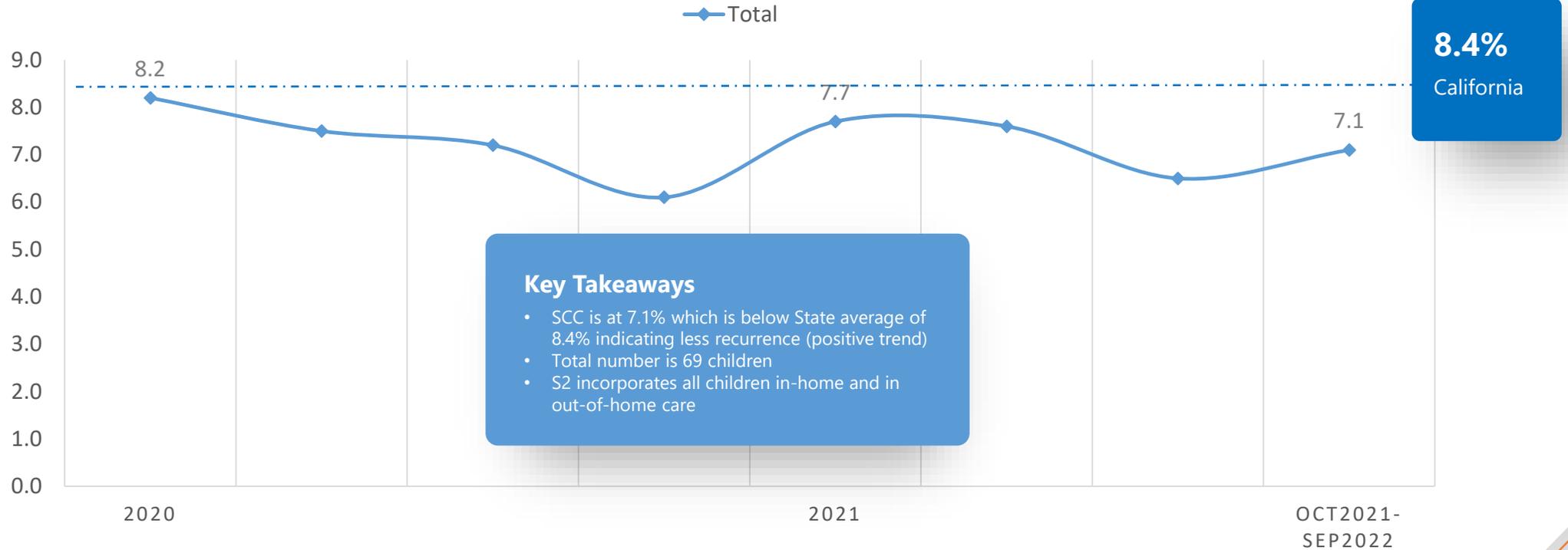


child welfare DATA



# S2 – Recurrence of Maltreatment

CHILDREN WITH AN INITIAL SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATION  
WHO EXPERIENCED A SECOND SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATION  
WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF INITIAL REFERRAL  
SANTA CLARA: JANUARY 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2022



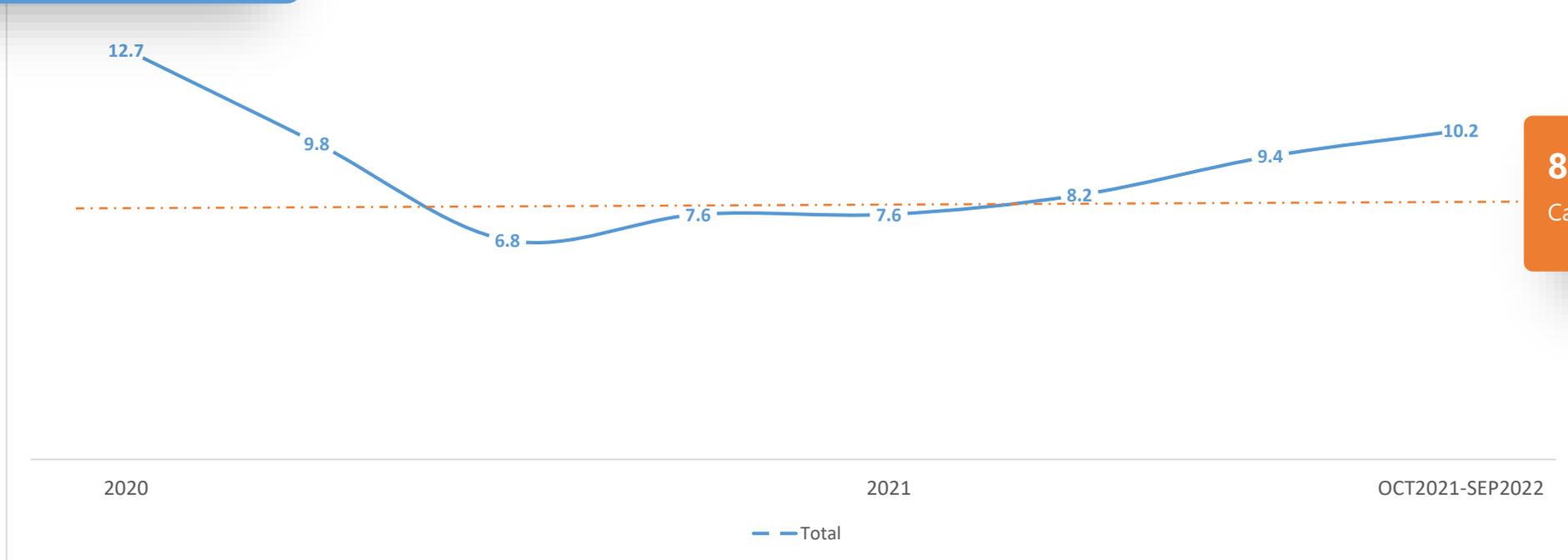


# P4 – Re-Entry (12 months)

## Key Takeaways

- SCC is 10.2% vs State 8%; total number of children re-entering is 20
- Approximately one third of re-entry population is children under two
- SCC has a reduced overall # children in cohort; so, greater proportional impacts

## CHILDREN EXITING FOSTER CARE TO REUNIFICATION OR GUARDIANSHIP WHO REENTERED WITHIN 12 MONTHS BY AGE SANTA CLARA: 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2022



**8%**  
California





# Disparity and Disproportionality

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In partnership with the children of color (COC) workgroup, DFCS staff, racial equity and leadership team, and community, strengthen our efforts to mitigate the inequities, disparity and disproportionality in the lives of children and families we serve...



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# Plans of Safe Care

Establishing a comprehensive approach to coordinated services spanning various points of intervention from prior to baby's birth to supporting the newborn who are substance exposed, to supporting families where parents or caregivers struggle with substance use; and expanding the availability of treatment, including residential and out-patient treatment and support services to pregnant women and parents.





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# Board Direction

## Probation and DFCS Nexus

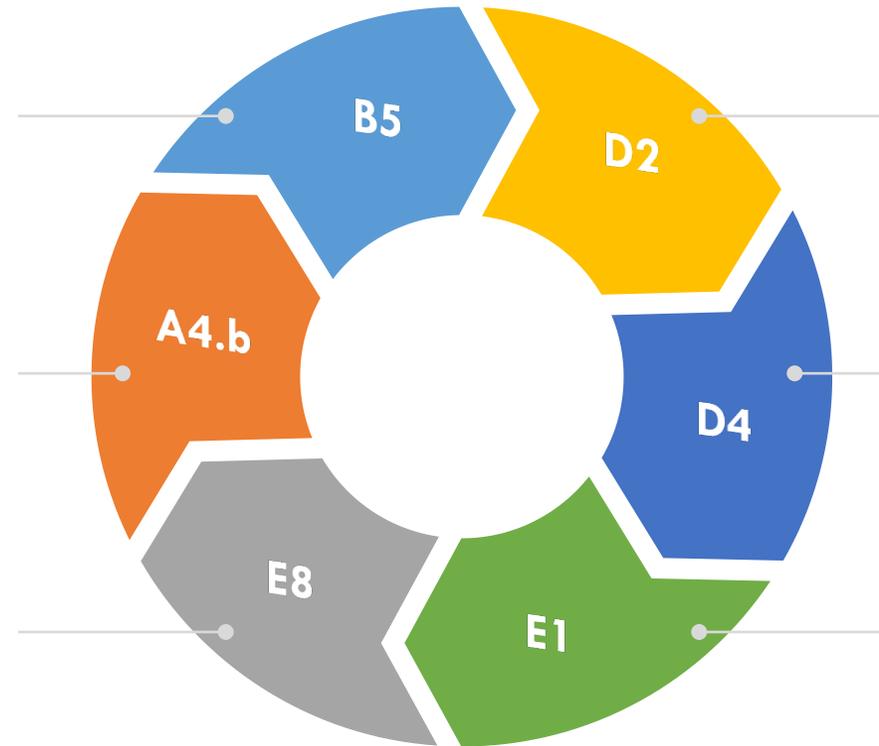
Nexus of intervention between child welfare practices and impact to Juvenile Justice.

## Legal Consultation

Analysis of legal staffing process to further integrate child and family team and social worker voice throughout.

## System Improvement and Data Reports

Self-assessment, system improvement plan, and critical incident tracking.



## Increased Oversight of DFCS cases

Innovative programs and court supervision of family maintenance cases.

## Improved Abuse Reporting Systems

Enhance partnership between DFCS, DA, and local law enforcement agencies through electronic reporting.

## Child Abuse Neglect Center (CANC) Data

Child abuse hotline processes, data collection, and aligning resources to support effective response.



We must have...  
eyes on...and arms around...our most  
vulnerable children and families....

A photograph of a family walking away from the camera on a gravel path. A woman in a floral dress is on the left, a young child in a floral dress is in the middle, and a man in dark shorts is on the right. They are all holding hands. The image is framed by large, overlapping orange and grey circular shapes. The text 'PATHWAY FORWARD' is centered over the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

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