

# Mendocino County Department of Social Services CEO Report

June 2025



## I. Effective County Government

### Department Procedures Released June 2025:

- DSS 25-2 Attendance, Punctuality, Leaves
- PM 23-24 APS Supervisor On-Call

### Celebrating and Supporting Social Work at DSS

The Mendocino County Department of Social Services (MCDSS) deeply values the vital role our social workers play across Family & Children's Services and Adult & Aging Services. These dedicated professionals respond to reports of suspected abuse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Their responsibilities range from emergency response and investigations to securing safe placements when needed.



In Family & Children's Services, social workers are instrumental in supporting reunification efforts and helping children and youth achieve permanency, all while fostering a more resilient and healthy community. In Adult & Aging Services, social workers work tirelessly to help seniors and dependent adults remain safely in their homes, stay connected to essential resources, and maintain their independence for as long as possible.

MCDSS is proud to support the continued education and professional development of our team. On Wednesday, July 9th, Chico State University and Cal Poly Humboldt provided presentations for staff interested in furthering their education in social work. The event also featured an inspiring panel of MCDSS staff who shared their journeys toward earning a BSW or MSW, including those who received Title IV-E educational support, which can cover most educational costs.

We are excited to continue offering these valuable presentations and to explore new ways to invest in the growth and development of our workforce as they serve Mendocino County's most vulnerable residents.

### Special Investigations Unit (SIU) 2025

Welfare fraud referrals may be received from the public, through the State of California welfare fraud hotline, other County agencies, and internal sources.



The Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) matches an applicant or recipient's data with State welfare files, wages, unemployment and disability benefit files, income information from the Internal Revenue Services, and/or Franchise Tax Board and the Social Security Administration. Eligibility Examiners review the matches within 45 days.

#### Qtr 1

Referrals received	109
Closed investigations	248
Time of IEVS processing	89%

#### Qtr 2

Referrals received	154
Closed investigations	112
Time of IEVS processing	100%

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## II. Safe & Healthy County

### Mendocino County Child and Family Services Review Partner Convening

On Tuesday, July 22nd, Family & Children’s Services hosted the Mendocino County Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Partner Convening at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center. This full-day event provided a valuable opportunity for meaningful collaboration, shared learning, and collective visioning.

The convening featured guest speaker Dr. Kush Cooper of Implematix, whose insights helped guide discussions on improving outcomes for children and families. The event brought together a wide range of participants, including representatives from child welfare, juvenile probation, and key community partners.

Together, attendees reflected on current practices, shared experiences, and deepened connections to strengthen the essential work happening across Mendocino County in support of youth, families, and the broader community.

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### Community Conversations on Homelessness

On Wednesday, July 9th, the Mendocino County Department of Social Services (MCDSS), in partnership with the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care, hosted two important community discussions focused on addressing homelessness in Mendocino County. The community meetings were held at Consolidated Tribal Health Project.

The day began with a focused conversation involving Tribal Governments, Tribal Members, and Tribal Service Providers. This session provided a space for sharing valuable insights, concerns, and suggestions specific to the unique needs of Tribal communities. Later in the day, the discussion expanded to include a broader group of stakeholders from a variety of sectors across the county. More than 30 individuals attended the meeting, and provided a wide and useful array of perspectives and input.

In addition to the stakeholder meetings held in Ukiah on July 9th, MCDSS also hosted two focus groups for individuals with lived experience (in both Fort Bragg and Ukiah), and a broader stakeholder meeting also in Fort Bragg, in late June.

These conversations are part of MCDSS’s ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships, gather diverse perspectives, and collaboratively identify solutions to address homelessness. The department remains committed to supporting all members of our community and working together toward meaningful, sustainable change—with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness in Mendocino County.

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**Mendocino County Department of Social Services Monthly Data Dashboard**



### Family & Children’s Services Court Report Timeliness

Jurisdictional Reports	87%
Dispositional Reports	47%
Semi-Annual Status Review Reports	41%