

Mendocino County Department of Social Services CEO Report

April 2025

I. Effective County Government



Department Procedures Released April 2025:

- DSS 24-06 Progressive Discipline (revision)
- DSS 25-01 Travel (revision)
- FCS 01-02 Caregiver Input to the Court
- FCS 03-95 Case File Protocol
- FCS 10-01 Centralized Intake
- AAS 25-04 Functions and Duties of the PA
- AAS 25-05 Final Disposition

Adult & Aging Services Welcomes New Deputy Director, Jesse Vanvoorhis

We are pleased to introduce Jesse Vanvoorhis as the new Deputy Director of the Adult and Aging Services Division.

Jesse brings over 16 years of extensive experience in social services and is a proud 19-year Mendocino County employee. Throughout his career, he has served in a variety of roles including General Assistance, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs Job Services, Workforce Development, In-Home Supportive Services, and Adult Protective Services. Most recently, Jesse served as Senior Program Manager, where he oversaw Contracts, Policy, Administrative Support, and Adult Protective Services.

Jesse is deeply passionate about supporting economically disadvantaged individuals and is committed to ensuring that elderly and disabled members of our community have access to the vital services they need. He is enthusiastic about continuing the important work of driving positive change and strengthening support systems for vulnerable populations.

Outside of the office, Jesse enjoys life on his family ranch, where he raises horses and chickens. His favorite pastimes include fishing with his wife and spending time on the lake.

Please join us in congratulating Jesse Vanvoorhis on his new role and welcoming him to the leadership team!



Family & Children's Services Quarterly Court Report Timeliness 2025 Qtr 1

Jurisdictional Reports	78%
Dispositional Reports	45%
Semi-Annual Status Review Reports	60%

Mendocino County Department of Social Services Monthly Data

Since June 2024, our new MCDSS Data Dashboard is reporting on multiple data points for Family & Children's Services, Adult & Aging Services, and Employment & Family Assistance Services.

You will find this report at

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/social-services>



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II. Safe & Healthy County



Social Services and CASA of Lake & Mendocino Counties Child Memorial Flag Raising

I would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for acknowledging the importance of child abuse awareness month and CASA for initiating the flag ceremony to raise awareness of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in our community. Preventing abuse is a collective responsibility that involves families, community members, and local agencies working together, and I am proud to see that happen here in Mendocino County.



We know children being exposed to adverse experiences, especially before the age of five when their brain is developing the fastest, can have life long impacts.

I encourage the community to get involved and would like to call out the shift in messaging from the state of California, from a message of mandated reporting to a message of community supporting. We know the highest rates of abuse are cases of neglect, which are often the results of poverty. In March this year almost 80% of the referrals we received were allegations of neglect.

A move toward community supporting means that when we as community members see something concerning, we first think, does this family have all of the resources they would want in order to provide the care their family needs?

Often there are connections we can help with, and as community members we can first make the attempt to connect families to resources and additional supports whenever possible.

I would like to acknowledge the connections and collaborations the Mendocino County Family & Children's Services Division has with local law enforcement, schools, and other community agencies, which I have already had the privilege to experience first-hand.

Finally, I express deep gratitude as Deputy Director of Family & Children's Services to the Board of Supervisors for their support and recognition of the importance of their role in advocating for child abuse awareness.

Renee Alger, Deputy Director Family & Children's Services

Keeping Families Together: How One Mendocino County Program Is Changing Lives—and Needs Your Support

Families without stable housing is a complex societal challenge impacting every community in California. Mendocino County is no exception. One program, Bringing Families Home, has had a significant and positive impact on local families struggling with housing. Unfortunately, funding for this program is expected to be exhausted locally by fall 2025.

[Click here for the full article](#)