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**REQUIRED RESPONSES:**

1. Tulare County Office of Education Findings F1-F5, Recommendation R1.

***\*\*\*Disclaimer\*\*\****

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).



2. AB 403 changed the names of Foster Care Family to Resource Family and Group Home to Short Term Residential Treatment Center.
3. CWS has seven resource homes that qualify (per AB 403) to care for youth with special needs.
4. Social Workers and resource families working with Special Needs Youth require specialized training.
5. The total number of youth under the supervision of CWS is 1,101. Currently 56 cases are special needs (5.09%).
6. CWS has an ongoing recruiting program for Special Needs Resource Families.
7. CWS has an ombudsman program to assist Resource Families.
8. CWS has a 24 hour hot line to aid Resource Families.

## **FINDINGS:**

F1: There are not enough trained Resource Families to meet the needs required by AB 403.

F2: Placement of Special Needs Youth can be with an individual Resource Family, extended family member or a Short Term Residential Treatment Center.

F3: Recruitment efforts are extensive throughout the County at different organized events:

- County events
- School events
- Recreation events
- Private events/meetings (such as clinics, hospitals, schools and clubs)

F4: The specific special needs categories also include youth with the following conditions:

- Diabetes
- G-Tube
- Tracheotomy
- Non- Ambulatory

F5: CWS is looking for Care Families who possess the following characteristics:

- Caring and flexible
- Willing to transport youth to medical appointments
- Willing to learn from and receive training by doctors on how to care for a youth's healthcare needs
- Willing to attend appointments in various settings including clinics and hospitals
- Experienced in caring for youth with health needs or are willing to learn

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

Health and Human Services Agency is committed to meeting the requirements of AB 403.