Understanding LA Systems That Affect Families

A Look at How 40+ Programs Might Touch One Los Angeles Family

Margaret Dunkle

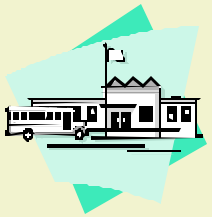
The George Washington University
and
The LA County Children's Planning Council

2002

Margaret Dunkle, mcd729@aol.com

AGENCIES – PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Education



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- ESEA, Title I
- School Lunch & Breakfast
- Head Start
- IDEA
- After-School Programs
- Textbook Funding
- Tests & Achievement
- Teacher Issues
- GED

Health & Food

- Medi-Cal – EPSDT
- Healthy Families Parent Expansion
- Child Health & Disability Program
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- Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- HIV/AIDS Prevention & Education
- Breast Cancer Screening
- Food Stamps
- WIC

Social Services

- TANF
- GAIN, CAL Learn, Cal WORKS, etc.

Child & Family Services

- Child Care – CCDBG, SSBG, Cal WORKS Child Care, etc.
- After-School Programs – 21st Century Learning Centers, etc.
- Promoting Safe & Stable Families
- Child Abuse & Neglect Programs
- Foster Care – Transition, Independent Living, Housing, etc.
- Adoption Assistance, Adoption Opportunities

Mental Health & Probation

- School-Based MH Services for Medi-Cal Kids
- Probation Officers in Schools
- Cardenas-Schiff Legislation
- Health Care Through Probation
- Mental Health Evaluations
- Juvenile Halls

Which Agencies Could Help This Family?

Mom

Dad

9 year old

5 year old

Baby 1 1/2

Mom's sister

Boyfriend in trouble

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What Are the Family's Goals?

- **Good Health** – Get insurance; find out why the youngest isn't talking anymore; & have a healthy baby.
- **Safety & Survival** – Keep the kids away from drugs & the sister's boyfriend; & keep the family together.
- **Economic Well-Being** – Have the husband get back to work; have the wife keep her job; & get training for better jobs.
- **Social & Emotional Well-Being** – Help the sister thru her pregnancy & stay in school in the meantime.
- **Education & Workforce Readiness** – Help the 9-year-old do better in school, & figure out the problem with the 1 ½ year old.

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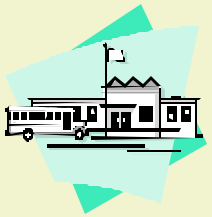

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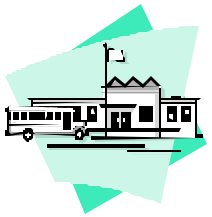

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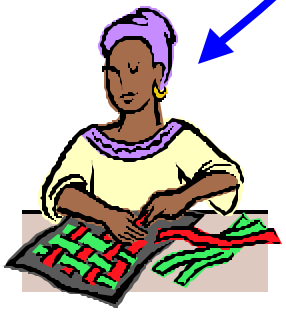

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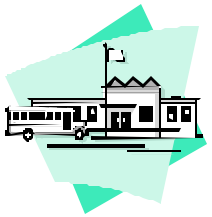

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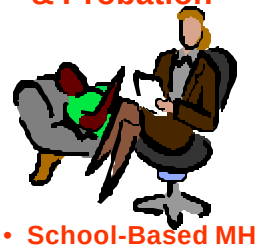

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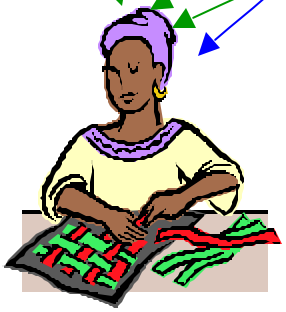

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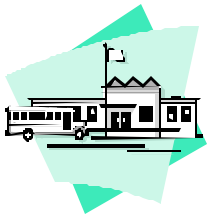

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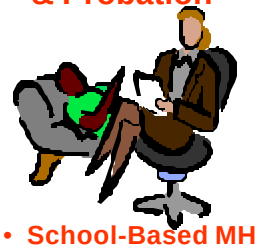

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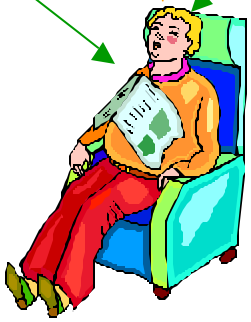

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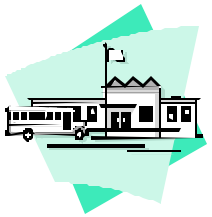

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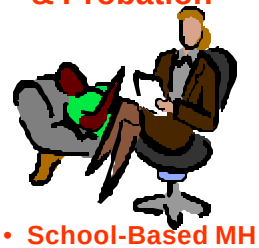

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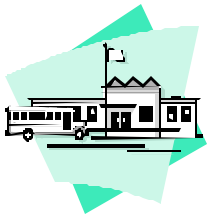

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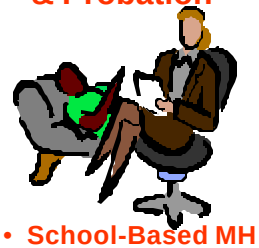

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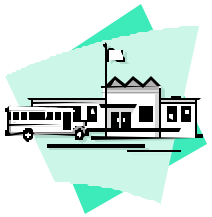

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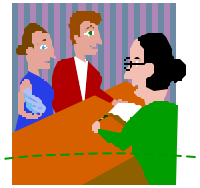

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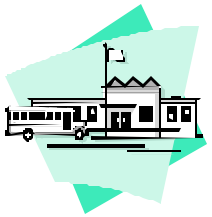

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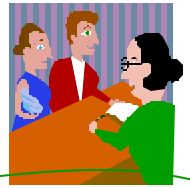

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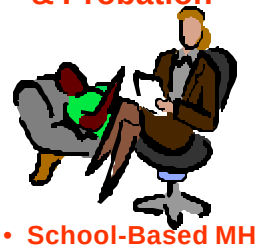

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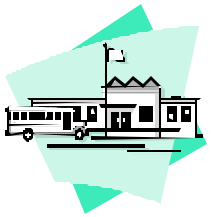

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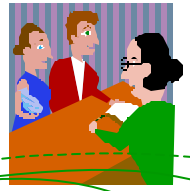

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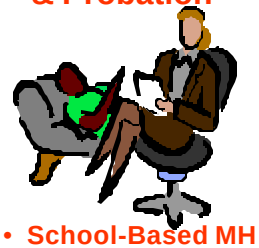
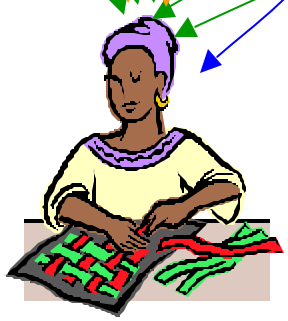
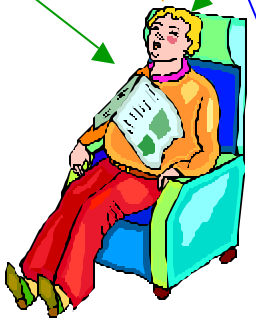


- School-Based MH Services for Medi-Cal Kids
- Probation Officers in Schools
- Cardenas-Schiff Legislation
- Health Care Through Probation
- Mental Health Evaluations
- Juvenile Halls

Boyfriend in trouble



Mom



Dad

9 year old

5 year old

Baby 1 1/2

Mom's sister

Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council

Margaret Dunkle, mcd729@aol.com

How Well Did These Programs Help the Family Meet Its Goals?

- **Good Health** – Get insurance; find out why the youngest isn't talking anymore; & have a healthy baby.
- **Safety & Survival** – Keep the kids away from drugs & the sister's boyfriend; & keep the family together.
- **Economic Well-Being** – Have the husband get back to work; have the wife keep her job; & get training for better jobs.
- **Social & Emotional Well-Being** – Help the sister thru her pregnancy & stay in school in the meantime.
- **Education & Workforce Readiness** – Help the 9-year-old do better in school, & figure out the problem with the 1 ½ year old.

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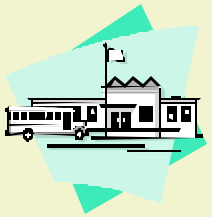
AGENCIES – PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Education



- Public Schools
- ESEA, Title I
- School Lunch & Breakfast
- Head Start
- IDEA
- After-School Programs
- Textbook Funding
- Tests & Achievement
- Teacher Issues
- GED

Health & Food

- Medi-Cal – EPSDT
- Healthy Families Parent Expansion
- Child Health & Disability Program
- Expanded Access Primary Care
- Trauma Case Funding
- Co-payments for ER Services
- Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- HIV/AIDS Prevention & Education
- Breast Cancer Screening
- Food Stamps
- WIC

Social Services

- TANF
- GAIN, CAL Learn, Cal WORKS, etc.

Child & Family Services

- Child Care – CCDBG, SSBG, Cal WORKS Child Care, etc.
- After-School Programs – 21st Century Learning Centers, etc.
- Promoting Safe & Stable Families
- Child Abuse & Neglect Programs
- Foster Care – Transition, Independent Living, Housing, etc.
- Adoption Assistance, Adoption Opportunities

Mental Health & Probation

- School-Based MH Services for Medi-Cal Kids
- Probation Officers in Schools
- Cardenas-Schiff Legislation
- Health Care Through Probation
- Mental Health Evaluations
- Juvenile Halls

Which Agencies Could Help This Family?

Mom

Dad

9 year old

5 year old

Baby 1 1/2

Mom's sister

Boyfriend in trouble

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What Do You Think?

1. Are there too many agencies & programs? Too few? Just right?
2. Were any important programs left out?
3. Do agencies define "family" the same way a family thinks about itself?
4. Which programs *don't* relate to school readiness/school success?
5. Who calls the shots? The feds? The state? The Supervisors? The community? Families? Everybody? Nobody?
6. Is all of this complexity unique to programs & services for children & families? Is LA the only place that is this complex?
7. Can you transform systems without understanding the squirrelly details?
8. Is understanding all of the details *enough* to transform systems?
9. Are some people experts in one system (like education) but novices in another (like health)?
10. How much of the problem – or the solution – is money? What else is there?
11. Thinking about the Family & Systems Slide Show, what one thing would like to change first thing tomorrow?

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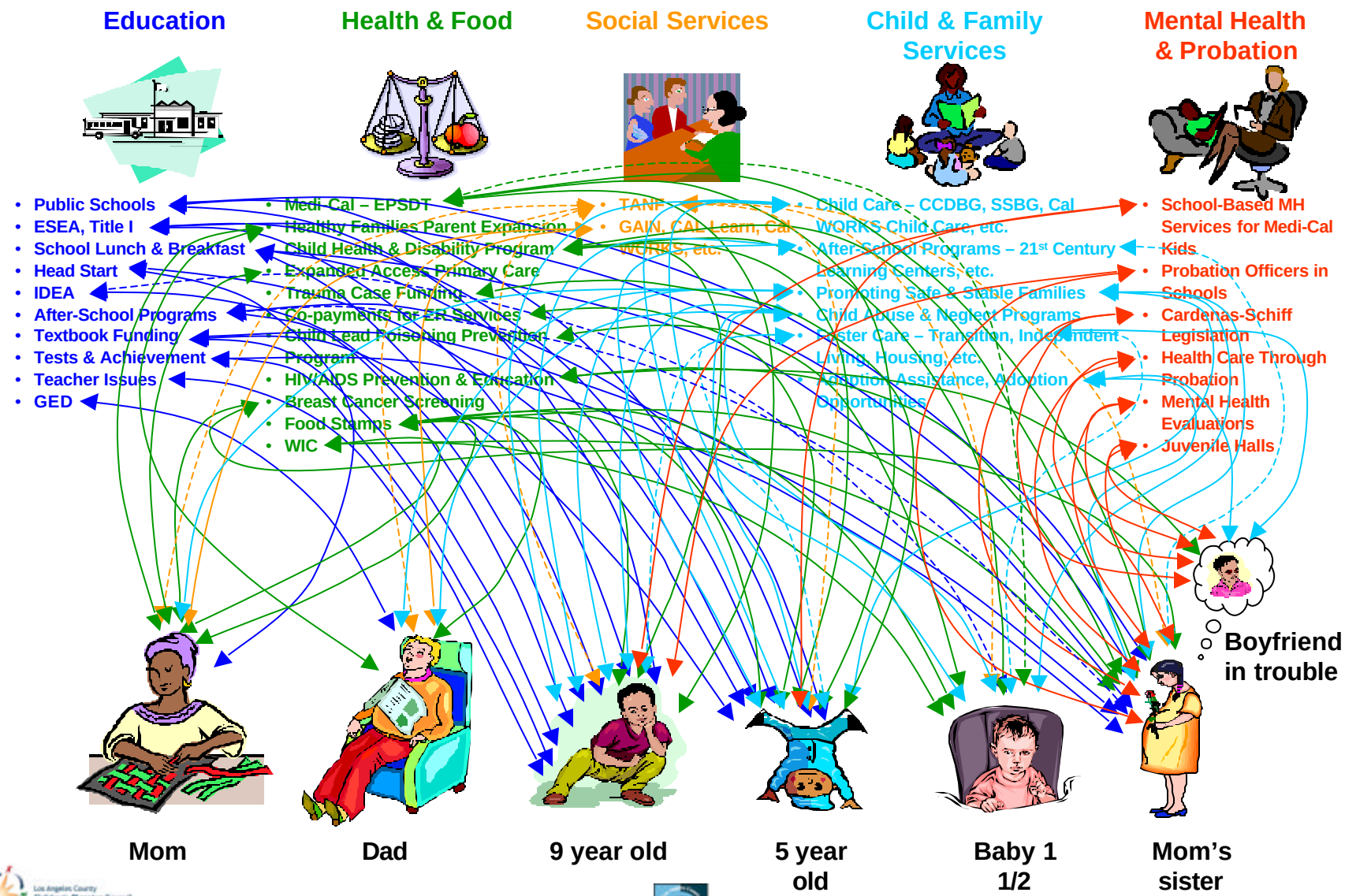
A Look at How 40+ Programs Might Touch One Los Angeles Family

Margaret Dunkle

The George Washington University
& The LA County Children's Planning Council

2002



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