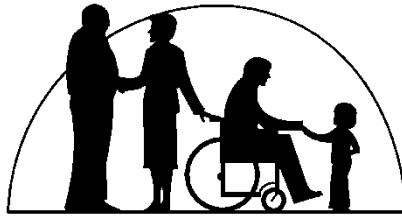


Vulnerable Children and Adults Act (VCA)

Service Plan



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Type of Service plan

Individual county plan

Multi-county plan

County name: Dodge

County names:

Contact Information

Contact person:	Jane Hardwick
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Part A: Needs and Priorities

State the type of needs that the county will be addressing for vulnerable children and adults who experience dependency, abuse or neglect using VCA funds?

Vulnerable children

Children's Mental Health:

Case management: As community partners continue to realize improved outcomes from case management services for children with severe emotional disturbance; referrals for children's mental health case management continue to increase. During the 2010-11 biennium; Dodge County (via a contract with South Central Human Relations Center) increased staffing from 1.0 FTE to 2.0 FTE. As referrals and case loads continued to climb, Dodge County quickly found it necessary to increase to a 3.0 FTE. We will continue to monitor utilization in this area and adjust as necessary.

Mental Health services: For the 2012-13 biennium, Dodge County will direct our efforts to maintaining current business relationships with in-home family therapists and developing new. The challenge in this area continues to be the lack of providers who accept Medical Assistance payments.

Child Safety:

Foster Care. For 2012-13, Dodge County will explore greater collaboration on the recruitment and training of foster care providers

Signs of Safety. For 2012-13, Dodge County will continue to assess the children and family services' staff development and competency level on key tasks and knowledge of key subject areas (including signs of safety). We will continue to prepare and implement employee development plans to assure that we have a well-rounded team with extensive knowledge of state requirements and the ability to implement best practices related to child welfare, child protection, and juvenile probation, as well as child development, child health, chemical dependency and domestic violence.

Child Permanency:

During the 2010-2011 biennium, Dodge County realized the implementation of a Family Dependency Treatment Court. For the 2012-2013 biennium, we will continue to be active partners with the court to provide chemically dependent parents with collaborative, integrated, timely, individualized, and supportive services in order to achieve recovery and prevent the re-occurrence of child maltreatment, neglect and abuse.

Child Well-Being

Strategic Plan. In 2012, Dodge County will review the array of services available to help assure child well-being and develop and implement a strategic plan for addressing gaps in our current system.

Parenting Support. As part of the strategic plan, Dodge County will be examining our Parent Support Outreach Program in an effort to improve the participation rate and the effectiveness of our work in this area.

Family Group Decision-Making. Dodge County continues as an active partner in the multi-county (Dodge, Steele, Freeborn, Rice, Olmsted, and Waseca) FGDM program. With the addition of Olmsted County this year, the program has an increased infrastructure which enhances the program as a whole.

Vulnerable adults

Adult Services:

Foster Care Licensing: Dodge County lacks Adult Family Foster Care providers willing to serve a variety of clients; all of the current providers accept only elderly clients. We have increased our community outreach and continually strive to recruit providers willing to care for persons with mental health issues, and under age sixty-five clients with physical needs.

Adult Protection Assessment. Currently Dodge County does not have a formal Adult Protection Team, but is in the planning stages of development. We are looking at an array of community partners to engage in our future team; and plan to accomplish development and implementation during the 2012-13 biennium.

Guardianship. During the 2010-11 biennium, Dodge County collaborated with Steele and Waseca Counties to look at providing Guardian/Conservatorship services through the counties under a regional model. The collaborative discovered that the counties could not provide the services in a more fiscally conservative manner than private providers. For 2012-13, we will likely explore greater collaboration on the recruitment, training, and monitoring of guardians and conservators.

General Services:

Transportation: Dodge County is a rural county seated between two population centers – Rochester and Owatonna. Providers and services are generally located in these two towns; which makes transportation to services and employment an issue. We contract with SEMCAC to administer our volunteer driver program for medical care, but it is not adequate to meet client needs. The availability of volunteers continues to decrease. Internally, staff is struggling to manage ever-increasing case loads and can rarely transport clients. Transportation is a challenge and will continue to be so.

Part B: Strengths and Resources

A county has many strengths and resources to address the diverse social services needs of vulnerable children and adults. Briefly state what strengths and/or resources will be engaged (continued or implemented) to address the needs stated in Part A above?

Vulnerable children

At present, Dodge County's budget will support the efforts identified in Part A for 2012. However, as Dodge County looks to the next biennium, we cannot help but be concerned as to the pressures on resources; and have concluded, as many other counties have also, that the current structure of the human services system is unsustainable. We have joined with other counties in Region 10 to "redesign" government. The Region 10 Redesign project is well into the planning stages and has received funding from the Bush Foundation to assist with the costs of the project.

Dodge County implemented the Consumer Support Grant in the last biennium, providing an additional funding stream for services to children and adults. The program has been well received in Dodge

County and usage is increasing.

Dodge County has expanded our community presence by sponsoring a booth at local events (county fair, Business Expo, ZED, etc) to promote the various programs and services offered. We continue to take advantage of local opportunities to promote services and programs, and to recruit providers.

With respect to Dodge County human resources, we continue to target training for employees via staff development plans, to help assure that we develop our staff in a well-rounded manner. The small size of our agency is both an asset and a liability; our size limits our ability to have staff specialize to a great degree, but it also means that staff has a wide field of experience and understanding. Our small size in combination with a focus on developing and maintaining strong, collaborative relationships with other county departments (law enforcement, court services, county attorney, public health, etc.) and outside partners enables us to more effectively bridge gaps for clients.

Vulnerable adults

As noted above, Dodge County’s budget will support the efforts identified in Part A for 2012. However, financial pressures on programs for vulnerable adults continue to mount.

Dodge County implemented the Consumer Support Grant in the last biennium, providing an additional funding stream for services to children and adults. The program has been well received in Dodge County and usage is increasing.

Dodge County has expanded our community presence by sponsoring a booth at local events (county fair, Business Expo, ZED, etc) to promote the various programs and services offered. We continue to take advantage of local opportunities to promote services and programs, and to recruit providers.

The Adult Services staff has cross-trained in Vulnerable Adult investigation and Adult Protection Services. They continue to attend the monthly regional adult protection meeting for current information; and to access the group’s expertise in the planning process for the development of a Dodge County team.

Part C: Measures and Performances

Access the link below to review the county’s CY 2010 performance on VCA measures.

[CY 2010 Performance Summary on VCA Federal and State Measures](#)

Use the county’s performance summary to complete the table and questions below. In the table, enter the county’s performance on each of the measures and enter a “✓” if the standard was met, or an “✗” if the standard was not met in CY 2010. In the last two columns, set practical performance targets the county will work towards achieving in 2012 and 2013.

Federal and State Measures

Measures (abbreviated)	Standard (STD)	2010 State/County Performance			Anticipated Targets
		State	County	STD Met?	

				(✓ or ✗)	2012	2013
1. No repeat maltreatment w/in six mths.	≥ 94.6 %	✓ 95.1%	100%	✓	100%	100%
2. Re-entered foster care w/in 12 mths.	≤ 9.9 %	✗ 24.4%	50%	✗	38%	26%
3. Reunified w/in 12 mths.	≥ 75.2 %	✓ 84.5%	68.8%	✗	75%	80%
4. Adopted w/in 24 mths	≥ 36.6 %	✓ 48.2%	100%	✓	100%	100%
5. Two or fewer pl. settings w/in 12 mths.	≥ 86.0 %	✓ 86.8%	76.2%	✗	80%	87%
6. Health examination w/in 12 mths.	≥ 63.5%	✗ 56.4%	33.3%	✗	45%	60%

≥ = Greater than or equal to; ≤ = Less than or equal to; ✓ = Standard met; ✗ = Standard not met

For each measure for which the county did not meet the standard, identify the measure below and discuss what plans are in place to improve performance on the respective measure. Include what issues/barriers/challenges are hindering the county from meeting the standard, and what may need to be changed or be done differently to achieve the stated targets (add more boxes, if needed).

Measure #: 2	<p>Re-entered foster care within 12 months</p> <p><i>In 2010, 4 of the 8 children who exited foster care re-entered in less than 12 months. Accordingly, Dodge County's performance for CY 2010 was 50% or 40.1 percentage points above the federal target of 9.9%. To meet this target, none of the eight children could have re-entered foster care.</i></p> <p><i>For the 2012-13 biennium, Dodge County will continue to strive to reduce our percentages to meet identified targets. This will be difficult due to the small population of children in placement in Dodge County; even one child returning to foster care may mean Dodge County does not meet identified goals.</i></p> <p><i>To improve our performance in this area, we will continue to implement our plan for reducing the rate of foster care re-entry:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure that SSIS guidelines for defining placement are consistently followed.</i> • <i>Employ practice standards to avoid the need for out-of-home placement.</i> • <i>Consistent monitoring of these standards</i> • <i>All children placed by Human Services and who re-enter foster care will be reviewed.</i> • <i>Human Services will engage with Community Corrections/Juvenile Probation on out-of-home placement re-entry.</i>
Measure #:3	<p>Reunified within twelve months</p> <p><i>In 2010, 11 of the 16 children who exited foster care were reunified with their families in less than 12 months. Accordingly, Dodge County's performance for CY2010 was 68.8% or 6.4 percentage points below the federal target of 75.2%. In order to have met this goal, twelve of the sixteen children would have needed to be reunified within twelve months.</i></p> <p><i>To improve our performance in this area, Dodge County will review placements in a timely on-going process in order to keep reunification efforts with the family progressing consistently. In addition, again this year we will be hiring a new</i></p>

	<i>supervisor for child and family services who will be held accountable for increasing Dodge County's performance in this area.</i>
Measure #:5	Two or fewer placement settings within 12 months.
	<p><i>In 2010, 15 of the 20 children in foster care settings had two or fewer placement settings. Accordingly, Dodge County's performance for CY2010 was 75% or 9 percentage points below the federal target of 86%. In order to have met this goal, 18 or more children would have needed to remain in one foster care setting for twelve months.</i></p> <p><i>To improve our performance in this area, Dodge County will re-examine its current processes for identifying and using kinship placements. It is expected that increased use of this placement option will reduce the number of times a child is moved. In addition, again this year, Dodge County will be hiring a new supervisor for child and family services who will be held accountable for increasing Dodge County's performance in this area.</i></p>
Measure #:6	Health examination within 12 months.
	<p><i>In 2010, approximately one-third of the children in placement had a health examination. Accordingly, Dodge County's performance for CY 2010 was 30.2 percentage points below the federal target of 63.5% or approximately two-thirds of the children.</i></p> <p><i>For the 2012-13 biennium, Dodge County will continue to strive to increase our percentages to meet identified targets. This will be difficult due to the small population of children in placement in Dodge County; even one child not receiving a health examination may mean Dodge County does not meet identified goals.</i></p> <p><i>To improve our performance in this area, Dodge County will develop and focus on a plan, which emphasizes access to health insurance, to fulfill the expectation associated with health exam for children in out-of-home placement. Dodge County will also utilize a medical service that will be new to Dodge County in 2012; a mobile health clinic intended to serve uninsured and underinsured clients.</i></p>

Part D: Budget

Access the link below to review the county's CY 2012 allocation. Use the county's allocation to complete the budget table below.

[Vulnerable Children and Adults Act CY 2012 Allocation](#)

Fill in the proportion (percent) of the county's VCA allocation that will be budgeted for vulnerable children and adult services for CY 2012 and beyond. Because VCA funds are directed at vulnerable children and adults, only two budget line items are listed. Subsequently, the department will apply these proportions to the most currently available allocation data. If the county changes these proportions at any time, the department should be informed by sending an email to: paul.ramcharit@state.mn.us.

VCA budget	CY 2012 and beyond
Children services	50%
Adult services	50%
Total	100%

Part E: Certification and Assurances

Federal Certifications

The federal Office of Community Services (OCS) requires the following certifications for the use of federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds (CFDA # 93.667, federal award number 0901MNSOSR, 1001MNSOSR, 0601MNSOS2). Follow the links for a complete description of each certification. Checking these boxes certifies that the county complies with these requirements for the use of SSBG funds administered through the service plan and county sub-contracting process.

- Drug Free Workplace
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/drug_free.html
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/tobacco.html>
- Lobbying
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/lobbying.html>
- Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters**
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/debarment.html>

Public Input

Prior to submission, did the county facilitate a process for soliciting public input for at least 30 days on the contents of the agreement?

Yes No Was public input received/used? Yes No

Assurances

It is understood and agreed by the county board that funds granted pursuant to this service plan will be expended for the purposes outlined in Minn.Stat.§256M; that the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services has the authority to review and monitor compliance with the service plan, and that documentation of compliance will be available for audit; and that the county shall make reasonable efforts to comply with all VCA requirements including documenting annual public input processes.

Service Plan Certification

Checking this box certifies that this service plan has been prepared as required and approved by the county board(s) under the provisions of [Minn. Stat. §256M](#). In the box below, state the name of the chair of the county board of commissioners or authorized designee, their mailing address and the name of the county.

Name (chair or designee)	Mailing address	County
David Erickson	22 East 6 th Street, Dept. 31, Mantorville, MN 55955	Dodge

Date of Certification:

November 22, 2011