

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: Stearns

County names:

Contact Information

Contact person:	Mark Sizer
Title:	Human Services Administrator
Address:	705 Courthouse Square, PO Box 1107, St. Cloud, MN 56302
Telephone:	320-656-6000
Email address:	mark.sizer@co.stearns.mn.us

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

- Earlier and more effective relative searches for placement options and family support
- Engagement of non-custodial parents
- Increased support and development opportunities for licensed family child foster care providers
- Decrease foster care re-entry rate
- Finalize adoptions sooner
- Decrease the number of placements children experience when placed out of their home

Vulnerable adults

- Common Entry Point (CEP) for reports of vulnerable adult maltreatment
- Adult protection investigation, visits, and activities
- Guardianship services

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

All strengths and resources are continued. There are no plans for implementation of new resources.
STRENGTHS

- Family Group Decision Making
- Established process for licensing family child foster care providers
- Use of Signs of Safety
- Family Dependency Treatment Court
- Timely and targeted court hearings
- Use of trial home visits
- Child Placement Screening Team – an effective, established process involving parent voice
- Child Maltreatment Screening Team
- Effective use of Family Assessment
- Accessibility to supervision is high
- High level of engagement – effective safety planning
- Effective use of formal assessment tools
- Strong collaboration between community corrections, children’s mental health, and child protection

RESOURCES

- 24 hour mobile crisis response team
- Access to crisis respite
- Solid network of service providers
- School based mental health
- Wraparound services

- Cultural liaisons
- Active Children’s Justice Initiative
- Efforts to address homelessness, mental health, and chemical use issues are addressed with community partners and treatment providers.
- THRIVE
- Stearns County Human Services Public Health *First Step* Home Visiting Program

Vulnerable adults

All strengths and resources are continued. There are no plans for implementation of new resources.
STRENGTHS

- Well defined policy and procedure for Responding to the Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults, which includes taking and routing comment entry point (CEP) reports
- Staff who are knowledgeable about department and community resources
- Strong coordination with community resources.

RESOURCES

- Contracted guardian/conservator services
- Representative payee services through Stearns County
- Referrals for eligible vulnerable adults for Medical Assistance waiver services, targeted case management services for persons with developmental disabilities/mental illness and other issues, or other existing services and funding streams

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%	77.8%	✗	95%	95%
2. Re-entered foster care w/in 12 mths.	≤ 9.9 %	✗ 24.4%	32.7%	✗	25%	20%
3. Reunified w/in 12 mths.	≥ 75.2 %	✓ 84.5%	89.6%	✓		
4. Adopted w/in 24 mths	≥ 36.6 %	✓ 48.2%	22.6%	✗	25%	28%
5. Two or fewer pl. settings w/in 12 mths.	≥ 86.0 %	✓ 86.8%	81.4%	✗	83%	86%
6. Health examination w/in 12 mths.	≥ 63.5%	✗ 56.4%	84.1%	✓		

≥ = 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 #1:	<p><u>No repeat maltreatment</u>. Standard is $\geq 94.6\%$. Stearns County 2010 was 77.8%. Stearns County SSIS data for 1/1/11 – 6/30/11 showed 98.1%. Child Welfare Data Dashboard for Stearns County for 1/1/11 – 3/31/11 was 100% and for 4/1/11 – 6/30/11 was 94.4%.</p> <p>Numbers have ranged from 100% to 77.8% and back to 98.1%. Given the numbers of children with maltreatment determined, one family situation can drop the number dramatically. We will continue efforts to assure safety and develop comprehensive safety plans to reduce potential for repeat maltreatment.</p>
Measure #2:	<p><u>Re-enter foster care within 12 months</u>. Standard is $\leq 9.9\%$. Stearns County 2010 was 32.7%. Stearns County SSIS data for 7/1/10 – 6/30/11 was 22.8% (sub-populations queried showed Community Corrections was 48.3% and Family and Children Services was 10.8%). Child Welfare Data Dashboard for Stearns County for 1/1/11 – 3/31/11 was 68.2% and for 4/1/11 – 6/30/11 was 18.8%.</p> <p>Frequency of re-entry into placement due to juvenile delinquency and due to child protection/child welfare/disabilities have been reduced in the past year. The re-entry rate for non-delinquency placements is well below the state average and 0.9% from the federal goal. Many other counties do not include placements due to delinquency, which historically have a higher rate of re-entry. As long as this is included, the potential for higher numbers for the county is great. Efforts are being made to develop alternatives to delinquency placements.</p>
Measure #4:	<p><u>Adopted within 24 months</u>. Standard is $\geq 36.6\%$. Stearns County 2010 was 22.6%. Stearns County SSIS data for 7/1/10 – 6/30/11 was 21.7%. Child Welfare Data Dashboard for Stearns County for 1/1/11 – 3/31/11 was 100.0% and for 4/1/11 – 6/30/11 was 0.0%.</p> <p>We continue to work on increasing the number of children whose adoptions are finalized within 24 months of initial placement. Large sibling groups have been difficult to locate placements able to meet the needs of all the children. Social workers who work in this area are now being assigned as secondary workers as soon as a TPR petition is filed in an effort to speed the process and location of a permanent home.</p>
Measure #5:	<p><u>Two or fewer placement settings within 12 months</u>. Standard is $\geq 86.0\%$. Stearns County 2010 was 81.4%. Stearns County SSIS data for 7/1/10 – 6/30/11 was 82.9% (sub-populations queried showed Community Corrections was 78% and Family and Children Services was 85.6%). Child Welfare Data Dashboard for Stearns County for 1/1/11 – 3/31/11 was 83.0% and for 4/1/11 – 6/30/11 was 82.0%.</p> <p>Placements due to delinquency, due to the nature of the behavior issues presented by this population, typically have a higher rate of moves and also a higher re-entry rate, both of which affect this factor. The non-delinquency placements are within 0.4% of the federal goal. Reducing re-entry rates and increasing use of relative placements are both efforts which we anticipate will reduce the number of placement settings.</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	66.25%
Adult services	33.75%
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
Donald R. Otte, Stearns County Human Services Board Chair	705 Courthouse Square, PO Box 1107, St. Cloud, MN 56302	STEARNS

Date of Certification:

October 4, 2011