



**Social Services Agency**

# **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION – CALWORKs MODEL**

## **At Risk of Entering CWS**

**Pam Booze, Program Manager II**

**CalWORKs**

**Orange County Social Services Agency**

**Linkages II**

**October 28, 2004**

# What We Did Before In CalWORKs

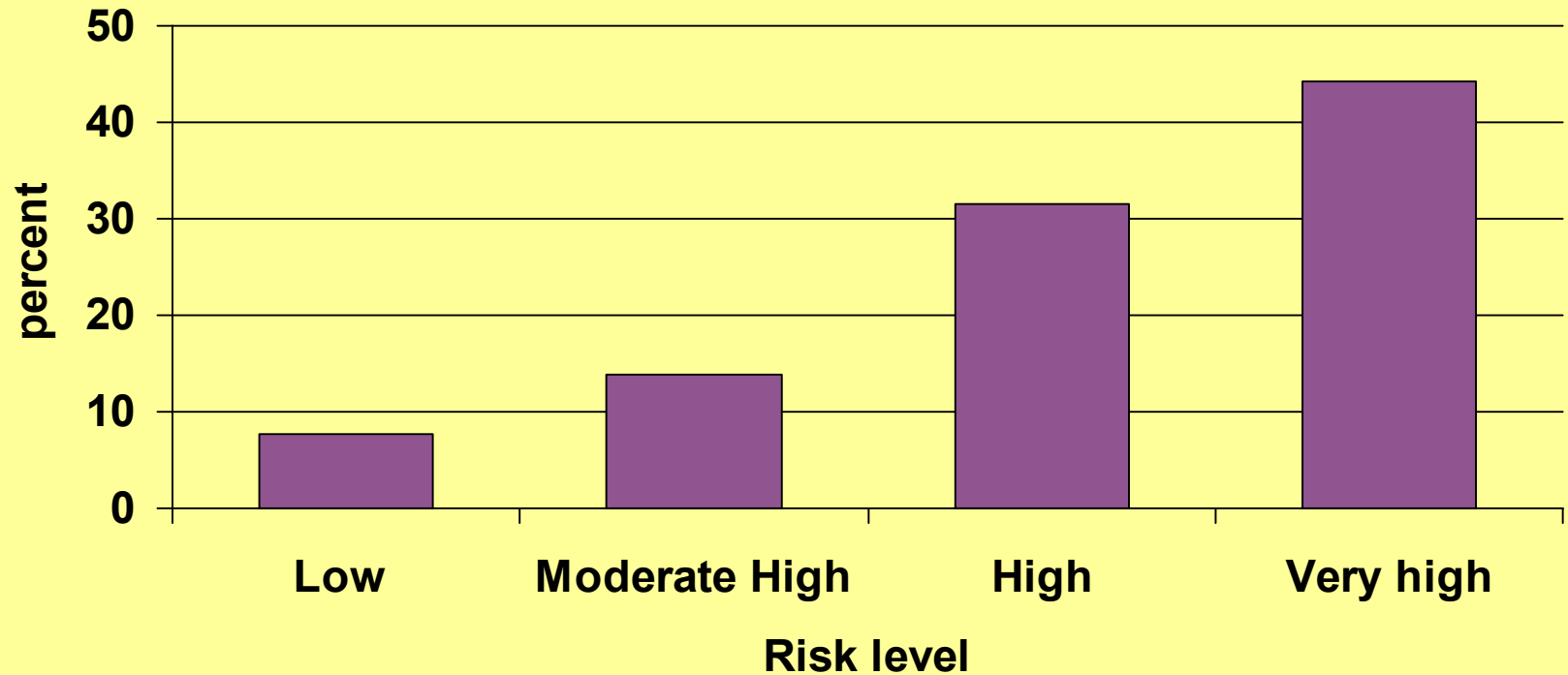
- We fulfilled our responsibility as mandated reporters and reported families that met the criteria for a child abuse referral.
- However, we still had concerns for children in some families that did not meet the criteria for a child abuse referral.
- When we made a referral, we received no feedback about the referral, even when a case was not opened.

# What We Do Now In Child Welfare

- Use Structured Decision Making (SDM)
- This instrument helps determine level of risk for reoccurrence of child abuse
- SDM identifies key decision points
  - Provides structured assessment
- SDM increases consistency and accuracy
- Targets resources to families most at risk
- Uses case level information in aggregate to inform agency decisions

# When a Child Abuse Report is made: Among substantiated and inconclusive investigations, what is the likelihood that those families will maltreat their child again?

Rate of re-substantiation within 24 months



California risk study, 1998, N=2,511

# The Question We Asked Ourselves

- Could the SDM Risk Assessment Tool be adapted to help us assess risk of child maltreatment in CalWORKs families?

## Our Rationale –

- CalWORKs applicants are at higher risk for child maltreatment than the general population.
- Offering voluntary preventive services may reduce future child maltreatment among CalWORKs applicants.
- Not all CalWORKs applicants are at risk.
- Preventive services are limited and need to be targeted to families at greatest risk.

# **STEP ONE to explore a new risk assessment tool for CalWORKs clients**

- **Literature review**
  - Substantial overlap of CPS and TANF populations
  - Content of items on risk tool consistent with literature that identifies characteristics of TANF families most likely to also have CPS referrals
  - Available at [www.nccd-crc.org](http://www.nccd-crc.org)

# Timeline for Development and Implementation

- Revise the Family Risk Assessment into the California CalWORKs Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Services Screening Tool
- Field Test, July – August 2004
- San Luis Obispo County participating
- Risk Assessment refinement
- Training for Trainers – October 2004
- Phase I of Implementation – November 2004 – June 2005

# General Principles for the O.C. Child Abuse Prevention Model

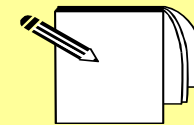
- Voluntary
- Strength-based approach to interviewing
- All high and very high risk families will be offered services
- Mutual clients will not receive a CalWORKs risk assessment
- Child Abuse referrals will be done when there are indications that the child is being abused according to current mandated reporting responsibilities



Application

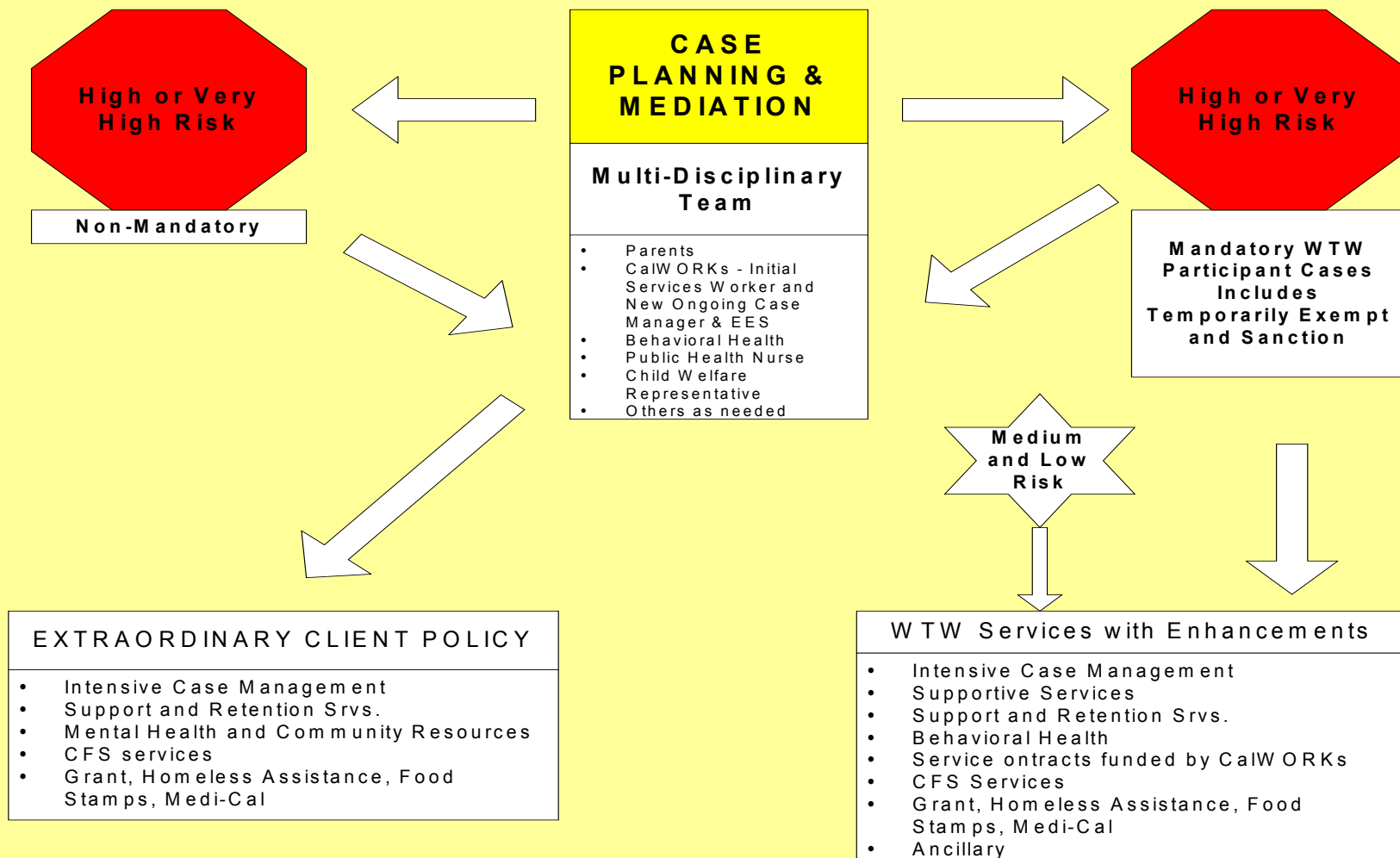


Informed Consent and Agreement to Participate



Collecting the Data

- Family Self-Assessment
- Interview
- Statement of Facts
- Immediate Need and services determination



**EXTRAORDINARY CLIENT POLICY**

- Intensive Case Management
- Support and Retention Svcs.
- Mental Health and Community Resources
- CFS services
- Grant, Homeless Assistance, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal

**WTW Services with Enhancements**

- Intensive Case Management
- Supportive Services
- Support and Retention Svcs.
- Behavioral Health
- Service ontracts funded by CalWORKs
- CFS Services
- Grant, Homeless Assistance, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal
- Ancillary

# CalWORKs – New Territory

- CWS/CMS information about prior referrals to Children and Family Services and substantiated abuse
- Informed consent signed by the client
- Further expansion of eligibility questions to lead to risk determination and service need identification
- Collaboration with CFS to support a client who has not been referred to the registry

# Planned Responses/Services

- Utilization of current WTW service menu
  - Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Parenting Services
  - Basic Need resolution
  - CalWORKs Supportive Services
- Collaboration with Community for non-WTW services (Denials, Exemptions, Child-Only and Safety Net)
  - Family Resource Centers
  - Marriage Initiative Programs
  - Youth Intervention Programs
- Child Welfare Services

# Early Reactions to Field Test

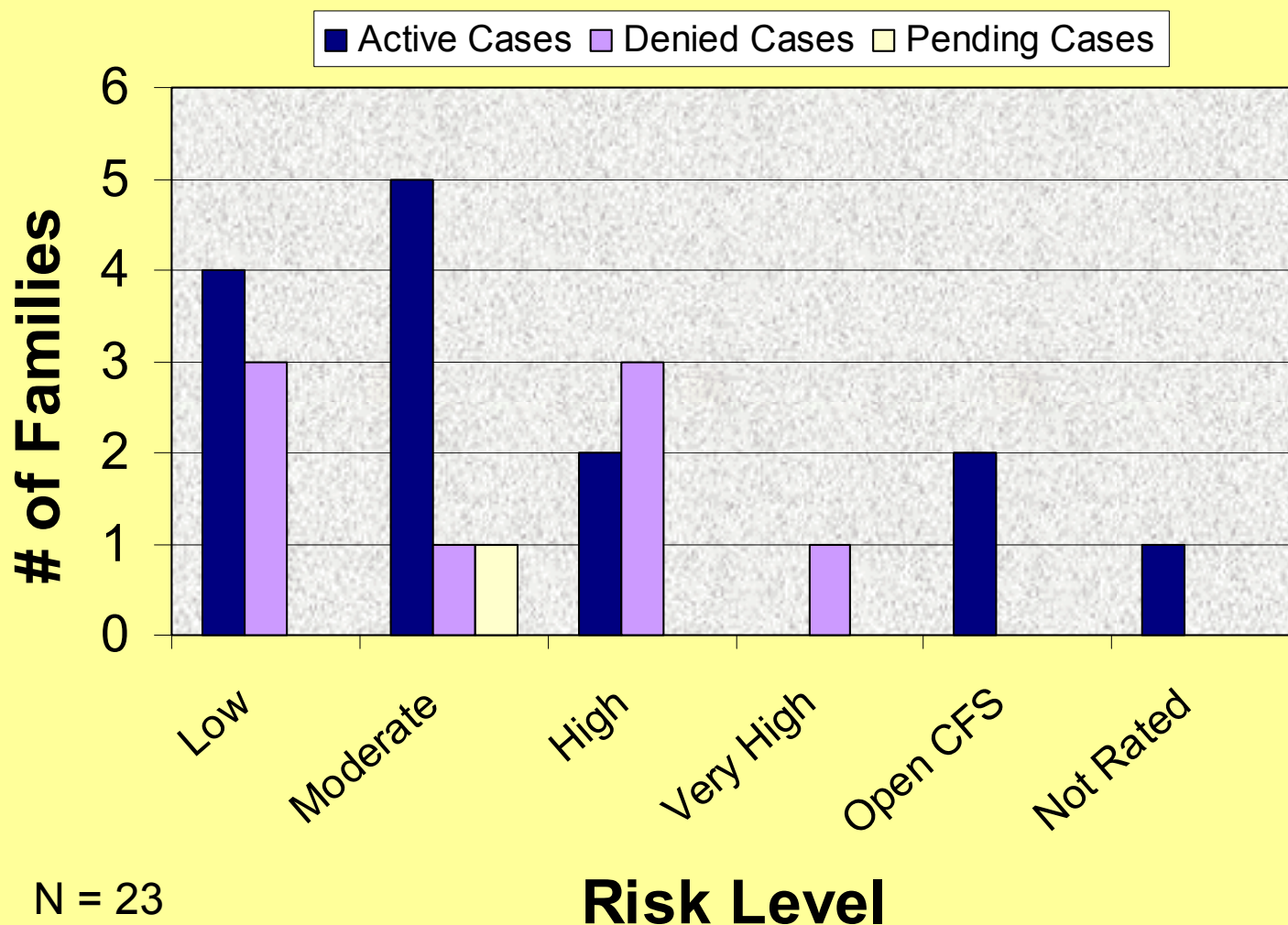
## Social Workers

- Anxious to implement
- Minimal workload impact
- Feel prepared

## Clients

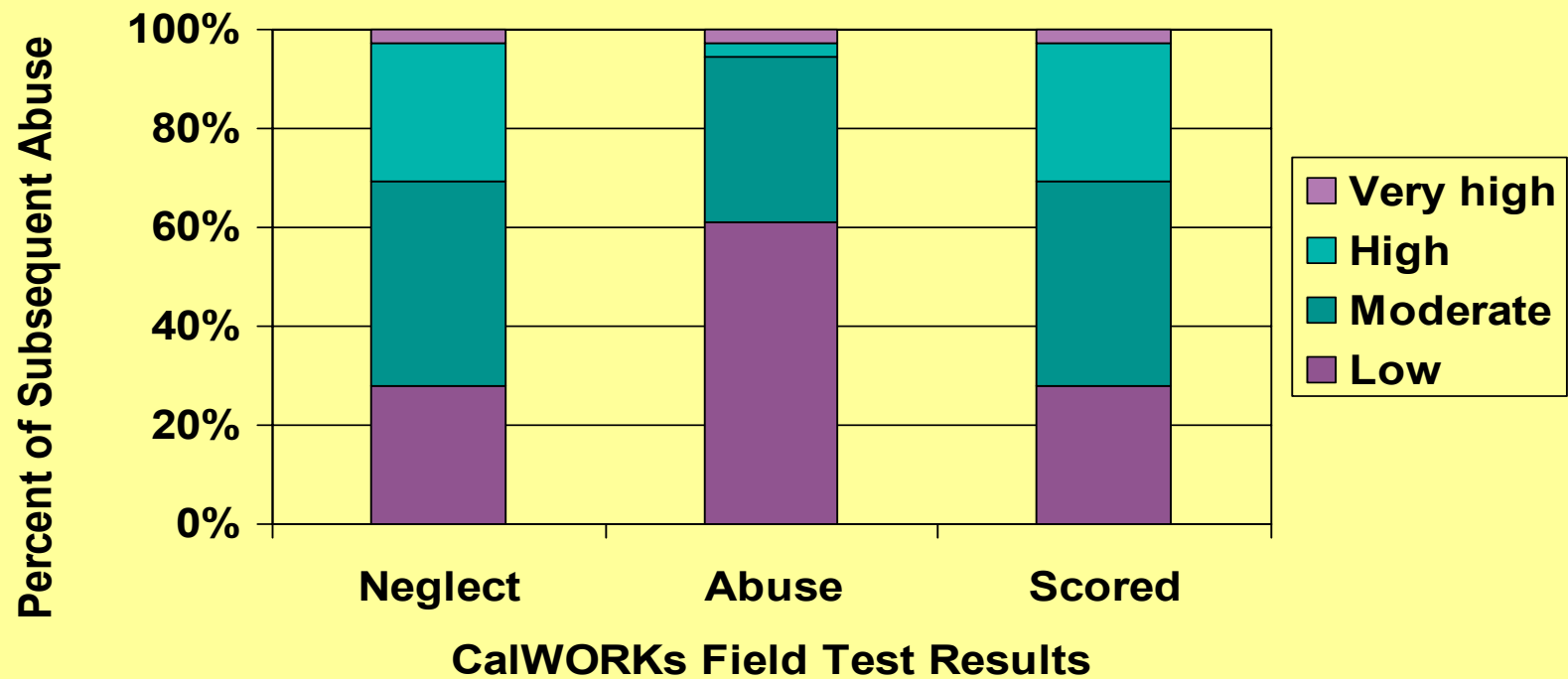
- Many willing to participate
- Interested in services

# Preliminary results from the O.C. Field Test – Using the CalWORKs Child Abuse Prevention Tool



# Risk Level Breakdown

- Combining O.C. and S.L.O.
- Illustrating variations between Neglect and Abuse Issues
- How it added up to a Final Risk Level



# NEXT STEPS

- Expand to all staff, all districts
- Two – Three Year Data Collection
- Risk Assessment Validation Study within the next five years
- Social Workers will conduct re-assessment one year following initial risk assessment

# **QUESTIONS?**

**Contact:**

**Pam Boozan, Program Manager II**

**CalWORKs**

**Orange County Social Services Agency**

**714-541-7787**

**Pamela.Boozan@ssa.ocgov.com**

**THANK YOU**