

Working Together

On the Road To Family Self-Sufficiency

Presenters:

Tamara Thomas, Stanislaus County DCSS

Sharon Wardale-Trejo, Merced County DCSS

Kathy Harwell, Stanislaus County CSA, Moderator



1 Where We Have Been

2 The Current Journey

3 The Destination



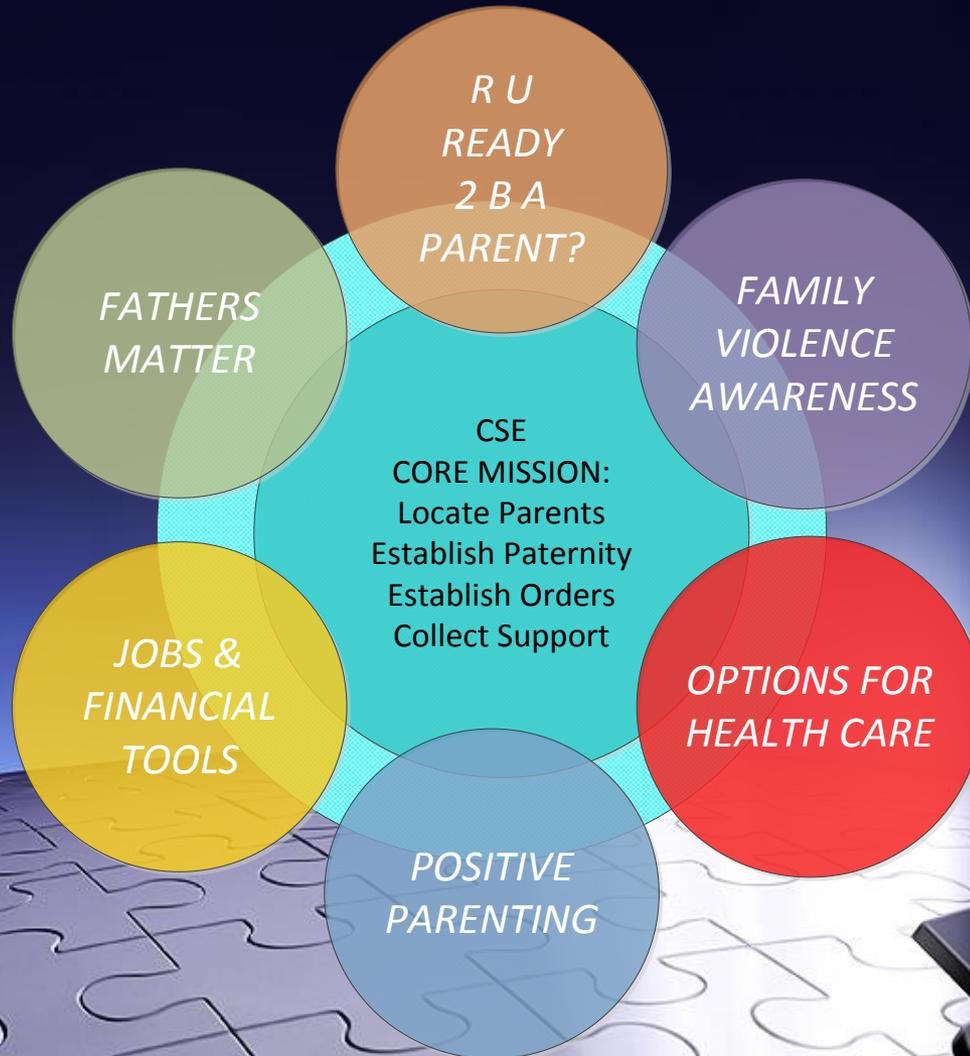
WHERE WE HAVE BEEN



Federal Vision – Family Centered Approach



California - Family Centered Approach

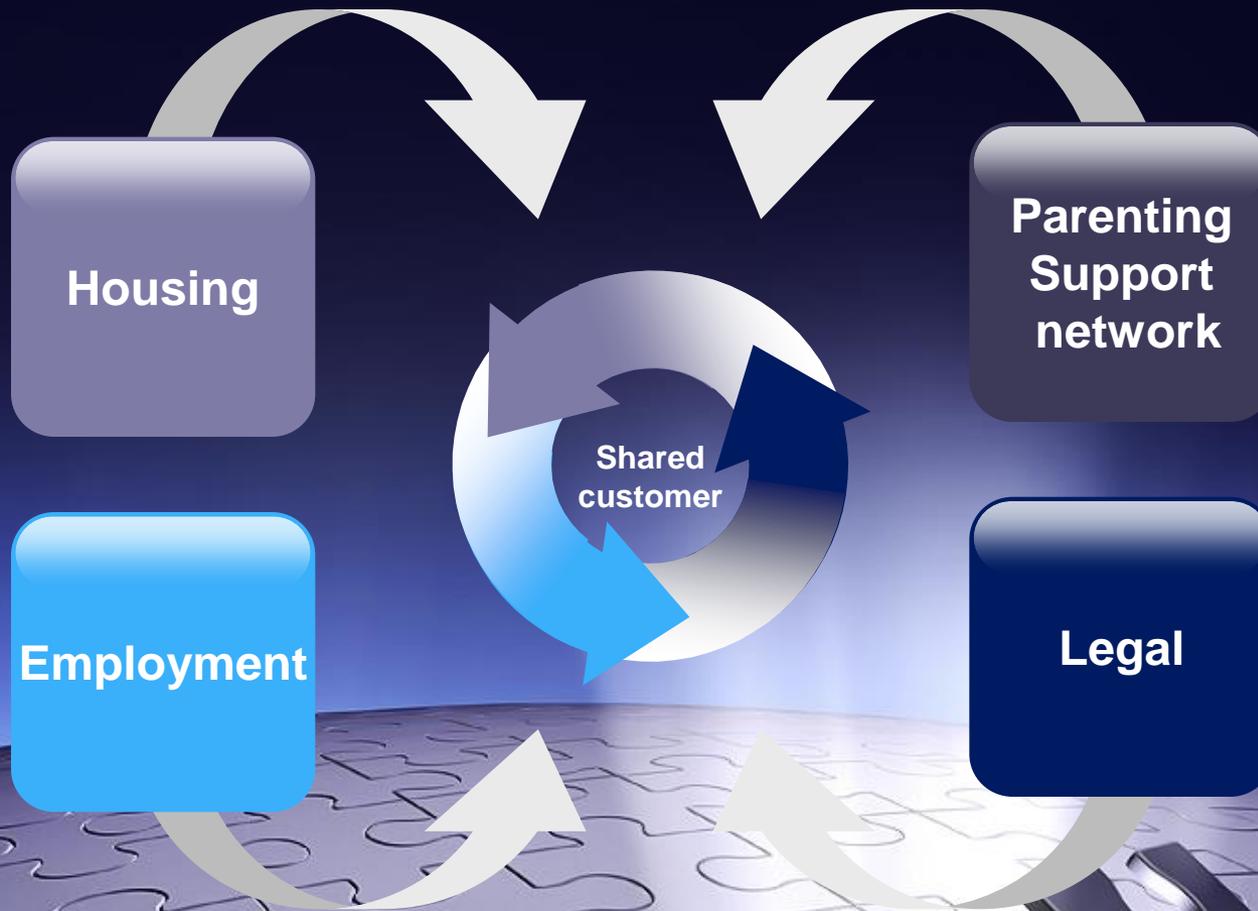


Statewide Initiatives

- 2011 CA Demonstration Grant
- 2014 CSDA Policy Symposium



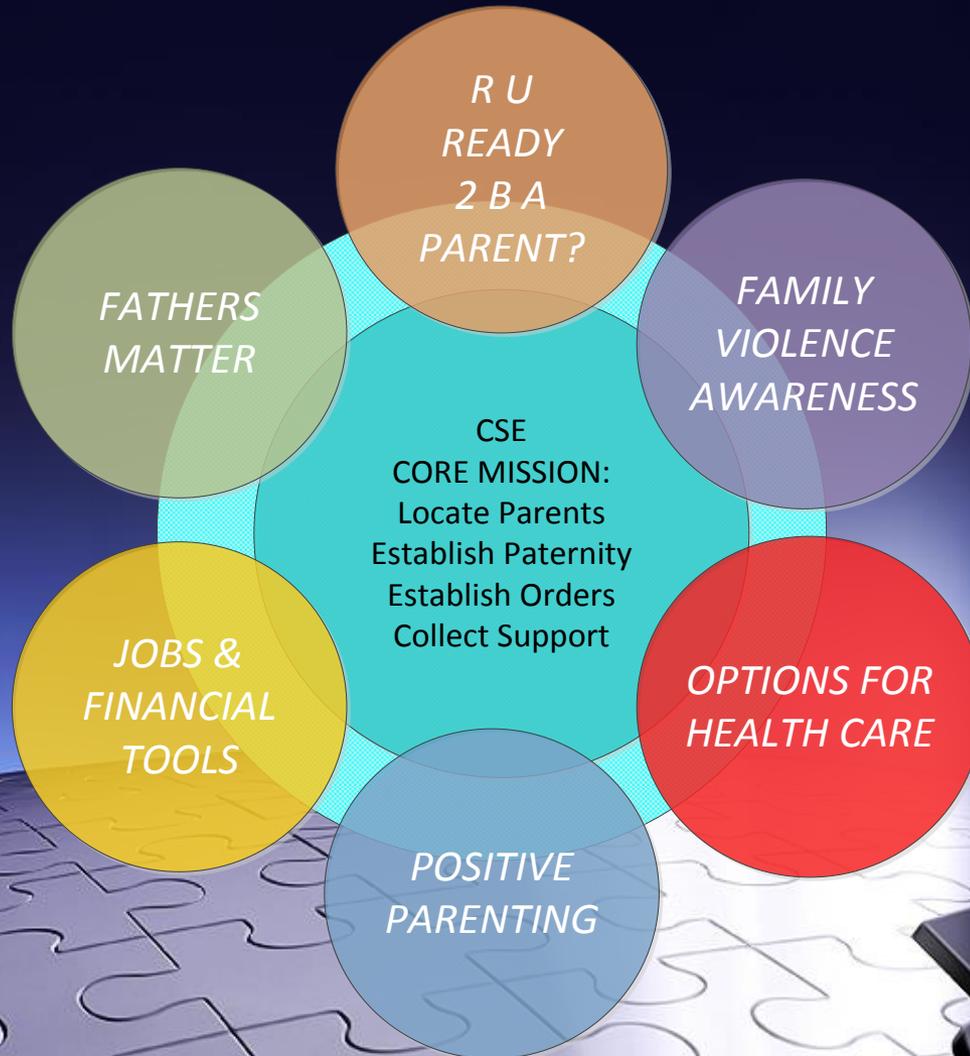
Barriers for Our Customers



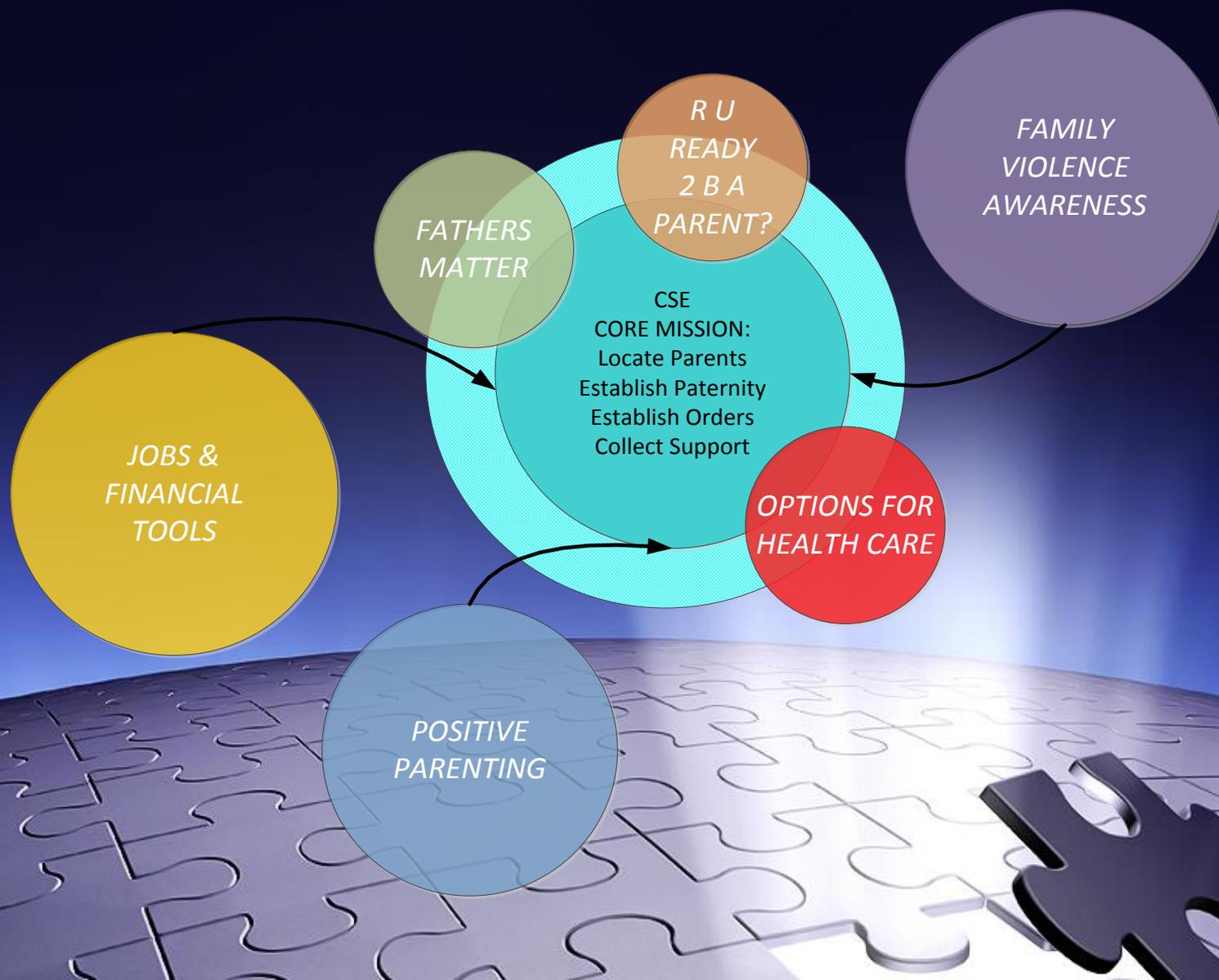
THE CURRENT JOURNEY



California - Family Centered Approach



Stanislaus County 2012 Grant



Areas of Concern

- High Unemployment in Stanislaus County
- Significant number of parents not meeting their financial obligations
- Child support agencies lack resources and expertise to address barriers that prevent parents from paying support.



An Exciting Opportunity for Stanislaus

- A national evidence based demonstration project
- A chance to shape national policy
- A chance to remove barriers from our non-paying caseloads, build partnerships and seek opportunities for sustained child support payments



CSPED/PASS

- Goal of CSPED
- Target population
- Working together
- The First Years
- Outcomes





Goal of
CSPED

To increase
reliable child support payments
among unemployed and
underemployed parents,
thereby improving child wellbeing
and avoiding public costs.



Who qualifies?

Valid SSN

Paternity

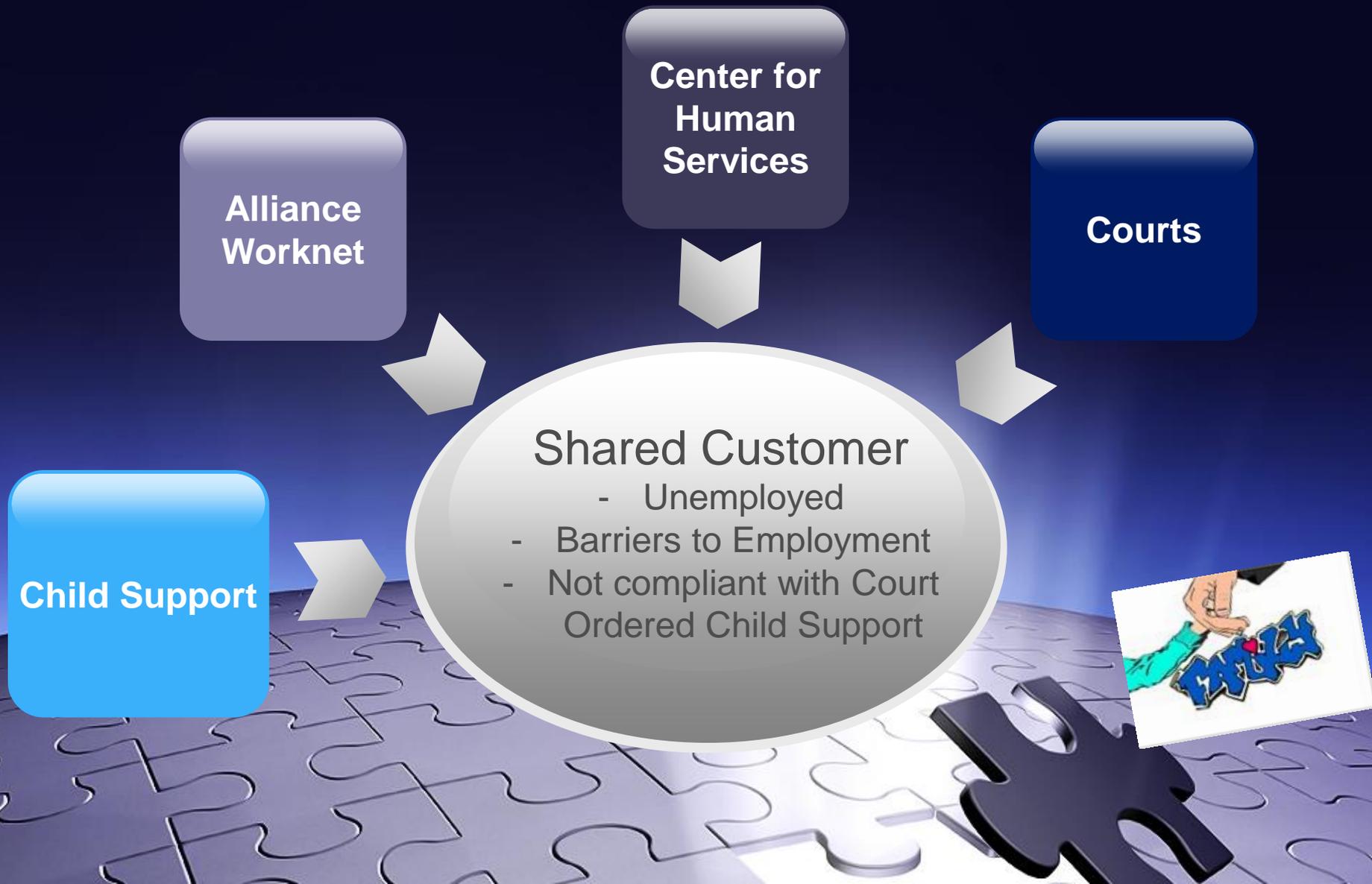


Lack of regular payments due to unemployment

IV-D Program



Building a Partnership to Assist Shared Customers



How We Work Together

Child Support

Courts

**Alliance
Worknet**

**Center for
Human
Services**

**Women's
Haven
Center**

**Identify &
Recruit**

**Informed
consent
Baseline
survey
RA 750/750
DV screen
Enhanced CS**

Modify

**Orientations
PASS
Calendar**

Employ

**Training
Job search
Placement
Retention**

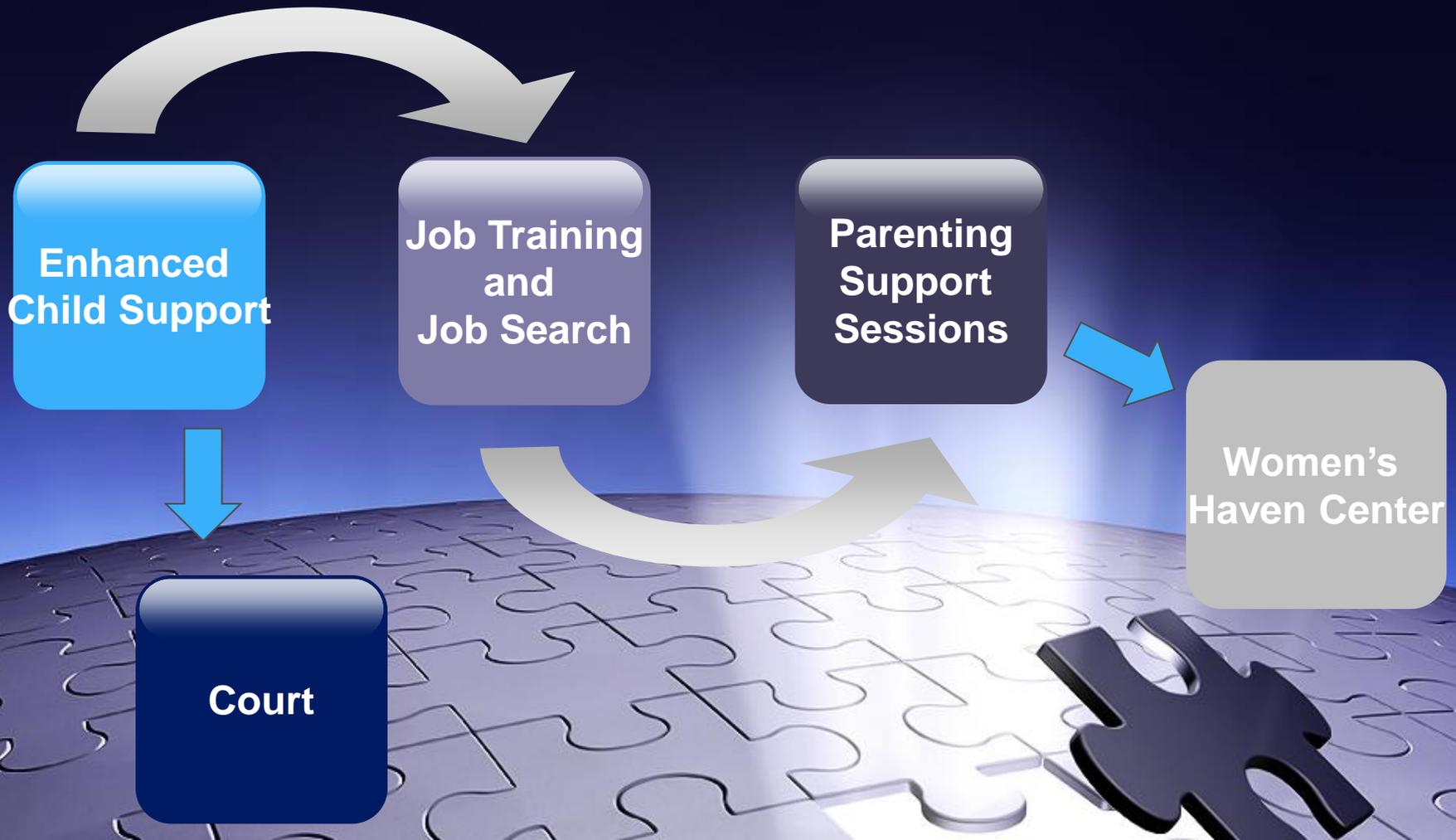
Guide

**Parenting
Sessions
On My
Shoulders**

**Train-
Treat**

**DV
Referrals
Train Staff**

I got Extra Services! Now what?



Year One



- Submission of fatherhood curriculum and domestic violence plan for approval from OCSE;
- Developed and finalized plans with key partners;
- Worked with State for unique Arrears Reduction Plan
- Limited Outreach and Education
- Random Assignment Enrollment began October 2013



Year Two (AKA Year 1 for Enrollment)



The first few months



Mid-course corrections



Refine processes

Results:

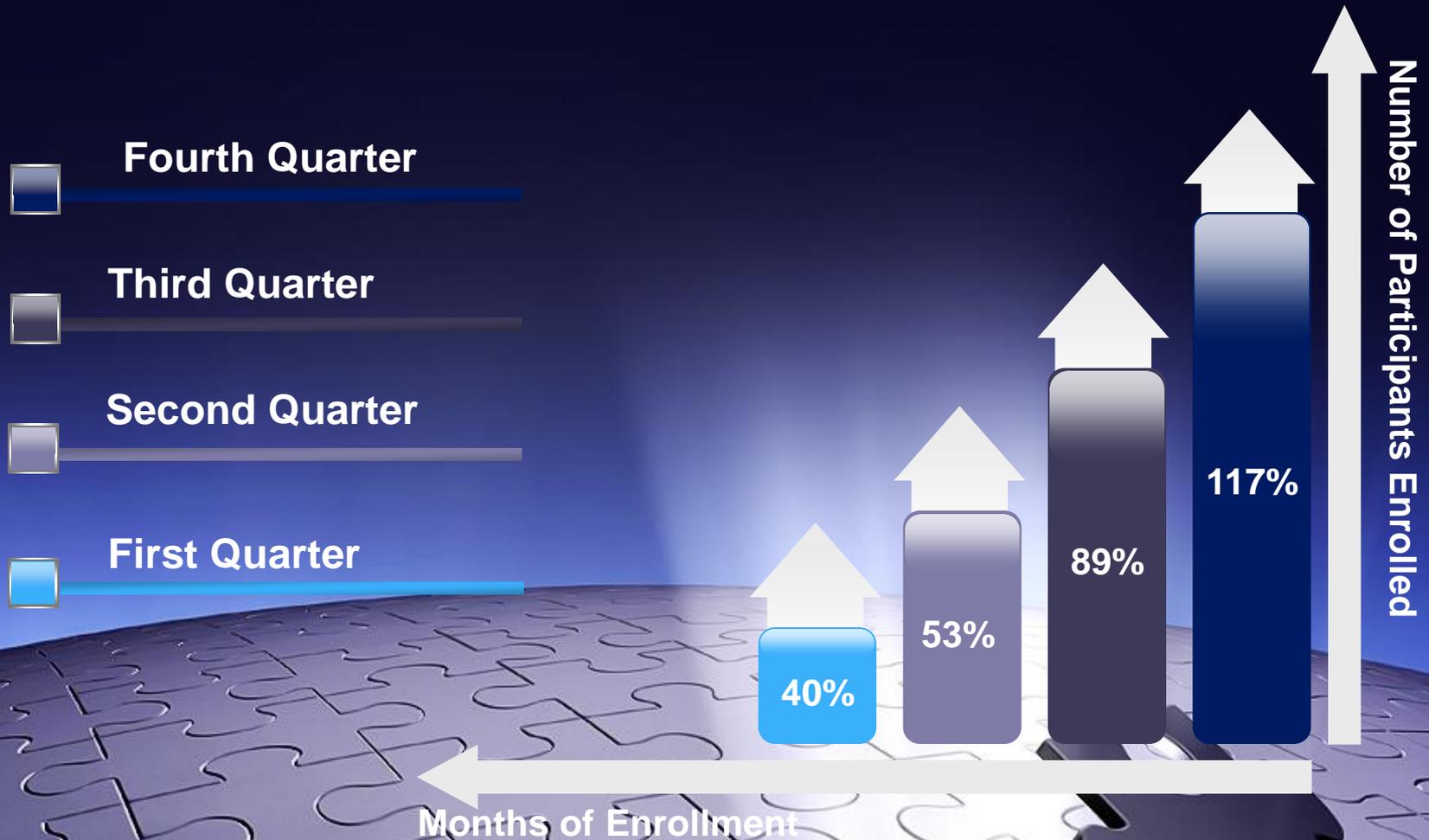
Leading
all sites
in
September!

Enrollment in the Program

	<i>Oct</i> 2013	<i>Nov</i> 2013	<i>Dec</i> 2013	<i>Jan</i> 2014	<i>Feb</i> 2014	<i>Mar</i> 2014	<i>Apr</i> 2014	<i>May</i> 2014	<i>Jun</i> 2014	<i>Jul</i> 2014	<i>Aug</i> 2014	<i>Sep</i> 2014	<i>Total</i>
<i>Stanislaus County</i>													
Target by month	14	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	509
Actual by month	11	14	17	30	22	33	40	53	114	120	78	62	594
Target cumulative	14	59	104	149	194	239	284	329	374	419	464	509	1620
Actual cumulative	11	25	42	72	94	127	167	220	334	454	532	594	594
Percent of Cumulative Target	79%	42%	40%	48%	48%	53%	59%	67%	89%	108%	115%	117%	37%



Enrollment Results of PASS Grant



Program to help parents find work

County aims to increase child support payments

The county's Department of Child Support Services will work with the Alliance Worknet on the five-year demonstration project supported by \$2.2 million in federal funds. Officials hope that 750 parents will find a place in the work force, enabling them to provide support for their children.

A third-party review of the project results will show if parents like this are a cost-effective way to assist one-parent households. Tamara Thomas, director of child support services for the county, said a successful program could help stimulate the economy, keep children off public assistance and create a healthy environment in homes.

County Child Support Services has made strides in establishing support orders from absent fathers and mothers in recent years and received awards for doing so. In the past year, it established child support orders in 84 percent of cases, up from 68 percent three years ago, earning the California Department of Child Support Services the most improved performance award from Child Support Services. The agency collected more than \$54 million for children's support orders for absent fathers and mothers in recent years and received awards for doing so.

WORK

Continued from B-1

staff time and other administrative costs. Stanislaus ranks ninth among 10 counties in cost effectiveness.

The county's "Stopping Up to the Plate" public service announcements prevent announcements from the National Child Support Enforcement Association.

Reducing court costs

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The Modesto Bee

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014



modbee.com

75 CENTS

Program helps parents behind in child support

TEST PROJECT AIMS TO RAISE FAMILIES' PROSPECTS

By Ken Carlson
ken@modbee.com

Dorothy Horton of Modesto went to a county office last year to talk about his child support case and, to his surprise, found that help was available for finding a job so he can make those monthly payments.

Alta Vista County and only seven other locations in the United States helped the 47-year-old father arrange two interviews for a job at an AT&T store. Horton is taking classes to strengthen his interview skills and bolster his confidence.

After he took an initial survey with the County Department of Child Support Services, the county restored Horton's driving privileges, which were suspended when he was fired from a grocery store job last June.

"This is going to be a great tool to help me get back on my feet," he said. "For me, it was all about the opportunity to find work."

SUPPORT

Continued from A1

Her department knows parents who are \$50,000 in arrears for the time family members received aid. The demonstration project offers a percent reduction on the debt to clients who erase 90 percent of the balance for those working more than three months.

A parent owing the state \$20,000 can cut that to \$1,600 by achieving employment goals. "It's hard to get people to believe that this exists," Thomas said. "People are hesitant."

Horton, who said he has owed several thousand dollars in child support, said that penalizing parents by suspending their driver's licenses does not serve to license support for their arms off and then asking them to pass the salt," he said. "You need transportation to search for a job."

It took some luck for Horton and others to be chosen for the extra services. After the initial interview, applicants are randomly selected to receive special job services and the others which receive no extra help.

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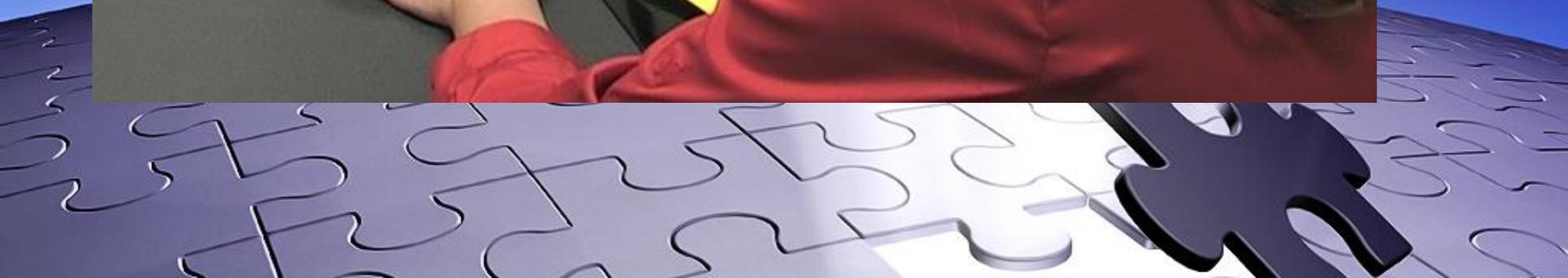
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The staff writer Ken Carlson can be reached at (209) 578-2321.





THE DESTINATION



What Can We Do Now?

- Identify Partners
- Open Lines of Communication
- Meet/Communicate Regularly
- Look for Opportunities to Work Together



Identifying Services & Working with Partners

- Faith-based
- Health Department
- Mental Health
- United Way
- Community Partners
- Human Services Agency
- Child Support Services
- Probation Department



Get to Know Your Partners

- Stand up
- Meet and Greet those around you
- Collect as many business cards from potential partnering agencies



Communicate Regularly

- Monthly or Quarterly Meetings
 - **Customers in Common**
 - **IV-A/IV-D Meetings**
- Director One-on-One Meetings
- All Staff Training
 - **Participate in New Employee Orientation**
 - **Training to Reinforce Staff Awareness and Knowledge of Services Offered**



What do we talk about?

- Identify our common goal
- Recognize our differences
- Operational processes
- Outreach
- Training
- Future opportunities
 - Shared services
 - Grant opportunities
 - Location of services



Look for Opportunities to Partner

- **Local Initiatives**
 - **AB109 Merced County Leadership for Life**
 - **Stanislaus County Probation Project 2011**
 - **All Dad's Matter & All Mom's Matter**
- **Grants**
 - **2012 Parent Employment Demonstration Grant**
 - **2014 Behavioral Interventions in Child Support Demonstration Grant**
- **2015 CSDA/CWDA Policy Symposium**
 - **Focusing on the well-being of children**



Merced County Partnership

- **All Dads Matter**

- Partnership with Human Services Agency and Department of Child Support Services
- Engaging Fathers
- Parenting Skills
- Leadership for Life
 - Teaching Advocacy Skills



Multi-County Approach

Kern

Merced

Stanislaus



**Behavioral
Interventions
Child Support
Opportunity**



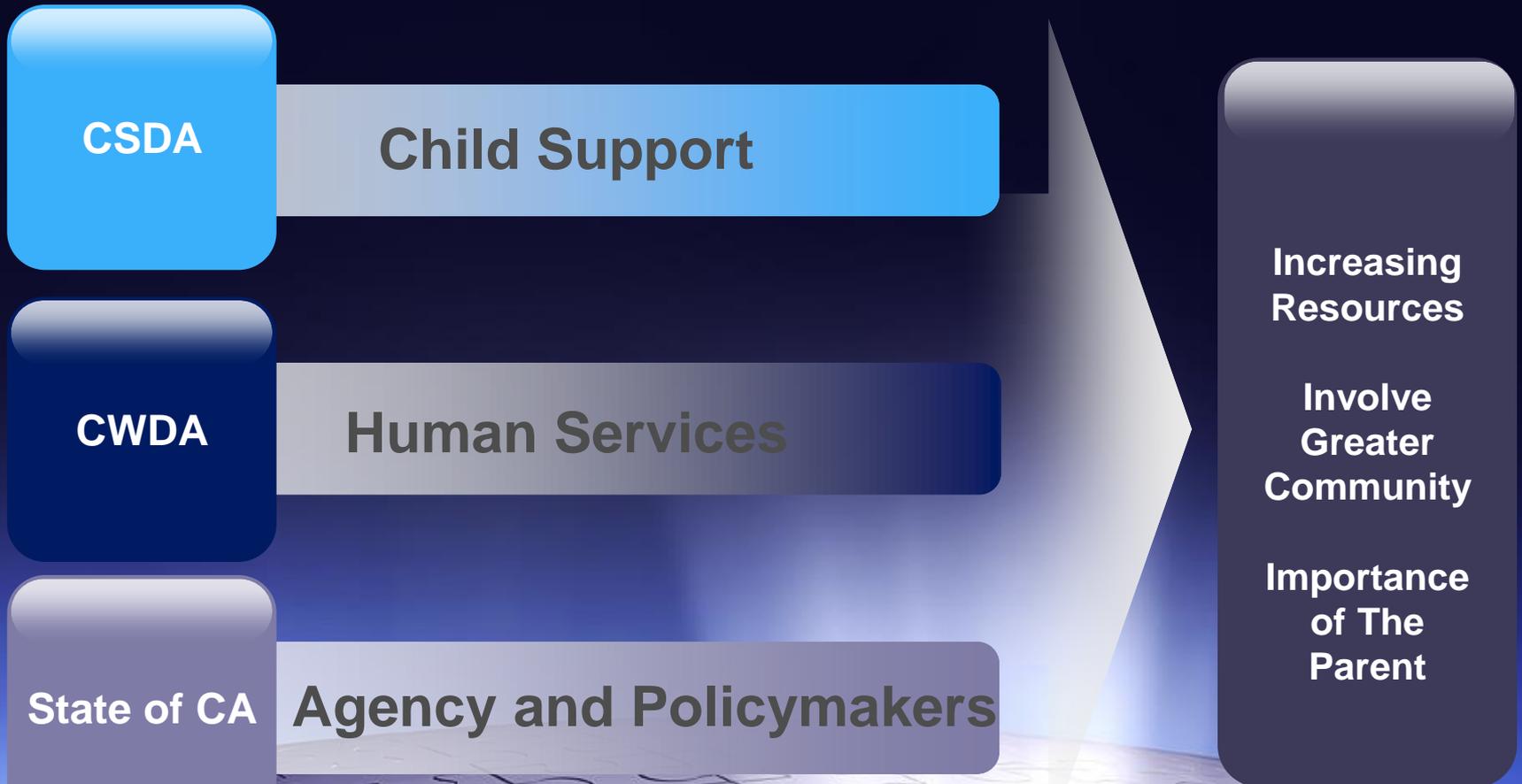
Simplified
Process

Parental
engagement

Economic
and
emotional
stability



2015 CSDA/CWDA Symposium



CSDA

Child Support

CWDA

Human Services

State of CA

Agency and Policymakers

Increasing Resources

Involve Greater Community

Importance of The Parent

Bringing It All Together



Thank You!

Tamara Thomas

Stanislaus County Department of Child Support Services

Tthomas@stancodcss.org - 209 558 3062

Sharon Wardale-Trejo

Merced County Department of Child Support Services

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