

2016 Annual Child Support Training Conference & Expo



PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER

May 3–5, 2016 » Garden Grove, California

CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

2016 Annual Child Support Training Conference & Expo

San Diego & Parenting Time- Does it Work?

Robert Harris, Attorney
Anne Kelly, Child Support Manager

Parenting Time Initiatives - Overview

Why Parenting Time?

San Diego Experience

Preliminary Outcomes

Parenting Time – Quotes from Parents

“I have no problem paying child support, if she’d just let me see my child.” Non-Custodial Father



Parenting Time – Quotes from Parents

“It’s not really about the money, I just wish he’d spend time with his son.” Custodial Mother



Parenting Time Background

- Historically, parenting time orders are not included in the IV-D program
- Many case participants have limited ability to obtain parenting time orders
- Increased focus on providing more services for case participants and improving family relationships

Why Parenting Time and Why Now?

Increased Federal focus on Access and Visitation

- Improve and increase both the financial and emotional support of children in the child support system
- Increase opportunities for children to build a relationship with both parents



Access and Visitation Services

Access and Visitation (AV) Grant Program administered by OCSE

\$10 million in federal money available annually for states to develop programs and provide services:

- Parenting plan development
- Parent education
- Mediation
- Supervised visitation
- Counseling

Since it began in 1997, the AV Grant Program has served over one million parents

Future Access and Visitation Services?

President's Budget Proposals

- FY 2021 – All states will be required to include parenting time in all new child support orders
- States will have the option of including parenting time in initial child support orders prior to 2021
- Federal resources available

Benefits of Parenting Time

- **Engaged parents significantly enhances children's social, cognitive, and academic behavior**
- Greater emotional security, less depression, and fewer behavioral problems
- Academic advantages (better grades, fewer expulsions, and fewer grades repeated)
- Parents who are involved with their children are more likely to pay child support

San Diego Initial Parenting Time Pilot

Initial Parenting Time Project-Legal Team

- Collaboration between San Diego DCSS, the Family Law **Facilitator's Office (FLF)**, and the **Superior Court**
- Implemented May 2012 and ongoing
- Precursor to PTOC Grant Project

Meet and Confer Pilot

Referral Process:

- Process Parties referred to FLF on priority basis for assistance in completing and filing:
 - Stipulations (no court filing fee)
 - Motions (filing fee \$435 unless waived by court)
- Parenting Time Stipulation Worksheet used to assist FLF in drafting stipulations
- Priority Referral form provided to the parties

Meet and Confer Pilot Challenges

- Limited time available to discuss project and reach stipulation
- Parties not following through with FLF referral
- Filing fees an impediment



Grant and Application Process

Parenting Time Opportunities for Children

- Special Improvement Project (SIP) Grant
- Grant Application Project Requirements
 - Establishment of parenting time in initial child support orders
 - Project Manager – Half Time
 - Goals and Expected Outcomes
 - Family Violence Plan
 - Evaluation

Grant and Application Process

Project Requirements

- Goal and Expected Outcomes
- Family Violence Plan and Coordinator Requirements
- Evaluation Requirements

Differences between the Pilot and the Grant?

- Comparison case group
- Domestic Violence Plan
- Evaluation Component
 - Pre Surveys
 - Post Surveys



Parenting Time Grant Partners

OCSE – Project Oversight



YWCA – Domestic Violence Coordinator



SANDAG – Independent Project Evaluator

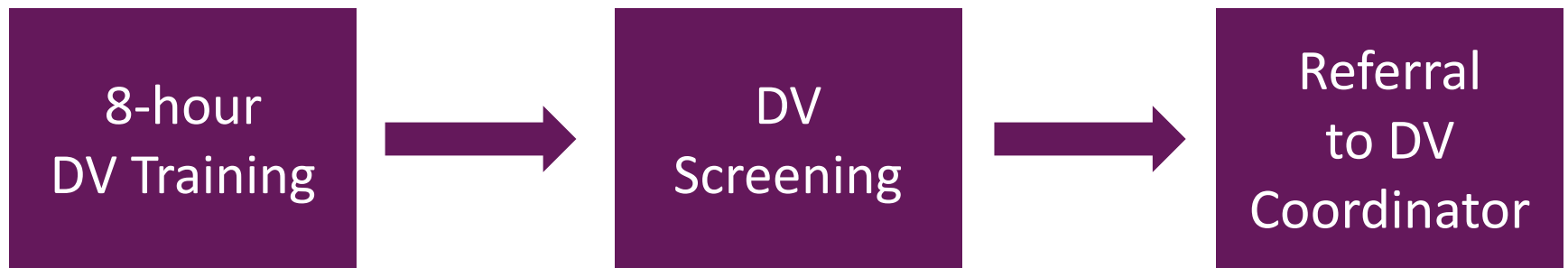


Family Law Facilitator (FLF) –
Stipulation and Motion Preparation



Superior Court and IV-D Commissioners

Domestic Violence Safeguards



Parenting Time Process

**Case Opening
DV Screening**

**DV Coordinator
Referral**

**Case
Resolution:
Meeting with
case manager**

**Priority referral
to the Family
Law Facilitator**

Domestic Violence Screenings

Domestic Violence Screening Tool

- Enhanced questions to assess risk
- Rolled into case opening procedure

Danger Assessment

- Lethality assessment
- Results in referrals to community service providers

Eligibility Criteria and Reminders

Parenting Time Opportunities for Children (PTOC) *Case Eligibility Criteria*

Cases meeting the following criteria qualify for the PTOC Project:

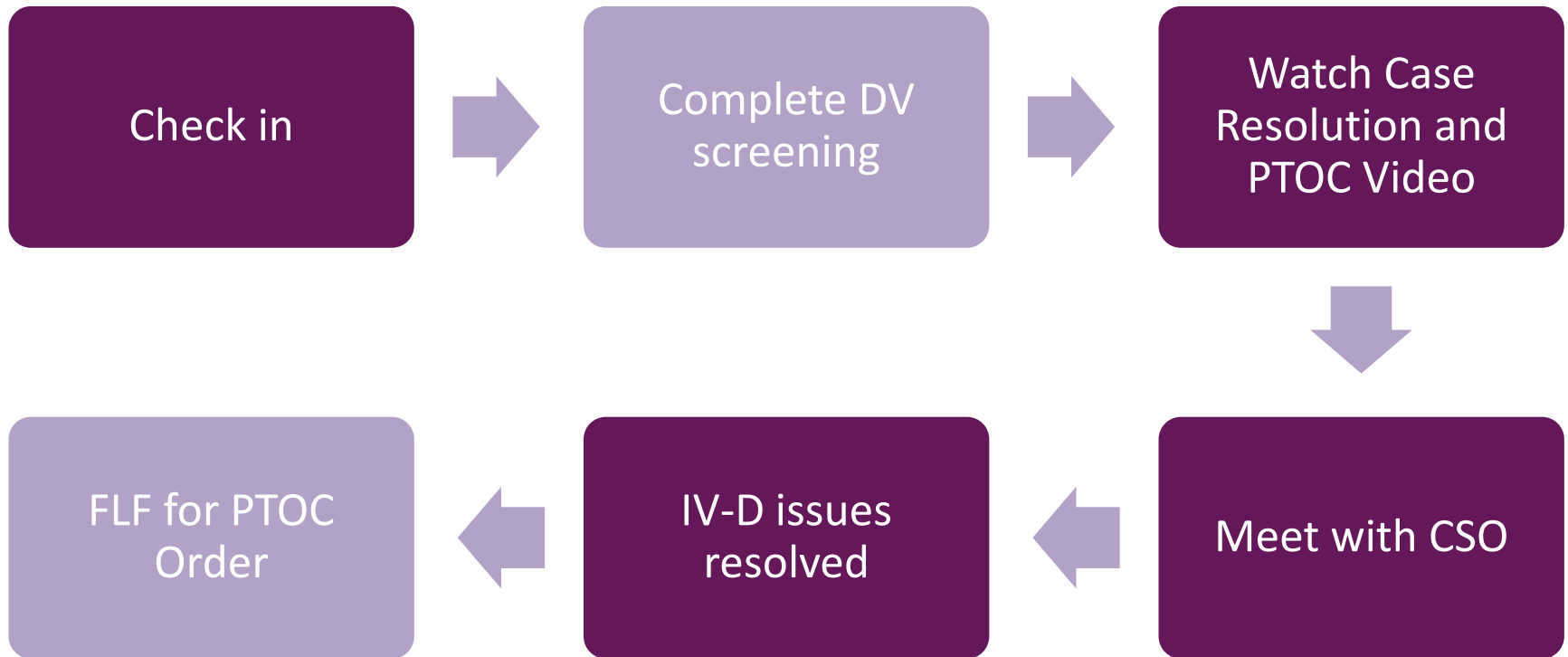
1. CSE case involves both parents
2. Children are not in foster care or living with a non-parent
3. Both parents live in San Diego County
4. Children have lived in California for the past 6 months or since birth
5. No prior child support order has been established
6. No prior parenting time orders have been established
7. No pending parenting time actions filed with the court
8. Children in the case are not involved in juvenile court action

Parenting Time Opportunities for Children (PTOC) *Helpful Reminders*

1. Screen for DV (if not already done) and refer to DV Coordinator, if required
2. Parentage must first be established
3. No court filing fee for stipulations and a fee waiver may be available for motions
4. Priority referrals to the Family Law Facilitator (FLF) are available, as follows:
 - Stipulation referrals are seen next in line
 - Motion referrals are seen on same day (as time permits) or an appointment may be scheduled
5. Make sure the parties are aware that DCSS can only assist in establishing initial parenting time orders. DCSS is not authorized to assist with future modifications or enforcement of the orders and fees may be required.

For more information, refer to Parenting Time Opportunities for Children (PTOC) BPs

Case Resolution meeting process



Stipulation worksheet

PARENTING TIME PLAN

A parenting time plan should be consistent and reliable for your child(ren). It should also work with each parent's schedule. You can develop a plan by completing the sections below. Some common visitation options are provided to help you.

FATHER: _____ SCT CASE NO: _____

MOTHER: _____

CUSTODY

Select the parent(s) who will have legal and physical custody of the child(ren):

Mother Father Joint

Legal Custody - A parent's right and responsibility to make decisions about a child's health, education, and well-being.

Physical Custody - The parent who will have the child with them the majority of the time.

VISITATION SCHEDULE

Father Mother is the parent exercising visitation for purposes of this plan.

If you want a flexible schedule without having set days each week check the box below.

Parents agree to reasonable visitation to be determined on an ongoing basis. If checked, you do not need to complete the rest of the Visitation Schedule section.

If you want specific days each week and holidays, select options below that work for you.

1. **Weekends** - Parents agree to the following weekend schedule starting _____:

Option 1: Every other weekend from Friday at 6 p.m. / _____m. through Sunday at 6 p.m. / _____m.

Option 2: Every weekend from Friday at 6 p.m. / _____m. through Sunday at 6 p.m. / _____m.

Option 3: Other [specify]: _____

2. **Weekdays** - Parents agree to the following weekday schedule starting _____:

Option 1: One weekday evening each week on [specify day] _____ from 6 p.m. / _____m. through 9 p.m. / _____m.

Option 2: One weekday overnight each week on [specify day] _____ from 6 p.m. / _____m. through the following day before school for

3. **Holiday/Special Days** - Parents agree to the below holiday/special days. These days take precedence over the weekday/weekend schedule when they conflict.

Years		Holiday/ Special Days	Visitation
Odd	Even		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Years	From December 31 st at 6 p.m. / _____m. through January 1 st at 6 p.m. / _____m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Memorial Day weekend	From Friday at 6 p.m. / _____m. through Monday at 6 p.m. / _____m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	July 4 th	From July 4 th at 10 a.m. / _____m. through July 5 th before school (or 10 a.m. / _____m. if child is not in school).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor Day weekend	From Friday at 6 p.m. / _____m. through Monday at 6 p.m. / _____m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thanksgiving	From Wednesday at 6 p.m. / _____m. through Sunday at 6 p.m. / _____m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child's Birthday	From after school (or 10 a.m. / _____m. if child is not in school) through before school the next day (or 10 a.m. / _____m. if child is not in school).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other [specify]:	From _____ at _____m. through _____ at _____m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other [specify]:	From _____ at _____m. through _____ at _____m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other [specify]:	From _____ at _____m. through _____ at _____m.

TRANSPORTATION FOR VISITS

Parents agree to transportation for visitation as follows:

- Father Mother will provide transportation to the visits. Note: This parent will pick the child up from school anytime visitation starts when the school day ends.
- Father Mother will provide transportation from the visits. Note: This parent will drop the child off at school anytime visitation ends when the school day begins.
- Other [specify]: _____

ADDITIONAL TERMS

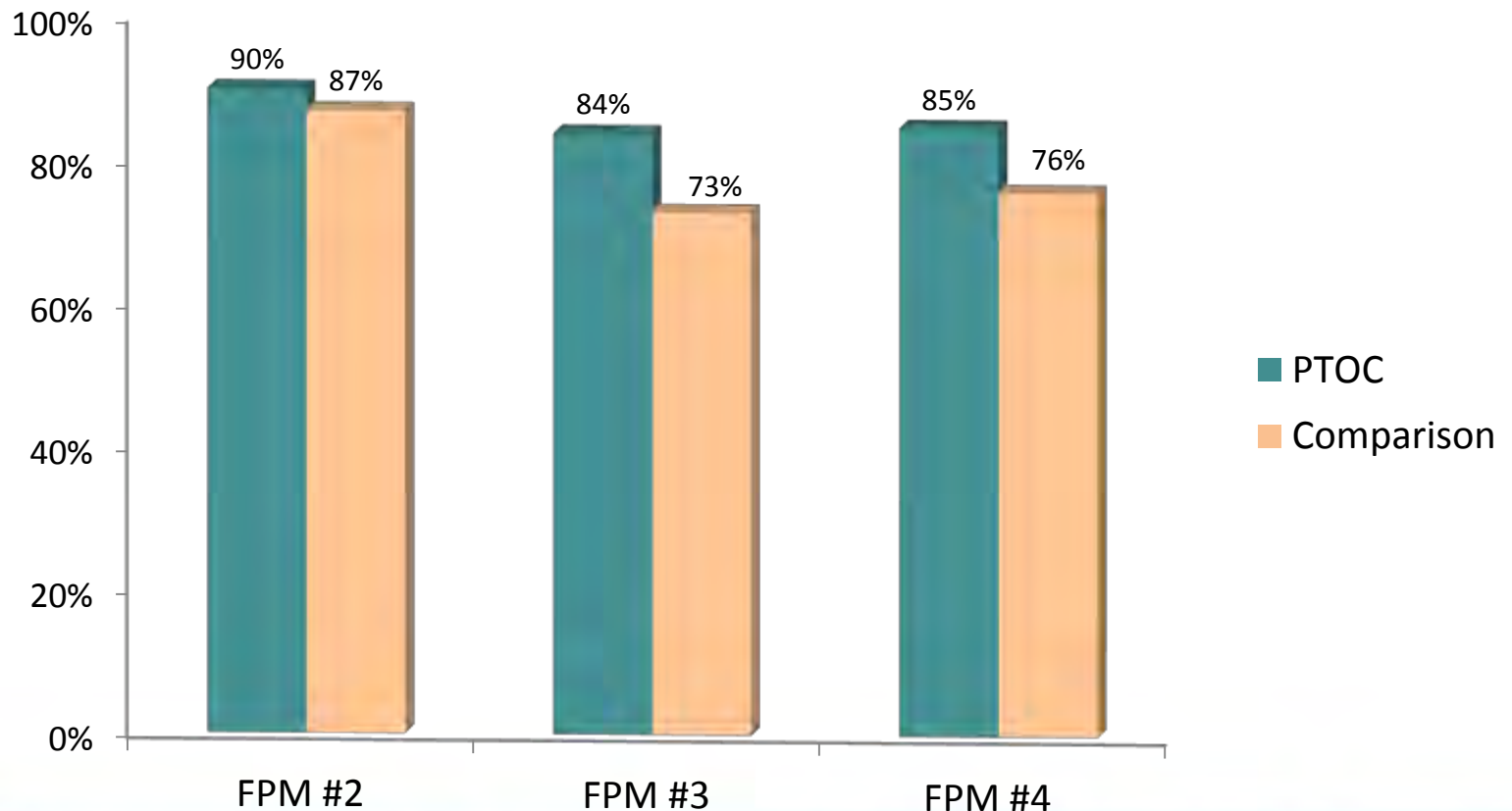
Parents agree to the following additional visitation terms: _____

Accomplishments

	Outcomes Expected	2 Year	1 Year	Total
1	PTOC orders established	173	133	306
2	Parents served	3400	2250	5650
3	Cases where DV identified	1560	786	2346
4	Referrals to DV service providers	383	108	491+
5	Increase in support payment rates	84%	74%	+10%

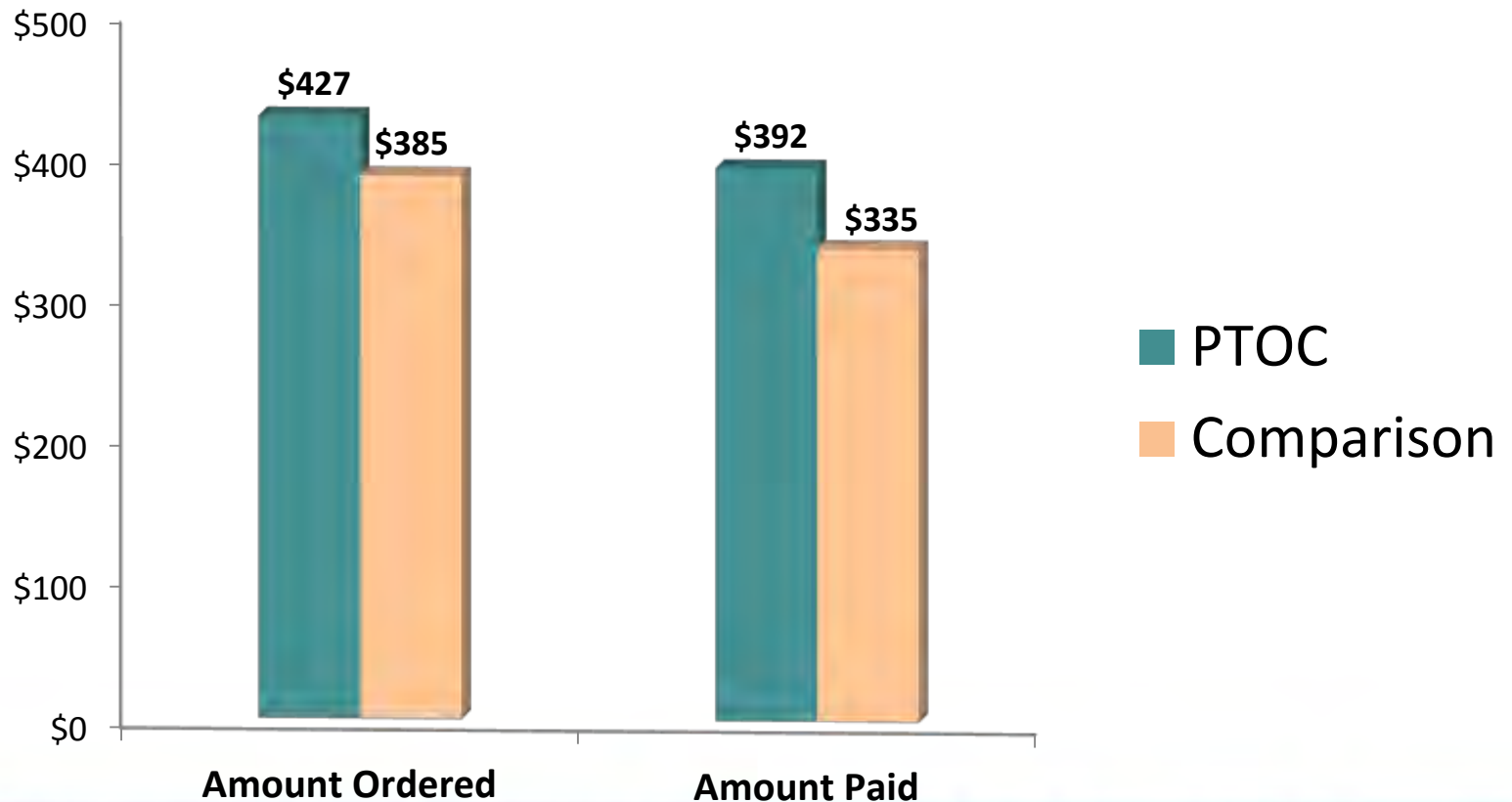
Parenting Time Orders

PTOC vs. Comparison: FPMs

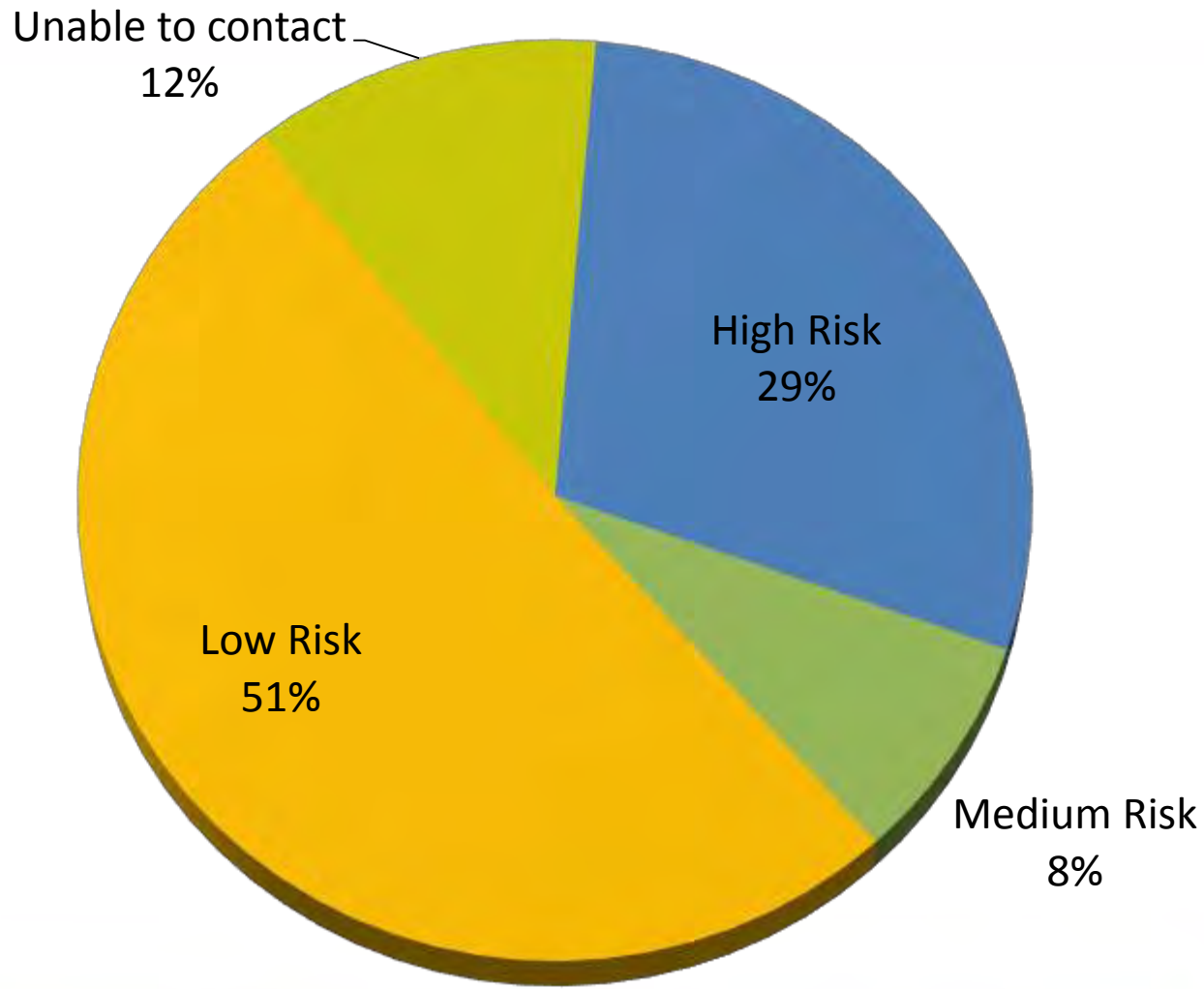


PTOC vs Comparison

Amount ordered vs. Amount Paid



Risk Levels within DV referrals



PTOC orders by location



Our Barriers

- Case managers were resistant to ask customers questions regarding domestic violence
- Case managers did not want to discuss custody and visitation with customers
- We identified a higher rate of domestic violence between participants than originally projected

From Barriers to Accomplishments

- Staff feel empowered with new knowledge of domestic violence
- Staff are better able to anticipate and address underlying needs of our customers
- Staff are invested in the process and continue to look for innovative ways to serve our customers

Unpredicted Accomplishments

Parties reconciling following the Case Resolution Meetings

The PTOC program has helped increase the understanding of **DCSS' role within the County's social service and criminal justice systems.**

Sustainability

What Happens Next?

- Long Term Domestic Violence Plan
- Continue offering Parenting Time Orders
- Continued Partnership with the Superior Court



How can we set up
a Parenting Time
program?

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