

## SECTION F: LOCAL EVALUATION

### Executive Summary

**Grant Awarded to:** Youth for Change  
**Program Name:** Communities Accessing Responsive Services (CARS)  
**Funded By:** Butte County Children and Families Commission  
**Report Date:** September 30, 2005

#### Program Components

- ' Intervention with families in danger of entering the Children's Services (CS) system.

#### Desired Results

- ' Families will receive a customized assessment of need and the appropriate response when assistance, not intervention by Children's Services, is needed. By providing preventative, collaborative services, it is believed that the number of children being referred again to Children's Services at a later date will be reduced, which may ultimately reduce the number of open cases.

#### Evaluation Results

Families were very satisfied with their involvement in the CARS project. Parents indicated they would highly recommend CARS services to friends in need and indicated they would return if they needed help in the future. The CARS Family Support Workers (FSWs) were considered valuable assets by families.

According to the results of the Family Resource Scale, the issues parents were most concerned about were having money saved; enough money for unplanned expenses; time to be by themselves; and time to socialize. Since Family Resource Scales are not matched and there were only nine three-month and four exit forms completed, it is difficult to determine how well the families' needs were met.

Child abuse data was collected for the project by the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services. It showed that of the 85 children (from 37 families) referred to CARS from Children Services (CS), seven children (eight percent) were re-referred to CS and the referrals resulted in the children being detained by CS. Overall, program staff were not pleased with the outcome data of CARS in its first year of implementation. CARS staff plan to meet with the local evaluators to review their instruments and possibly implement the use of another State-sponsored form which will more accurately reflect families' needs and how they were met.