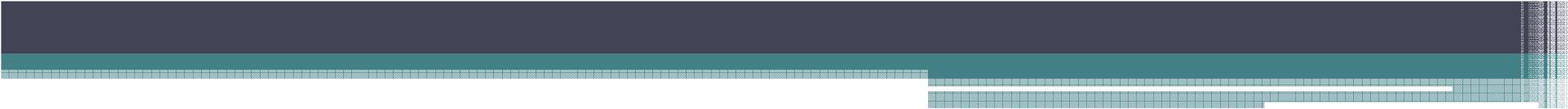


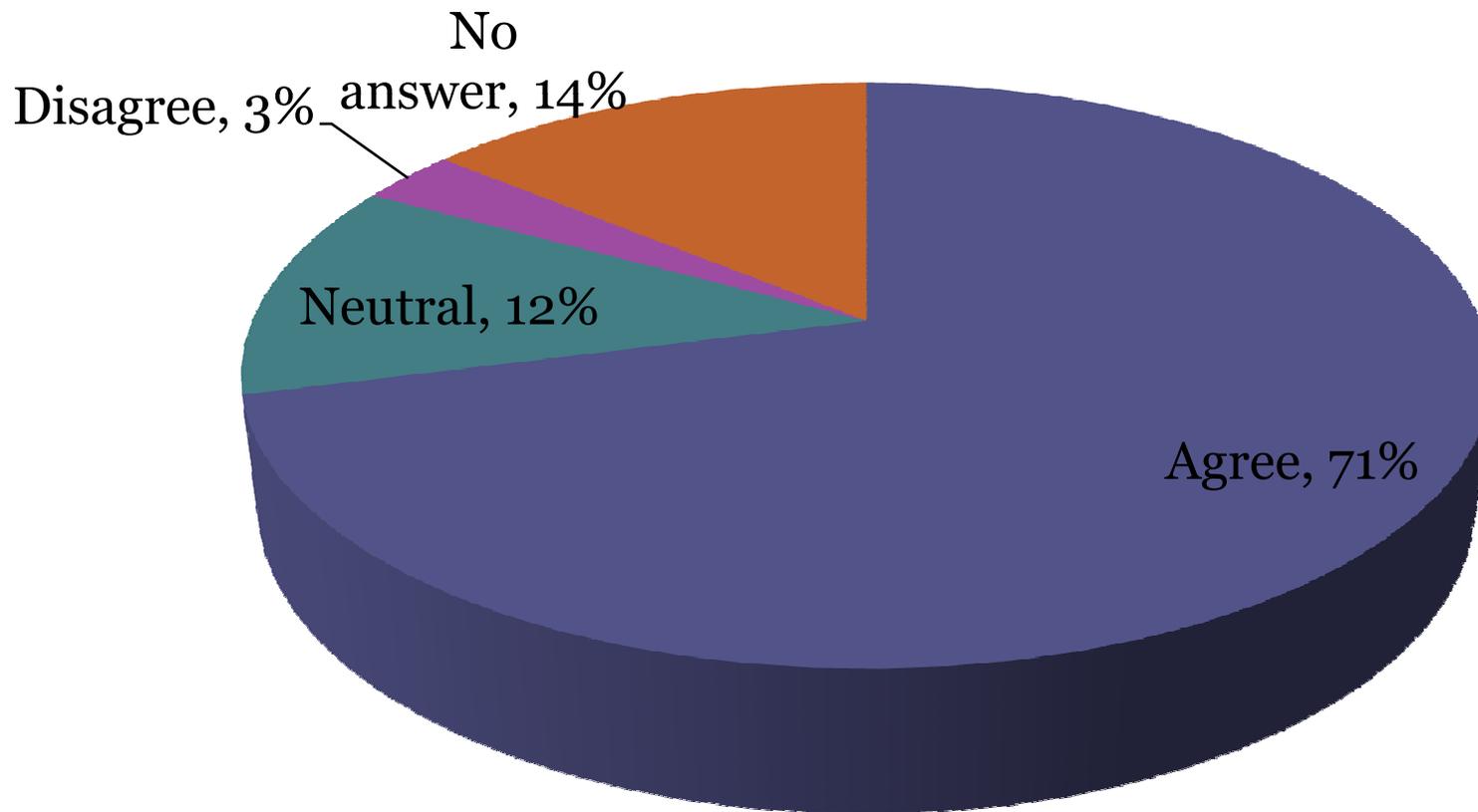
# Program Improvement Plan Survey Results

Data and Comments Summary

July 11, 2008

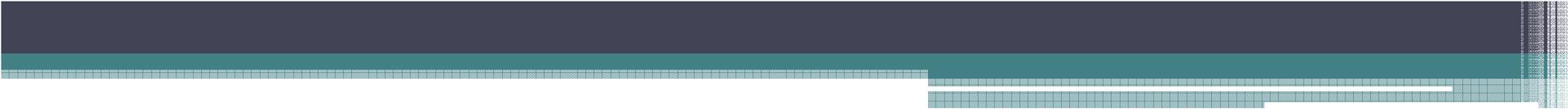
- 
- Six broad strategies were developed to meet the goals of the 2008 Program Improvement Plan.
  - An anonymous, online survey was administered June 3-13, 2008.
  - 1842 responses to the survey and about 400 additional comments per strategy were received.
  - No clear or substantive alternative strategies were suggested.

# Strategy 1: Expand use of participatory case planning practices.



# Strategy 1: Expand use of participatory case planning practices.

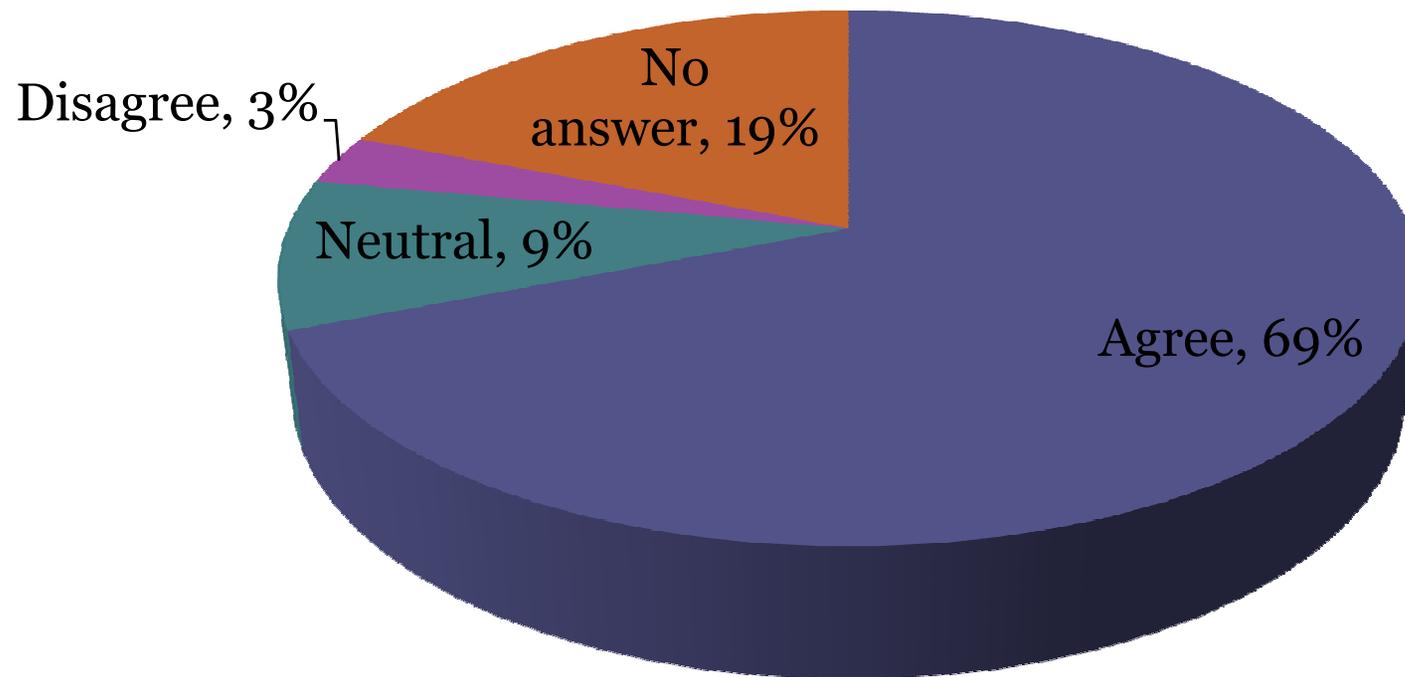
- 389 comments
- Concerns noted included:
  - Availability of resources in general
  - Large social worker caseloads are a barrier to fully implementing this strategy

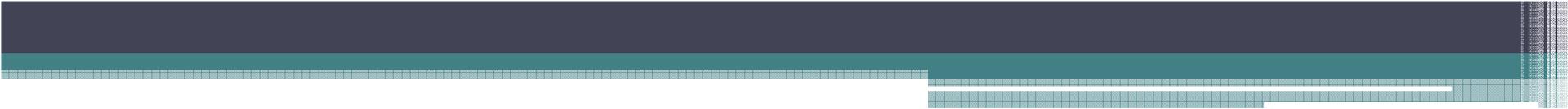


## Strategy 1 continued

- Counties are inconsistent in implementing practices
- Additional participants from the community
- Respondents called for assessment and follow-up of the implementation and outcomes

## Strategy 2: Sustain and expand permanency efforts across the life of the case.



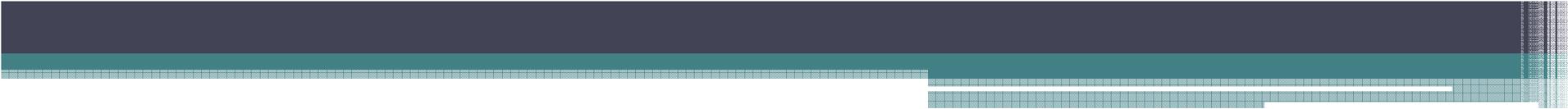


## Strategy 2: Sustain and expand permanency efforts across the life of the case.

- 379 comments
- Family finding & lifelong connections for children
  - Early introduction
  - Strengthening community connections
- Budget constraints and sustainability were noted

## Strategy 2 continued

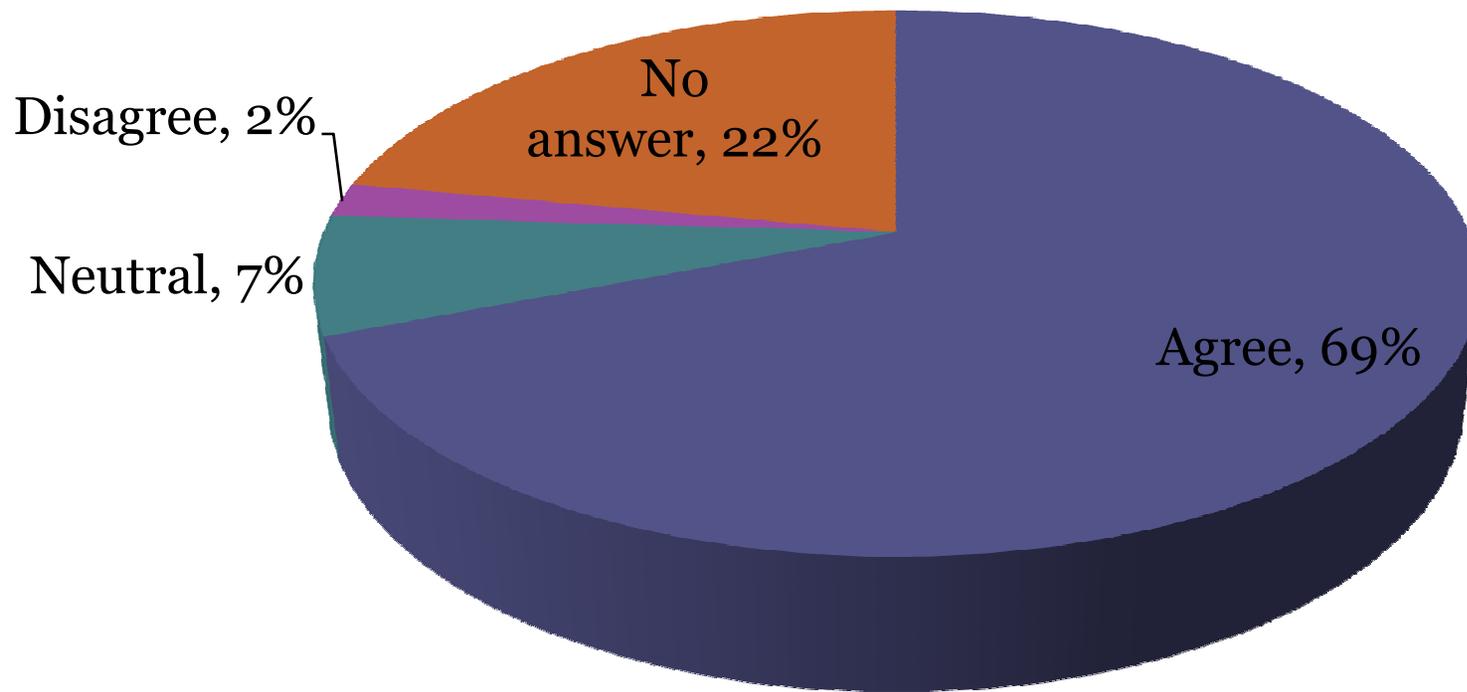
- Concerns about relatives with criminal records were noted
  - A child is not allowed to be placed at a relative's home because that relative has a criminal record
  - Misdemeanors occurring several years ago or a crime in which they believed the child would not be harmed if placed with that relative

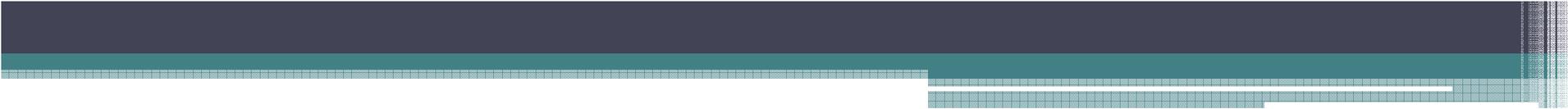


## Strategy 2 continued

- Other issues identified included:
  - Reducing the number of foster care placements
  - Expanding training efforts
  - Streamlining court processes
  - Standardizing practices across counties
  - Removing confidentiality barriers for caregivers

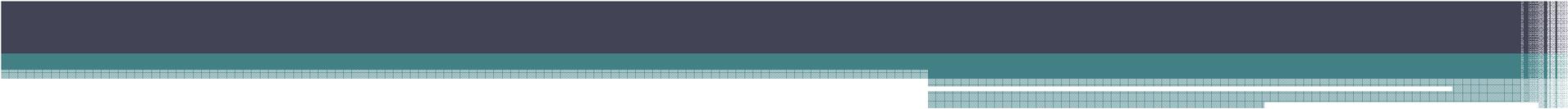
# Strategy 3: Enhance and expand caregiver recruitment, training, and support efforts.





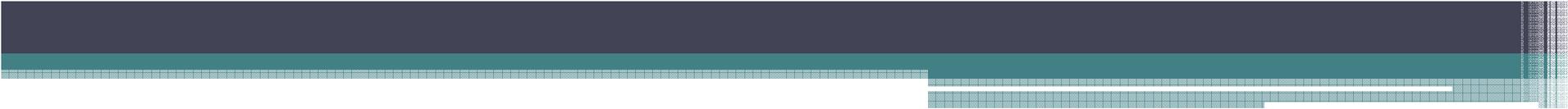
## Strategy 3: Enhance and expand caregiver recruitment, training, and support efforts.

- 459 comments
- Several comments relating to process changes were noted



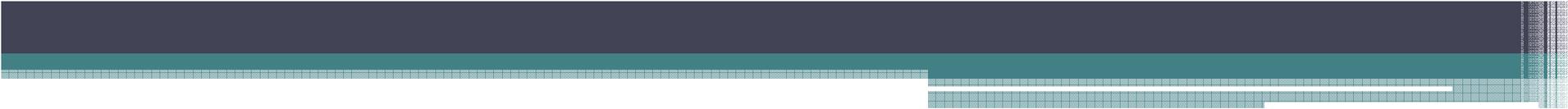
## Strategy 3 continued

- The majority of comments on caregiver recruitment focused on the following topics:
  - Overall increase in caregiver payments
  - Targeted recruitment for caregivers of special needs children
  - Equal effort given to retention and recruitment
  - Focus on caregiver quality
  - Increase use of the Family Finding Tool
  - Tribe inclusion



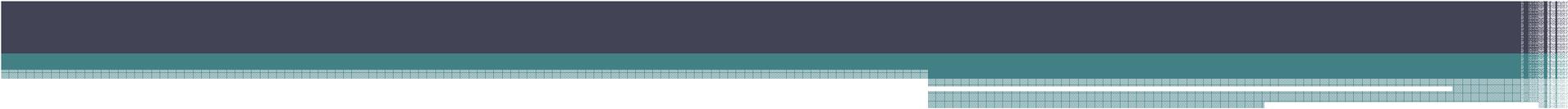
## Strategy 3 continued

- Media sources were identified as tools to inform and engage the public
  - Public Service Announcements



## Strategy 3 continued

- Caregiver Training
  - Brain development
  - Mental health issues
  - Crisis intervention
  - Trauma effects and treatment
  - Preparatory emancipation training
  - Working with schools

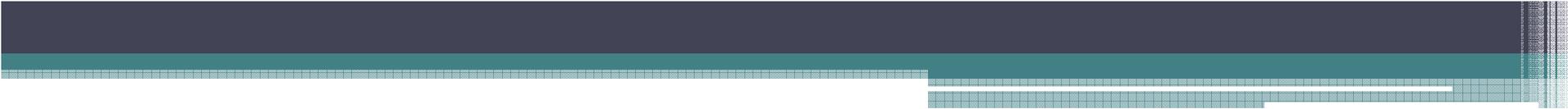


## Strategy 3 continued

- Mechanism for delivery
  - Offer in multiple languages/be culturally appropriate
  - Use of videos, DVDs, books, online/web sessions
  - Connecting with faith based organizations
  - Cross training between child welfare agencies and caregiver

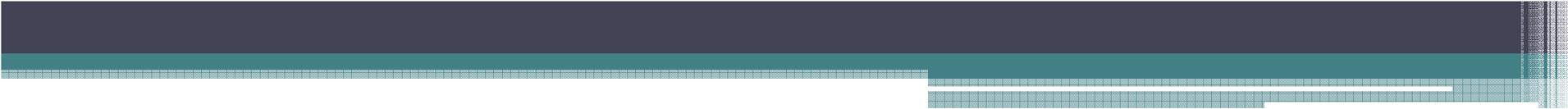
# Strategy 4: Expand options and create flexibility for services and supports





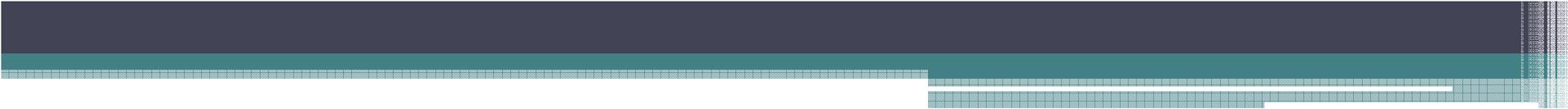
## Strategy 4: Expand options and create flexibility for services and supports to meet the needs of children and families.

- 391 comments
- Mental health services are a priority need



## Strategy 4 continued

- Lack of full disclosure of medical and mental health condition
  - Proper care is difficult when critical information is lacking
- Need for collaborative work was noted
  - Social Services, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drugs, and Education

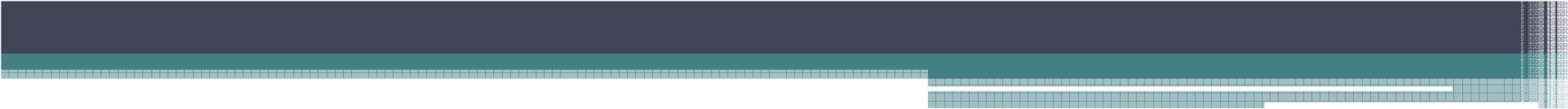


## Strategy 4 continued

- Other themes
  - Uncertainty about the current year's county and state budgets to expand services
  - Rising transportation costs and/or lack of transportation
  - Language barriers
  - Medi-Cal policies

## Strategy 5: Sustain and enhance training for child welfare and probation staff and supervisors.



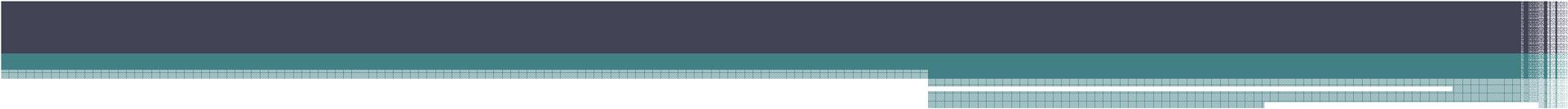


## Strategy 5: Sustain and enhance training for child welfare and probation staff and supervisors.

- 403 comments
- There were a number of comments related to strategy utilization

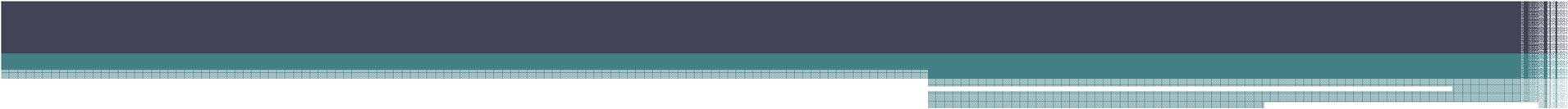
## Strategy 5 continued

- Content areas for training of social workers
  - Over 40 specific training topics were identified
- Concern about the lack of resources available
  - High turnover rate
  - Caseload
- Calls for training of judges, pediatricians, and caregivers in a variety of content areas



## Strategy 5 continued

- Interestingly, there were mixed views regarding the utility of standardized training
  - Core training largely duplicates academic preparation
  - Conversely, it was noted that core training provided valuable information



# Survey Results Work Group

- Will Sanson, Senior Consultant
- Alba Quiroz-Garcia, Research Program Specialist II
- Dave McDowell, Research Program Specialist II
- Mary Enriquez, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
- Hebba Fares, Student Assistant