

Benefits of a shared system:

- Financial gains – current shared contracts result in a total of over \$160,000 in savings for 2009 - \$80,000 saved by each system
- System growth can occur without cost of additional staff
- Economic downturn may cause increased need for Family Service programs (caseload growth)
 - Increased capacity can occur through compression of some staff positions (expect employees to handle some additional cases)
 - Centralize some administrative functions (i.e. accounting, child support), then
 - Reposition staff into areas of growth allowing agencies to meet increased need (changing position descriptions)
- Movement toward a joint system naturally lends itself to a decrease in the duplication of work done separately in two counties (two budgets, two outcome reports, two program plans, etc.) freeing up additional staff time
- Increased specialization allows workers to become familiar with complex tasks of a job making them more efficient while allowing for less “down time” in the system (i.e. adoption, daycare/foster care revocations, forensic interviews, etc.)
- Key component, one management team across both systems, increases consistency and begins to change the culture of both agencies as we move forward.

We “weather the storm” together getting through 2009.

We find ourselves in a good position for 2010, able to limit the loss of additional county program aid given our shared arrangement.

Pipestone/Nobles are able to negotiate from a position of strength together if a larger regional coalition should develop.