

FY 2009 Braam Outcomes Data Report

Executive Summary

This is the final Fiscal Year 2009 Children's Administration's Outcomes Data Report. It is being submitted to the Braam Oversight Panel according to the 2008 Revised Implementation Plan which established timeframes for the provision of data to the Panel. This report covers FY09 (July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009) and is due to the Panel on January 1, 2010. It reports on 32 Braam Outcomes.

The 2008 Revised Implementation Plan – the result of months of collaboration and discussion among Panel members, stakeholders, plaintiffs' counsel, and DSHS – established numeric benchmarks for each outcome, identifying specific levels of performance to be achieved in each fiscal year. In order to achieve compliance with outcomes the Department must meet the statewide benchmarks. In addition, no individual region's performance may be significantly less than the statewide benchmark.

This report demonstrates that DSHS met the statewide benchmark for eight outcomes. The benchmark and FY09 performance for these outcomes are:

- Foster Care Placements Available (Benchmark 1.90 / FY09 2.35)
- Initial Individual Service and Safety Plan completed within 60 days (Benchmark 80% / FY09 90%)
- Mental Health Assessments (Benchmark 85% / FY09 90.9%)
- Mental Health Treatment (Benchmark 90% / FY09 92.3%)
- Denial of Mental Health Treatment (Benchmark 85% / FY09 97%)
- Continuity of Mental Health Services (Benchmark 85% / FY09 95%)
- School Moves Required by Placement (Benchmark 30%/ FY09 22%)
- Median Days on the Run (Benchmark 30 days / FY09 27 days)

Six outcomes were close to meeting the benchmark, missing by less than 10 percent:

- Stability of Placements (Benchmark 89% / FY09 80.9%)
- Foster Parent Training (Benchmark 90% / FY09 85.9%)
- Supports to Caregivers of Medically Fragile Children/Youth (Benchmark 90% / FY09 87.6%)
- Frequency of Running from Placement (Benchmark 2.5% or lower / FY09 3.4%)
- All Siblings in Out of Home Care Placed Together (Benchmark 70% / FY09 60.9%)
- Some Siblings in Out of Home Care Placed Together (Benchmark 90% / FY09 80.9%)

DSHS experienced data availability and data quality issues in FY09 due to the implementation of our new information system, FamLink. As a result, there are two outcomes for which reliable data is not available for measuring performance at this time. They are: 1) shared planning meetings for youth six months before they exit foster care at 18 years old and 2) shared planning meetings for Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET).

In addition, there are two outcomes for which data is not currently available. For one of these outcomes – thoroughness of investigations into allegations of abuse or neglect of foster children by a caregiver – data will be provided by our case review process which is not yet completed. For the other outcome – founded reports child abuse or neglect committed by a foster parent or facility staff member – the data will come from the results of the federal Child and Family Services Review, Round 2. Data for both of these outcomes will be available in Spring 2010.

The report reflects that DSHS missed the benchmark by more than 10 percent on 14 of the reported 32 outcomes. The Department is actively working to improve the reliability of the administrative data for FY10 by providing training for staff to make sure that data is properly entered. While we work on improving the use of FamLink, we will continue to use alternative means such as hand counts on key outcomes to evaluate and improve the quality of the administrative data in FamLink. The results of hand counts will be compared to the related FamLink information to identify areas where improvements in data entry or performance are needed. We will also continue to work to improve performance, including supervisory monthly reviews with social workers, to ensure good practice and accountability.