

June 2011 Braam Oversight Panel Meeting

Updates by Denise Revels Robinson, Children's Administration Assistant Secretary

Good News Announcements

- HUD announced June 2 that Washington state received four Family Unification Program grants totaling \$1.4 million to serve 199 families.
 - The four grants were awarded to the Housing Authorities of Seattle and Snohomish, Clallam, and King Counties, and are out of 32 grants awarded nationwide for \$15 million.
 - The program provides Section 8 rental assistance to families whose lack of adequate housing prevents them from remaining together or being reunited, and includes youth who have aged out of care. The grant awards are the result of extensive work by Children's Administration to collaborate with Washington public housing authorities.
- Children's Administration expects to receive at least \$1 million in adoption incentive money from the federal HHS Children's Bureau for adoptions completed in FY2009.
 - The belated incentive award to Washington is a result of extensive AFCARS data validation work completed by CA to ensure accuracy in the data submission to the Children's Bureau. An award letter from the Children's Bureau is expected in the next two weeks, providing the exact incentive award.

Training and Quality Assurance Efforts

- Staff training on the safety assessment
- Reorganization for quality assurance work
- Staff training on the wraparound approach

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) – Status of Final Report and Follow-Up

- The federal Children's Bureau released the Child and Family Services Review Report in May. A copy of the CFSR report is posted on the CA internet site:
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/CFSR/about.asp>
- The Children's Administration found nothing surprising or unexpected in the federal report, as system strengths had previously been identified, and work is already underway to address needed improvements.
- Some key highlights of the CFSR include:
 - We exceeded five of six national standards, and met the sixth standard; therefore Washington is not required to include the National Standards in the Program Improvement Plan.
 - We performed high on five of seven systemic factors, which are infrastructure supports the state has in place to help deliver child welfare services.
 - Our area of highest performance was in addressing the medical, mental health and educational needs of children involved with the child welfare system.
 - Our mid-level performance was in preserving meaningful connections for children in foster care, protecting children from abuse and neglect, and safely maintaining children in their homes whenever possible.
 - We underperformed in some areas of child safety, permanency and well-being. Child safety is a critical priority, especially regarding making ongoing safety assessments of children in our care. These areas will be addressed in the Program Improvement Plan.
 - Our greatest need for improvement was in supporting family capacity to meet their child's needs, and in achieving timely permanence.

All states have been required to submit Program Improvement Plans; no state met all CFSR outcome measures and national standards in this second round of reviews.



Opportunities for improvement – Program Improvement Plan (PIP):

- CA is developing the PIP. Washington's PIP is due to the Children's Bureau July 5, 2011. We have further identified foundational themes and strategies:

Foundational themes of the PIP include:

- Improving statewide consistency of practice
- Decreasing disproportionality
- Emphasis on quality assurance

PIP Strategies being considered:

- Improving child safety
- Increasing family engagement
- Increasing focus on permanency
- Improving the array and quality of services available to children and families

Government Management, Accountability and Performance Report (GMAP)

- During the May 11, 2011 Governor's Vulnerable Children & Adults GMAP forum the Governor commended the Children's Administration team, social workers, support and clerical staff, and managers for excellent performance in meeting requirements for the five measures:
 - Debuted new on-line child welfare caseload by program area report, designed to help us examine caseload and staffing differently than in the past.
 - Response times for reports of child abuse within 24 or 72 hours, depending on risk of immediate harm to the child: Social workers consistently exceeded combined target of 97% over the past 12 months.
 - Examining repeat maltreatment data concurrently with initial response data shows children are almost half as likely to suffer re-abuse within six months of an initial call as they were in 2005, suggesting a correlation. The rate of repeat child abuse and neglect fell from 12.3% to 7.0% for the latest cohort of children (January-June 2010).
 - Monthly visits between social workers and children: statewide average of 95% of children requiring health and safety visits—7,920 out of 8,329 children—were visited each month during the December-February 2011 quarter, meeting the 95% target.
 - Performance e outcome data from August 2010 suggests that higher frequencies of health and safety visits by social workers are associated with shorter lengths of stay for children in out-of-home care.
 - Children in care longer than 60 days are distinctly different in their case situations than children who leave care before this point.
 - Monitoring children's time in care indicates the success of our permanency strategies, such as expediting adoptions and use of *Permanency Round Tables*, *Tables of Ten* court improvement strategies, and *Family Team Decision-Making* meetings.
 - Median length of stay for children in long-term foster care declined by almost 100 days, from 574 days in Q1 SFY2009 to an estimated 475 days in Q3 SFY2011.

Performance Based Contracting (PBC) for Services Request for Proposal (RFP) Status

- The Washington Federation of State Employees filed a lawsuit in Thurston County Superior Court, asking the court to order the Children's Administration to stop moving forward with its proposed method for implementing legislatively-mandated Performance Based Contracting for Services.
- On May 13, 2011 the court granted a preliminary injunction. The issuance of the injunction stops the Children's Administration from proceeding with its Request for Proposal for Performance Based Contracting for Services.
- Children's Administration will abide by the court's ruling.
- On Thursday, May 26, 2011, the Department notified all responders to the RFP that we formally withdrew the RFP issued February 18, 2011.

Regional Consolidation

- The work to consolidate 6 regions into 3 continues, as the consolidation has been in effect slightly more than one month. The new boundaries became effective May 1, with the expectation that related cost savings will be reflected from that date forward.
- The three Children's Administration Regional Administrators have met with tribal leaders, legislators, managers and supervisors in their regions, and are working to build relationships within their regions and coordinate and communicate transition activities.
- The new three region configuration is designed to:
 - Offset expenses during unprecedented economic challenges.
 - Break down silos and help administrations within DSHS work more closely together.
 - The budget impact of regional consolidation is a reduction of 19 positions DSHS-wide and 5 positions within the Children's Administration.
 - Reflect a cost savings from May 1 forward.
- While CA is only 30 days into the regional consolidation, some common themes in discussions throughout the Regions, include:
 - Staff and key stakeholders have been open, welcoming, and collaborative.
 - New regional leadership continues to work on finalizing plans for delegation of authority and scope of responsibility for deputy Regional Administrators.
 - We are still finalizing new organizational structure.
 - There is a strong emphasis on communications within the regions and across regions.

Business Consolidation – Presented by Rich Pannkuk

- In addition to geographic consolidation, we have two distinct primary initiatives and transition teams working in the area of business function consolidation.
 - A Department-wide effort to consolidate certain business functions within three regional business centers, in effect July 1, 2011, focuses on: accounting, purchasing, fixed asset management, facilities management vehicle fleet management and time and attendance across all administrations.
 - Concurrently, Children's Administration has begun an effort to centralize certain business and client support functions, effective July 1, 2011; CA staff are participating in work groups to inform and shape these changes.

Children's Administration Budget Update (supplemental handouts) - Presented by Rich Pannkuk

- The Governor called a 30-day special session as more time was needed to develop the final budget; the special session ended on time and the legislature delivered a final compromise budget. This budget represents the final compromise between the House and Senate. Now the budget is turned over to the Governor for her consideration, which may result in changes if she exercises her veto authority.
- Overall the enacted early supplemental budgets reduced the Children's Administration Appropriation authority by \$11,469,000; from \$545,455,000 to \$533,986,000 in the 2011-13 Biennial Budget.
- The final supplemental budget funds mandatory caseload changes to address changes in the adoption support and foster care forecasts and allow for some other housekeeping technical budget corrections.

2011-13 Biennial Budget:

- Washington state government services are largely funded by our sales tax dollars; and as that revenue source shrinks, the legislature has to respond with reductions to deliver a balanced budget. See handout "Children's Administration 2011-13 Final Compromise 2011-13 Budget."
 - The overall change in appropriation authority for the 2011-13 biennium is:
 - Compromise budget: **\$52.1 million decrease from current levels** (total funds); from \$1,143,579,000 to \$1,091,468,000;
 - Staffing levels are down 9% from the current authority; from 2,818.8 FTEs to 2,563.1 – but most of the staffing reductions are a continuation of action already taken in the FY11 budget.
 - Forecasted caseload changes are funded to address projected changes in the foster care and adoption support caseload. (The foster care caseload is projected to increase from 13,891 cases in FY 11 to 14,655 cases in FY12 and 15,126 cases in FY13. Adoption support cases are forecasted to decrease from current levels of 6,563 cases in FY11 to 6,448 cases in FY12 to 6,470 cases in FY13).

FY 2011 Supplemental Budget

- The 2011 supplemental budget excludes the proviso language to reduce foster care maintenance payments; and, the proviso is excluded from the biennial budget.

Legislative Bills of Interest (See supplemental handout) – Presented by David Del Villar Fox

Initial Health Screen Policy and Practice Update – Presented by Joel Odimba

- The Children's Administration has made significant progress implementing Initial Health Screens statewide since December 2010 data was reported at the March meeting.
- Regions continue to develop new relationships with medical providers in order to maintain capacity in their communities to ensure that all children placed can receive an Initial Health Screen.
- Initial Health Screens have been implemented for six months as of May 2011.
- The Administration is making progress to make sure every child entering out of home care receives an Initial Health Screen or meets one of the exceptions:
 - Children released from a hospital (in-patient or Emergency) directly into out-of-home care.
 - Children receiving services through a Pediatric Interim Care program.
 - Children receiving services or scheduled to receive services through a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) or sexual assault clinic.

- Children’s Administration is exploring data to see if some children failed to have an Initial Health Screen or whether documentation was lacking. Documentation issues are being corrected.
- Staff continues to look at children who do not receive an IHS within five days of placement to identify barriers and possible solutions to improve performance.

IHS or EPSDT Exams	March 2011 – percentage of statewide total		December 2010 – percentage of statewide total
Within 5 days	40%	164	31%
Over 5 days	49%	198	52%
Not done	11%	44	18%