

March 2011 Braam Oversight Panel Meeting

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



March 2011 is National Social Work Month

- Social workers across the nation are being recognized and honored this month. This year's theme is *Social Workers Change Futures*, and promotes the role of social workers as a positive change agent.
- According to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), there are 640,000 professional social workers in the United States who have dedicated their careers to either helping people transform their lives, or improving environments that make such progress possible.
- Social workers in the child welfare field are making life altering decisions every day. Through their work, they see both the best and the worst of human circumstances and the impact that has on children. Their training, caring, professionalism and compassion for the children and families served helps address serious life challenges and contributes to keeping children safe.
- Join us in recognizing our social workers for their commitment to public service and for making a positive difference in the lives of children and families.

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

- The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) is a federal review of how children and families served by state child welfare agencies fare as a result of their interactions with child welfare. It is a three part process and CA is in the third phase:
 - *State Assessment*: Submitted July 2010
 - *Federal On-Site Review*: Occurred September 13 – 17, 2010
 - *Program Improvement Plan*: In Development
- We anticipate the release of the federal report is anticipated this month and will provide the results of our CFSR assessment and federal On-Site Review.
- Once the final report is received from our federal partners, we will negotiate a final Program Improvement Plan and submit a draft within 90 days.
- A copy of the final Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Report will be released to the public and posted on the CA internet site at:
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/CFSR/about.asp>
- Our federal partners have shared preliminary findings that are consistent with what we believe are some areas of strength within our service delivery system. They noted the progress our state has made since the 2003 review.
- The Program Improvement Plan will serve as a blueprint for improving services for children and families involved in Washington's child welfare system.

Children's Administration Updates – Continued

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

- Work is already being done to develop the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) based on preliminary results from the on-site review.
- A strong partnership with the courts will be needed throughout the process of improving outcomes for children and families.
- Six possible themes have been identified for Washington's focus of improvement activity in the PIP:
 1. Training and Consistency
 2. Reducing Racial Disproportionality
 3. Safety
 4. Family Engagement
 5. Timely Permanence
 6. Purchased Services

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

- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Performance Based Contracting (PBC) for Services was released on February 18, 2011.
- The RFP reflects content from consideration of over 1,300 comments from providers, CA staff, DSHS staff, and the Washington Federation of State Employees in response to the Draft RFP released November 22, 2010.
- The purpose of the RFP for PBC is to reduce and consolidate contracts through regionally-based Lead Agencies (LA) that:
 - Are accountable for services provided.
 - Provide an array of quality services for children and families.
 - Improve access and availability of culturally-competent services statewide, no matter where a child lives.
 - Improve outcomes for children and families served.
- Lead Agencies must ensure their performance based contracting approach incorporates the values included in the RFP in serving children and families.
- The RFP specifies that case management is the responsibility of CA social workers and responsibility for coordination of service delivery and provision of services in the family's service plan is the responsibility of the LA
- Family Meetings are foundational to planning for and monitoring services. The RFP includes a description of the three types of meetings that will be used:
 - *Family Team Decision Making Meeting*: CA convenes & facilitates and the Lead Agency participates, and is held for the purpose of making placement decisions.
 - *Family Group Meeting*: CA convenes & facilitates and the Lead Agency participates, and is initially held to develop the service plan with the Family Team.
 - *Service Review Meeting*: Lead Agency convenes & facilitates and CA participates, and is held to review the effectiveness and match of services provided by the Lead Agency.

Children's Administration Updates – Continued

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

Date	Activity
February 18, 2011	Request for Proposal (RFP) Released
March 8, 2011	Pre-Proposal Conference
March 11, 2011	Letter of Intent to Submit Proposal
March 14, 2011	Questions Due from Potential Responders
May 9, 2011	Proposals Due
May - June, 2011	Evaluate Proposals
June 2011	Negotiate Contracts
July 2011	Sign Contracts
July - September	Transition and Start Up Activities

DSHS Realignment of Regions (Consolidating Six Regions into Three)

- In responding to the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has taken very deliberate action to preserve services for our most vulnerable clients.
- One approach being taken to improve efficiencies is to consolidate geographic regions and the business functions within those regions. The consolidation of regions is across DSHS.
- The consolidation supports DSHS efforts to integrate services and practices and provide consistent experiences for the families we serve, staff, stakeholders, partners, and communities regardless of geographic location.
- From a fiscal perspective, consolidation allows us to downsize facilities, maintain program and fiscal integrity, increase capacity for appropriate checks and balances, and reduce staff positions. In order to achieve required budget savings, a reduction of 19 positions is required within DSHS; five of which are in CA.
- The current six regions will become three and each region will have a Regional Office that will include the Business Office and a secondary hub. The new regions are identified below and are effective May 1, 2010:

Region 1: The twenty counties east of the Cascades. The Regional Office (Including Business Office) will be located in Spokane with a secondary hub in Yakima.

Region 2: Includes King, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, San Juan and Island counties. The Regional Office (Including Business Office) will be located in Seattle with a secondary hub in Everett.

Region 3: Comprises Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Pierce, Mason, Thurston, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania counties. The Regional Office (Including Business Office) will be located in Tacoma with a secondary hub in Vancouver.

Children's Administration Updates – Continued

Training and Professional Development

- CA collaboration with University of Washington and Eastern Washington University, Schools of Social Work, and Partners for Our Children to expand infrastructure for DSHS staff, contracted providers, Tribes, and caregiver training and professional development.
- Denise Revels Robinson, CA Assistant Secretary will meet with the statewide workgroup that developed the Caregiver Training Improvement Plan proposal in April 2011.

Children's Administration Budget Update

- This continues to be a difficult economic time at both the state and national level.
- ESHB 1086, the SFY 2011 Supplemental Operating Budget bill, was signed into law on February 18, 2011.
- The budget bill is a reflection of continued difficult economic times and reduces the Children's Administration Appropriation authority by \$11,469,000; from \$545,455,000 to \$533,986,000.
- Several of the reductions represent steps already taken by the Children's Administration to comport with Executive Order 10-04, which required a 6.287 percent across the board reduction in GF-State revenue for all state agencies. Highlights of these reductions include:
 - A reduction in Family Foster Home Private Agency Service Fees for a savings of \$1,600,000
 - A reduction in funding for Behavioral Rehabilitative Services for a savings of \$4,172,000
 - Other reductions were the result of one-time under-expenditures due to under utilization of certain services. Highlights of these reductions include:
 - ✚ The Street Youth Program for a one-time savings of \$56,000
 - ✚ Crisis Residential Centers for a one-time savings of \$959,000
 - ✚ Secure Crisis Residential Centers for a one-time savings of \$158,000
 - ✚ Hope Beds for a one-time savings of \$404,000
- ESHB 1086 did not include the passage of a Maintenance Level budget appropriation, an appropriation necessary to fund recent forecasted caseload and per capita trends in the Foster Care and Adoption Support Programs.
- We anticipate the passage of a Maintenance Level Budget and the 2011-13 Budgets in the next several weeks.
- Link to access information regarding the DSHS/ CA budget on the web: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/Budget/>

2011 Legislative Bills of Interest: *See hand-out that summarizes highlights of legislative bills of interest as of March 10, 2011 with potential impact on the Children's Administration.*