

September 2010 Braam Oversight Panel Meeting

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

Federal Child and Family Service Review (CFSR)

- Washington State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) On-Site Review was conducted September 13-17, 2010 and concluded with an exit conference on Friday, September 17 at the SeaTac Hilton that was open to the public.
- The Statewide Assessment was submitted in July 2010 and is posted on the CA internet: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/CFSR/about.asp>.
- The federal review team shared preliminary findings of the 65 cases they reviewed from Bellingham, King Co, and Spokane and the major themes from the stakeholder interviews and focus groups in the 7 systemic areas.
- The preliminary results were well-balanced and reinforce Washington State is on the right path.
- Results indicate Washington State did best on:
 - Meeting the physical and mental health needs of children
 - Meeting education needs of children
 - Preserving relations and connections for children in foster care
- In the area of safety, Washington State had mid-level performance.
- The greatest areas of opportunity for Washington State to make improvement included:
 - Enhancing family capacity to meet children's needs
 - Timely permanency for children in foster care
 - Social worker engagement and visits with parents
- The pattern of strengths and areas needing improvement is similar as most other states.
- In-home cases rated lower than foster care cases.
- CA anticipates receiving the federal written report with final review findings in late December 2010. Like all states reviewed, Washington State will be required to submit a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) identifying our strategies to address areas in need of improvement identified in response to the written report.
- The Children's Administration and our partners are already beginning to work on our Program Improvement Plan. We will build on our strengths and work in progress to address key areas needing improvement, including the following:
 - More consistency of CA practice
 - Improved initial and ongoing safety assessment and planning
 - Family engagement
 - Timely permanency
 - Improved quality assurance of purchased services
 - Assuring positive outcomes for all children; including reducing disproportionality
- The power point presented by the federal reviewers at the exit conference which includes preliminary results is posted on the CA internet: [CFSR On-Site Review Exit Conference - Preliminary Results](#)



Children's Administration Updates – Continued

2106 Washington State Child Welfare Transformation Design Committee (TDC) and Performance Based Contracting (PBC)

- Quarterly 2106 Transformation Design Committee (TDC) reports and meeting materials are available on their public website: <http://joinhandsforchildren.org>
- CA Assistant Secretary and Washington State private agency representatives attended the 2010 National Quality Summit on Private-Public Partnerships in Child Welfare. The Summit was held in San Antonio and focused on lessons learned from experiences in other states.
- In September 2010 the Transformation Design Committee began meeting monthly rather than quarterly. During the September meeting, CA provided committee members an update on activities that occurred since the last quarterly meeting. Highlights include the following:
 - CA leadership met with seven Tribes in August 2010 and five more meetings are scheduled in October 2010 with Tribes who expressed an interest in becoming a PBC Master Contractor.
 - CA leadership met with 350 foster parents statewide during June - August 2010 to listen to and talk with them about their questions and concerns related to the conversion to PBC.
 - CA plans to release an Outline of the Request for Proposal in early October to service providers and Tribes and release the Request for Proposal (RFP) in late November 2010.
 - A statewide service assessment is being conducted by Partners for Our Children (POC).
 - The Stewart Foundation and Partners for Our Children (POC) are creating a longitudinal database to develop an online data dashboard.
 - The National Resource Center on Child Protective Services has agreed to provide a “Train-the-Trainer” on safety for in-home services.
 - Annie E. Casey will assist in training CA staff and Master Contract staff on Family Team Decision Meeting (FTDM) program fidelity and work toward building more capacity for family service planning and family progress meetings.
 - The implementation of performance based contracts will position Washington State to address a number of the issues identified in the CFSR, including statewide service availability, inconsistent service array both in rural and urban areas, the need for stronger front-end in home services, and improved quality assurance of purchased services.

Children's Administration Budget Update

CA is required by Governor Executive Order to reduce SFY 2011 GF-State obligations by 6.287% or \$19,298,000. Further guidance from the Office of Financial Management clarifies that all GF-State Provisos are subject to a 6.287% reduction. GF-State Proviso reductions are equivalent to a \$4.1 million GF-State reduction; leaving a gap of \$15.1 million GF-State to be spread across remaining GF-State funding.

In deliberations to identify the remaining \$15.1 million GF-State reduction, priority funding will be given to:

1. Services that help to ensure the safety of children and families.
2. In-home services that help to keep a child safely at home and prevent costly out of home placements.
3. Services that enhance our ability to provide quality wrap-around service.
4. Children with open dependency cases.
5. Statewide consistency to realize efficiencies.
6. An organizational structure that position the Children's Administration for successful implementation of Performance Based Contracts.

Reduction options are due to the Office of Financial Management on October 15, 2010.

Children's Administration Updates – Continued

Technical Assistance from the National Resource Center on Child Protective Services

- Children's Administration is continuing to work with the National Resource Center (NRC) on Child Protective Services to improve child safety practice in Washington.
- The primary focus is the development and implementation plan to re-design the Safety Assessment and safety planning processes. Improvements will help ensure the tools and practices are state of the art in helping social workers keep children safe.
- The goals of the collaboration include improving the intake and investigative resource guide, developing a statewide safety assessment and safety plan curriculum and implementing statewide training.

Increase in Child Dependency Filings

- Children's Administration experienced a slight increase statewide (3.6%) in the number of intakes and accepted intakes received during FY2010 in comparison to FY2009, an increase of 995 accepted intakes.
- There was a significant increase statewide (14%) in the number of children that the Children's Administration filed dependencies on in FY2010 from FY2009, an increase of 563 children.
- Statewide child dependency filings increased the most in March, April, May and June 2010.
- While there was an increase in accepted CPS intakes (investigations) statewide, there is not a strong relationship between the increase in accepted intakes and the increase in the number of children CA filed for dependency.
- The decision to file a dependency is based on the safety threats identified during the investigation and threats that cannot be controlled in the child's home.

Implementing Initial Health Screens (IHS) for Children Newly Entering Foster Care

- In order to identify emergent physical health concerns for children placed in out-of-home care in Washington State, CA is implementing a new practice for children to be provided an Initial Health Screen as soon as possible, but no later than five (5) days, after the child is placed in foster care.
- The Initial Health Screen covers the same *physical* components as the Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) exam, but it is not expected to cover other aspects of the EPSDT, such as the developmental status and mental health of the child.
- Whenever possible, the Initial Health Screen will be scheduled with the child's primary care provider.
- CA will implement statewide policy regarding Initial Health Screens (IHS) October 31, 2010.
- Information for caregivers will be included in the October *Caregiver Connection Newsletter*, which is posted on the Caregiver website and distributed through the Caregiver Listserv.
- Healthcare providers in every county have been identified across Washington State to perform this exam. These providers will receive a letter of appreciation that includes guidance on appropriate billing for the Initial Health Screen and answers to anticipated questions.
- CA Administrators continue to address concerns identified by healthcare providers including clarification and coordination with EPSDT exam, disruption in continuity of care when their primary care physician is unavailable and the children receives an IHS from another physician, limited medical records for the child at the time of placement.

Children's Administration Updates – Continued

Implementing Initial Health Screens (IHS) for Children Newly Entering Foster Care

- CA Administrators will continue to work on building and maintaining statewide capacity for initial health screens through outreach to local medical communities. Our work has focused on developing relationships with providers who are available to see children for initial health screens, and who are willing to become the child's primary care provider.
- There are already offices implementing this new practice across the state. A sample of offices and information regarding their performance providing healthcare service for children newly entering care in July 2010 is included in the table below.
- Two Examples of Local Partnerships:* Regional Administrators will spotlight two communities already making progress, Bellevue (King County) and Bellingham (Whatcom County). During the Braam Oversight Panel public meeting Regional Administrators, Joel Odimba and Randy Hart, will share how they are working with local healthcare providers to make arrangements for children to receive initial health screen exams.

Sample of CA Offices with Early Start Implementing Initial Health Screens

Region	Office/County	Children Newly Entering Out of Home Care in July 2010	Physical Health Exam within 5 Days of Entering Care	Physical Health Exam > 5 Days of Entering Care	Physical Health Exam not Documented as of 9/15/10
1	Colville Office (Stevens Co)	13	30% (4)	46% (6)	23% (3)
2	Richland/Sunnyside (Benton Co)	10	20% (2)	70% (7)	10% (1)
3	Bellingham (Whatcom County)	11	46% (5)	54% (6)	N/A
4	White Center (King Co)	4	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)
	King East (King Co)	9	11% (1)	78% (7)	11% (1)
5	Bremerton (Kitsap Co)	32	19% (6)	66% (21)	15% (5)
6	Aberdeen (Grays Harbor Co)	9	44% (4)	44% (4)	11% (1)