

Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration
Braam Settlement and Exit Agreement Semi-Annual Performance Report
July – December 2013
Executive Summary
March 2014

Introduction

This semi-annual report covers the period of July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 and is the fifth and final report under the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement. The Revised Agreement was effective for 26 months from November 1, 2011 through December 31, 2013. The full text of the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement can be found on the [Children's Administration website](#).

The Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement acknowledges that "significant progress and improvements have been made to Washington's child welfare system since 2004," and attributes the progress to the commitment of the Governor, Department staff, the Legislature, the leadership of DSHS and Children's Administration and community stakeholders. While acknowledging the Department's progress, the Agreement also recognizes the Department's need to meet key outcomes that have not yet been achieved.

Full Compliance

The renegotiated agreement provides that "the Department will be deemed to be in full compliance with an individual outcome if it achieves the 'full compliance measure' for 18 months". Where full compliance with an individual outcome has been achieved, this is noted in the report.

Performance Highlights

The Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement included 21 outcomes. In the July through December 2013 review period only 12 outcomes remain enforceable as Children's Administration has achieved full compliance on nine outcomes. Children's Administration demonstrated improved or stable performance on seven of the 10 outcomes included in this report. Following is a summary of performance for the 10 outcomes included in this report:

Eighteen Months of Full Compliance Met for Four Outcomes

For the outcomes listed below, the Department's performance since July 2012 demonstrates 18 months of achieving full compliance with the measure for the outcome. The following information is about performance in the semi-annual period of July – December 2013.

- *Monthly Health & Safety Visits with Children:* 95% of children received a health and safety visit from their social worker at least once every calendar month they were in care during the year; performance remained stable since the FY 2013 reporting period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Thoroughness and Timeliness of DLR-CPS Investigations:* 97% of intakes (referrals) alleging child abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home care received a thorough investigation by the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR), pursuant to CA policy and timeline, and within documentation requirements; an increase from 95% in FY 2012. (Full Compliance is 95% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a case review conducted by the Central Case Review Team.

- *Sibling Placement:* 86% of children with brothers and/or sisters who were removed together during the review period were placed with their brothers and sisters who were removed at the same time. Performance in July – December 2013 has remained stable since the previous reporting period. (Full Compliance is 75% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a targeted case review of 90 cases.
- *Educational Needs of Children:* 96% of caseworkers took the required steps to meet the educational needs of school aged children in out-of-home care; performance has remained stable since the last reporting period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a targeted case review of 100 cases.

Twelve Months of Full Compliance Met for One Outcome

- *Medically Fragile Children:* 95% of medically fragile children are connected to ongoing and appropriate medical care and placed with caregivers who have specialized skills or receive consultation and ongoing training regarding their caretaking responsibilities for the medical condition. (Full compliance is 95% or more.)

Performance within 1 to 4 Percent of Meeting Statewide Full Compliance Measure for Two Outcomes

- *Caseloads At or Below 18 Cases:* 86% of social workers who provide services to one or more children in out-of-home care had caseloads of 18 children or less; performance increased 3% from the January – June 2013 reporting period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Sibling Visits / Contacts:* 89% of children placed apart from their siblings received two or more monthly visits or contacts (not including staffing meetings or court events) with their brothers or sisters according to a targeted case review; an increase from 83% in January – June 2013 reporting period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a targeted case review of 50 cases.

Performance Improvement Needed for Three Outcomes

- *Caregiver Information:* 60% of caregivers received and signed the Child Information Placement Referral form within the required timeframes according to a targeted case review; an increase from 56% in the January – June 2013 reporting period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a targeted case review of 200 cases.
- *Frequency of Youth on Runaway Status:* 3.60% of youth in out-of-home care ran from their homes or placement facilities during the calendar year (January 2013 – December 2013); an increase from 3.50% in FY 2013 in the portion of children who ran from care. (Full Compliance is 2.35% or less.)
- *Median Number of Days Youth are on Runaway Status:* The median number of days that youth were on runaway status was 43.0 days statewide; a decrease from 53.5 days in FY 2013 in the number of days youth were on the run. (Full Compliance is 25 or fewer days.)

Outcome Not Included in this Report

Two outcomes are not included in this report as the data is not due under the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement.

- Outcome 9 – Caregiver Training
- Outcome 10 – Caregiver Support

Continuous Improvement Efforts

For those outcomes where the full compliance measure was not achieved, this report includes the strategies that the Children's Administration used in the last reporting period and will continue to use to improve performance on the outcomes in the Agreement.

With the issuance of this semi-annual performance report, Children's Administration has achieved full compliance on 13 out of the 21 outcomes with only eight remaining enforceable.

Beyond the Agreement

While the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement expired December 31, 2013, Children's Administration remains committed to monitoring performance and maintaining the Quality Assurance and Continuous Quality Improvement processes established to achieve the goals of the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement. The Department has implemented a system which allows us to learn from our results and improve processes and practice where necessary. We have embedded our commitment to achieving the outcomes into our day to day practice.

For questions regarding this report, please email cabraamsettlement@dshs.wa.gov.