

Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration  
**Braam Settlement and Exit Agreement Semi-Annual Performance Report**  
**July – December 2012**  
**Executive Summary**  
4/1/2013

## **Introduction**

This semi-annual report covers the period of July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 and is the third report under the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement. The Revised Agreement is 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**

Children's Administration demonstrated improved or stable performance on 10 of the 14 outcomes included in this report. Following is a summary of performance for the 14 outcomes included in this report:

### **Eighteen Months of Full Compliance Met for One Outcome**

For the outcome listed below, the Department's performance since July 2011 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 2012.

- *Annual Screening of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Needs:* 90% of children and youth received an annual screening of mental health and substance abuse needs in FY 2012. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is administrative data and a targeted case review of 100 non-compliant cases.

### **Twelve Months of Full Compliance Met for Four Outcomes**

- *Thoroughness and Timeliness of DLR-CPS Investigations:* 95% of intakes (referrals) alleging child abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home care received a thorough investigation by the Division of Licensing Resources (DLR), pursuant to CA policy and timeline, and within documentation requirements; an increase from 90% in FY 2011. (Full Compliance is 95% or more.)

- *Adequate Safeguards for Sexually Aggressive Youth (SAY):* 99% of children identified as sexually aggressive (SAY) are placed with caregivers who received specialized training and received a plan to address the safety and supervision issues of children in their home. Performance in July – December 2012 has remained the same from the previous reporting period. (Full Compliance is 95% or more.)
- *Adequate Safeguards for Physically Assaultive / Aggressive Youth (PAAY):* 98% of children identified as physically assaultive or physically aggressive (PAAY) are placed with caregivers who received specialized training and received a plan to address the safety and supervision issues of children in their home; an increase from 96% in January – June 2012. (Full Compliance is 95% or more.)
- *Youth Transition (Exit) Staffings:* 97% of youth in out-of-home care who turned 17.5 years of age between July – December 2012 received a multi-disciplinary transition staffing to address their transition to independence between age 17 and 17.5 years. (Full compliance is 95% or more.)

### **Six Months of Full Compliance Met for Two Outcomes**

- *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; an increase from 71% in January – June 2012. (Full Compliance is 75% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is a targeted case review of 90 cases.
- *Educational Needs of Children:* 85% of caseworkers took the required steps to meet the educational needs of school aged children in out-of-home care; an increase from the last reporting period of 66%. (Full Compliance is 80% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a targeted case review of 100 cases.

### **Performance within 15 Percent of Meeting Statewide Full Compliance Measure for Four Outcomes**

- *Monthly Health & Safety Visits with Children:* 85% of children received a health and safety visit from their social worker each and every month they were in care for a full month during the fiscal year; an increase from 84% performance in FY 2012. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)

NOTE: While the parties do not agree on this issue, the Department's position is that the new calculation for monthly visits adopted by the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the calculation intended in the full compliance measure for this outcome. This report includes performance data under both the new and previous calculations for this outcome. Under the new federal measure, 96% of the visits required were completed in CY 2012. The current federal standard is 90%.

- *Caseloads At or Below 18 Cases:* 88% of social workers who provide services to one or more children in out-of-home care had caseloads of 18 children or less; performance remained the same as the January – June 2012 reporting report. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Sibling Visits / Contacts:* 75% 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 38% in January – June 2012 review period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Medically Fragile Children:* 92% 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; a decrease from 100% in January – June 2012. (Full compliance is 95% or more.)

### **Considerable Performance Improvement Needed for Three Outcomes**

- *Caregiver Information:* 22% of caregivers received and signed the Child Information Placement Referral form within the required timeframes according to a targeted case review; an increase from 14% in the January – June 2012 review period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Frequency of Youth on Runaway Status:* 3.26% of youth in out-of-home care ran from their homes or placement facilities during the calendar year (January 2012 – December 2012); an increase from 3.19% in FY 2012 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 59.0 days statewide; an increase from 47 days in FY 2012 in the number of days youth were on the run. (Full Compliance is 25 or fewer days.)

### **Outcomes 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. The following outcomes will be reported in the September 2013 Semi-Annual Report:

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

### **Strategies for Improvement**

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 periods and will use in the next reporting period to continue to improve performance on the outcomes in the Agreement.

For questions regarding this report, please email [cabraamsettlement@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:cabraamsettlement@dshs.wa.gov).