

Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration
Braam Settlement and Exit Agreement Semi-Annual Performance Report
January – June 2012
Executive Summary
9/28/2012

Introduction

This semi-annual report covers the period of January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012 and is the second 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 11 of the 16 outcomes included in this report. Following is a summary of performance for the 16 outcomes included in this report:

18 Months of Full Compliance Met for Two Outcomes

For the two outcomes listed below, the Department's performance since January 2011 demonstrates 18 months of achieving full compliance with the full compliance measure for each outcome. The following information is about performance in the semi-annual period of January – June 2012.

- *Victims of Child Abuse and/or Neglect by Licensed Foster Parent or Facility Staff:* 99.81% of children were not victims of a founded report of child abuse or neglect by a foster parent or facility staff member; essentially unchanged from 99.80% in FFY 2010. (Benchmark/Full Compliance is 99.68% or more.)
- *Changes in School Placements:* 9.6% of school-aged children, placed apart from their brothers and/or sisters and relatives, experienced a change in school during the school year they were placed; since school changes are difficult for children this is an improvement from 12.8% in FY 2011. (Benchmark/Full Compliance is 20% or less.)

Six Months of Full Compliance Met for Four Outcomes

- *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 January – June 2012 shows an increase from the previous reporting period when it was 92%. (Full Compliance is 95% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is now administrative data from FamLink, rather the foster parent survey that was used in prior periods.
- *Adequate Safeguards for Physically Assaultive / Aggressive Youth (PAAY):* 96% 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 92% in July-December 2011. (Full Compliance is 95% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is now administrative data from FamLink, rather the foster parent survey that was used in prior periods.
- *Medically Fragile Children:* 100% of medically fragile children are reported by their caregiver to be 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; an increase from 57% in July-December 2011. (Full compliance is 95% or more.)
- *Youth Transition (Exit) Staffings:* 98% of youth in out-of-home care who turned 17.5 years of age between January to June 2012 received a multi-disciplinary transition staffing to address their transition to independence between age 17 and 17.5 years; an increase from 93% performance in the July – December 2011 reporting period. (Full compliance is 95% or more.)

Performance within 15 Percent of Meeting Statewide Full Compliance Measure for Five Outcomes

- *Monthly Health & Safety Visits with Children:* 84% 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 82% performance in CY 2011. (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 FY 2012. The current federal standard is 90%.

- *Sibling Placement:* 69% of children with brothers and/or sisters who were removed together during the calendar year were placed with their brothers and sisters who were removed at the same time; a decrease from 71% in July – December 2011. (Full Compliance is 75% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is a targeted case review of 90 cases.
- *Caregiver Training:* 87% of licensed caregivers reported adequate training for their roles and responsibilities; which is relatively unchanged from 88% in FY 2011. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Caregiver Support:* 79% of licensed caregivers reported receiving adequate support for their roles and responsibilities; performance remained the same since FY 2011. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)

- *Educational Needs of Children:* In 66% of cases reviewed, caseworkers took the required steps to meet the educational needs of school aged children in out-of-home care. This is a new outcome under the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement and the data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a targeted case review of 100 cases. (Full Compliance is 80% or more.)

Considerable Performance Improvement Needed for Five Outcomes

- *Caseloads At or Below 18 Cases:* 74% of social workers who provide services to one or more children in out-of-home care had caseloads of 18 children or less; a decrease from 77% in July-December 2011. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Sibling Visits / Contacts:* 38% 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 26% in July-December 2011 review period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Caregiver Information:* 14% of caregivers received and signed the Child Information Placement Referral form within the required timeframes according to a targeted case review. The data used to measure performance on this outcome is now from a targeted case review, rather than the foster parent survey that was used in prior periods. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Frequency of Youth on Runaway Status:* 3.19% of youth in out-of-home care ran from their homes or placement facilities during the state fiscal year (July 2011-June 2012); an increase from 3.15% in CY 2011 in the portion of children who ran from care. (Full Compliance is now 2.35% or less; it was 2.0% or less originally.)
- *Median Number of Days Youth are on Runaway Status:* The median number of days that youth were on runaway status was 47 days statewide; a decrease from 48 days in CY 2011 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 Agreement. The following outcomes will be reported in the March 2013 Semi-Annual Report:

- Outcome 4 – Annual Screening of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Needs
- Outcome 5 – Thoroughness and Timeliness of DLR CPS Investigations

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.