

Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration  
**Braam Settlement and Exit Agreement Semi-Annual Performance Report**  
**January – June 2013**  
**Executive Summary**  
*9/30/2013*

## **Introduction**

This semi-annual report covers the period of January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013 and is the fourth 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**

The Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement included 21 outcomes. In the January through June 2013 review period only 15 outcomes remain enforceable as Children's Administration has achieved full compliance on six outcomes. Children's Administration demonstrated improved or stable performance on 11 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 Three Outcome**

For the outcome listed below, the Department's performance since January 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 January – June 2013.

- *Adequate Safeguards for Sexually Aggressive Youth (SAY):* 100% 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. (Full Compliance is 95% or more.)
- *Adequate Safeguards for Physically Assaultive / Aggressive Youth (PAAY):* 100% 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. (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 – June 2013 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.)

### **Twelve 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. Performance in January – June 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 a targeted case review of 90 cases.
- *Educational Needs of Children:* 98% 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 86%. (Full Compliance is 80% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a targeted case review of 100 cases.

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

- *Medically Fragile Children:* 100% 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; an increase from 92% in July – December 2012. (Full compliance is 95% or more.)

### **Performance within 2 to 10 Percent of Meeting Statewide Full Compliance Measure for Five 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; performance remained the same as the CY 2012 reporting period. (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:* 83% of social workers who provide services to one or more children in out-of-home care had caseloads of 18 children or less; performance decreased 5% from the July – December 2012 reporting period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.)
- *Caregiver Training:* 89% of caregivers reported adequate training for their roles and responsibilities; which is an increase of 2% from the FY 2012 reporting period. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a survey of foster parents and caregivers conducted by DSHS Management Information and Survey Research Unit.
- *Caregiver Support:* 80% of caregivers reported receiving adequate support for their roles and responsibilities; performance has remained relatively unchanged since FY 2012. (Full Compliance is 90% or more.) The data used to measure performance on this outcome is from a survey of foster parents and caregivers conducted by DSHS Management Information and Survey Research Unit.
- *Sibling Visits / Contacts:* 83% 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 75% in July – December 2012 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:* 56% of caregivers received and signed the Child Information Placement Referral form within the required timeframes according to a targeted case review; an increase from 22% in the July – December 2012 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.
- *Frequency of Youth on Runaway Status:* 3.50% of youth in out-of-home care ran from their homes or placement facilities during the fiscal year (July 2012 – June 2013); an increase from 3.27% in CY 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 53.5 days statewide; a decrease from 49.0 days in CY 2012 in the number of days youth were on the run. (Full Compliance is 25 or fewer days.)

### **Outcome Not Included in this Report**

One outcome is not included in this report as the data is not due under the Revised Settlement and Exit Agreement. The following outcome will be reported in the March 2014 Semi-Annual Report:

- 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.

With the issuance of this semi-annual performance report, Children’s Administration has achieved full compliance on 9 out of the 21 outcomes with only 12 remaining enforceable.

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