

DSHS Children's Administration

The administration continually strives to improve efforts to:

- Help parents safely parent their own children
- Intervene when children are in harm's way
- Find safe and stable permanent homes for children who cannot return home
- Ensure that children are safe in out-of-home placements
- Help ensure that children who come into state care have their medical, development, mental health, and educational needs addressed
- Help young people transitioning to adulthood access opportunities for emotional well-being as well as academic and vocational success

In addition to performance measures, the Performance Report contains personal stories about the children and families we serve. In addition, report provides useful resource information.

To view the 2008 report in its entirety, please go to:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/pubs/2008perfrm.asp>

For additional information about the report, please contact:

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CA Children's Administration

DSHS 22-0122 (12/09)

Children's Administration Performance Report at a Glance Fiscal Year 2008



CA Children's Administration

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration was formed to help provide safety and stability for abused and neglected children in our state.

In order to monitor how effectively we accomplish these objectives, the Children's Administration has a wide range of internal measures and external mandates designed to assess our performance through the outcomes our children and families demonstrate.

Each year, the Administration publishes a report in compliance with state laws¹. This report is one way the Administration maintains its commitment to public and legislative accountability.

In recent years, Children's Administration has acquired and continues implementation of a new Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). This system, known as FamLink is an automated system designed to help improve both direct case management and subsequent data management for all children involved with child welfare.

The FY 2008 Children's Administration Performance Report is the last annual report produced by the state under our previous information system known as the Case and Management Information System (CAMIS).

This 2008 report includes the last full year of data reporting available until the new information system is fully automated and all data fields are populated and accessible.

For this reason, the FY 2008 report is especially important, as it represents a "cut off" point between our previous way of monitoring our work and the new methods under FamLink.

The FY 2008 Children's Administration Performance Report provides information on measures related to the Administration's four priority areas of:

- **Safety**
- **Permanency**
- **Child and Family Well-being**
- **Supporting Client Outcomes**

¹Revised Codes of Washington (RCW) 43.20.870 and RCW 74.13.031(5)



Children's Administration reports on more than 25 measures; some of the measures on which we demonstrated improved outcomes include:

Safety

- For every quarter of FY 2008, the Administration performed better than the target of seeing 90 percent of children in emergent referrals within 24 hours.
- The federal standard for children kept safe from abuse in licensed care also increased from 99.43 percent to 99.68 percent. CA demonstrated a 99.77 percent rate of children protected from abuse or neglect in licensed care.

Permanency

- Increased the number of children who were able to return home to the families from which they were removed.
- The percentage of children placed with relatives continues to climb, with a 38.7 percent rate in FY08.

Well-Being

- Implemented additional supports to older youth through the Passport to College Promise Program, a partnership between CA and the Higher Education Coordinating Board which offers scholarships for foster youth.
- Continued to increase the percentage of social worker visits to children monthly in their out-of-home placements.

Supporting Client Outcomes

- Implemented a new foster care recruitment and retention campaign based on a business model of targeted marketing. "Foster parenting...you can too." has garnered recognition locally and nationally.

Other Progress

- Reduced the average number of cases each social worker carried.
- Continued implementation of the new Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System, call FamLink.

Important Telephone Numbers

To report child abuse or neglect
1-866-EndHarm or
1-866-363-4276

To become a foster or adoptive parent
1-888-KIDS-414
1-888-543-7414

To resolve concerns about the Children's Administration or foster care, contact Constituent Relations
1-800-723-4831

To contact the Child and Family Ombudsmen
1-800-571-7321

To find help for homeless youth living on the street or other unsafe locations
1-877-550-HOPE or
1-877-550-4673

To find child care resources and referrals
1-800-446-1114

To find health and human services information through the Washington Information Network
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