

STATE OF WASHINGTON

Annual Progress and Services Report

Submitted June 2003

Section X

Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver Project

Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services

TITLE IV-E CHILD WELFARE DEMONSTRATION WAIVER PROJECT

Washington's Title IV-E Child Welfare Demonstration Waiver allowed for certain sections of the Social Security Act to be waived for up to 5 years from project implementation. Sections waived pertain to the categorical limitations of federal funding for children in foster care, creating opportunity for blended dollars from multiple child serving agencies to be used in new service delivery models.

The goals of the waiver were to prevent placement in high cost care, to decrease the length of stay in high cost care, to ensure placement in the least restrictive setting for children ages 6-17, and to improve permanency for children.

The Demonstration Waiver implemented March 2002 with the first children enrolled in Vancouver's Clark County Wraparound Project. Care coordinators facilitate child and family teams that design the child specific "Individualized and Tailored Care Plan." The contract provided for up to 45 children to be enrolled in the project under a two tiered case rate structure, with county mental health funds pooled with child welfare funds. The project was additionally supported by Clark County's SAMHSA grant. The case rate structure of the project does not lend itself the use of IV-B funds to any greater extent than in the traditional service model.

Clark County indicates it will not renew the contract July 2003, primarily because the County would like the target population to be children who are of high cost to the mental health system as well as high cost to CA. Sixteen children were accepted into this project site: 6 were in the control group; 10 were assigned to the demonstration group, 3 of which were disenrolled. CA will be submitting a termination summary on this site to DHHS.

Given that we have no potential partners for additional sites, CA has notified DHHS that we are terminating our Waiver.

We have learned much from the Waiver project. We now know that case rate determinations are even more complex than first envisioned and that such projects require large populations of participants to make the case rate model feasible. The Waiver umbrella intensified our collaborative efforts with our mental health partners. Those efforts led to benefits for the children and families served by the project as well as for our mutual systems as we ventured into new territory. We are building on the multi agency cooperative spirit of the Waiver as we continue to seek the optimum avenues for serving public child welfare children and families.