



Washington State Child and Family Services Plan

FY 2010 - FY 2014

The mission of the Children's Administration is first to protect abused and neglected children, to support the efforts of families to care for and parent their own children safely, and to provide quality care and permanent families for children in partnership with parents and kin, Tribes, foster parents and communities.

*Protecting children, supporting families,
providing quality care with our partners.*

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

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A Time of Change

Child welfare systems are always experiencing change. The quest to keep children safe and well requires continual improvement. In Washington State, this is especially true this year.

As she announced a new Secretary for the Department of Social and Health Services, Susan Dreyfus, Governor Gregoire directed Susan to transform the umbrella social and health service agency including the following priority for child welfare:

“This agency has undertaken significant reform initiatives to improve outcome for the children it serves. It is at a critical juncture of early implementation and it also has additional areas needing attention and improvement.”

In the 2009 Legislative session many new bills related to child welfare were enacted. The most sweeping is SHB 2106, *An ACT Relating to improving child welfare outcomes through the phased implementation of strategic and proven reforms* which:

- Requires the department to convert all its contracts to performance-based contracts.
- Established a child welfare transformation design committee to develop 2 pilot projects where almost all services except child protective investigations and licensing will be performed by supervising agencies with which the department has developed performance-based contracts.

These changes are in addition to declining resources and multiple change initiatives already underway:

- A new SACWIS system, FamLink, which was implemented February 1, 2009
- Improving our outcomes on the federal measures
- Continued improvements for children in out-of-home care by meeting the requirements of the Braam Settlement Agreement

As these developments unfold, Washington State's Child and Family Services Plan for FY 2010 – FY 2014 will be subject to change.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN FY 2010 - FY 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Overview of Children's Administration Services	Overview (1)
Section A: Five Year Plans	
• A Look Back: Strategic Plan 2005 - 2011 (6/30/2004)	Section A (1)
• A Look Ahead: Strategic Plan 2007 - 2011 & Beyond (7/1/2008)	Section A (2)
Section B: Financial Information	
• CFS 101: Part I, Part II, & Part III	Section B (1)
• Title IV-B, Subpart 2 Funds, Federal Requirements	Section B (2)
• Other Fiscal Information	Section B (3)
• Certifications & Assurances	Section B (4)
Section C: Program Information	
• Child Welfare Services	Section C (1)
Child Safety	
Permanency	
Health & Well-Being	
Supporting Client Outcomes	
• Promoting Safe & Stable Families	Section C (2)
Family Preservation	
Family Support	
Time-Limited Unification	
Adoption Promotion & Support Services	
• CAPTA State Plan Grant	Section C (3)
• Chafee Foster Care Independence / Education & Training Vouchers	Section C (4)
• Monthly Caseworker Visits & Data (State Plan Requirements)	Section C (5)
• Timely Home Studies Reporting & Data	Section C (6)
Section D: Collaborations	
• Practice Model	Section D (1)
• Tribal Consultation	Section D (2)
• Consultation with Physicians & Health Care Services Plan	Section D (3)
• Collaboration (Ongoing)	Section D (4)
• Program Support: Training & Evaluation & Technical Assistance	Section D (5)
• Program Support: Other (Research; SACWIS; QA System)	Section D (6)
• Disaster Plan	Section D (7)
Section E: Supporting Information	
• Juvenile Justice Transfers	Section E (1)
• Inter-Country Adoptions	Section E (2)
• Child Welfare Demonstration Projects	Section E (3)
• Foster & Adoptive Parents Recruitment	Section E (4)
• Adoption Incentive Payments	Section E (5)
Appendices	
• Washington State Draft Disaster Plan	
Emergency Management Plan & Attachments	Appendix (1 A)
Continuity of Operations Plan & Attachments	Appendix (1 B)
• CFSP FY 2010 - FY 2014 Addendum (December 14, 2009)	Appendix (2)