



Appendix

(2) Washington State Child and Family Services Plan Addendum

FY 2010 - FY 2014

(Submitted December 13, 2009)

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**

Child and Family Services Plan FY 2010 - FY 2014 Addendum

The following are the 13 areas Lois Ward identified as needing more information for federal approval of the Washington State Child and Family Services Plan. It has been placed in an addendum at her request. These 13 areas have been addressed below.

- 1. Address how the CFSR results and PIP affected the achievement of CFSP goals and objectives and any barriers or unexpected events that have had an impact on the accomplishment of the CFSP's goals and objectives. Instead of putting this throughout the report, have one page that states that the last CFSR was in 2003 and the PIP ended in 2005 or 6 and that the next CFSR is 2010. Further that the initiatives begun in the first PIP have been maintained etc. (1 page at the most) (from Page 6 in the PI) WA: Section D (5)**

Children's Administration had their last CFSR in 2003, and the next one will be in 2010. The PIP ended in 2007 with a few outstanding items updated in 2008. There are active efforts within the Children's Administration to maintain progress made on all items listed in the PIP, and to prepare for the next CFSR.

- 2. Describe the progress and accomplishments made with regard to the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflects the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the State for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed. I do not see a reference to diligent recruitment in this section. (See needed information at end of this document) Add a paragraph in an addendum. From Page 6 of the PM and WA section E (4).**

Children's Administration has begun shifting to the Family To Family Model of recruitment. This model identifies "neighborhoods of focus" from which the most children are removed and where we have the fewest foster parents. CA has begun developing data to identify specific characteristics about the children being removed in the neighborhoods of focus so we can diligently recruit for homes that meet the ethnic and racial diversity of children in state care. The model also relies on finding and working with neighborhood and community leaders and members to help both recruit and support families who take children when they come into out of home care. CA has begun use of this model in all regions. Contracts with private agencies for recruitment are being changed as of January 1, 2010 to formally adopt the Family To Family Model, setting specific targets for recruitment in the neighborhoods of focus.

- 3. Describe activities that the State has undertaken for children adopted from other countries, including the provision of adoption and post-adoption services. The information is not sufficient. State cannot say just don't have the information. Reported information is on kids that are not required to be reported. Need further information. Report does mention post adoption services. From Page 6 of PI and WA section E (2)**

During FY 2009, Washington State had no foster children who came to this country from another country and

- 1) The child was adopted but their adoption failed and the child became a permanent dependent in our foster care system, or
- 2) The child came to the US with the intent of being adopted but it never happened and the child became a permanent dependent in our foster care system.

4. Describe the activities implemented by the State, to date, to make yearly progress to meet the monthly caseworker visit mandate. 2008 rules are offered but no activities are outlined as to how State plans to meet goals. Need plan to meet goals. From Page 6 of PI and WA section C (5).

Children's Administration's Monthly Visit Strategies

The children's Administration approach to achieving monthly visits includes three overarching strategies:

- Planning
- Accountability
- Tracking and Monitoring

Planning:

In February 2009, Children's Administration implemented its new SACWIS system called FamLink. As with any new system it has taken time to adjust to the new system and learn how to correctly document information so that work is reflected in the data. This has been the case with monthly visits. While visits are occurring they have not always been appropriately documented in the FamLink system.

To support the use of FamLink and reach the monthly visit goal for our agency we have developed a statewide plan to accelerate FamLink Utilization. This includes:

- *Leadership* by reinforcing expectations regarding the use of FamLink and facilitating ongoing discussions between management and staff regarding the use of FamLink as an essential business function. This is occurring both at the local level and at the state level.
- *Support* by having each region identify an FTE to act as a FamLink Training and support coordinator. Each region will also identify on-site peer tutoring leads to support staff with their documentation and use of FamLink.
- *Training* by creating individual training plans with each staff person. Supervisors will assist staff immediately in high priority training needs and staff will target completion of their training by December 2009. In addition, FamLink documentation training was provided to staff statewide in October 2009.

Accountability:

Children's Administration is including the use of FamLink in social workers' and supervisors' Position Description Forms (PDF) and Performance and Development Plans (PDP) to ensure all staff understand the importance of using the system to document their work.

Supervisors are required to conduct case reviews with social workers on-line, reviewing the electronic case record as cases are discussed and ensuring the monthly visit occurred.

Tracking and Monitoring

All local offices have instituted a short term Quality Assurance process of conducting hand-counts of Social Worker visits. This process began in September 2009 and will continue until management is comfortable that the data in FamLink accurately reflects the work reported by the Regions.

Children's Administration will use Braam and info FamLink reports to identify staffs' utilization of key requirements and practice tools in FamLink. Children's Administration will also develop an on-line staff survey to measure staffs' and supervisors' confidence, competency and use of FamLink. Results will be used to develop future training/tutoring plans.

5. What is current status of GAL (CASA) (Page 19)? From PI Page6 WA section C (3)

In the past, there have been federal concerns about one of the assurances related to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. That assurance (#13) mandates that the state's child abuse and treatment programs include provisions and procedures requiring a guardian ad litem in every case involving an abused or neglected child. RCW 26.44.053 is Washington's provision that meets this requirement.

Washington State has had difficulty providing a guardian ad litem, court appointed special advocate or attorney for each and every child, particularly in King and Snohomish Counties. Efforts continue to work to reach 100% compliance with this requirement.

The Children's Administration continues to work with the courts and the Association of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to provide a guardian ad litem, court appointed special advocate or attorney for every child.

6. Expansion of the list of goals for 2010-14 (this is the document you are already working on)

See the attachment named the Strategic Plan CFSP Addendum FY 2010-2014.

7. Chafee – See questions A - H below.

A. Identify the State agency or agencies that will administer, supervise or oversee the programs and b) provide a statement that indicates that the State agency will cooperate in national evaluations of the effects of the programs in achieving the purposes of CFCIP.

Washington State administers, supervises, and oversees the programs and will cooperate in national evaluations of the effects of the programs in achieving the purposes of CFCIP.

B. Serving Youth Across the State: Ensure that all political subdivisions in the State are appropriately served by the program. Need more information on how they serve the entire state; not clear how youth in all regions are being served.

There are 11 contracted Independent Living providers and 25 Tribal Independent Living providers that cover all 6 geographical regions in Washington State. The contracted providers are situated in each of the regions to provide ease of access to youth who participate in the program.

C. Describe how the State consulted and coordinated with a wide range of stakeholders, including youth, other Federal and State programs for youth, and Tribes. Specifically describe how the State consulted and coordinated with each Indian tribe in the State to ensure that benefits and services under Chafee will be available to Indian children on the same basis as to other children. (p 17-18) State that the plan for the CFSR includes Youth.

Consulting with our community partners is an integral part of our work. On May 14, 2009, Children's Administration (CA) hosted a meeting with community service providers, advocates, legislators and youth to solicit ideas about developing an effective and youth friendly model of service that supports educational achievement and increased entrance in college for foster care adolescents and alumni of care. The purpose of the meeting was to work with existing adolescent service programs such as Independent Living and brainstorm with the participants on how to enhance youth access to the various programs through an improved model of service that is better integrated. As a result of this meeting, a workgroup has been developed to look at existing programs and make recommendations for improvement.

CA utilizes their statewide youth advisory board "Passion to Action." This board consists of approximately 20 current and former foster youth, representing the 6 regions around Washington State who have been recipients of services provided by CA. They provide CA with input and recommendations regarding policy and practices. Feedback from this Board aids in improving CA's ability to effectively meet the needs of the children and adolescents we serve. This board provides valuable input into how services to adolescents are delivered.

Passion to Action along with other youth groups such as the Mockingbird Network and the State Advisory Council are involved on a regular basis in providing feedback to CA programming. Members from these groups are also involved in the CFSR planning.

Outreach with Tribes in WA State regarding CFCIP programs continues on a regular basis. Tribal youth are assured access and availability of Independent Living services across the state. Tribal youth may choose Tribal IL contracted services or non-tribal providers, assuming space availability. Once the Tribal youth ages out of foster care (18), s/he is eligible for Transitional Living Services (TLS) across the state.

Agreements with the Tribes regarding allocation of the Chafee Independent Living funds were reached in the year 2000. A solicitation process occurs each year where all federally recognized Tribes in Washington State are given an opportunity to apply for Chafee funding. On June 16, 2009 letters were sent to each Tribe offering an IL contract for this fiscal year. To date, every Tribe that has requested Chafee funds for their own IL program has been approved for funding. This year CA has contracts with 25 tribes. Ten percent of the total IL allocation is designated for Tribal contracts.

D. Determining Eligibility for Benefits and Services: Address how the State will use objective criteria to determine eligibility benefits and services, and for ensuring fair and equitable treatment of benefit recipients. Do all youth who meet eligibility criteria receive services if desired?

Eligibility for the IL program is standardized statewide. Dependent youth who are in foster care for at least 30 days beyond their 15th birthday are eligible for IL services. Once initial eligibility is determined the youth will remain eligible to receive IL services until age 21. Social workers refer youth at age 15 to the IL program. The contracted IL program must make at least 3 attempts to engage the youth in this voluntary program. If an effort to engage the youth fails, a letter is sent to the youth informing them that if they shall ever decide to participate in the program they would just need to contact the program.

E. Also on Page 2 please clarify the first sentence (of section C (4) ...#3 under "eligibility for Chafee ILP re: Kinship guardianship. (Note: This is the whole thing about age 15 and 30 days that needs clarification.)

To be eligible for the IL program a youth must be a dependent in the care and custody of DSHS for at least 30 days past their 15th birthday. Therefore youth who meet this initial eligibility and then enter into a guardianship would continue to be eligible for the IL program.

F. Training: Provide information on specific training planned for FY 2010 – 2014 in support of the goals and objectives of the State's CFCIP. This information may be incorporated into the training plan section of the CFSP, and noted as CFCIP training. Where is this? Not clear if included on "Plan for Activities" section; mention of ILS training available for Region 4 in Training section of CFSP

Training on the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) tool will be provided at least yearly to IL providers, CA staff and caregivers. This is a nationally recognized web based tool that helps youth in care prepare for adulthood.

The Independent Living Program Manager will also conduct at least yearly trainings to caregivers on the Positive Youth Development Model and the resources available to help prepare foster youth for adulthood.

G. Preparation to Implement National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD): Describe the steps the State has taken and plans to take in preparation for NYTD implementation. Need to talk about training for NYTD. Where are goals/ objectives? Connection to FAMLINK? –timelines/deadlines? Need more info re: strategies and benchmarks/ timelines

Washington State is in the planning stages of implementing NYTD. A planning committee has been developed to address how NYTD will be implemented and how to track youth and young adults. The NYTD elements will be incorporated into our current SACWIS system (FamLink) and our contracted Independent Living providers will be given access to FamLink to input the services provided to youth. Passion to Action - Washington State's statewide youth advisory board, consisting of current and former foster youth, will assist in identifying ways to implement NYTD, engage youth in the survey and maintain contact with alumni of care.

Here is a proposed timeline for implementation:

Timeline	Tasks
12/01/09 - 02/28/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design how NYTD will look in FamLink ➤ Design any additions to NYTD survey tool ➤ Identify incentives for youth to take survey ➤ Define survey population ➤ Determine when access will be given to providers
3/01/10- 5/31/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify 17 year old survey population and identify process for random sampling at age 19 and 21 ➤ Identify process to locate youth ➤ Determine if CA will administer tool directly or if this will be outsourced ➤ Determine methods of communication to CA staff, Providers, and youth
6/1/10 – 7/31/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Configure survey tool ➤ Finalize communication material ➤ Determine policy changes and create any new policies ➤ Develop training for CA staff, providers and youth
8/1/10 – 9/31/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Train on NYTD ➤ Providers begin using FamLink
10/1/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NYTD goes live

H. What are the “yearly statewide IL outcome goals” mentioned on Plan for Activities 2010-2014?

The Independent Living contract identifies required services that contractors have to provide to youth as well as identified outcome objectives. At the end of each year each provider submits a report indicating the services they have provided and reports on their outcomes. The outcomes deal with:

- percentage of youth referred that were enrolled;

- percentage of youth who are not in school or employed;
- percentage of youth provided information about youth employment programs;
- percentage of youth provided information about post secondary education;
- percentage of youth completing class modules;
- percentage of youth who have a minimum 5% increase each year in their ACLSA scores.

What are the strategies for increasing % of youth receiving ILS? (Section A (2) p.5)

The strategies for increasing youth participation in IL programs are:

- IL providers are required to do outreach to youth, caregivers and social workers in efforts to engage youth;
- Marketing of program to CA staff, youth and community;
- Trainings to caregivers on the ACLSA and what programs are available;
- Utilizing Alumni of care to work with youth not participating in services;
- Providing incentives throughout the year at various events held at the IL program.

In 2005 there was 874 youth participating in the IL program whereas in 2009 there was over 2000 youth. Outreach efforts are working.

8. Name of the State agency that will administer the title IV-B programs under the plan and a description of the organization, its function, and the organizational unit responsible for the plan. We could not locate this. From Page 7 of the PI and WA Overview.

Washington State is the agency administering the title IV-B programs under the Child and Family Services Plan.

9. Child & Family Services Continuum: Describe the publicly funded child and family services continuum. Explain how State services will be linked to, coordinated with, or integrated into other services in the child and family services continuum. Need a specific statement to this effect somewhere. From Page 8 of the PI.

The State of Washington provides a continuum of services as described throughout the Child and Family Services Plan.

10. Service Description: Describe the services offered under each category in Title IV-B, subpart 2. Family preservation, community-based family support, time-limited family reunification and adoption promotion. What services are now available to families and kids, extent to which each service is available and being provided in different geographical areas and to different types of families, important gaps in services (mismatches as id'd by available data). States must indicate the specific percentages of title IV-B, subpart 2 funds that will be expended on each program area. Provide rationale if the percentage is under 20 % for any of the four service areas (family preservation, family support, time-limited reunification, and adoption promotion and support). Let's look at the program instruction and see what we can come up with to address this. This is the biggest challenge I think. From Pages 8 and 9 in the PI and WA section B (2)

Title IV-B Subpart 2 Services: Examples of Key Service Providers

Program Index	Family Preservation (30% of grant)	Community-Based Family Support (20% of grant)	Time-Limited Family Reunification (20% of grant)	Adoption Promotion and Support (20% of grant)	Administrative (10% of grant)
A1441 - Family Preservation Services (FPS)	<p>The CA contracts with approximately 115 contractors to provide FPS throughout WA State. Key service providers are:</p> <p>Catholic Community</p> <p>Spokane Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Center</p> <p>Community Youth Services</p> <p>Volunteers of America</p> <p>Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center</p> <p>Bold Solutions</p> <p>Institute for Family Development</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
A1493 - Alternative Response System now called Early Family	N/A	The CA contracts with approximately 29 contractors to provide EFFT throughout WA State. Key service	N/A	N/A	N/A

Support Services		providers are: Catholic Community Services Brigid Collins Institute for Family Development Yakima Valley Farm Workers Grayson and Associates Children's Advocacy Center of Grays Harbor			
A1492 - Continuum of Care (COC)	N/A	COC services are provided in the Spokane area of the state. The CA contracts with the following 2 contractors to provide COC services. Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center Volunteers of America	N/A	N/A	N/A

A1962 - Evaluations and Treatment	N/A	N/A	These are medical services provided by various medical providers in local communities throughout WA State.	N/A	N/A
A1441 - Family Preservation Services	N/A	N/A	<p>The CA contracts with approximately 115 contractors to provide FPS through-out WA State. Key service providers are:</p> <p>Catholic Community</p> <p>Spokane Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Center</p> <p>Community Youth Services</p> <p>Volunteers of America</p> <p>Martin Luther King Family Outreach Center</p> <p>Bold Solutions</p> <p>Institute for Family Development</p>	N/A	N/A

A1461 - Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS)	N/A	N/A	<p>IFPS is provided on a statewide basis by the following 2 contractors:</p> <p>Empowering, Inc. (Spokane area)</p> <p>Institute for Family Development (Statewide with the exception of the Spokane area)</p>	N/A	N/A
A1633 - Adoption Medical	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adoption medical services are provided by qualified providers within local communities throughout WA State.	N/A
A2123 - Social Workers (CWS Local Workers - Adoption Services)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adoption services are not contracted. They are provided through direct service by our statewide staff.	N/A
A2181 - Adoption Program Staff	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adoption services are not contracted. They are provided through direct service by our statewide staff.	N/A

Administrative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Lease costs.
Administrative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Title IVB-2 is allocated its fair share of indirect administrative costs through base 619, some of these cost include: FOSD salaries, benefits, goods, and services.
Administrative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Assistant Secretaries Office salaries, benefits, goods, and services.
Administrative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CATS (does not include staff working on FamLink) salaries, benefits, goods, and services.

11. Decision making process: Explain how agencies and organizations were selected for funding to provide family support services and how these agencies are community-based. This is one of those places where it is difficult to look for specific wording to this effect and more specific page number paragraph even would be helpful. This overview is great and packed with good information but I don't see any description that answers the above. From Page 9 of the PI.

Family support services are provided throughout Washington State within our communities. Contractors are selected based on their qualifications and also based on the need for services within a geographical area.

12. On Appendix 1A in the emergency plan (Page 7) the Statement of Approval page is missing a signature. Can we get a copy of this page that has been signed?

See the attachment named the Signed Emergency Mgmt Plan Approval signed by the Interim Assistant Secretary. The signed hard-copy original will be sent by mail in a packet when all the signed assurances have been received.

13. The signed assurances.

See the attachments for the Title IV-B Subpart 1 Assurances and the Title IV-B Subpart 2 Assurances signed by the Interim Assistant Secretary.

The three signed assurances by Governor Gregoire for the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment State Plan Assurances, Certifications for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, and the State Chief Executive Officer's Certification for the Education and Training Voucher Program and Chafee Foster Care Independence Program will be coming soon.

All the signed hard-copy originals will be sent by mail in a packet once all the signed assurances have been received from Governor Gregoire.

Attachments: Strategic Plan CFSP Addendum FY 2010 - 2014
Signed Emergency Mgmt Plan Approval
Title IV-B Subpart 1 Assurances
Title IV-B Subpart 2 Assurances