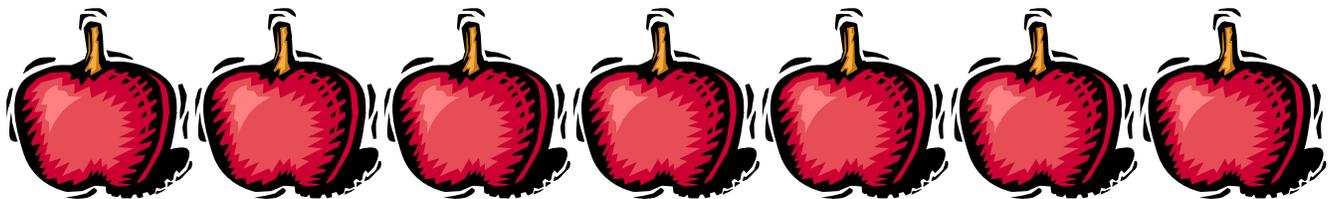


## **Section C: Supporting Information**

### **(1) Juvenile Justice Transfers**

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



## Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2006 Juvenile Justice Transfers

### Juvenile Justice Transfers

**The Children's Administration (CA)** gathered data from the Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) on children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement as the last event of Federal FY 2005, and whose cases were closed as "transfer of custody". Children experiencing a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement remain in the custody of the Children's Administration, unless they are transferred because their Juvenile Rehabilitation stay will exceed the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. While transfer of custody is rare, CAMIS lists Juvenile Rehabilitation events for 133 children who were in out-of-home care during Federal FY 2005.

There was only one child who met the above criteria for transfer during FFY 05, a multi-ethnic male.

### FFY05 JR Transfer

			Gender Data			
			M		Total Number	Total Percent
Hispanic	RaceGrp	Age @ JREvtStrt	Number	Percent		
(b) Not Hispanic	multi	(b) 16-18 Yrs	1	100.00%	1	100.00%
	multi		1	100.00%	1	100.00%
	Total		1	100.00%	1	100.00%
(b) Not Hispanic Total			1	100.00%	1	100.00%
Grand Total			1	100.00%	1	100.00%

Source: Placement & Legal Status.mdb\_6\_06 download. Unique count of children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement event as the last event of FFY05 Placement Episode and are closed during FFY05 with a Placement Result of Transfer of Custody.

**During FY06** (State FY 06), CAMIS lists Juvenile Rehabilitation events for 124 children who were in out-of-home care.

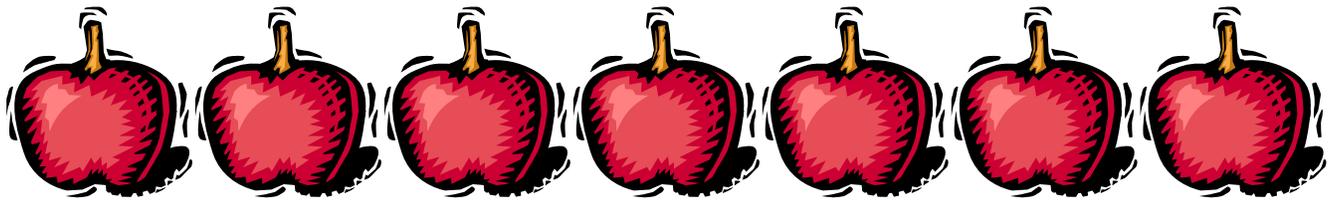
**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2006 Juvenile Justice Transfers**

FFY05			Female		Male		Total Number	Total Percent
Hispanic	RaceGrp	Age @ JREvtStrt	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
(a) Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	1	0.95%	1	0.75%
	Asian/Pacific Islander Total			0.00%	1	0.95%	1	0.75%
	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	4	3.81%	4	3.01%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	3	2.86%	3	2.26%
	Caucasian Total			0.00%	7	6.67%	7	5.26%
	Native American	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	1	0.95%	1	0.75%
	Native American Total			0.00%	1	0.95%	1	0.75%
	Other	(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	2	1.90%	2	1.50%
Other Total			0.00%	2	1.90%	2	1.50%	
<b>(a) Hispanic Total</b>				0.00%	11	10.48%	11	8.27%
(b) Not Hispanic	African American	(a) 11-15 Yrs	2	7.14%	9	8.57%	11	8.27%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	5	17.86%	11	10.48%	16	12.03%
	African American Total		7	25.00%	20	19.05%	27	20.30%
	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs	12	42.86%	26	24.76%	38	28.57%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	2	7.14%	25	23.81%	27	20.30%
	Caucasian Total		14	50.00%	51	48.57%	65	48.87%
	multi	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.57%	4	3.81%	5	3.76%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	4	3.81%	4	3.01%
	multi Total		1	3.57%	8	7.62%	9	6.77%
	Native American	(a) 11-15 Yrs	4	14.29%	3	2.86%	7	5.26%
(b) 16-18 Yrs		1	3.57%	2	1.90%	3	2.26%	
Native American Total		5	17.86%	5	4.76%	10	7.52%	
Other	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	1	0.95%	1	0.75%	
Other Total			0.00%	1	0.95%	1	0.75%	
<b>(b) Not Hispanic Total</b>			27	96.43%	85	80.95%	112	84.21%
(c) Unreported	African American	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	1	0.95%	1	0.75%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	2	1.90%	2	1.50%
	African American Total			0.00%	3	2.86%	3	2.26%
	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	4	3.81%	4	3.01%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	2	1.90%	2	1.50%
	Caucasian Total			0.00%	6	5.71%	6	4.51%
Native American	(b) 16-18 Yrs	1	3.57%		0.00%	1	0.75%	
Native American Total		1	3.57%		0.00%	1	0.75%	
<b>(c) Unreported Total</b>			1	3.57%	9	8.57%	10	7.52%
<b>Grand Total</b>			28	100.00%	105	100.00%	133	100.00%

Source: Placement & Legal Status.mdb\_6\_06 download. Unique count of children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement event while in open in out of home care during FFY05\_YTD. Age @ JR Evt Start reflects the child's age at the start of the earliest Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) event within the FFY05\_YTD open episode.

SFY06 (YTD) No children meet criteria as JR Transfer in SFY06 YTD			Female		Male		Total Number	Total Percent
Hispanic	RaceGrp	Age @ JREvtStrt	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
(a) Hispanic	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%	1	1.10%	2	1.61%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	3	3.30%	3	2.42%
	Caucasian Total		1	3.03%	4	4.40%	5	4.03%
	multi	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.81%
	multi Total		1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.81%
	Native American	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	2	2.20%	2	1.61%
	Native American Total			0.00%	2	2.20%	2	1.61%
	Other	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.81%
(b) 16-18 Yrs			0.00%	1	1.10%	1	0.81%	
Other Total		1	3.03%	1	1.10%	2	1.61%	
(a) Hispanic Total			3	9.09%	7	7.69%	10	8.06%
(b) Not Hispanic	African American	(a) 11-15 Yrs	2	6.06%	7	7.69%	9	7.26%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	4	12.12%	9	9.89%	13	10.48%
	African American Total		6	18.18%	16	17.58%	22	17.74%
	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs	9	27.27%	20	21.98%	29	23.39%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	4	12.12%	27	29.67%	31	25.00%
	Caucasian Total		13	39.39%	47	51.65%	60	48.39%
	multi	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	3	3.30%	3	2.42%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	2	6.06%	3	3.30%	5	4.03%
	multi Total		2	6.06%	6	6.59%	8	6.45%
	Native American	(a) 11-15 Yrs	2	6.06%	3	3.30%	5	4.03%
(b) 16-18 Yrs		5	15.15%	3	3.30%	8	6.45%	
Native American Total		7	21.21%	6	6.59%	13	10.48%	
Other	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	1	1.10%	1	0.81%	
Other Total			0.00%	1	1.10%	1	0.81%	
(b) Not Hispanic Total			28	84.85%	76	83.52%	104	83.87%
(c) Unreported	African American	(b) 16-18 Yrs	1	3.03%	1	1.10%	2	1.61%
		African American Total		1	3.03%	1	1.10%	2
	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	2	2.20%	2	1.61%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	5	5.49%	5	4.03%
	Caucasian Total			0.00%	7	7.69%	7	5.65%
	Native American	(b) 16-18 Yrs	1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.81%
Native American Total		1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.81%	
(c) Unreported Total			2	6.06%	8	8.79%	10	8.06%
Grand Total			33	100.00%	91	100.00%	124	100.00%

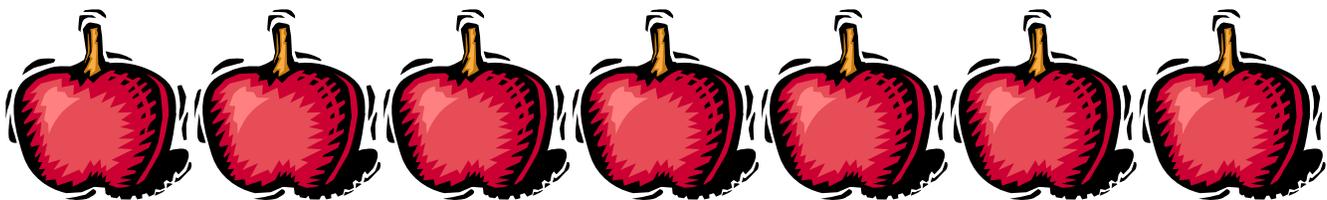
Source: Placement & Legal Status.mdb\_6\_06 download. Unique count of children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement event while in open in out of home care during SFY06\_YTD. Age @ JR EVT Start reflects the child's age at the start of the earliest Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) event within the SFY06\_YTD open episode.



## **Section C: Program Information**

### **(2) Inter-Country Adoptions**

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



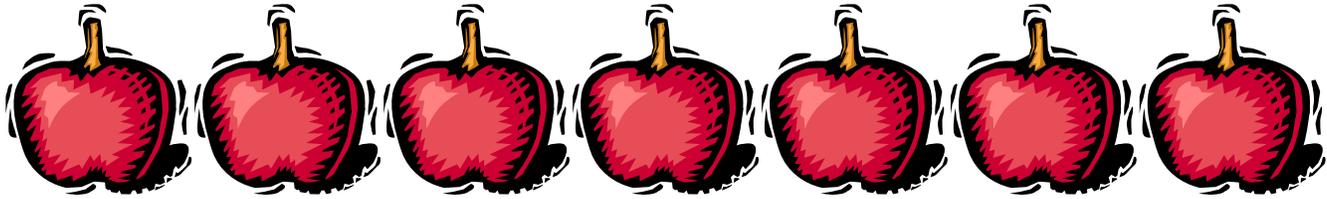
## Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2006 Inter-Country Adoptions

**Children's Administration (CA) does not directly provide international adoption services,** however the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) does license child placing agencies that may provide international adoption services.

A computer alert reminds CA social workers to gather information on adoptions that may be international placements. This also allows CA to keep statistics on international adoptions.

Data for July 1, 2005 through May 31, 2006 indicates there were three children placed in state foster care who were adopted internationally. The information on the three children is below:

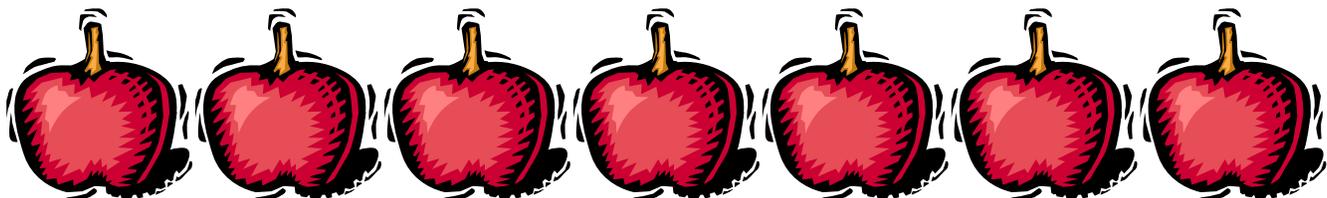
- One child was adopted from Thailand. The adoption was facilitated by Adoption Advocates International. The child came into protective custody due to reports of abuse, all reports were unfounded, and the child returned home.
- One child was adopted from the Russian Federation at the age of 4. The child came into care due to behavioral issues including killing an animal, threatening to kill her parents, and suicidal ideation. The adoptive parents relinquished their rights. The current plans for the child are guardianship or a relative placement. At this time, services are focused on stabilizing her behaviors and offering therapy and educational support.
- One child was adopted from Ethiopia had the adoption facilitated by Adoption Advocates International. The child came into care and is under a voluntary placement agreement regarding allegations of sexual abuse to a sibling. The plan is return home.



## **Section C: Program Information**

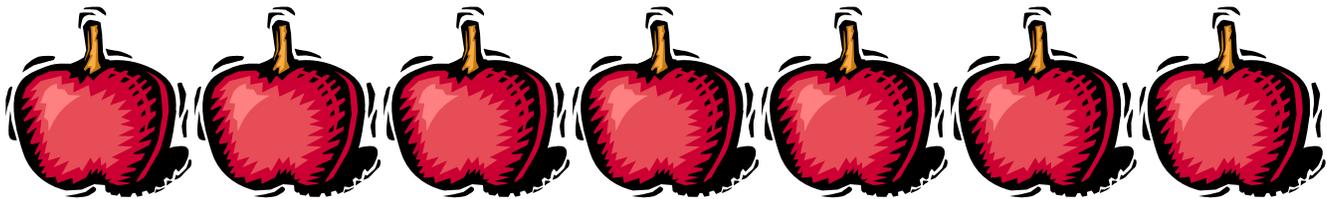
### **(3) Child Welfare Demonstration Projects**

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



**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2006  
Child Welfare Demonstration Projects**

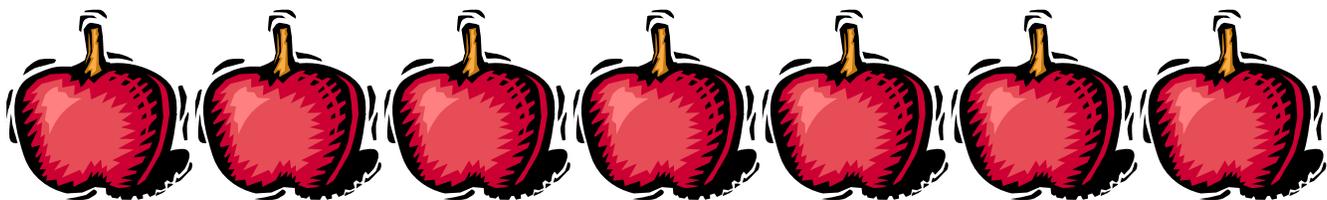
**Children's Administration (CA) did not have any Child Welfare Demonstration Projects during FY 2006.**



## **Section C: Program Information**

### **(4) Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment**

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



## Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2006 Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment

### Foster Home Recruitment

**A contract with the YMCA of Greater Seattle** (Why Foster?) has been the major component of the Children's Administration's (CA) foster home recruitment system.

**New contracts were awarded** for 2005-2006 as the result of a process using a Request for Proposals (RFP) for both recruitment and retention of foster homes. The YMCA of Greater Seattle was awarded the current contract for recruitment activities under the RFP for five of six regions. The Foster Care Resource Network (FCRN) was awarded the contact in the other region, Region V. The work of the contractors is based on using current or former foster parents as recruiters and paying them a monthly stipend. Each DSHS region also is assigned a salaried regional coordinator by the contractor. Foster parent recruiters work within their own geographic areas, so they can more readily identify and recruit culturally appropriate homes for the local children. One change with the new contract was the addition of performance standards contractors are required to meet in regard to producing outcomes (i.e. foster parents ready to take placements).

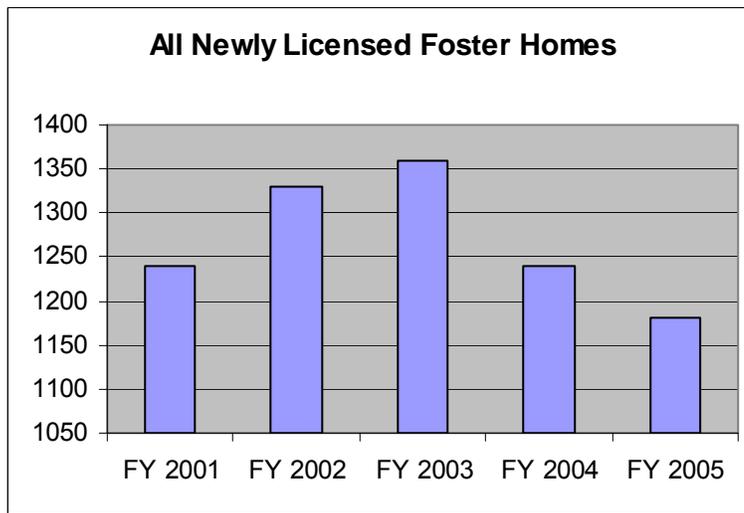
A 12-month review of the 18-month contracts showed that the YMCA and Foster Care Resource Network were on target to meet their 18-month goals set by CA. The work of the YMCA and FCRN is connected to the state through six Regional Recruitment and Retention Implementation teams that grew out of the Foster Care Improvement Plan. The regional teams, which include state staff, contracted providers, community partners, foster parents and other child advocates, meet regularly to work on recruitment and retention efforts.

**A renewed emphasis on community-based recruitment** was demonstrated when CA became part of the Family to Family Initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This initiative stresses family involvement in team decision-making about children (removal and placement), greater community involvement in the child welfare system, and in better collection of data and use of it to help with decision-making as well as community-based recruitment and retention of foster homes.

**The number of newly licensed homes** measures the success of "diligent recruitment" of foster homes. This number has remained between about 1,200-1,400 homes from 2000 to present.

**For the coming year**, new contracts will be issued. They will include more ownership in the recruitment activities by state staff, working in partnership with the new contractors. One contractor will be chosen for each region to do the combined jobs of recruitment and retention. Children's Administration believes the new teamwork included as part of the contracts and the combined work under one contractor will help increase the number of homes.

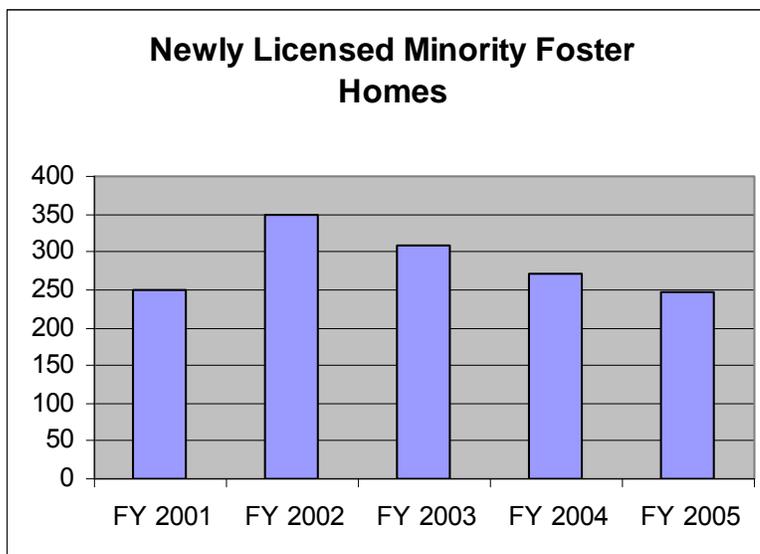
The first chart reflects the numbers since FY 2001 and is the latest data available:



**Recruitment of minority homes** has been largely based on two recruitment contracts, one with Families for Kids for five of the six DSHS regions and one with Foster Care Resource Network for the other region.

For the coming year, new contracts will be issued with an emphasis on the recruiting homes that reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of children in state care. The number of newly licensed minority homes has varied significantly between years, as noted in the chart below. The number for FY 2005 is within the range of the newly licensed homes since 2000.

The chart below reflects the numbers since FY 2001 and is the latest data available:



**Many foster homes are licensed for more than one child**, so actual capacity differs from the number of licensed homes. Capacity, however, does not equate to availability. Foster parents are not required to accept the number of children for which they are licensed. They often chose to temporarily decline placements because of such issues as family medical problems or the need to “recharge” between placements. Many families never intend to accept the maximum number of children they are licensed for, but are willing to have children on a respite basis for other families. It is the gap between capacity and availability along with the need for optimum “matching” between child and foster home that drives our recruitment efforts.

While understanding that capacity does not equate to availability, another measure of our recruitment efforts is the comparison of licensed capacity by race of foster parent to number of children in care by race.

The following updated chart presents that information and reflects the latest data available:

**Children in Care By Race Compared to Foster Home Capacity 2/06**

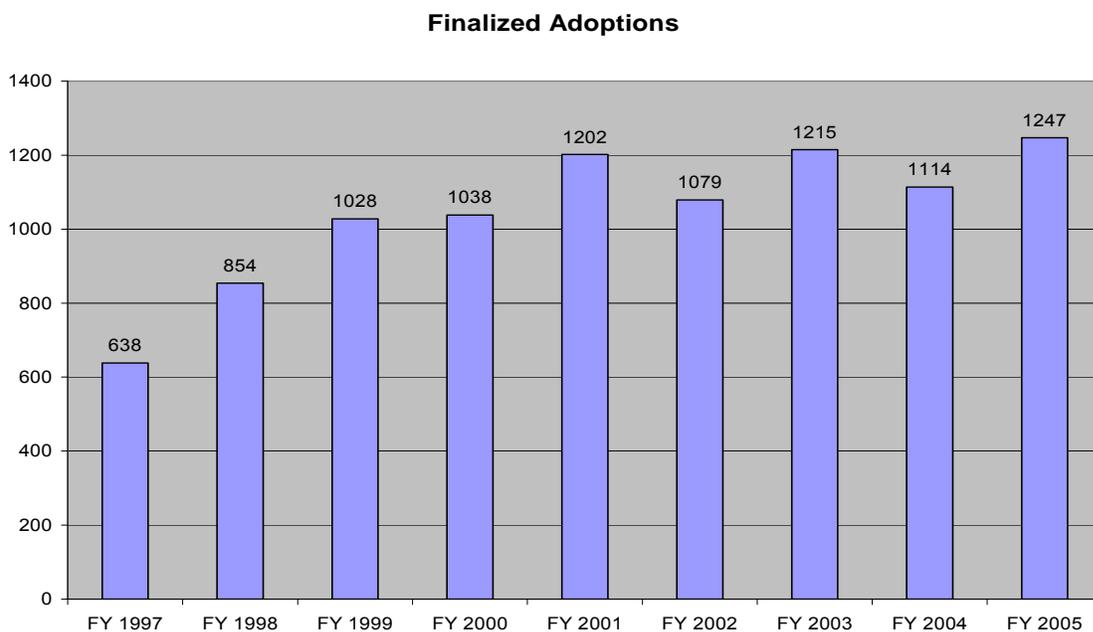
HISPANIC	RACE	Data	Children	Capacity
(a) No	African American	Number	634	1379
		%	9.26%	10.11%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	71	315
		%	1.04%	2.31%
	Caucasian	Number	3193	9837
		%	46.64%	72.09%
	Multi	Number	501	35
%		7.32%	0.26%	
Native American	Number	696	811	
	%	10.17%	5.94%	
Other	Number	21	99	
	%	0.31%	0.73%	
Unreported	Number	5	112	
	%	0.07%	0.82%	
(a) No Number			5121	12588
(a) No %			74.80%	92.25%
(b) Yes	African American	Number	33	19
		%	0.48%	0.14%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	5	2
		%	0.07%	0.01%
	Caucasian	Number	493	378
		%	7.20%	2.77%
	Multi	Number	74	6
%		1.08%	0.04%	
Native American	Number	141	22	
	%	2.06%	0.16%	
Other	Number	231	504	
	%	3.37%	3.69%	
Unreported	Number	5	80	
	%	0.07%	0.59%	
(b) Yes Number			982	1011
(b) Yes %			14.34%	7.41%
(c) Unreported	African American	Number	58	0
		%	0.85%	0.00%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	6	0
		%	0.09%	0.00%
	Caucasian	Number	391	0
		%	5.71%	0.00%
	Multi	Number	51	0
%		0.74%	0.00%	
Native American	Number	155	0	
	%	2.26%	0.00%	
Other	Number	7	0	
	%	0.10%	0.00%	
Unreported	Number	75	47	
	%	1.10%	0.34%	
(c) Unreported Number			743	47
(c) Unreported %			10.85%	0.34%
Total Number			6846	13646
Total %			100.00%	100.00%

## Adoption Recruitment and Services

Cross-jurisdictional resources are used to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children. There are numerous activities involved in recruitment of adoptive families for waiting children. The placement of a child in a cross-jurisdictional placement many times is the most suitable placement and can avoid delays in finding a permanent placement for a child.

CA makes every effort to establish permanency for children unable to return to the care and custody of their birth parents through adoption, guardianship, long term foster care and/or relative placements. Permanency via adoption was achieved for 1,247 children in the care and custody of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) during FY 2005 as reported in the Children's Administration Performance Report 2005.

Over the past nine years, the trend in finalized adoptions has continued in a growth pattern, although there are fluctuations from year to year as indicated in the chart below:



## **Adoption Recruitment Activities**

Adoptive family recruitment is a challenging and on-going effort for social workers. Finding families who can potentially "best meet each child's individual needs" requires workers to engage in several different types of recruitment activities.

- **Generalized adoption recruitment** provides information to the general public regarding the on-going need for adoptive families.
- **Targeted adoption recruitment** aims its message at a specific group or population of individuals or families who may have specific interests or abilities in caring for children who need a permanent home.
- **Child specific adoption recruitment** profiles the strengths and needs of an individual child or sibling group.

Workers who are engaged in adoption recruitment activities are encouraged to cast the broadest net possible, which in turn reaches the greatest number of individuals and families who may be

interested in adoption. In order to find the most appropriate family for a child who does not have a permanent adoptive family identified, there must be a ready resource of waiting prospective adoptive families who have the potential to meet the unique special needs of each child. In an effort to locate potential adoptive families, CA provides numerous recruitment sources to social work staff. These options include individual staff recruitment activities, attending adoption consortiums to meet with other adoption agency staff, recruitment contracts with community partners and utilization of local, regional and national adoption exchanges. In FY 2004, Washington began placing some of our waiting children on the National AdoptUSKids website ([www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)).

**Other activities** that focused on adoption recruitment include:

➤ **Adoption Consortiums**

Adoption Consortiums promote inter-regional linkages on behalf of children. These consortiums provide a collaborative staffing process between the department and private agencies around the state to increase awareness of children in need of adoptive families and approved adoptive families waiting for placements. The consortiums are often the first step in the recruitment process, when family members and/or the current caregiver are not a permanent resource. Consortia activities many times assist workers in making appropriate matches without the need to make a national search.

➤ **Local and National Adoption Exchanges**

The Children's Administration contracts with the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAEE), a private agency with recruitment experience and expertise, to place children on the Washington Adoption Resource Exchange (WARE) and the NWAEE exchange. Children who are not in an identified adoptive home and have a permanent plan of adoption should be registered with the WARE that provides a photo-listing that is distributed to all Washington State private agencies and DCFS social work staff who provides adoption services for children and families. The book provides a picture and a brief description of each child and is only accessed by social workers or families that have an approved adoptive home study.

The latest data available (from FY 2005) indicate there were 197 new children registered, making a total of 397 Washington children registered with WARE. During this past year 174 children were placed which is an increase from 155 in FY 2004. For these waiting children recruitment expands to a national level after 90 days. The NWAEE website ([www.nwae.org](http://www.nwae.org)) served 243 children in FY 2005, 109 of these children were placed, 20 have pending placements, 21 children were withdrawn, and 93 children are still in need of active recruitment. The average wait time for a child who is registered to be placed on the Exchange is 8.8 months. In FY 2005 there were 91 children over the age of 12 registered with WARE and 34% of these teens were placed. NWAEE staff also attends the regional consortium meetings to provide outreach to staff about recruitment options.

➤ **Purchase of Service**

**The Purchase of Service (POS) program** provides contracts to private agencies in Washington and other states, for the recruitment and placement of children into adoptive homes and as well as the finalization of the adoption. The POS program began as a pilot project in early 1980, to help offset the cost of recruitment that private agencies provide for eligible children in need of adoptive families. One of the eligibility factors includes the length of time a child is registered with WARE before an adoptive family is identified and placement occurs. In FY 2005, 56 children were referred to the program which resulted in 34 child specific contracts, 13 adoptions have been finalized, one placement disrupted and the other children are still pending adoption finalization.

- **The Specialized Adoption Recruitment Project (SARP)** has helped to meet the goal of increasing child specific adoption recruitment. During this past year, CA continued the child specific recruitment contract with Northwest Resources/Northwest Adoption exchange (NWAE). The contract provides specialized recruitment for special needs children each fiscal year. The number of children recruited for has ranged from 34 – 55 depending upon the funding. This project accepts children who are legally free, registered with the Washington Adoption Resources Exchange (WARE), have a permanent plan for adoption, and have located no family through other recruitment methods. The contract builds upon community partnerships with local child placing agencies to bolster recruitment efforts and commitment to permanency for the children of Washington State who are waiting for adoptive families.

Since the inception of this contract in July 2001, there has been a 70% success rate in placing the enrolled children with adoptive families. Many lessons have been learned along the way including identification of additional staff training needs, the critical importance of preparing children for adoption, and making good placement decisions. CA staff's participating in these recruitment efforts have become strong supporters of child-specific recruitment and call to have children placed on a waiting list for the next available slot.

#### ➤ **AdoptUSKids Campaign**

Washington State in collaboration with the Families for Kids, Northwest Adoption Exchange, and Families like Ours began participating in the AdoptUSKids campaign launched in 2004. The ad campaign is slated to run for a minimum of three years.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families has partnered with, The Adoption Exchange Association, The Collaboration to AdoptUSKids and the National Ad Council to launch a new public service advertising campaign. The campaign issues a call to action to prospective parents asking them to consider adopting a child or children from foster care. The campaign aims to significantly increase the awareness of the urgent need to provide loving, permanent homes for these children. The campaign targets prospective parents, assuring them that they don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent, and that just being there makes all the difference.

The most important characteristics for prospective parents are a belief in adoption and an ability to commit, patience and perseverance, a good sense of humor and talent for keeping life in perspective, a love of children and parenting, the ability to be flexible, tolerance and understanding for your child's conflicting feelings and your own, the strength to be consistent and set limits, a willingness to learn new parenting techniques and advocate for your children's educational and medical needs, and resourcefulness.

Children placed on the website ([www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)) are there as part of the Specialized Adoption Recruitment Project (SARP). To date there have been 179 children registered with the website and 107 children placed.

#### ➤ **Heart Gallery**

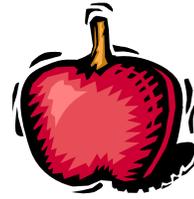
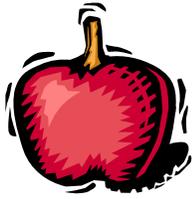
The Children's Administration continues to participate in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Washington Heart Gallery exhibit which includes a collection of 59 portraits of children, teens, adults, families and seniors supported by DSHS programs. The [Washington State Heart Gallery](#) is a unique portrait exhibit of compelling photographs of DSHS clients who need help and encouragement.

The Heart Gallery has been well received around the state however the overall effectiveness of the program for children in need of adoptive families has not yet been determined. Although 12 of the 21 featured children have been adopted, there is not information to link the placement of these children directly to the Heart Gallery.

➤ **Wednesday's Child Program**

The Wednesday's Child Program provides adoption recruitment to youth utilizing partnerships with the media. The program focuses on recruitment through the use of local television stations. This program has been in existence in Idaho and has approached Washington to participate in the program in the Spokane area.

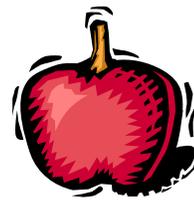
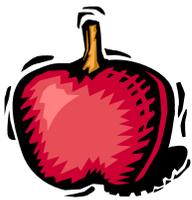
The NWAE has facilitated this effort by providing child specific information and serving as the contact number. Due to funding shortfalls, CA was not able to provide any money for this program but sees the importance of building a media campaign in a rural community that could potentially lead to a larger community. The Wednesday's Child Program has provided some recruitment opportunities in Region 1 and Region 2 for Washington through grant funds. There have been some positive responses on the children that have participated in the program, however, CA and our private partners are not always able to meet the demands for air time. The program is currently set up to provide weekly segments on KXLY in Spokane, however, getting youth that are available, appropriate for this type of recruitment, willing to participate, and logistics are barriers to the program. It would be beneficial for Washington to begin with a less rigid schedule (for example, two times a month) to build support and provide education to staff around the state.



## **Section C: Supporting Information**

### **(5) Current Executive Initiatives**

**Healthy Marriage  
Responsible Fatherhood  
Rural Development  
Positive Youth Development  
Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**



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

## Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2006 Current Executive Initiatives

### Responsible Fatherhood

Statewide services included the following:

- ⇒ **Engagement Training** deals with the importance of engaging fathers. The training involves a 90 minutes discussion on the role of fathers and the barriers to engaging fathers. There is also show a short video about engaging fathers. During FY 2006, at least 12 training sessions were provided, 2 per region, with an average of about 8 participants in each. The overall feedback has been very positive.

Regional efforts in this area included the following:

- ⇒ **A support group for fathers of children in care** was initially organized by Region 6 in 2004 and was facilitated by two volunteers after hours: a Tumwater office Social Worker and a local therapist. This small group continued working together through the end of summer 2005 to share their parenting challenges, improve their parenting skills, and learn to work better with the Social Workers assisting their families. Tangible success has been seen among the participants, including their children returning home, improved relationships with their Social Workers, and a willingness to mentor other fathers wanting this assistance.
- ⇒ The Fatherhood Forums in the regions did not happen during FY 2006 due to funding restrictions.

**Collaborative efforts in this area** through CA's involvement on the Council of WCPCAN (Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) include two projects in their second year of funding:

- ⇒ **The Children's Home Society of Washington Fathering Project** in the King County Early Head Start Program to increase a father's knowledge of child development and creates a strong peer network.
- ⇒ **The Kinderling Center/Washington State Fathers Network** to strengthen families by enhancing father involvement.

### Rural Development

CA has their offices located throughout key locations within each region to provide maximum accessibility to services. For those Washington citizens living between offices, staff makes every effort to go into the field to bring services to them. Toll-free office telephone numbers are available to encourage a communication exchange.

Some regions have a variety of special projects to increase accessibility to services.

### Positive Youth Development

**The Foster Youth Advisory Board** was established and is composed of youth and young adults (up to age 25) who have been recipients of services provided by CA. This board serves in an advisory function, providing CA with input and recommendations regarding policy and practices on a quarterly basis. The establishment of the board provides opportunities for adolescents to have their voices heard and provide input into CA policy and program decisions. They are also provided with training in leadership, self-advocacy, advisory board processes and functions, and the roles and

responsibilities of members. They use their skills to start support groups for children in foster care in their regions.

**KIRO KIDS** is an on-going special project at Children's Administration in support of the annual KIRO Kids Holiday Magic Program. This program provides foster children with toys and gifts at Christmas time. KIRO and CA have been partners since 1988, and both raise money and solicit gifts to support the program. CA provides the wish lists of the children and coordinates the delivery of the gifts.

A variety of fund-raising events take place throughout the year sponsored by staff from CA headquarters and the local offices. These include rummage sales, plant sales, and soup and bread luncheons. CA staff also volunteer to shop and wrap the gifts, and also to "adopt" children to provide them with their wished for gifts themselves. Each child receives an average of 5 gifts, and up to 8000 children are served each year in this partnership.

**The Children's Administration and Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration** are working together to support smooth transitions for juvenile offenders coming back to the community. In the Yakima area, service coordinators from both the Children's Administration and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration are working together to help juvenile offenders and their families prior to parole.

**King County Systems Integration Initiative** is a collaboration of state and local agencies and organizations in King County (Seattle), Washington. They have come together to examine and improve the coordination and integration of the juvenile justice, child welfare, and other relevant youth-serving systems.

### **Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**

**Many Faith-Based Community Providers contract with CA**, such as Youth for Christ, Catholic Community Services and Lutheran Social Services. They provide child placement and other vital services to foster children. These contracts were renewed during FY 2006.

**Community Collaborations** include the following:

- **The 14th Annual Children's Justice Conference** was sponsored by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Children's Administration (CA), the Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force, and other state and federal contributors. One of the country's largest conferences on child maltreatment, the topics this year ranged from Internet safety and on-line predators to the effects of methamphetamine on children and families.
- **Families and Communities Together (FACT)** is a major DSHS integration initiative with projects in Spokane County and Whatcom County. The projects are focused on developing a comprehensive community network and seamless system of supports and resources for needy families and children. No Tribes are in the catchment areas of this project currently, but its success so far makes it desirable to expand it, as possible. Children's Administration leads the Spokane FACT pilot.
- **The Children's Mental Health Initiative** is a DSHS effort to deliver mental health services to children more effectively. Three administrations of DSHS (Children's Administration, Health and Rehabilitation Services/Mental Health Division, and Juvenile Rehabilitation) are planning a different approach to the delivery of mental health services to children and their families. It is being implemented using four strategies that support families, children and youth to building strong and productive relationships: introduce and expand use of Evidence Based Practices; coordinated care for children and youth with complex needs; jointly manage and finance care for kids with complex needs; connect with families and stakeholders through ongoing planning.

- **Safe Babies, Safe Moms** is a state-level consortium of DSHS programs (the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Children's Administration, Economic Services Administration, Medical Assistance, Research and Data Analysis) that protects moms and infants. They work together with the state Department of Health and local service agencies to provide services to substance-abusing pregnant and parenting women and children ages birth-to-three.
- **Child Care Action Council** is a project through WCPCAN (Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) in its first year of funding that is a collaboration of color, faith-based, and nonprofit organizations in Thurston County to support ethnic minority families and families in crisis to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- **Washington State's Catalyst for Kids Partnership** is the evolution of the *Families for Kids Partnership*. It brings together a broad statewide coalition to strengthen the child welfare system and retains an emphasis on permanence for children in the foster care system and broadens its focus to include the safety and well-being of children in the system. Participants include a broad range of stakeholders, including judges, legislators, Tribal representatives and advocates.
- **The "Washington Cares" campaign** to raise funds for Red Cross efforts was started by Governor Gregoire in conjunction with Washington Mutual Bank on September 2, 2005 in response to the devastation of the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina. All Washington State citizens were encouraged to contribute toward these fund-raising efforts. The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) offices began fund-raising to contribute to the \$100,000 that would be matched by the bank. This goal, and more, was quickly raised in response to the need.
- **National Foster Care Month** in May 2006 was celebrated with numerous festivities.
- Children's Administration also attempts to recruit and honor foster parents year round through a variety of activities. These include the **Annual Foster Parents and Caregivers Conference** held in September 2005 at Ocean Shores and the January 2006 celebration of **Mentors of Foster Children**. This event honors both the foster children and the 24 adults who donated time to mentor them during 2005.
- **The Washington State Heart Gallery** has DSHS as one of its sponsors and continues to travel around the state. Since it opened in 2004, the Heart Gallery has had more than 100 different client portraits displayed and 38 photographers participating. The exhibit's striking images tell the stories of people who need support and encouragement and of those who have successfully found a family and home to call their own. So far, it has been successful in assisting 12 of the 21 featured children to be adopted, 27 new families to become adoptive families for children, and 24 new families to become foster families for children.