



Section B: Program Information

(2) Promoting Safe and Stable Families

**Family Preservation
Family Support
Time-Limited Reunification
Adoption Promotion and Support Services**

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



Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2007 - FY 2008 Promoting Safe and Stable Families

Children's Administration will use Title IV-B, subpart 2 funds on actual service delivery within the following four categories:

- **Family preservation:** Family Preservation Services (FPS) are available primarily to families whose children face "substantial likelihood" of being placed outside of the home or to assist with reunifying a child with their family (from out-of-home care). Interventions focus on resolving the immediate crisis and strengthening a family's relationships through a variety of community resources. FPS is available to families within 48 hours of referral and is offered for a maximum of six months by a contracted service provider.

In FY 2007, CA moved forward with the following changes recommended as a result of the internal contract review:

- 1) Implementation is complete on the North Carolina Family Assessment Survey (NCFAS) and North Carolina Family Assessment Survey – Reunification (NCFAS-R);
- 2) CA continues to work towards establishing a baseline for contracted services using the NCFAS.
- 3) CA held a statewide meeting to gather input and develop a list of Evidence Based practices/services appropriate for clients in need of Family Preservation Services.

In FY 2008, the following is planned:

- 1) Beginning July 2007 a data base for capturing NCFAS outcomes and reports will be available and used to generate quarterly report from providers which will help establish the baseline for NCFAS outcomes.
- 2) In June 2007 CA will hold regional meetings to develop recommendations for the selection of Evidence Based Practice models for implementation.

- **Community-Based Family Support:** Alternative Response System (ARS) services are provided statewide through regional contractors to help reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect and re-referrals to CPS. ARS serves families whose CPS referrals are determined to be low risk or moderately low risk at intake or following investigation. Priority is given to families who have one or more of the risk factors which research has shown to best predict the likelihood of re-referral. Contracts are outcome oriented rather than fee for service, and operate under one of two ARS models: Public Health Nurse (PHN) model or Social Service. The Public Health model focuses on health issues particularly with children under the age of six. The Social Service model has a broad focus, ranging from parenting classes to making referrals for housing and employment resources.

Continuum of Care is a program designed to serve children and families both active and not active with DCFS. The services are determined within each community, based on gaps in existing services. Currently, there is one Continuum of Care program in the state located in Spokane. This program serves ethnically diverse children and families referred by DCFS. Services include in-home visits, on call crisis assistance, individual and family therapy, parent education and social and community support linkages.

In FY 2006, CA reviewed all of its contracted programs including Alternative Response System (ARS) services. This review was done to achieve the following goals:

- 1) Effective and efficient contracted services which have demonstrated outcomes are available to match client needs.
- 2) Significant increase in the use of performance based contracts;

- 3) Use of Evidence Based Practice where appropriate;
- 4) Effective and efficient contracted services are available to clients in all regions; and
- 5) Strengthened business partnership between CA and business partners.
- 6) CA completed an internal review of this service in the fall 2005. Issues were identified and CA and contractors are working together on change recommendations.

In FY 2007, CA is moving forward to implement the following changes recommended as a result of the internal review. We expect to begin implementation of recommended changes by January 2007.

- 1) A standardized early intervention/alternative response program that includes a standardized assessment, agreed performance measures, an agreed set of core services, motivational interviewing and a standard payment system; and
- 2) A menu of Evidence Based Programs.

- **Time-Limited Family Reunification:** Time limited family reunification services provide FPS for family reunification when children have been in out of home care not more than 15 months. They also include Transportation and Supervised Visitation services. Parent-Child Visitation contracts provide transportation and supervision for visits between children in out-of-home care and their families, essential services that support family reunification.
- **Adoption promotion and support services:** Adoption promotion and support services include medical care not covered by Medicaid for children receiving adoption support services, Out-of-Home Care Services, the Adoption Program, recruitment of prospective adoptive homes, development of specialized adoption curricula, and training of staff on adoption-related issues.

Family preservation services, community based family support via the Alternative Response Systems services to families referred for child protective services, time limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services span the gamut of child welfare services. Each service targets children at a different point in the continuum, facilitating permanency at each point.