



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Report to the Legislature

Foster and Adoptive Home Placement

RCW 74.13.031 (2)

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is prepared in compliance with RCW 74.13.031 (2), which requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Children's Administration (CA) to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on the agency success to:

- (a) Meet the need for adoptive and foster home placements.*
- (b) Reduce foster parent turnover rate.*
- (c) Complete home studies for legally free children.*
- (d) Implement and operate the passport program required by RCW 74.13.285*

During fiscal year 2006 the Children's Administration has taken the following actions.

(a) To meet the need for adoptive and foster home placements:

- In FY 2006 there were 5,847¹ licensed foster homes of which 1,223 were newly licensed.
- In FY 2006 there were 1,474² licensed minority foster homes, which is an increase over FY 2005.
- Finalized 1,291³ adoptions in fiscal year (FY) 2006. This is the highest number of adoptions completed by Children's Administration to date.
- During this past fiscal year just over 70% of the adoptions finalized were for children and their foster parents.
- Registered 171 new children with the Washington Adoption Resource Exchange, to expand recruitment options for children in need of a permanent adoptive family. Registered 108 of these children with the Northwest Adoption Exchange.

(b) To reduce the foster parent turnover rate:

- Provided statewide support services through contracts with two private agencies.
- Provided an after hours support line for caregivers.

¹ CAMIS Performance Measures--Well-being September, 2006

² CAMIS Performance Measures--Well-being September, 2006

³ CAMIS Performance Measures--Permanency October, 2006

- Increased the number of joint trainings for social workers and foster parents.
- Increased opportunities for foster parents to participate in planning for children in their care through the Family Team Decision Making meetings.
- Training and education opportunities provided in a variety of methods, including the annual foster care conference, web-based training, in-person training and standardized pre-service training.

(c) Completed home studies for legally free children:

- At any given time there are 1,288 cases open for adoption services.

(d) Implement and operate the Passport Program:

- Completed 3,682 passports in FY 2006 which is an increase from 3,601 completed passports in FY 2005.
- Restructured the existing “Passport” program to include it as part of the comprehensive Child Health and Educational Tracking (CHET) program.

II. HIGHLIGHTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)

The following activities were initiated by Children's Administration in FY 2006:

- Efforts continue to increase the number of children placed in out-of-home care that are living with relatives. In FY 2006, 38 percent of children in out-of-home care were placed with relative caregivers compared to 36.8% in FY 2005.
- Attendance at the Foster Care and Caregiver's Conference in September was the best ever with over 500 people attending the two and a half day training.
- Educational Advocacy Services contracts for children and youth in out-of-home care were initiated in February 2006. Each region has an educational advocate that provides advocacy interventions for eligible children and youth who have been identified as having unmet educational needs. A total of 354 youth have received educational advocacy services since February.
- Children Missing from Care Policy were implemented in May 2006. The new policy and guidelines emphasize the importance of effectively and actively searching for children.
- Two adoption brochures were updated to provide information on adoption through the Department of Social and Health Services, and information for adoptees who want to search for birth parents post adoption.
- Monthly newsletters are provided to all licensed caregivers to keep them up to date on changes, resources and events within the Children's Administration.
- Participated in National Adoption Day, an event supporting adoption in November 2005.
- Participated in the Washington State Heart Gallery, a portrait exhibit, to inspire Adoptive and Foster families to step forward on behalf of children.
- Celebrated National Foster Care Month in May, 2006 with several activities throughout the state, including a foster parent recognition picnic in Vancouver and a foster parent recognition dinner in Spokane. Other events included the official State Foster Care Celebration at the Capitol and several events at the Space Needle.

III. FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT

The Children's Administration (CA) utilizes a variety of activities and community resources to recruit foster and adoptive parents across the state. Recruitment activities for foster and adoptive homes are related yet significantly different. Foster home recruitment targets families interested in providing temporary foster care for children in out-of-home care. Adoption recruitment focuses on searching for families that will permanently parent a child.

Statewide Foster Care Recruitment

CA continued contracting with the WHY Foster program and the Foster Parent Resource Network to provide recruitment. The performance based contracts focused on increasing the number of newly licensed foster homes. Since implementation of the contracts in FY 2005 the recruitment program has responded to over 1,000 people inquiring about foster care. Twenty-five percent of the people calling in have submitted an application to become a licensed foster parent.

Statewide Recruitment Strategies

The major recruitment strategy focuses on a grassroots model using current or former foster parents as recruiters. This model encourages currently licensed foster families to help potential new families as they go through the licensing process. There are nearly 30 foster parent recruiters providing recruitment at a grassroots level statewide.

The contracted recruitment providers utilize a variety of recruitment strategies including:

- ◆ Established a new statewide toll free line for recruitment (1-800-760-5340)
 - All calls are responded to within 24 hours
 - Support is provided from initial inquiry through licensing
- ◆ Advertising mediums include:
 - Television
 - Radio
 - Local Newspapers
 - Flyers
 - Brochures
- ◆ Grassroots recruitment efforts include:
 - Using foster parents as recruiters
 - Working with faith based communities
 - Working with schools
 - Attending large community events

In FY 2006 there were 1,223⁴ newly licensed foster homes. This is a slight increase (42 new foster homes) from FY 2005.

Chart 1



Recruitment for new foster homes continues to be a challenge both statewide and nationally. Although contractors work diligently to increase the number of foster homes, recruitment remains difficult for the state and private child placing agencies. The challenges to Washington State recruitment are similar to those experienced nation wide:

- ◆ Children in out-of-home care are presenting more difficult challenges to foster parents.
- ◆ Individuals or families may be reluctant to take on additional responsibilities of raising children if they are uncertain about their own job or economic status.

An additional challenge for CA is that 70% or 888 of the total number of adoptions finalized in FY 2006 were from a licensed foster parent. Adoption is a positive outcome for children, but also a challenge to placement resources as foster parents often leave the system when the adoption is complete.

Licensing Requirements

From inquiry to full licensure there are a number of steps that prospective foster parents must complete. Not every family that begins the process will become fully licensed, either due to a personal decision or as a result of a negative assessment. The foster parent licensing process is designed to:

- Educate families regarding the types and needs of children residing in out-of-home care;
- Identify CA expectations and requirements;
- Enable the applicant to determine if foster parenting is right for their family;

⁴ CAMIS Performance Measures - Well Being August 2006 download

- Allow the agency to assess the appropriateness of each family to meet the health and safety needs of children; and
- Prepare families to meet the minimum licensing requirements (WAC 388-148).

The licensing process includes:

- Completion of 30 hours of pre-service training plus 3 hours of orientation;
- Completion and approval of a criminal history background and Child Protective Service check;
- References checked;
- Home evaluated to meet minimum licensing requirements;
- Completion of a home study that includes an evaluation of the family's ability to care for foster children.

The Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) strives to complete the entire foster home licensing process within 90 days of receiving the application. During FY 2006, there were 205 pre-service training classes provided by CA. There were a total of 3,660 participants with 2,747 individuals completing the training.

IV. FOSTER HOME TURNOVER, CAUSES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Foster parents who are supported provide the foundation for a stable pool of homes. They also help attract new parents who will take children into their homes by speaking about the benefits of foster parenting and the support they receive. CA continues working toward improving the retention and support of current licensed foster care providers.

An increase of foster parents will provide greater ability to match a child's needs with a family who has the necessary strengths and skills to meet those needs, to provide a home in a neighborhood and educational district in which a child lives and will increase the ability to place siblings together or close to each other.

Statewide Retention

The retention rate for licensed foster homes has remained between 75-80% for the last several years. In FY 2006 the retention rate was 77 percent.

During FY 2006 there were a total of 5,847 licensed foster homes. This includes 4,624 foster homes licensed in previous years and 1,223 newly licensed foster homes during FY 2006. The Division of Licensed Resources continues to provide health and safety checks on 10% of licensed foster homes each year which offers foster parents an additional opportunity for support.

There are many reasons why foster parents stop fostering. Some of these reasons are positive, some are negative and some are beyond agency control.

Positive reasons why families leave include:

- The foster parent adopts the child they are caring for (over 70%⁵ of the adoptions that finalized were families with a foster care license)
- The foster parent was a relative, kin, or family friend and wanted to foster a specific child and that child has returned home

Negative reasons why families may leave include:

- Lack of support
- Negative foster care experience (e.g. child behavior, placement breakdown)

Situations beyond agency control include:

- Changes in the family or extended family (e.g. health concerns, pregnancy, accidents)
- Family leaves the state for personal or employment reasons

⁵ Data pulled September 9, 2005 based upon placement type

Retention Activities

The Children's Administration has made significant progress in providing support to foster parents caring for children in out-of-home care. The Children's Administration, through performance based contracts, has made available the following support opportunities for foster families and relative caregivers.

- **Support:** Through contracted services with two private agencies there have been 50 hubs, buddy systems, support groups and/or mentoring groups developed around the state to provide support to foster families. In December 2005, over 700 people participated in a hub meeting or some other venue.
 - ✓ A hub is one family at the center of several foster families facilitating monthly meetings and bringing the families together to share resources, ideas, respite and training.
 - ✓ A support group is foster parents meeting together regularly more informally to connect and network with each other.
 - ✓ A buddy system is the pairing of a veteran foster parent/family with a new foster parent/family. Sometimes, these individual pairings are brought together in a hub-type arrangement.
 - ✓ Mentoring serves as a method to provide guidance and support to foster parents going through the licensing process.

- **Crisis Support**
 - ✓ Statewide after hours support line established by CA is a support/crisis telephone line for foster parents when the local office is closed.

- **Training**
 - ✓ CA provided increased training for foster parents. Thirty (30) hours of pre-service training are required before foster parents can become licensed. Foster parents are now required to receive an additional 36 hours of training during the three years of their licensing period. CA also offers specialized training in five particular areas:
 - Managing Behaviors for children aged 3-11
 - Managing Behaviors for children aged 12-18
 - Managing behaviors of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
 - Managing Behaviors of children with placement disruptions
 - Managing Behaviors of developmentally disabled children

 - ✓ CA has also been able to utilize the support groups identified above to provide training to foster parents. CA continues to utilize web-based technology to make training available to foster parents statewide and at any time.

- Services
 - ✓ CA continues to provide respite services to licensed foster parents offering 2 days of respite per month. Foster parents can then accumulate respite up to two weeks at a time.
- Teamwork
 - ✓ CA increased the amount of joint trainings for social workers and foster parents to build a team approach in carrying out the case plan for a child.
 - ✓ CA increased the number of opportunities for foster parents to have input about the children in their care by including caregivers in Family Team Decision Making meetings and improving notification to caregivers regarding court hearings and staffings. For the period of January through June 2006, 186 foster parents attended a Family Team Decision Making meeting.

Foster Parent Training

Foster parent training is an essential part of retention and support. Training and education provides caregivers opportunities to gain additional skills and knowledge to enable them to care for children in out-of-home care.

The Resource Family Training Institute (RFTI) provides a wide variety of training opportunities to licensed and unlicensed caregivers. Training is provided throughout the state and on-line training is also available. During FY 2005 training was provided to over 9,000 participants. This number represents total participants who may have attended one or more trainings. Training included:

- Pre-Service training – this is 30 hours of mandatory training for licensed foster parents and anyone applying to be an adoptive family
- First Aid training – usually 8 hours (includes CPR, First Aid and Blood Borne Pathogens)
- Training in caring for children with a history of sexually aggressive behavior
- Training in caring for children with a history of physically aggressive behavior
- 5 Behavior management training courses (see page 10)
- “Teaming” training for social workers and caregivers in working together
- Special workshops included:
 - De-escalation training
 - Tax Tips for Foster Parents
- An annual foster parent conference that includes training on a variety of topics

- Web based training utilized by about 1,700 foster parents with approximately 10% of these are foster parents from other states. The following workshops are available on-line at

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

- ◆ **Behavioral Challenges in Foster Care** with Gary Benton (59 min)
- ◆ **Behavior Management, Ages 11-18** with Wendy Warman (2 hrs)
- ◆ **Brain Development & Nurturing Children's Growing Minds** with Victoria Tennant (5 hrs 20 min)
- ◆ **Bright Futures Preventative Mental Health** with Micky Kander
- ◆ **Clinical Issues for the Relative Caregiver** with Dr. Joseph Crumbley (2 hrs 4 min)
- ◆ **De-escalation Techniques in Foster Care** with Gary Benton (59 min)
- ◆ **Extreme Behavior & Associated Mental Health Issues** with Sharon Young
- ◆ **The Dependency Court Process and the Role that Foster Parents Can Play** (1 hr 26 min)
- ◆ **Effects of Domestic Violence in Children** with Dr. John Sterling (1 hr 34 min)
- ◆ **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Related Conditions** with Carolyn Hartness and Julie Gelo (4 hrs 30 min)
- ◆ **Foster Care Improvement Plan** with Bob Partlow (15 min)
- ◆ **Giving Our Youth Wings to Fly** with Mr. Robert Danzig (55 min)
- ◆ **Important Issues in Indian Child Welfare** (1 hr)
- ◆ **Love and Logic** with Jonathan English (4 hrs 30 min)
- ◆ **Multiple Placements & It's Effects** with Dinah Martin
- ◆ **Physically Assaultive Youth** - In order to take children with these behaviors you must watch a video, attend a 6 hour classroom course, and then take a test and submit the test to your licensor. (2 hrs)
- ◆ **Relative Placement Through DCFS** (44 min)
- ◆ **Respite Care Certification** with Celeste Carey and Linda Falcocchio (11 min)
- ◆ **Sexually Aggressive Youth** - In order to take children with these behaviors you must watch a video, attend a 6 hour classroom course, and then take a test and submit the test to your licensor. (2 hrs)
- ◆ **Trauma and Children** with Ross Dawson, Dr. Harry Kramer, and Julie Gelo (1 hr 25 min)
- ◆ **"Success Stories of Youth in Care"** Learn about the many opportunities for adults to help youth succeed. (30 min)
- ◆ **"Working with ADHD and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders"** with Randi Hankins (5 hrs)

V. ADOPTION RECRUITMENT

Adoption Recruitment Activities

Choosing an adoptive family is an important task for social workers seeking to achieve permanency for children. There are many factors to consider when choosing a family that can “best meet the needs of a child” on a lifetime basis. A shared decision making process is used to match adoptive parents with children legally free for adoption.

CA undertakes a variety of activities to recruit adoptive families for waiting children. These activities include hosting consortiums, specific recruitment contracts with community partners, and the use of local and national adoption exchanges.

Adoption Consortiums

Adoption consortiums are often the first step in recruitment for a child in need of a permanent adoptive family when the birth family and the current caregiver are not a permanent resource. An adoption consortium is a staffing that brings together both state and private agency staff to provide information about a child or children, learn about waiting adoptive families and learn about additional recruitment options. These consortiums occur in all six regions and build relationships with community partners and inter-regional linkages on behalf of children. For some children this is the only level of recruitment needed, for others a referral is made to the Washington Adoption Resource Exchange and other national recruitment venues.

Local and National Adoption Exchanges

The Children's Administration contracts with the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE), a private agency with recruitment experience and expertise, to place children on the Washington Adoption Resource Exchange (WARE) and the NWAE. The Washington Adoption Resource Exchange provides a photolisting that is distributed to all Washington State private agencies and DCFS social work staff who provide 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 children listed in the WARE book or on the WAREKids website include both children that are legally free and children that are not legally free but have a court approved plan of adoption. CA staff are required to register all children that are not in an identified adoptive home and have a permanent plan of adoption.

During FY 2006 there were 171 new children registered with WARE for a total of 360 children served. During this past year 128 children were placed with permanent families.

WARE created a webpage for CA and private agency staff to use for recruitment and matching during FY 2005. The site was officially released in March 2005. Children can be added to the site immediately versus waiting for the next printing of the WARE photolisting book which occurs bi-monthly. The website for waiting children and families is password protected. There is a section that does allow the general public to view children and read a write up about the child that includes non-identifying information. The use of the website promotes earlier matches for waiting children.

Children who are registered with WARE for more than 90 days and are legally free have recruitment expanded to a national level that includes registration on the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE) website www.nwae.org. The NWAE served 108 new children for a total of 230 children in FY 2006, 77 of these children were placed with permanent families, 42 were on hold with potential pending placements, 11 children were withdrawn, and 100 children are still in need of active recruitment. The average wait time for a child who is registered to be placed with a permanent family on the Exchange is 8.54 months. Though the number of children registered and placed is down slightly from FY 2005 the length of time from registration to placement dropped.

The NWAE website continues to generate a great deal of interest from families wishing to adopt. In the last quarter of the fiscal year, the website had over nine million hits. During this fiscal year NWAE received 8,326 home studies from families inquiring about individual children viewed from the website. Each one of those inquiries receives a personal response from NWAE staff. NWAE refers every appropriate family on to the child's social worker. Families that do not have an approved adoptive home study are referred to agencies that can complete the adoptive home study for them.

Child Specific Recruitment

Child Specific Recruitment contracted service is a partnership with several private agencies that provide comprehensive recruitment activities for children that need an adoptive family and for whom other recruitment activities have not been successful. The Northwest Adoption Exchange is the primary contractor which then subcontracts with six to seven private child placing agencies. Over the past five years, the program has demonstrated success matching children with permanent families.

The recruitment process begins with gaining a better understanding of the child and assures the most appropriate profile for recruitment is developed. This preparation includes discussion with the current caretaker to determine if they might be a resource for the child. An additional relative search which can include contacting relatives previously considered is conducted to ensure that all possible resources are explored.

In FY 2006, a total of 36 children were enrolled in the project. Out of the 36 children, 15 children were placed with adoptive families and 6 children had placements pending. The children served this year presented with more difficult challenges to recruitment. They were all older children and several were part of a sibling group. Of the 12 children without a placement, eight are over the age of 10 and three of the children under the age of 10 are part of a sibling group of three. These children tend to present with more challenging behaviors and/or diagnosis for prospective adoptive families to deal with. Child specific recruitment increases the probability of finding a permanent adoptive family.

Purchase of Service

The Purchase of Service (POS) program continues to be a successful means for recruitment of adoptive families for hard to place children. The program which was designed in the late 1980's provides funding to private agencies in and out of the state of Washington to offset the cost of recruitment, training, transitioning and supervision of adoptive placements for eligible children. Eligibility is based upon the child being registered with WARE, and the length of time they are registered prior to identification and placement with an adoptive family.

CA headquarters manages the program and develops individual contracts for each eligible child placed. The contracts which are performance based make two payments, one for the adoptive placement and one at the time of finalization of the adoption. If a child disrupts from placement, then the second half of the fee is not paid. The POS program is an avenue to achieve adoptive placements for children when an appropriate family has been located via a private agency in Washington State or nationally.

In FY 2006, 44 children were referred to the program which resulted in 35 specific contracts for adoptive placements. Four adoptions have been finalized during this fiscal year and the remaining children are pending adoption finalization.

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 65 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. Twenty-two of the Northwest's top photographers volunteered their expertise to create the stunning visual images.

The goal of The Heart Gallery is to inspire the public to step forward as:

- Adoptive and foster families
- Mentors for at-risk teens

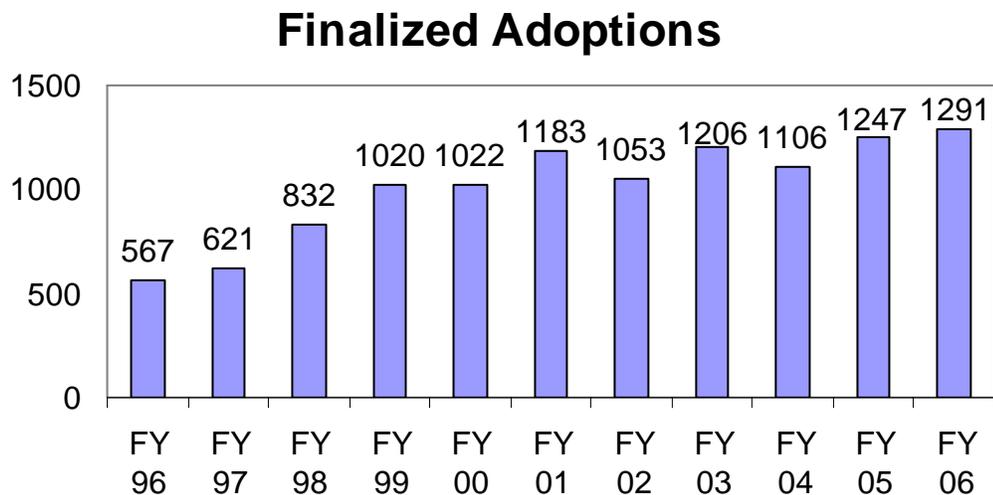
- Caregivers and companions to elderly people and people with disabilities
- Supporters for the Governor's Scholarship Fund for youth in foster care
- Potential employers of people with developmental disabilities, or respite care providers for families of people with developmental disabilities

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. In FY 2006, 25 children in need of a permanent adoptive family were included in the project. Nationally, Washington was the fifth state to start utilizing a Heart Gallery format for recruitment and today there are 48 states participating with over 100 Heart Galleries nationwide. Washington continues to be the only state to expand the Heart Gallery effort to other programs.

VI. FINALIZED ADOPTIONS

The Children's Administration (CA) continues to make every effort to establish permanency for children unable to return to the care and custody of their birth parents through adoption, third-party custody, dependency guardianship and long-term care agreement with foster parents or relatives. Permanency through adoption was established for 1,253 children in the care and custody of the CA during fiscal year 2006. In the past ten years, the Children's Administration has completed over 11,000 adoptions.

Chart 2



Adoptive Home Studies

The Children's Administration provides adoption services to many families throughout the year. Families that are interested in adoption through CA attend 30 hours of pre-service training, have criminal background checks completed, must have a completed and approved adoptive home study which includes checking personal references and gaining an understanding of families in order to make a determination about their ability to parent a child in out-of-home care. In 2006 there were 1,288 open cases to families receiving adoption services; this is up from FY 2005 with 1,112 open cases.

VII. PASSPORT PROGRAM

This program was established in 1998 and continues to be a collaborative program between the Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration and the local public health jurisdictions statewide.

During FY 2006 the Children's Administration restructured the existing "Passport" program and it is now utilized as one component of the Child Health & Education Tracking (CHET) umbrella of services. The restructure included new criteria for referral and allows for children to be identified sooner for the services of the Foster Care Public Health Nurse (FCPHN). The name "Passport" has been replaced and the document prepared by the FCPHN is now called a "Comprehensive Health Report."

Foster Care Public Health Nurse Services

Foster care public health nurses are contracted to develop a comprehensive health report for eligible children. Public health nurses research and collect health information from birth to present for each child referred. The public health nurse provides a comprehensive report of the entire history, including results from the CHET screening, and a summary of the child's current status. This report is provided to the assigned social worker and the child's caregiver.

Specific responsibilities of the foster care public health nurse include:

- Identifying, gathering, interpreting and compiling all available health history information on referred children into the CAMIS Passport module (or replacement model)
- Alerting assigned social worker immediately upon identification of any significant health issues requiring follow-up
- Consulting, when requested, with the social worker or care provider when a health concern is identified
- Facilitating assessment, education and referral to health services, as needed or requested
- Providing to the assigned social worker, within five days of completion, a signed health report and recommendations and all obtained medical records
- Providing to the caregiver a signed health report and recommendations

Comprehensive Health Histories

Risk indicators were developed which automatically flag children for FCPHN assessments or services. During the first 30 days of placement, screening specialists review the risk indicators. If any of the risk indicators are present, the screening specialist then consults with the FCPHN to determine if the child needs a comprehensive health report or other services. The child may also be identified

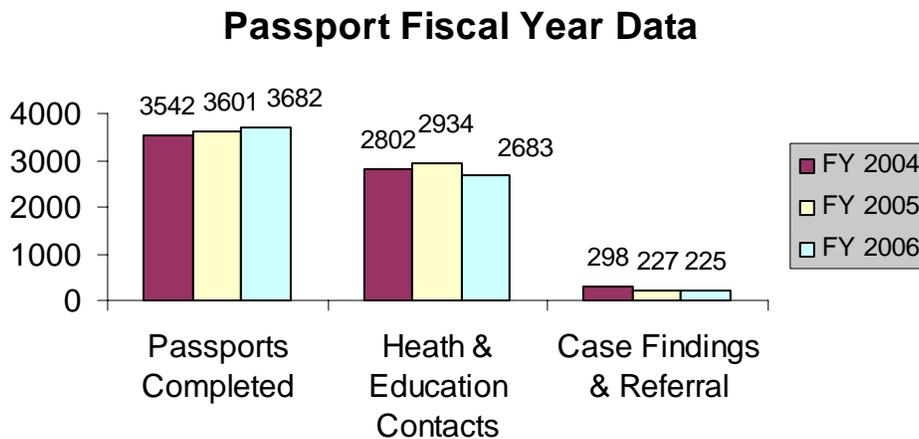
at any time during placement as requiring the services of the FCPHN. After consultation with the FCPHN a determination is made regarding enrollment for services. To ensure that no child is missed through the new referral system, the FCPHNs utilize the Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) to obtain an automated list of children placed each month.

On average, it takes approximately 11-14 hours to complete a comprehensive health history and nursing recommendations. At any given time statewide, there are 600 to 800 histories in progress. Since the implementation of the program, information from approximately 125,000 individual records has been identified and incorporated into the centralized database.

Results

During FY 2006, there were 3,682 passports and recommendation letters completed, 2,683 health and education contacts and 225 case findings and referrals were made. Chart 3 below provides information for the past three years, utilizing the old referral criteria. Data for FY 2007 may vary as a result of the restructure of the Foster Care Public Health Nurse program.

Chart 3



The program continues to include comprehensive health histories, medical diagnosis data integrity, medical record identification for very mobile and high-risk populations, and complex communication and tracking of children, medical records and health information.

VIII. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- Developing and implementing a new Practice Model that will improve the way the Children's Administration provides support and services to children and families.
- Implement an Initial Foster Care License for families that have an existing relationship with a child and for whom a license is required (July 2006). This will allow children to be placed with a known family prior to the completion of the full licensing process.
- Require notification of court hearings and staffings to caregivers to encourage support and participation in case planning for children in their care. (July 2006)
- Develop a 'request for proposal' (RFP) to contract with private agencies to provide both recruitment and retention for foster parents in each region. The RFP process will result in performance based contracts with agencies that are familiar with regional needs versus having one statewide contractor. (August 2006)
- Implement a statewide Foster Parent Support and Retention Services phone line. This service was legislated in the 2006 session to support caregivers providing care for children with high risk behaviors.
- Implement the Relative Framework, to improve support to relative caregivers and provides for an initial written assessment on the caregiver to support the health and well-being of children in out-of-home care. (October 2006)
- Sponsor the second annual Foster Care and Caregivers Conference in September 2006.
- Survey foster parents to measure their satisfaction, identifying what things we are doing well and what things need improvement. (January 2007)