



## **Report to the Legislature**

### **Intensive Resource Home Pilot**

RCW 74.13.800

July - December 2008

Department of Social & Health Services  
Children's Administration  
Program & Practice Improvement Division  
PO Box 45710  
Olympia, WA 98504-5710  
(360) 902-7986  
Fax: (360) 902-7903

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July-December 2008**

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## Executive Summary

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In 2007, HB 1624 required the department to complete a feasibility study regarding special foster parent resource homes. A committee was formed, met, developed and agreed upon foster parent requirements, youth criteria and a model design. This committee made recommendations to the legislature, resulting in E2SHB 3145 which was codified as RCW 74.13.800.

RCW 74.13.800 required the department to implement an Intensive Resource Home (IRH) pilot. This report covers the department's efforts to implement the pilot through December, 2008.

The department, through its work with the 1624 Committee, identified models of practice to be employed in the pilots, began recruitment of foster parents for the pilots, specified the training and consultation requirements for pilot and department staff, developed an ongoing consultation model, and developed contracts. Contracts for training and consultation were approved in November 2008. As the extent of the revenue shortfall was becoming apparent, a freeze was imposed on all new contracts. That halted the progress of implementing the IRH pilots.

During the development of the IRH pilot program, the efforts to identify foster parents to join the pilot had not been successful. A total of only 18 requests for additional information came from foster parents contacted through the foster parent conference, web site, and direct solicitation. Foster parents who responded were interested in the *KEEP* model and support groups, but hesitant or unwilling to enter into a contract.

Based on recommendations from foster parents and feedback from representatives on the workgroup, DSHS was provided the following recommendations:

- Remove contract requirement to become an Intensive Resource Home Provider. Reasons include:
  - Contracting establishes self-employment status for the foster parent.
  - Payments made under the contract become reportable income.
  - Contracts require bookkeeping and record retention, currently not required of foster parents.
  - Legal liability and insurance requirements increase.
- The \$500 stipend should be increased to provide additional incentive.
- Explore a new licensing category for Intensive Resource Homes.

Due to the passage of 2SHB 2106, which repeals RCW 74.13.800 Intensive Resource Home Pilot (Section 97), the Children's Administration will not move forward with the Intensive Resource Home pilots at this time. If Intensive Resource Homes are revived, the department will reconvene the workgroup and revisit implementation strategies.

The department is reviewing options to continue the *KEEP* groups already started in the two sites. The department considers *KEEP* as a promising practice for skills training and support of foster parents.

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In 2007, HB 1624 required the department to complete a feasibility study regarding special foster parent resource homes. A 1624 feasibility workgroup was formed. Several meetings were held in 2007 and a subcommittee was formed to work on Intensive Resource Home (IRH) details.

The 1624 feasibility workgroup defined provider requirements, contract requirements, youth eligibility criteria and outcomes during subcommittee meetings on October 4, 2007 and November 13, 2007. The guidelines developed to implement intensive resource homes (IRHs) were:

1. An IRH provider must be a licensed foster parent who meets one of the following requirements:
  - Three years experience as a licensed foster parent serving youth in out of home care. Experience serving youth in residential care, mental health, and other therapeutic child services may substitute for up to two years of foster parenting; or
  - Licensed as a physician, nurse or health care professional to meet the needs of medically fragile or medically complex children.
2. Contract requirements of IRH providers were defined as:
  - 30 hours of annual training (to include hours spent in consultation).
  - Active participation in the child's case plan, including teaching skills and measuring progress.
  - Utilization of the specified program model and participation in ongoing consultation, monitoring, and annual review of the desired outcomes.
  - Involvement of the child's birth parents or permanent placement resource family with the child's behavioral or treatment plan and assistance for them in practicing skills.
  - Placement of no more than three foster children in the home.
3. Criteria for placement of youth in IRHs were defined as:
  - Children assessed at foster care payment levels three, four or above (exceptional cost plan) and who have experienced at least two previous placement disruptions.
  - Children with a previous adoption disruption or BRS placement.
4. Children who are in their permanent plan or in relative care are excluded from the IRH program.

5. The following goals will be measured as outcomes of the IRH program:

- Placement stability.
- Educational achievement.
- School stability.
- Placement in permanent homes.

The 1624 Committee made recommendations to the Legislature for the 2008 session. The result of the recommendations was E2SHB 3145, which was codified as RCW 74.13.800. The statute required the department to pilot intensive resource homes. The department was required to:

1. Define requirements of the Intensive Resource Home (IRH) providers.
2. Define eligibility criteria for identifying children to be served.
3. Identify desired outcomes to be measured (completed by 1624 workgroup).
4. Identify evidence-based or promising practice models to be employed in the pilot.
5. Specify the training and consultation requirements that support the model.
6. Establish a system of support, clinical consultation and oversight for the IRH.
7. Develop contracts for the IRH providers.
8. Establish policy for placement of eligible children.
9. Establish number and age of children who may be placed in IRHs.
10. Develop a tiered payment system by September 30, 2008, which may include a stipend (not more than \$500) to IRH providers.
11. Develop a process for annual performance reviews of IRH providers.
12. Select two geographical areas to pilot the IRH provider program with concentrations of children meeting the eligibility criteria.
13. Begin pilot on or before October 1, 2008 (delayed due to freeze on issuing new personal service contracts).
14. Report to the Legislature by January 30, 2009 on the implementation of the pilot and recommend a process for expansion.
15. Report to the Governor and Legislature by September 1, 2009 on the IRH pilot and elements that should be addressed or replicated if pilot is expanded.

## **PROGRESS THROUGH DECEMBER 2008:**

1. CAMIS data was pulled by county to identify the areas of the state where there are higher concentrations of children who meet the criteria defined by the ESHB 1624 Workgroup on Tiered Foster Parent Licensing (**See Attachment 1**).
2. The data was shared with Regional Administrators. They requested additional data to help with their decision about locations. A final decision was made on June 19, 2008 that the two pilot locations would be in Yakima and Clark counties.
3. On May 6, 2008 a meeting with Dr. Eric Trupin and the staff of the UW Evidence-Based Institute was held about possible models of service. Dr. Trupin requested additional data about the characteristics of the children before he made recommendations for a model. This additional data was shared with Dr. Trupin and his staff (**See Attachment 2**). Dr. Trupin recommended implementation of the *KEEP* model from the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC). Two other models (meeting evidence-based requirements) were examined, Bio-Behavioral Catch-Up and Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care-Preschool. These models were not selected because they were developed exclusively for preschool age children.
4. On June 20, 2008 an initial discussion with one suggested model expert and Dr. Trupin's staff occurred.
5. On July 25, 2008 the 1624 workgroup was updated on the identified model, the IRH contract, insurance and IRS issues, tiered payment proposals, and information sharing needs with foster parents.
6. On July 27, 2008 CA and the UW Evidence-Based Institute met with Oregon Social and Learning Center about the *KEEP* model (**See Attachment 3**).
7. Data was developed regarding exceptional cost payments for the children who meet the criteria defined by the 1624 workgroup (**See Attachment 4**).
8. On August 20, 2008 a personal service contract OFM exception request was completed and submitted for the OSLC Consultants contract.
9. On August 27, 2008 a meeting was held for the regional foster parent representatives and FPAWS president to discuss IRH pilots and to help develop and plan of communication regarding the pilot and the contracts with foster parents. Suggestions for information sharing were:
  - Placing information on the foster parent website and newsletter.
  - Developing a flyer for the Foster Parent Conference on September 22-23, 2008 and announcing the pilots during breakout sessions.
  - Mailing information to all foster parents in the pilot site locations.
  - Holding telephone conferences with CA staff in the pilot sites.

- Meeting with foster parent/stakeholders in the pilot sites facilitated by CA and OSLC staff.
10. Dates for a stakeholder meeting were set for each pilot site location (October 9 and 10, 2008).
  11. On September 10, 2008 a draft contract for consultation with OSLC was completed and submitted to Central Contracts Services.
  12. On September 15, 2008 CA's request for an emergency personal service contract was approved by Secretary of DSHS.
  13. On September 22, 2008 informational flyers were given to all Foster Parent Conference attendees (over 500). CA received two responses from private agency foster parents asking for additional information about the pilots.
  14. On September 26, 2008 a flyer and informational letter regarding the IRH pilot was placed on the CA foster parent webpage. CA has received no responses from this recruitment effort.
  15. On October 1, 2008 *KEEP* the stakeholder meetings scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> were rescheduled for October 29 and 30 due to the lack of approval of the consultation contract with OSLC.
  16. On October 13, 2008 CA updated the 1624 Committee on progress.
  17. On October 18, 2008 *KEEP* stakeholder meetings were again rescheduled for December 16 and 17 (due to the consultants' schedule); the OSLC consultation contract was still not approved.
  18. On October 23, 2008 CA Leadership Team approved the IRH tiered payment system (**See Attachment 5**).
  19. A conference call with OSLC Consultants and pilot site CA staff was held on October 29, 2008 to discuss implementation needs and start up dates for CA staff training in the *KEEP* model. Consultants informed CA the soonest they could provide the training to CA staff was the week of January 12, 2009.
  20. On October 30, 2008 the draft IRH provider contract was completed.
  21. On November 13, 2008 the OSLC consultant contracts were approved.
  22. On November 14 the pilot sites were notified of the contract approval asked to move forward with the January staff trainings.
  23. On November 25, 2008 letters were sent to licensed foster parents in Clark (391) and Yakima (213) counties, informing them of IRH provider contracts, the *KEEP* model and the stakeholder meeting and asked them to contact CA if interested. CA received 16 responses to this mailing.
  24. On December 20, 2008 IRH draft contract finalized.

25. On December 16 and 17, 2008 stakeholder meetings were scheduled at pilot sites, but cancelled due to inclement weather. CA began work on a protocol for referral of youth into IRH.

In January 2009, staff training by OSLC consultants on the *KEEP* model occurred. Stakeholder meetings were held in Vancouver and Yakima (January 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>).

In February 2009, contracting with foster parents could have begun. However, due to concerns about the continued funding for the program, it was decided to delay contracting. CA continued with the *KEEP* groups for foster parents.

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## Attachment 1

### FOSTER HOMES AND ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

Based on data of the number of potential IRH providers and eligible youth, seven counties were identified as possible counties for the pilot. Legislation requires the department to select two geographical areas for the pilots. Clark and Yakima County were chosen by the leadership team as the two areas for the pilots.

County Name	Number of Youth	Youth Placed in Home Licensed for 3 or More Years	FH with Level 3 or 4 Payments	FH Licensed 3 or More Years	FH Licensed 3 or More Years With Level 3 or 4 Payments
CLARK	62	46	64	145	45
KING	59	40	64	260	50
PIERCE	57	34	36	146	22
SNOHOMISH	33	12	48	137	26
SPOKANE	62	45	82	248	49
THURSTON	40	32	47	78	34
YAKIMA	38	30	40	107	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>256</b>

## Attachment 2

### DETAILED CHILD DATA

#### Breakdown of Children Based on Age and Other Identifiers

The data below includes children with level three and four foster care payments, who had BRS payments in past five years, who had three or more placement moves or whose adoption disrupted.

The data excludes children who are placed with relatives or whose placement is considered the permanent resource (children in guardianships, children with a primary plan of long-term foster or relative care, or children in a placement event flagged as the home where they will stay until they reach the age of majority).

County Name	Number of Children	DLR Home Licensed 3 or More Years	Placed in Home Licensed for 3 or More Years	0-12 years old	12-17 years old	Over 17 years old	Afr Am	Asian/Pacific	Cauc	Nat Am	Hisp	Blind/V isually Impaired
CLARK	62	145	46	31	29	2	8	1	39	0	10	0
KING	59	260	40	24	32	3	20		23	6	5	1
PIERCE	57	146	34	26	29	2	10		33	5	6	0
SNOHOMISH	33	137	12	19	12	2	3	1	23	1	1	0
SPOKANE	62	248	45	38	24	0	8		46	4	8	1
THURSTON	40	78	32	16	20	4	3	1	31	2	4	0
YAKIMA	38	107	30	27	10	1	3		19	6	13	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2</b>

County Name	Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Emotionally Disturbed	Learning Disability	Medical Condition	Mental Retardation	Physically Disabled	Other	Sibling groups
CLARK	0	3	3	3	1	1	1	31
KING	1	22	9	4	2	4	2	7
PIERCE	0	12	3	2	4	2	1	18
SNOHOMISH	2	5	2	2	2	0	1	11
SPOKANE	0	18	16	2	3	0	17	13
THURSTON	0	9	4	2	3	2	1	10
YAKIMA	0	10	4	2	2	0	0	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>104</b>

## Attachment 3

### **KEEP MODEL DESCRIPTION**

The Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC) in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services developed an evidence-based model to maintain foster care stability through support and training of foster and kinship parents to help them deal with the challenges faced by being a substitute caregiver (*KEEP*). The aims of the program are:

- Promoting the idea that foster parents can serve as key agents of change for children.
- Strengthening foster parent's confidence and skills so they can change the child's behaviors.
- Helping foster parents use effective parent management strategies and providing them with support to do so.
- Increasing short and long term positive child outcomes in multiple domains and settings at home, at school, and with peers.

Participants attend 16 weekly group meetings with other foster parents. The meetings are held at convenient times and places with child care and snacks provided. The groups are informative, they recognize the great contributions that foster parents make, and they are fun.

The groups are facilitated by Children's Administration (CA) employees who receive training and oversight from OSLC consultants. Each group team consists of a supervisor, facilitator and co-facilitator. Each group can have up to ten foster parents and each team can facilitate three groups a week for up to 30 foster parents.

*KEEP* is effective at:

- Increasing the parenting skills of foster and kinship parents.
- Increasing foster parent retention and satisfaction.
- Decreasing the number of placement disruptions.
- Increasing the number of positive placement changes.
- Decreasing child problem behaviors.

## Attachment 4

### EXCEPTIONAL COST DATA

#### Comparison of HB 3145 Population to All Children With Exceptional Cost Payments on December 1, 2007

Data from the April and August 2008 CAMIS and SSPS downloads.

**HB3145 Population:** Includes children in out-of-home placement with an Exceptional Cost Payment (Service Codes 3216, 3217, or 3247) and a Level 3 or Level 4 Foster Care Payment on December 1, 2007 who: had BRS Payments in the past five years, had two or more moves, or had a disrupted adoption. The HB3145 Population excludes children placed with licensed relatives or in a permanent home, including children in guardianships, children with a primary plan of long-term foster or relative care, and children in a placement event flagged as the home where they will stay until reaching 18 years of age (the age of majority).

**Exceptional Cost Population:** Includes all children not identified in the HB 3145 Population and in placement with Exceptional Cost Payments on December 1, 2007.

	Paid ECP for Full Month			ECP Payments End Before 12/31/07			Total		
	# of Children	Average Dec 2007	Median Cos Dec 2007	# of Children	Average Dec 2007	Median Dec 2007	# of Children	Average Dec 2007	Median Dec 2007
HB3145	139	\$1,179.32	\$1,000.00	9	\$1,245.03	\$1,018.97	148	\$1,183.32	\$1,000.00
ECP	243	\$1,161.57	\$810.06	7	\$1,154.40	\$636.12	250	\$1,161.37	\$810.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>\$1,168.03</b>	<b>\$909.09</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$1,205.38</b>	<b>\$844.75</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>\$1,169.53</b>	<b>\$903.15</b>

## Attachment 5

### TIERED PAYMENT SYSTEM for IRH Providers

RCW 74.13.800 requires a tiered payment to be established with no exceptional cost payments used for the IRH pilot.

Based on the criteria established by the 1624 workgroup, youth going into Intensive Resource Homes (IRH) must assess at Foster Care Rate Level 3, 4 or higher (ECP). The reimbursement plan for IRH foster parents includes the basic foster care rate and the assessed foster care rate for the youth, adding a Level 5 for youth who currently receive an exceptional cost plan.

During the four month training period, IRH providers would also receive a \$250 stipend per month per youth (max two youth) on the program. Once they successfully complete the four month skills training, they would receive \$500 per month per youth (max two youth). The IRH providers would continue to get the \$500 per month as long as they are serving youth under the IRH contract and participating in the consultation and training.

Assessed Rate Level	Current Payment (includes basic rate)	IRH Payment	Stipend Payment
level 3	\$1,024	\$1,024	\$250-500
level 4	\$1,303	\$1,303	\$250-500
ECP	\$2,503	NA	NA
Level 5	NA	\$2,000.69	\$250-500
BRS 1D	\$2,780	NA	NA