

Permanency of Children	Agency/Program #: 6901-03-G2	
	Division: Child and Family Services	
	Program: Permanency	
Agency Name:	Department of Health and Human Services	
Agency Contact:	Shirley Brown / Scott Sim	444-5906
LFC Contact:	Senator Cobb, Senator Williams	
LFD Liaison:	Marilyn Daumiller	444-5386
OBPP Liaison:	Ryan Evans	444-3163

Program or Project Description:

Children who are available for adoption through the Child and Family Services Division of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services have been removed from their own families because of abuse, neglect or abandonment and cannot safely remain at home. The rights of their parents have been terminated making the children available for adoption. Subsidies may be negotiated to help maintain the permanency of the adoption. The amount of the subsidy is based on the needs of the child and may not exceed the cost of foster care. The subsidized adoption program is a part of a continuum of care that is provided by the Child and Family Services Division.

LFD Note: The following appropriation data is the budget for the division. There are not separate appropriations for the categories of safety, well being and permanency of children.

Fund Name:	Appropriation, Expenditure and Source				Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of August 29, 2008
	2008		2009		
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended	
General Fund	31,641,073	30,570,493	33,680,859	3,713,504	
State Special	2,797,452	2,565,683	2,583,376	200,341	
Federal Funds	30,921,890	24,956,596	31,475,257	2,760,080	
Total:	\$65,360,415	\$58,092,772	\$67,739,492	\$6,673,925	

Legislative Goal(s):

The goal is ensuring timely permanency for children. The Child and Family Services Division will determine if concerted efforts were made, or are being made to achieve a finalized adoption in a timely manner. The determination of timeliness is based on the date of the child's most recent entry into foster care, not the date that the goal of adoption was established. The agency has 24 months to demonstrate concerted efforts to finalize an adoption.

Legislative Performance Measures :

Documentation of diligent efforts to achieve timeliness of adoption will improve 5% by the end of FY 2009 over the FY 2007 baseline of 52.9%.

Progress in meeting this goal will be measured by manually reviewing 75 case files for compliance every six months.

	2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:	Completion Dates	
		Target	Actual
1	Documentation of diligent efforts to achieve timeliness of adoption will improve 3 % over the FY 2007 baseline of 52.9%.	6/30/2008	4/15/2008
2	Documentation of diligent efforts to achieve timeliness of adoption will improve 5 % over the FY 2007 baseline of 52.9%.	6/30/2009	
3			
4			
5			

Performance Report:

This report is based on the latest data collection through March 31, 2007. These data do not relate to the 2009 Biennium.

75 cases were reviewed for each of the following 6 month periods:

For 04/01/06-09/30/06 timely adoptions were completed in 84.2% of cases reviewed. For 10/01/06-03/31/07 timely adoptions were completed in 60% of the cases reviewed. Average for these two periods is 72.1%.

The on-site Child and Family Services Review was held the week of August 11, 2008. Cases were reviewed from three counties (Yellowstone, Cascade and Missoula). The data derived from the review is preliminary and not representative of the entire state. Because cases were reviewed from only three counties, there is no correlation between that data and previously reported data. CFSD will conduct the next set of peer case reviews starting November 2008.

LFD Narrative:

LFD ASSESSMENT: On Track

DATA RELEVANCE: Yes

APPROPRIATION STATUS: Appropriation and expenditure data were provided but please see the LFD comments in 6901-03-G1, Well Being.

COMMENTS/ISSUES: The primary reason the workgroup asked the division to return for an October report was to receive an overview of the Child and Family Services Review that was held in August and to give the workgroup an overview of foster care and subsidized adoption at year end.

The workgroup may wish to ask the division to elaborate on these items as they relate to the permanency goal.

OPTIONS: No further review.



Version	Date	Author
6901-02-G2--BO-3	9/24/08	Daumiller
6901-02-G2--BO -2	5/17/08	Daumiller
6901-02-G2--BO-1	12/5/07	Daumiller

Change Description
Added LFD Narrative
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