

Permanency of Children	Agency/Program #: 6901-03-G2
	Division: Child and Family Services
	Program: Subsidized Adoption
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:	Pat Sullivan 444-1207

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 April 15, 2007
	2008		2009		
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended	
General Fund	31,641,073	24,373,351	33,680,859		
State Special	2,797,452	2,004,217	2,583,376		
Federal Funds	30,921,890	20,471,955	31,475,257		
Total:	\$65,360,415	\$46,849,523	\$67,739,492	\$0	

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 next measurement of this item will occur during the on-site Federal Review in August of 2008 with cases in the period under review 04/01/07-08/15/08. Subsequent reviews of 75 cases will occur every 6 months after the Federal on-site review. The case review results data were finalized 04/02/08.

February 2008 data reported did not include rebuttal information.

LFD Narrative:

LFD ASSESSMENT: On-Track

DATA and APPROPRIATION RELEVANCE: Data provided indicates that the division met its target.

COMMENTS: The three goals for the safety, well being, and timely permanency of children were selected because of the tie to the myriad of federal goals and targets the division tracks as well as the upcoming federal review that is scheduled for August. While the data success reflects the present goals and work of the division, please note that the 75 cases reviews were dated 2006 and 2007 in accordance with federal monitoring and review.

Any differences for the figures presented in the report for the March meeting are because the February 2008 data reported did not include rebuttal information and any related corrections submitted by the caseworker and supervisors.

The division has been working with the court systems throughout the state to expedite the permanency process. For the October meeting, the workgroup may wish to request an update on this issue, and ask if there are any related budget implications.

Additionally, the work group may wish to request an update to the federal review and an overview of any projected changes to policy, budget, and goals and measurements related to the review.

OPTIONS:

- 1 - Accept the on-track ranking and ask for an update at the October meeting to the federal review and/or budget or policy changes anticipated for the 2011 biennium
- 2- Accept the ranking and eliminate further follow-up



Version	Date	Author
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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