

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2003 – 10 A.M.

GRANT SAWYER OFFICE BUILDING – ROOM 4401

555 East Washington Avenue

Las Vegas, Nevada

Videoconferencing to Legislative Building – Room 3138

401 South Carson Street, Carson City

EXHIBIT B Committee Name Child FAM Document consists of 94 pages.

☐ Entire document provided.

☒ Due to size limitations, 40 pages provided. A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Meeting Date 12-16-03

**Review of Recommendations to the 2003 Legislature from the 2001-2002
Committee on Children, Youth and Families, and Summary of Related
Legislation and Funding Approved by the 2003 Legislature**

STATUS OF LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY
THE NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
TO THE 2003 LEGISLATURE

Topic	Bill Draft Request (BDR)	BDR Bill Number	Final Status
Funding Child Welfare Services	Draft legislation necessary to implement the plan for funding the provision of child welfare services in this state in counties whose populations are 100,000 or more. The plan will address the fiscal responsibility of the state and each county for such services, including any increases in the costs of providing the services. The plan includes a "swap" between the State and Clark and Washoe Counties of child welfare costs and Medicaid long-term care county match costs.	BDR 38-687 A.B. 482	Passed by Legislature without recommended provisions (Chapter 475, <i>Statutes of Nevada 2003</i>)
Guardianship Proceedings	Draft legislation authorizing a court to grant a permanent guardianship in a proceeding held pursuant to Chapter 432B of <i>Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)</i> (Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect)	BDR 38-688 A.B. 273	Passed by Legislature (Chapter 103, <i>Statutes of Nevada 2003</i>)
Open Court Proceedings	Draft legislation to amend NRS 432B.430 to provide that once a petition is filed, proceedings are open to the general public unless the judge or master determines that the hearing should be closed in the best interest of the child.	BDR 38-689 A.B. 132	Passed by Legislature (Chapter 514, <i>Statutes of Nevada 2003</i>)
Continued Services to Youth through Age 21	Draft legislation to allow Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Human Resources, to continue to provide services to foster care children up to and including age 21 under certain circumstances.	BDR 38-690 A.B. 25	Passed by Legislature without recommended provisions (Chapter 155, <i>Statutes of Nevada 2003</i>)
Authorization for Child Welfare Employees to Become Foster Parents	Draft legislation allowing employees of DCFS and county child welfare agencies to become foster parents of children who have not been on their caseload in the past three years and who are not currently on their caseload. Retain current authorization for an employee to provide services to any child pursuant to a court order or upon referral of appropriate law enforcement officials for emergency care.	BDR 38-690 A.B. 25	Passed by Legislature (Chapter 155, <i>Statutes of Nevada 2003</i>)

Topic	Bill Draft Request (BDR)	BDR Bill Number	Final Status
Medicaid Coverage for Foster Care Youth Between Ages of 18 and 21 Years	Draft legislation requiring the Director of the Department of Human Resources to include in the State Plan for Medicaid a provision that specifies young people between the ages of 18 and 21 years who were in foster care on their 18 th birthday are eligible for Medicaid coverage, to the extent authorized pursuant to federal law.	BDR 38-691 A.B. 5	Passed by Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services and re-referred to Assembly Committee on Ways and Means. No action by Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.
Examination of Victims by Certain Medical Professionals	Draft legislation to require agencies that provide child welfare services to ensure that children under three years of age who are reported as possible victims of child abuse or neglect are examined by a medical professional who is trained in diagnosing child abuse and neglect.	BDR 38-692 A.B. 112	Indefinitely Postponed by Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services.
Deadlines for Submitting Consortium Reports	Draft legislation amending NRS 433B.335 to change the deadline for each consortium to submit the annual plan to the Committee on Children, Youth and Families from January 15 to August 15.	BDR 39-693 A.B. 6	Passed by Legislature (Chapter 24, Statutes of Nevada 2003)

SUMMARIES OF ENACTED BILLS

Assembly Bill 6 (Chapter 24, Statutes of Nevada 2003)

Assembly Bill 6 changes the dates for which plans must be prepared by certain mental health consortia from January 1 to July 1 of each year. The bill further changes the date on which the plans must be submitted to the Department of Human Resources from January 15 to July 15, and changes the date on which the plans must be submitted to members of the Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families from January 15 to August 15 of each year.

Assembly Bill 25 (Chapter 155, Statutes of Nevada 2003)

Assembly Bill 25 authorizes an employee of a child welfare services agency to provide maintenance and special services to a child under certain circumstances. The bill allows state and county child welfare employees to become foster parents for children in state or county custody, as long as that child is not on the person's caseload and has not been on their caseload within the past three years.

Assembly Bill 132 (Chapter 514, Statutes of Nevada 2003)

Assembly Bill 132 revises certain provisions governing hearings involving the abuse or neglect of children. The chart below summarizes the revisions. Further, A.B. 132 requires the Court Administrator to collect information from the clerks of the district courts concerning the effect of the legislation on the children involved in the proceedings, the operation of the child welfare system, and any other issue on which the Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families requests information. The Court Administrator must provide a written report compiling the information to the Committee and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 2003 Legislature.

Type of Hearing	Purpose and Timing of the Hearing	STATUS OF HEARING		
		Prior to Assembly Bill 132	Eighth Judicial District	Other Judicial Districts
Protective Custody (NRS 432B.470)	To determine whether child should remain in protective custody. To occur within 72 hours of taking into custody.	Closed (Open only to "those persons having a direct interest in the case, as ordered by the judge or master.")	Closed	Closed
Adjudicatory Hearing (NRS 432B.530)	Inform parties of allegations and opportunity to admit/deny. Relevant evidence presented. Witnesses examined and court may require child to be present in court. ** If court finds by preponderance of the evidence the child is in need of protection, <i>may proceed immediately</i> , or hold another hearing within 15 days to make "proper disposition of the case."		Presumptively Closed	Presumptively Closed
Disposition Hearing (NRS 432B.530, Subsec. 5)	Held within 15 days of adjudicatory hearing, unless court makes "proper disposition of the case" during the adjudicatory hearing (see row above).		Presumptively Open	Presumptively Closed
Other hearings under NRS 432B.410 to 432B.590	Includes review and permanency hearings.		Presumptively Open	Presumptively Closed

Assembly Bill 273 (Chapter 103, *Statutes of Nevada 2003*)

Assembly Bill 273 establishes procedures for permanently placing an abused or neglected child with a guardian. Prior to the passage of A.B. 273, the only option for creating such a guardianship required parties involved in child abuse and neglect cases, which are governed by Chapter 432B of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) ("Protection of Children"), to initiate new proceedings under Chapter 159 of NRS ("Guardianships").

Summary of Legislatively Approved Funding For Child Welfare Services 2003-05 Biennium

1. Total Statewide Funding for Child Welfare Services

Expenditures	FY 2004	FY 2005
DCFS* - Central Office/Rural Services/Higher Levels of Care**	\$63,451,149	\$66,204,810
Clark County	\$30,971,497	\$33,267,377
Washoe County	\$11,275,720	\$12,228,747
DCFS – Statewide SED Costs for 327 children	\$5,991,228	\$6,223,590
Total	\$111,689,594	\$117,924,524

*Includes costs in DCFS Administration (101-3145), Youth Community Services (101-3229), UNITY/SACWIS (101-3143), Child Welfare Integration (101-3142) and Child Care Services (101-3149).

**The approved figures include funding for Title XIX Medicaid Medical expenses for foster children that were transferred to the Medicaid budget in the Division of Health Care, Financing and Policy. The funding will continue to be expended on care for foster children, but will be accounted for directly in the Medicaid budget. The amounts are \$21.5 million in FY 2004 and \$23 million in FY 2005.

Funding

Funding Source	FY 2004	Percentage	FY 2005	Percentage
General Fund	\$59,096,882	52.9%	\$64,856,226	55.0%
Federal Funds	\$51,258,991	45.9%	\$51,672,596	43.8%
Other Funds*	\$1,333,721	1.2%	\$1,395,702	1.2%
Total	\$111,689,594	100%	\$117,924,524	100%

*Other funds include fees, trust funds, child support payments, and rental income.

2. Child Welfare Integration budget (101-3142) – Established in FY 2002, primarily to transfer resources to Clark and Washoe Counties.

Expenditures	FY 2004	FY 2005
DCFS-Regulatory Oversight	\$677,291	\$649,561
DCFS-Rural Match up	\$556,544	\$559,709
DCFS-Statewide SED Costs	\$5,991,228	\$6,223,590
DCFS-SACWIS/UNITY Compliance	\$108,782	\$114,121
DCFS-Information Technology Assessment	\$42,280	\$29,226
Clark County Ongoing Costs	\$30,971,497	\$33,267,378
Washoe County Ongoing Costs	\$11,275,721	\$12,228,747
Total	\$49,623,343	\$53,072,332

Funding

Funding Source	FY 2004	Percentage	FY 2005	Percentage
General Fund	\$29,544,135	59.5%	\$31,986,727	60.3%
Federal Funds	\$19,053,524	38.4%	\$19,997,887	37.7%
Other Funds	\$1,025,684	2.1%	\$1,087,718	2.0%
Total	\$49,623,343	100%	\$53,072,332	100%

3. Assembly Bill 470, 2003 Legislative Session, authorized the balance forward of unexpended funds from FY 2003 to FY 2004, that were originally appropriated by Assembly Bill 1 of the 17th Special Session (2001).

Expenditures	FY 2004
Retirement Buyout	\$393,929
Clark County One-Shot-Information System Costs	\$358,429
Total General Fund Appropriation	\$752,358

4. Approved Positions for Clark and Washoe Counties

Clark County

Transfer of existing DCFS positions	139.06 FTE
New DCFS positions to be filled and transferred to Clark Co.	15.00 FTE
New Positions-Equivalent Value of positions to Clark County	<u>25.00 FTE</u>
Total Positions	179.06 FTE

Washoe County

Transfer of existing DCFS positions	53.08 FTE
New DCFS positions transferred to Washoe County (AB 1)	3.00 FTE
New Positions-Equivalent Value of positions to Washoe County	<u>6.00 FTE</u>
Total Positions	62.08 FTE

5. Implementation Schedule and Position Transfers

Clark County

The three major intervals identified for the transfer of positions and responsibilities to Clark County are October 2003, April 2004 and October 2004.

- October 2003 – 10.51 FTE positions were transferred
- April 2004 – 42.04 FTE positions will be transferred

- October 2004 – 101.51 FTE positions will be transferred

Washoe County

The transfer of responsibilities and resources to Washoe County is substantially complete. A total of 62.08 existing positions and/or their equivalent salary values have been transferred to Washoe County.

6. Major elements that the approved funding provides for:

- 1 to 28 staff to child caseload ratios
- \$21 per day foster care reimbursement rate
- Enhancement of resources and services in rural Nevada to “match up” to Washoe and Clark Counties
- Increased access to mental health services for 327 SED foster children
- Projected caseload increases in Substitute Care, Adoption Subsidies and in Higher Levels of Care

7. Transition from Foster Care Budget Account

- Established in FY 2002 to administer funds for assisting youth transitioning out of foster care. No expenditures occurred in FY 2002.
- In FY 2003, approximately \$1.8 million was available, with expenditures totaling \$208,624
- In FY 2004 year to date, approximately \$2.1 million is available, with expenditures totaling \$153,070

**Status Reports on Progress of Child Welfare Integration
Implementation and Mental Health Consortiums**

Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services



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MEMORANDUM

Date: December 5, 2003

To: Allison Combs, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Larry L. Peri, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division

From:  Jone M. Bosworth, Administrator
Division of Child and Family Services

Subject: Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families

03 DEC -5 AM 6:43
JONE M. BOSWORTH
ADMINISTRATOR

In response to your request for information for the December 16, 2003 Committee meeting, I offer the following:

1. Please provide a summary of the Legislatively Approved child welfare funding for the 2003-05 biennium. The information should be displayed in charts and/or tables similar to those presented during the 2003 Legislative Session and should be summarized by expenditure area (salaries, operating, placement costs, etc.) and include a breakdown of General Funds, Federal Funds and Other Funds.

Please provide a separate table for child welfare responsibilities statewide, which would include the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Clark and Washoe Counties, and a separate table for funds approved in the Child Welfare Integration budget (101-3142). Please include information on the carry forward of funds from Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 to FY 2004 approved through the passage of Assembly Bill 470 (2003 Session) for retirement buyouts and for Clark County information systems' costs. Please briefly discuss elements that are included in the approved funding such as the \$21 per day foster care reimbursement rate, the 1 to 28 staffing ratio, rural match-up enhancements, etc.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Legislatively Approved Child Welfare Funding for the 2003-2005 Biennium, summarized by expenditure area and includes a breakdown of General Funds, Federal Funds, and Other funds.

Legislatively Approved Child Welfare Funding 2003-2005 Biennium			
	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Child Welfare Services			
Expenditures	88,016,412	105,698,366	111,700,934
Salaries/Benefits	24,980,919	26,330,305	27,333,118
Operating/Indirect Costs	10,933,107	13,606,998	13,382,549
Purchase Placement	35,217,917	41,408,088	45,021,251
Other Placement/Other	16,884,469	24,352,975	25,964,016
Funding	88,016,412	105,698,366	111,700,934
General Funds	40,843,837	55,052,803	60,655,303
Federal Funds	44,451,814	49,311,842	49,649,929
Other	2,720,761	1,333,721	1,395,702
Statewide MH - SED Services			
Expenditures	2,417,276	5,991,228	6,223,590
Consultant Fees	112,800	120,000	120,000
Recruitment and Training for New Providers	25,000	25,000	25,000
Provider Services	2,279,476	5,846,228	6,078,590
Funding	2,417,276	5,991,228	6,223,590
General Funds	1,447,486	4,044,079	4,200,923
Federal Funds	969,790	1,947,149	2,022,667
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	90,433,688	111,689,594	117,924,524
Total Revenues			
General Funds	42,291,323	59,096,882	64,856,226
Federal Funds	45,421,604	51,258,991	51,672,596
Other	2,720,761	1,333,721	1,395,702

Table 1

Table 2 summarizes the funds approved in the Child Welfare Integration Budget (101-3142), and includes the carry forward funds approved through the passage of Assembly Bill 470 (2003 Session).

Legislatively Approved Child Welfare Integration Budget 2003-2005 Biennium		
	FY 2004	FY 2005
Expenditures	49,623,343	53,072,332
DCFS Regulatory Oversight	677,291	649,561
Statewide MH-SED Services	5,991,228	6,223,590
DCFS Rural Matchup	556,544	559,709
SACWIS Compliance	108,782	114,121
Clark County Ongoing	30,971,497	33,267,378
Washoe County Ongoing	11,275,721	12,228,747
Information Technology	42,280	29,226
Revenues	49,623,343	53,072,332
General Funds	29,544,135	31,986,727
Federal Funds	19,053,524	19,997,887
Other	1,025,684	1,087,718
Carry Forward from FY2003		
	FY 2004	FY 2005
Expenditures	752,358	
Retirement Buyout	393,929	
Clark County One-Shot	358,429	
Revenues	752,358	
General Funds	752,358	
Federal Funds		
Other		

Table 2

Table 3 provides the detailed expenditure information to support the summary, and is broken down to reflect the Division of Child and Family Services, Washoe and Clark Counties separately.

1	A								
2	Legislative Approved Budget	SFY04				SFY05			
3		DCFS	Clark Co	Washoe Co	Total	DCFS	Clark Co	Washoe Co	Total
4	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	63,451,149	30,971,497	11,275,720	105,698,366	66,204,810	33,267,377	12,228,747	111,700,934
5	SALARIES/BENEFITS	11,126,893	11,111,160	4,092,252	26,330,305	11,473,371	11,505,529	4,354,218	27,333,118
6	Existing Positions	10,964,997	10,216,200	3,832,099	25,013,295	11,229,793	11,505,529	4,076,962	26,812,284
7	New Positions	161,896	-	260,154	422,050	243,578	-	277,256	520,834
8	Other Payroll Costs	-	894,960	-	894,960	-	-	-	-
9	OPERATING:	8,391,553	3,391,889	646,952	12,430,394	8,334,279	2,354,240	657,722	11,346,240
10	Travel	215,489	205,098	66,501	487,088	217,035	205,098	66,501	488,634
11	Operating Expense/Utilities	960,266	546,236	299,830	1,806,331	952,982	546,236	307,011	1,806,228
12	Rental	-	658,811	-	658,811	-	670,845	-	670,845
13	Equipment	62,129	-	14,542	76,671	-	-	14,542	14,542
14	Specialized Training	1,058,822	3,673	3,380	1,065,875	1,058,822	3,673	3,380	1,065,875
15	Background Investigations	24,885	27,977	5,050	57,912	24,885	27,977	5,050	57,912
16	Information Systems	5,503,893	1,899,773	26,400	7,430,066	5,545,824	172,786	26,400	5,745,010
17	Training	11,625	2,246	8,937	22,808	11,625	2,246	8,937	22,808
18	Legal Counsel	554,445	48,076	222,312	824,832	523,105	725,379	225,901	1,474,385
19	INDIRECT COST POOLS	196,575	302,572	677,456	1,176,604	196,575	1,162,277	677,456	2,036,309
20	PURCHASE-PLACEMENT COSTS	20,496,915	15,495,477	5,415,697	41,408,088	21,350,331	17,574,932	6,095,988	45,021,251
21	Emergency Shelter	52,000	1,507,678	414,400	1,974,078	52,000	1,507,678	414,400	1,974,078
22	FC/Group Placements - Level I thru V, Therap & Wraps	17,750,727	-	-	17,750,727	18,468,327	-	-	18,468,327
23	Substitute Foster Care	1,827,750	6,435,908	2,269,193	10,532,851	1,827,750	6,656,441	2,298,357	10,782,548
24	Adoption Services	866,438	7,551,891	2,732,104	11,150,433	1,002,254	9,410,813	3,383,231	13,796,297
25	OTHER PLACEMENT COSTS	22,997,135	296,439	124,152	23,417,726	24,608,176	296,439	124,152	25,028,767
26	Title XIX	21,495,754	-	-	21,495,754	23,036,067	-	-	23,036,067
27	Non XIX	988,023	-	-	988,023	1,058,751	-	-	1,058,751
28	Family Preservation Services	-	116,183	21,817	138,000	-	116,183	21,817	138,000
29	Transportation	28,594	79,438	40,440	148,472	28,594	79,438	40,440	148,472
30	Independent Living	471,720	31,508	22,000	525,228	471,720	31,508	22,000	525,228
31	Respite Care	8,548	19,310	9,895	37,753	8,548	19,310	9,895	37,753
32	Drug Testing	4,496	50,000	30,000	84,496	4,496	50,000	30,000	84,496
33	OTHER COSTS	242,078	373,960	319,211	935,249	242,078	373,960	319,211	935,249
34	Placement Prevention	81,900	311,431	300,000	693,331	81,900	311,431	300,000	693,331
35	Adopt/FC Recruit	58,466	62,529	19,211	140,206	58,466	62,529	19,211	140,206
36	Foster Home Insurance/Liability	48,131	-	-	48,131	48,131	-	-	48,131
37	Misc Expenses	53,581	-	-	53,581	53,581	-	-	53,581
38	FUNDING								
39	General Funds	30,446,547	17,552,027	7,054,229	55,052,803	33,742,362	19,359,129	7,553,813	60,655,303
40	Federal Funds	32,675,477	12,579,531	4,056,834	49,311,842	32,133,323	13,011,236	4,505,370	49,649,929
41	Grants/Other	329,125	839,939	164,657	1,333,721	329,125	897,013	169,564	1,395,702
42	TOTAL FUNDING	63,451,149	30,971,497	11,275,720	105,698,366	66,204,810	33,267,378	12,228,747	111,700,934

Table 3

Some of the elements included in the approved funding include:

Continued Support for Enhance Funding to Improve Quality of Services Overall

- Lower caseloads
 - 1:28 staff to children caseload ratio standards for foster care case management
 - The addition of 15 Case Management positions
 - The addition of 10 Eligibility positions
- Higher foster care reimbursement rate.
 - Foster care rates funded at the \$21/day rate for all entities.
- "Matching-up" services in Rural Nevada.
 - Continued funding for 10 Positions
- Increased access to mental health services for children with SED (severe emotional disturbance).

Mental health services for approximately 327 unserved children with SED in the Child Welfare system.

- **Program Staff Enhancements**

Continued funding for three additional administrative support positions for Washoe County.

Continued funding for 35 Enhanced Program positions for Clark County.

Continued funding for 13 Regulatory/Oversight and SACWIS Compliance positions for DCFS.

Inflation/Federal Mandates

- Placement costs – Medicaid
- Increases in internal service funds costs
- Increase in background investigation fees
- HIPAA Privacy Officer

Caseload Increases

- Additional support staff for Washoe County
One Office Support Specialist, One Human Services Support Specialist and Four Office Assistants

- Substitute foster care

Growth rates applied based upon population growth for the 0 - 19 Years of Age

	SFY04	SFY05
Clark County	4.02%	3.43%
Washoe County	1.41%	1.29%

- Adoption subsidies
20% growth rate applied based upon eligible for adoption subsidy
- Higher levels of care
Adoption Subsidy Caseload Projections
3% growth rate in eligible caseload
- Medicaid
Increased based upon the Medicaid Payment Projections (MPP)

Enhancements

- Systems Advocate office
- Centralized child protective services intake pilot
- UNITY design and development unit
- New/Replacement equipment
- Increased funding for drug testing (south)
- Increased funding to support fiber-optics connectivity (north)
- One-time capital costs associated with the transition of services to Clark County

2. Please provide an update on activity in the new Transition from Foster Care budget (606-3250) approved in FY 2002 to administer funds for assisting youth transitioning out of foster care. In FY 2003, it appears approximately \$1.8 million was available, with expenditures totaling \$208,624. In FY 2004 year-to-date, it appears approximately \$2 million is available, with expenditures thus far totaling \$145,981. For the current 2003-05 biennium, the Governor Recommended and the Legislature Approved, an estimate of \$1 million to be collected and expended in each year of the biennium.

Update on AB 94, Assistance for Former Foster Youth

Washoe County Department of Social Services, Clark County Family Services, and JOIN (Job Opportunities in Nevada, Inc.) for the Rural Region were awarded the first grant of AB 94 funds February 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 with awards based on projected yearly population of "aging- out" foster youth per region. New service providers were contracted by Washoe and Clark counties; Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth in the South, The Children's Cabinet in the North, administer the goods and services to former foster youth in these areas, and JOIN administers the program for the Rural Region.

All regions developed a plan and procedure for youth to access these funds through regional Independent Living Oversight Committees, which continue to meet on a regular basis. There is flexibility in the use of these funds to allow for unexpected but needed assistance. Foster youth and foster parents are advised of available assistance before the youth's release from care. On going recruitment to former foster youth in all regions including outreach activities, brochures, flyers, public service announcements, and presentations to community organizations is returning these youth for needed assistance that was formerly not available.

Clark County:

Approximately 100 youth age out of foster care in Nevada yearly with the majority living in Clark County. Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, as of September 8, 2003 had distributed \$80,600 to over 80 youth. Rent, medical needs, and transportation were most cited as critical areas for funds. In September, \$10,000 in gift cards was acquired for distribution for critical needs, to ensure respect, easy access, and accountability for the youth. The maximum amount a youth can receive for critical needs per year were increased to \$2,000 per year for two years and \$1,500 for the third year. This is in addition to the stipend program of \$1,000 for high school graduation (or certificate of completion) or \$250 if they did not complete high school.

As in all regions, information dispersal and recruitment is a priority. Informational wallet cards with phone numbers, designed for youth, will be distributed and informational meetings have been held with foster care providers and other community leaders to help with the outreach to former foster youth.

Washoe County:

Washoe County Social Services contracted with Children's Cabinet for youth services. Approximately \$1,600 per year is budgeted per youth, although a case- by-case determination for assistance may be made, thus allowing for flexibility in providing assistance. During November 2003, eight youths were served, with housing assistance cited as the most critical need. Utility assistance and clothing for employment were second most requested and requests for medical assistance was the least.

The Children's Cabinet provides extensive case management for youth requesting assistance that includes a full intake interview upon initial request with weekly contact and follow-up on each youth served. As with the other regions, recruitment efforts are similar with public service announcements, informational meetings, and a newsletter.

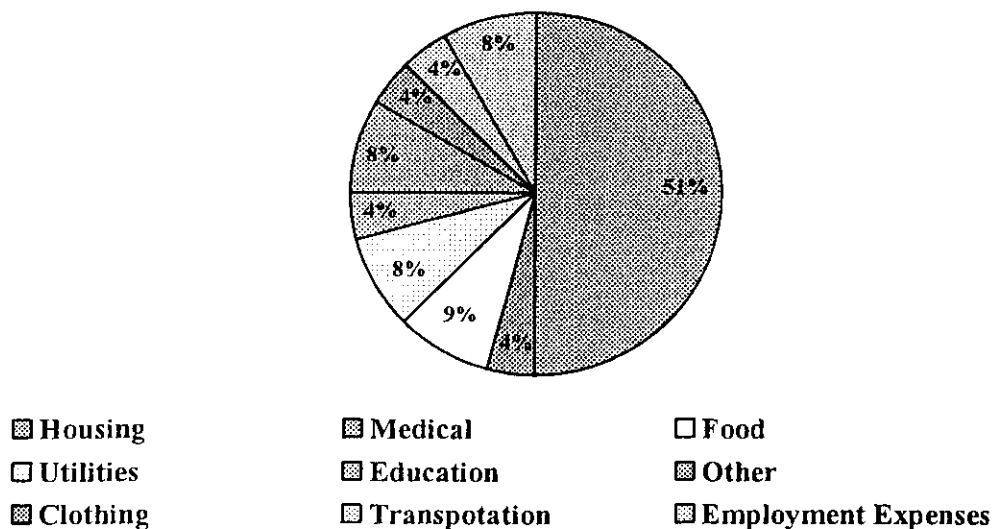
Rural Region:

JOIN (Job Opportunities in Nevada, Inc.) administers the program for the Rural Region with local JOIN offices in Carson City, Elko, and Fallon. DCFS' caseworkers/ ILP advisors collaborate with the local offices to locate former foster youth in the Rural Region, as most youth move away from rural areas when released from care.

Through the end of September, \$4,715 was dispersed to youth from the Carson area, Fallon, Ely, and Elko for rent assistance, medication, food, and other basic needs. As in the urban areas, rent and deposits are cited as the youth's most frequently need assistance, with food, medical and transportation assistance following second. Rent assistance is available for ninety days in a twelve-month period and payments up to \$700 per month are made directly to the landlord, while rental deposits are determined on a case-by-case basis.

The following chart reflects a breakdown of the areas of service provided with AB 94 Funds through November 2003.

**AB 94 Assistance
for
Former Foster Youth
(Approximate Percent of Service Requests
through November 2003)**



National Technical Assistance

The Division of Child and Family Services requested technical guidance for the statewide Independent Living Program and Former Foster Youth Assistance Program through the National Resource Center of The Department of Health and Human Services, from the University of Oklahoma.

A two-day workshop, Creating Positive Futures, was held in Las Vegas during Dec. 3-4, 2003. An additional workshop is planned for Reno next spring. Attendance was free of charge and continuing education credits (CEUs) were available to social workers. The National Resources Center's expertise in best practice for Independent Living for foster youth services is valuable in

increasing our workers knowledge of former foster youths needs and enhancing current recruitment and outreach techniques to former foster youth.

3. **Please provide an update and status report on the integration of child welfare services. While the transition of child welfare services to Washoe County is substantially complete, the transfer of resources and responsibilities to Clark County will be undertaken during the current 2003-05 biennium. The 2003 Legislature approved the recommendations contained in The Executive Budget to transfer DCFS positions to Clark County beginning in October 2003, with additional positions being transferred in April 2004 and October 2004. Please provide information regarding progress in Clark County in relation to the approved plan.**

Topics should include, but not be limited to, collocation efforts in the proposed neighborhood sites, conversion to the UNITY Information System, DCFS rural match-up and regulatory oversight efforts. Please also include a summary chart displaying the total positions identified for Clark and Washoe Counties related to integration. The chart should show: applicable dates and the number of existing DCFS positions already transferred to both counties; the remaining number of existing DCFS positions to be transferred; the 15 new positions in the Child Welfare Integration Budget (101-3142); and the "value of" or salary costs provided to the counties for any new positions. As in past presentations, the division and Clark and Washoe Counties may wish to provide a joint presentation on the update.

Status Report on the Integration of Child Welfare Services

Progress made toward Clark County integration and the plan for integration in comparison to the time frames approved by the 2003 Legislature:

Phase I Integration

Staff successfully transferred from the Division of Child and Family Services to Clark County Department of Family Services on October 1, 2003. The transferring positions included one Clinical Program Manager I, the site leader for the Central Neighborhood Family Service Center; one Mental Health Counselor III; Supervisor of Family Preservation Services; seven Mental Health Counselors, one Visiting Homemaker II; and, one Administrative Assistant III.

Successes included:

- Staff and program transfer occurred as scheduled;
- State and county managers worked cooperatively and met regularly with transferring staff to address their programmatic related concerns;
- Both state and county personnel officers met with transferring staff, providing information and responding to human resources/personnel questions;
- County management made every effort to talk with staff and to accommodate their needs within the parameters of the union contract;
- County management listened to staff responses to proposed County moves in two geographic areas and revised the County plan per staff request to remain at the Neighborhood Care Centers; and,
- BADA grant successfully transferred from DCFS to Clark County.
- Neighborhood sites implemented with continual co-location efforts initiated.

Issues:

- Restrictions imposed by county labor contract (e.g. less flexibility in work schedules, stricter rules for outside employment by employees).
- Difference in benefits for part-time employees.

Lessons Learned:

- Develop plan for integration of program and staff as early as possible and with detailed action steps and accountable parties included;
- State and County personnel departments need to meet early in the scheduled transfer with staff and more than once prior to transfer;
- Management staff to begin meetings with staff early in the scheduled transfer;

Phase II Integration

Phase II will transfer the Children's Resource Bureau, Adoptions, Foster Home Licensing, Foster Home Recruitment and Training and Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children programs to Clark County effective April 1, 2004.

In preparation for the implementation of Phase II, strategic planning is underway in the following areas:

- A new Core Team, including the DCFS Administrator, the Clark County Family Services Director and the Washoe County Social Services Director, has been established that focuses on decision-making for integration action steps and statewide consistency. The first facilitated meeting was held on 11/24/03; and
- Regular meetings conducted and other means of communication designed to keep staff informed of personnel policies and procedures related to their change in employment; and
- A list of program specific tasks developed to guide the transition process for each program transferring on April 1, 2004. Most of the tasks will be assigned to subcommittees to complete details.
- DCFS is completing specific action steps to help ensure smooth transition such as a focused review of the ICPC caseload, data gathering mechanisms and process, and concentrated effort to complete backlogged social summaries by February 27, 2004.
- A Memorandum of Understanding is in development to cover some identified issues requiring close coordination with remaining state DCFS staff once the April 1, 2004 program transfer occurs. This is necessary because the staff slated to transfer in Phase III, October 2004, will remain dependent on the staff transferring April 1, 2004 for key support services.

Co-location Efforts

DCFS and Clark County currently have staff co-located at 2 sites. The Henderson Office is pending. DCFS strongly supports co-location of staff, recognizing that a "one-stop shop" for families promotes accessibility of services and significantly reduces barriers – resulting in better outcomes for families.

UNITY Conversion

- UNITY was implemented in Washoe County in April 2003 for the full range of child welfare services.

- Also in April 2003, the Division implemented the adoption subsidy portion of UNITY statewide. The placement services portion of UNITY is scheduled to be implemented statewide in February 2004.
- In August/September 2003, Clark County completed their conversion efforts from Family Tracs to UNITY.
- In August 2003, Clark County implemented the UNITY system countywide.

Phase III Integration

Phase III represents the final program and staff transfer to complete the Integration of Child Welfare Services in Clark County. This will involve the most extensive transfer of staff and cases. All child welfare positions with approximately 1,800 cases will transfer to Clark County on October 1, 2004. Eligibility positions will also transfer during this phase.

- Like Phase II, similar preparations are underway for Phase III. Detailed tasks have been identified and plans are either implemented or under development to realize a successful conclusion to the integration of child welfare services; and
- The Clark County Integration Team, comprised of state and county administrative staff, meets a minimum of twice monthly to monitor transition plan progress and revise plans as new issues arise or as needed.
- As noted, the new Core Team is designed to share information on lessons-learned from the Washoe County Integration as well as to ensure that decisions are made in a timely manner.

Rural Match Up Services

The Division requested 10 FTE positions for Rural Nevada to bring the level of staffing to a similar staff level as in Northern and Southern Nevada. Eight of 10 positions are filled: 1 Mental Health Counselor III, 2 Mental Health Counselor II, 2 Family Support Worker II, 2 Social Work Supervisors and 1 Administrative Assistant II. Pending hires include 1 Mental Health Counselor II and 1 Family Support Worker II.

- **Mental Health Counselor III** (1 position) – This position has been filled. It is located in the Carson District Office. This position supervises Intensive Family Services staff located in the Carson, Silver Springs and Fallon offices. They serve Carson, Lyon, Douglas and Storey Counties. In addition the position supervises the 5 SED wraparound services facilitators responsible for the SED AB1 initiative located in Carson, Silver Springs, Fallon, Elko and Winnemucca.
- **Mental Health Counselor II** (3 positions) – The Winnemucca position is filled. The Elko and Silver Springs position hires are pending. The Division requested three Mental Health Counselor II positions to provide intensive family preservation and reunification services in addition to completing extensive assessments for children entering the Division's custody.

Assessments, completed upon entry into the system, are essential to accurately determine the needs of the children coming into care. Clinical staff assist in case planning and identifying services to be provided early in a case in order to reduce the time spent in foster care.

The Silver Springs position will serve Lyon County. The Elko position will serve Elko County. The Winnemucca position is centrally located to primarily serve the tri-county area of Humboldt, Pershing and Lander Counties and to complete assessments in other geographical locations as necessary. Stationing a position in Winnemucca will allow these resource scarce, remote areas to be more effectively served. Currently these areas have required a staff member to come from Fallon or Elko that is a 2-hour commute each way.

Distribution of these positions was based upon evaluating statistical data on the number of child protective service reports and the number of children placed into shelter and substitute care. Travel distance was also a consideration.

- **Family Support Worker II** (3 positions) – The Division requested 3 Family Support positions to provide transportation and paraprofessional services to children and families in Pahrump, Battle Mountain and Tonopah in order to free social work staff from those duties. The Tonopah and Pahrump position have been filled. The Battle Mountain position is pending hire. Training is planned for family support workers to insure quality and consistency in services. The Carson City supervisor and manager will conduct training in January 2004.

Recruiting and training social work staff in Rural counties has become increasingly difficult. The use of Family Support Workers is one cost effective solution to reducing the non-professional responsibilities performed by social work staff so that they may focus with parents on meeting case plan goals and achieving permanency for children. These staff assist in teaching parenting skills, discipline techniques, budgeting strategies, and facilitate other services from which a family may benefit from in order to successfully complete their case plans for the protection of children. They can transport children to medical services, family visits, and other auxiliary service providers.

- **Social Work Supervisor II** (2 positions) – These positions have been filled. One is located in the Carson office and one in the Pahrump office.
- **Administrative Assistant II** (1 position) – This position has been filled. This position is located in the Carson District Office to provide clerical support to the professional staff in this office.

Recent Rural Successes

Carson City Adoption Unit

- Formed May 2003
- Now includes three (3) full time adoption workers, a special needs adoption recruiter and supervisor
- Finalized 21 agency adoptions May through November 2003 (six more are already scheduled for December 2003)
- All adoption subsidy applications have been “negotiated” since May 2003, ensuring that adoptive families are prepared to meet the long term needs of adopted children
- Tracked 24 step-parent/relative adoptions
- This includes collecting documents, follow-up with attorneys to ensure that everything has been completed according to statute and forwarding to Central Office
- The Unit also provides services for International and Private adoptions

- This includes home studies, follow up visits/reports and birth mother services such as giving advisements and witnessing consents
- Coordinated with Foster Care Licensing Unit to conduct Foster/Adoptive home studies
- Completed 13 Joint home studies May through November 2003
- Special Needs Adoption Recruiter has identified children throughout the Region who are free for adoption, but do not have an identified adoptive placement (approximately 30, currently)
- Specific recruitment efforts have been initiated for these children, including Internet posting
- Coordinating with Foster Care Licensing to plan and execute general recruitment plan for Rural Region

Regulatory Oversight Efforts

Quality Programming Staff are located in the Carson City Central Office and in Las Vegas. The Las Vegas office will be expanded to include AB 1 staff including 4 child welfare program specialists and one administrative support staff in varying stages of hire.

One Specialist position has been filled with three pending hires. Recently, the newly hired specialist reviewed strengths and weaknesses of a quality services case review conducted in the southern region with child welfare supervisors to support continuous quality improvement efforts. Other legislatively approved positions include 2 Social Welfare Managers/Ombudsmen and 1 AAI. These positions pending hire will operationalize quality programming work strategies linked to the Federal Child and Family Service Review (CFSR); Quality Program staff will be responsible for assessing practice and outcomes in conjunction with national standards. They will use data, stakeholder (family and others) input and CFSR results to affect positive changes in policy and case practice, along with Nevada's conformity to Federal, State and Agency requirements. Continuous quality improvement efforts will be developed that parallel the approach of the Federal CFSR process. (Please see response to Question 7 on the Federal Review.)

Positions Identified for Clark and Washoe Counties Related to Integration

Transition of the programs to Washoe County started in April 2002 with the transfer 18.51 FTE to provide the full range of child welfare services to all of the children entering County custody. These positions transferred with their current DCFS caseload assignments. In January 2003 the Division transferred the remaining 34.55 FTE to the County to provide the full range of child welfare services, including mental health evaluation services, child welfare eligibility functions, and foster care recruitment and licensing functions, as appropriate. Table 4 summarizes all positions identified for Washoe County to successfully assume the responsibilities for providing child welfare services.

Summary of Positions Identified for Washoe County									
	Administrative Support	Case Management	Adoptions	Placement Resources	CRJ	Licensing	Eligibility	Family Pres	Total
Transferred from DCFS	4/1/2002	4/1/2002	4/1/2002	4/1/2002	4/1/2002	4/1/2002	4/1/2002	4/1/2002	
	2.51 Admin Asst	1 Soc Svc Prg Spd	2 SW II		1 Clin SW		1 Elg Spec	2 MH Couns	
		1 SW Sup							
		1 SW II							
		1 Fam Supp							
	1/1/2003	1/1/2003	1/1/2003	1/1/2003	1/1/2003	1/1/2003	1/1/2003	1/1/2003	
	6 Admin Asst	1 Soc Svc Mgr III	1 SW Sup	3 Soc Svc Prg Spd	1 Clin Prgr Mgr	4 SW II	1 Elg Spec		
		1 SW Sup	2.51 SW II	1 MH Couns	2 Clin SW				
		7.02 SW III			51 Lic Psy				
					3.51 MH Couns				
	6.51	19.02	6.00	3.51	8.02	4.00	2.00	2.00	53.06
New Positions	4/1/2002								
	1 Prg Spec								
	1 Prg Asst								
	1 Act Ch								
	7/1/2003								
	1 HR Spec								
	1 Off Spec								
	4 Off Asst								
	9.00								9.00
	17.51	19.02	6.00	3.51	8.02	4.00	2.00	2.00	62.06

Table 4

The transition of programs to Clark County began in October 2003 with the transfer 10.51 FTE to provide Family Preservation services. In April 2004, 42.04 FTE are scheduled to transfer to provide Licensing and Recruitment, Adoption, ICPC, and Children Resource Bureau services, and the final transfer is scheduled for October 2004 with the transfer of 101.51 FTE to provide Case Management and Eligibility services. Table 5 summarizes all positions identified for Clark County to successfully assume the responsibilities for providing child welfare services.

Summary of Positions Identified for Clark County									
	Achieve SACWS	Maximize Federal Reimbursement	Eligibility	Recruitment/ Training	Licensing	Case Management	CRJ	Family Preservation	Total
Transferred from DCFS								10/1/2003	
								1 Clin Prgr Mgr	
								7.51 MH Couns	
								1 Admin Asst	
								1 Fam Suppl	
				4/1/2004	4/1/2004	4/1/2004	4/1/2004		
				4 Soc Svc Prg Spd	1 SW Sup	1 SW Sup	51 Lic Psy		
				8 SW II	20 SW		3.53 MH Couns		
					1 Admin Asst		3 Clin SW		
							1 SW		
New Positions								1 Admin Asst	
			10/1/2004			10/1/2004			
			7 Fmly Svc Sp			1 Soc Svc Mgr V			
						1 Soc Svc Mgr III			
						11 SW Sup			
						2 New SW Sup			
						51 SW III			
						11 New SW III			
						1 Med Fragile CM			
						2 Fam Supp			
	0.00	0.00	7.00	4.00	6.00	115.51	9.04	10.51	154.06
New Positions	10/1/2002	10/1/2002	10/1/2002						
	1 System Tech II	12 Mgmt Analyst II	1 Supv						
	1 IT Cust Sup Sp	1 Office Asst I	1 Elg Spec						
		1 HR Analyst							
		10/1/2003							
		1 MA II (27)							
						4/1/2004			
						1 Atty IV			
						1 Leg Sec			
New Positions									
						6/1/2004			
						3 SW Spec			
			10/1/2004			10/1/2004			
			1 SW Spec			1 Reg Nurse			
			1 Office Asst II			2 Atty IV			
			3 Elg Spec			1 Leg Sec			
			1 Mgmt Asst						
						9/1/2005			
	2.00	5.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00		25.00
	2.00	5.00	15.00	4.00	6.00	125.51	9.04	10.51	176.06

Table 5

4. Please provide an update on the provision of mental health services to Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) children in the foster care system. Assembly Bill 1 of the 17th Special Session authorized approximately \$2.7 million, including \$1.6 million of General Fund support, for services to SED children during the 2001-03 biennium. The General Fund amount was reduced to \$1.1 million by budget reductions necessary due to budget shortfalls which affected implementation of the program. For the 2003-05 biennium, the Legislature approved a total of \$12.2 million (\$8.2 million in General Fund) for full services to 327 children during the biennium.

Please discuss the results of the pilot program for 33 SED foster children, as well as the status of services for the entire 327 SED children identified in the foster care system. Please include information on the number of children receiving services, what type of services are being provided, and where the children are receiving services, including Desert Willow, or via purchased contract services from Spring Mountain Treatment Center, Monte Vista, Boys Town, etc. Please include information on the average length of stay in facilities or in treatment, including the shortest and longest lengths of stay.

RESULTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR 33 SED CHILDREN

Background Information

Assembly Bill I of the 17th Special Session funded a pilot project to evaluate the effectiveness of mental health services provided to SED foster children in Nevada using a wraparound approach to treatment. The use of the wraparound process has steadily increased over the last 15 years. Multiple demonstration projects in other states have reported successful outcomes using this approach. The Child Welfare League of America has recognized this approach as an effective model for children in foster care with SED¹.

Essential elements of wraparound are:

- Community-based: Wraparound efforts must be based in the community.
- Individualized: Services and supports must be individualized to meet needs of the children and families, not designed to reflect service system priorities.
- Culturally competent: The process must be culturally competent, building on the unique values, strengths, and social and racial makeup of the children and families.
- Parent involvement: Parents must be included in every level of development of the process.
- Strength-based: Participants must work from the strengths of the family and child.
- Flexible funding: Agencies must have access to flexible, non-categorized funding.
- Interagency collaboration: The process must be implemented on an interagency basis and be owned by the larger community.
- Unconditional care: Services must be unconditional. If needs of the child and family change, the child and family must not be rejected from services.
- Outcome-based: Outcomes must be measured to prevent the wraparound process from being simply a short-term trend.

¹ Kluger, M.P., Alexander, G., Curtis, P.A., What Works in Child Welfare. Washington DC: CWLA Press, 2000.

Specific national “best” practice standards to support the implementation of these essential elements have been developing over the last 5 years. DCFS uses the most current practice standards available, reporting regularly to the federal granting agency.

Pilot Project Implementation

In April 2002, DCFS identified 33 children with SED in the foster care system to participate in the Wraparound in Nevada (WIN) Pilot Project. These children received mental health services using the wraparound approach. Services for these children began in May 2002. Demographic information and outcome measures were collected on these children from 5/02 until 1/03.

In addition to studying the children who received the wraparound approach, another 33 children with SED in the foster care system were selected and studied as a comparison group. These children received mental health services using a traditional approach (TMH).

The children in the WIN group and the TMH group were matched for ages, clinical functioning and residential levels.

Pilot Project Results

The results of the WIN Pilot Project were consistent with the experience of comparable projects in other states.

The results showed significant improvements in these areas:

Levels of Residential Care

- 13 of 33 children who received the WIN approach moved to less restrictive placements as compared to only 3 of the 33 children receiving the traditional approach.
- Children who received the WIN approach were more likely to move to less restrictive levels of care within 6 months
- On the average, children receiving WIN moved from placements in higher levels of care to foster care. Some children were reunified with their families. In contrast, children in the TMH group remained in higher levels of care.

Law Enforcement Contacts

- Children within the WIN group had fewer law enforcement contacts following treatment as compared to the TMH group.
- Average number of law enforcement contacts for the WIN group dropped from an average of .5 for the six month period preceding treatment to .1 during the six months following treatment.

Clinical Functioning

- There was a greater improvement in clinical functioning for the children in WIN program compared to the TMH group.
- The improvement in clinical functioning was most striking for those children receiving high quality wraparound. The clinical functioning of these children improved on the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) from scores in the severely impaired range to scores in the normal range.

School Functioning

- School absences for all the children in the WIN group decreased from over 100 days in the six months preceding treatment to approximately 75 days in the six months after initiation of treatment. School absences increased in the TMH group.
- Grade point average increased significantly from 2.5 points to 2.9 points for WIN children receiving high quality wraparound.
- School Disciplinary Actions decreased significantly from .8 per child in the 6 months preceding treatment to .5 per child following treatment.

Wraparound In Nevada Program – Susan's Success Story

Susan is a 14-year-old Native American/Caucasian female. She and her 11-year-old sister came into foster care in July 2003 due to significant drug abuse by their mother and stepfather. She met her WIN Wraparound Facilitator while she was in Child Haven. As this time, Susan was 32 weeks pregnant with a baby boy. She was pleasant to visit with, soft-spoken, and smiles a lot. During the summer of 2003 she was hospitalized twice in an acute psychiatric facility for clinical depression with suicidal ideation. Susan was at very high risk due to her clinical depression, pregnancy and the trauma of separation from her mother.

The Wraparound Facilitator developed a Plan of Care with the mother and the daughters that focused on: housing and treatment for all three, education for the girls, decision-making regarding the baby and reunification of the girls with the family. The Wraparound Facilitator secured a treatment Level I Group Home for both girls together, enrolled the 11 year old in school, enrolled the 14-year-old in home-bound schooling, connected the mother with substance abuse treatment, supported the mother in making a decision about her relationship with her husband who continues to abuse substances, worked with ICWA regarding the girls and the baby, assisted mother in securing housing and employment, connected the family with DCFS adoptions, negotiated an open adoption with a tribal member couple in another state and contacted the pharmaceutical company for information on the effects of Susan's antidepressant medication on the fetus.

Current Status:

- Both girls are stable in the same treatment home
- Mother is in her own apartment
- Mother is gainfully employed
- Mother is clean and sober and actively engaged in her aftercare program
- Susan is thriving in home-bound school having lost very little academic time and being on track with her credits
- A math tutor is being recruited for Susan
- 11 year old is succeeding in school
- Susan is engaged in therapy and medication management currently being assessed for her postpartum needs
- Baby born healthy and the 14-year-old mother is also healthy
- Baby is with his perspective adoptive parents consistent with the family's wishes and with their culture of origin; open adoption has been agreed upon by all parties
- Wraparound Facilitator is working on vocational development with the mother so that she can advance in her job
- Both girls are having weekly unsupervised visits with their mother
- The Child and Family Team has developed a plan for reunification in two months

- Wraparound facilitator is working with the family to arrange supervised recreation for the girls while mother is working

STATUS OF SERVICES FOR THE ENTIRE 327 CHILDREN

Implementation of Full Services for the 327 Children

The 2003 Legislature approved funding for a phase-in of services to all 327 children during this biennium. As of November 2003, a total of 249 of the 327 children have been served. The program will be fully implemented by December 2003. Full implementation includes the provision of services for 327 children and implementation of standardized operating procedures statewide.

DCFS is continuing to evaluate the effectiveness of services to all 327 children in comparison to children receiving services in traditional approaches. Changes in clinical functioning, school performance, and the restrictiveness of placement will be measured.

Interagency collaboration has been identified by the Child Welfare League of America as a major obstacle to successful implementation of the wraparound approach in many states. DCFS has overcome this major obstacle by initiating a number of additional reforms.

- The creation of DCFS has eliminated many organizational barriers to collaboration between Children's Mental Health, child welfare and juvenile justice services. For example, most services for children with SED who are identified in any of these systems receive most purchased services through a universal set contracts, a single budget account, and a seamless referral system.
- DCFS has integrated many services for children with SED who are involved with child welfare and juvenile justice such as forming interagency case planning teams and developing programs for adolescent offenders that meet their needs for both mental health and correctional.
- The Mental Health Consortia provide a formal mechanism for interagency collaboration at the local level.
- DCFS has expanded the Neighborhood Care Centers in Las Vegas, which provide multi-agency sites to support interagency collaboration wraparound facilitators are sited at each center.
- Each neighborhood care center has established a Neighborhood Council that involves community members in the development of informal supports for children with SED receiving wraparound, including recreation services, mentoring programs and family supports.
- Family support services are provided by Nevada PEP in partnership with agency program of all 5 centers.

Table 6 shows the average length of stay for children completing the program to date.

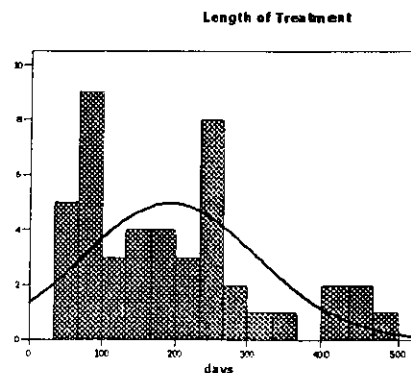


Table 6

**Status Reports on Progress of Child Welfare Integration
Implementation and Mental Health Consortiums**

Clark County



Department of Family Services

701K N Pecos Rd • Las Vegas NV 89101-2411
(702) 455-5444 • Fax (702) 385-2999

Susan Klein-Rothschild, Director • Joy L. Salmon, Assistant Director



December 4, 2003

Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families
Allison Combs, Principal Research Analyst
Research Division
Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Ms. Combs,

On behalf of Clark County, I am sending information for the Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families meeting scheduled for December 16, 2003. As requested, the document addresses two areas:

- A status report on the integration of child welfare services
- A list of issues Clark County feels would be valuable for the Committee to review during the course of its work this interim.

I plan on attending the meeting, presenting the information, and being available to address any questions that might arise. Please contact me if there is a desire for clarification of the information, or if any additional information is requested. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Klein-Rothschild".

Susan Klein-Rothschild, M.S.W.
Director of Family Services

SKR:cm

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CHIP MAXFIELD, Chairman • MYRNA WILLIAMS, Vice-Chair
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THOM REILLY, County Manager

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Clark County Report

1. Update on the Status of Integration of Child Welfare Services Information System

- **Unity was implemented in Clark County on August 25, 2003**
- All reports of abuse / neglect, investigations, case notes, and Child Haven observations are now recorded in Unity as well as 5 years of child welfare history from Clark County
- All State and County child welfare workers can now view history from both agencies, which supports sound decision-making for children and families
- The placement function does not currently allow for a child to be removed from a licensed home and another child placed in that same home on the same day
- Therefore, Unity is not currently being used by the County for placement and payment functions
- Clark County has developed a reporting system to support program operations.

Program and Staff Transition

- **The Family Preservation Services Program transferred to the county effective October 1, 2003.** This was a total of 10 positions.
- Prior to the transfer, State staff received letters from DCFS and DFS and they attended a meeting with State and County representatives to discuss the policies and answer any questions.
- Following the transition of the program, the staff attended orientations with the County.
- The County is assessing the Family Preservation program and initiating changes to improve service delivery.

Personnel Issues

- The County and State have worked together to address any anticipated human resource related issues with two different personnel systems. Washoe County consulted in this process.
- During the transition of the Family Preservation Program, new human resource issues were evident. These were addressed as needed.
- **The County has prepared a resolution, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on November 18 that confirms personnel related items regarding the transition of staff.** This will assure a consistent, fair process for transferring staff.

Communication and Cultural Issues

- Administrators with DCFS and Clark County continue to meet approximately twice a month to plan for a smooth transition and begin programmatic and systemic improvements.
- **An integration plan has been drafted and will be finalized in the near future.** Sixteen separate objectives and multiple tasks have been identified to facilitate a successful transition and integration of child welfare services in Clark County.

- Clark County has integrated State staff into the labor-management committee, included them in regular communication from the Director, and engaged the staff and their families in current programmatic opportunities, such as Secret Service Santa.
- Clark County has collaborated with DCFS holding brown bag lunches and other opportunities for ongoing communication.

Facilities and Co-location

- **Clark County and DCFS programs staff have co-located in two Neighborhood Family Service Centers in the Las Vegas area to better serve families.** The Central center is located off of Rancho and Highway 95. The West center is located on West Charleston at Jones
- All parties agree that co-location is best for serving families when families are served efficiently and effectively
- Plans are underway for co-location in the Henderson area. Clark County child protective services and juvenile probation programs and DCFS child welfare related programs upon transfer will be co-located. An agreement has not been reached to co-locate children's mental health services.
- Co-location for the north and east neighborhood areas is planned for 2006 / 2007 when current leases expire.

Federal Financial Participation

- Clark County has taken a number of steps to secure Title IV-E federal financial participation including: completing random moment samples in the summer of 2002 and continuing this practice on an ongoing basis, securing the services of a consultant to prepare all necessary documentation, and preparing claims for reimbursement for allowable costs.
- **The Clark County Cost Allocation Plan amendment has yet to be approved by the federal government.** This is an essential step for any reimbursements.
- Clark County is working closely with DCFS to facilitate the approval of the Cost Allocation Plan amendment.
- **DCFS has received written confirmation from the federal government that some SACWIS related costs would be reimbursed with federal dollars.** The approved reimbursement amount is approximately \$760,000.

2. Issues for consideration for Committee Review

- **Licensing** – Seek alternatives that would streamline the licensing process for foster care providers, some of which may require statutory changes such as allowing private agencies to license their own homes and requiring licensing every two years, instead of annually.
- **Kinship Care** – Many relatives who were caring for children with TANF support have experienced a reduction in TANF benefits. They are returning to child protective services seeking payment as licensed foster care providers.
- **Budget planning** – A fiscal alternative to avoid budget bifurcation in the future.
- **Higher levels of care** – Possible transfer to the counties in the future.

**Status Reports on Progress of Child Welfare Integration
Implementation and Mental Health Consortiums**

Washoe County



WASHOE COUNTY

"To Protect and To Serve"

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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December 5, 2003

Allison Combs, Principal Research Analyst
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Legislative Council Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Dear Allison:

Attached is a brief status report on the Integration of Child Welfare Services in Washoe County. I plan to be present in Las Vegas for the meeting on December 16, 2003. I will be able to provide the Committee with an over view of the integration process at that time.

Please feel free to contact me at 328-2314 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Capello
Director

Enclosures

Child Welfare Integration in Washoe County December 16, 2003

Program and Staff Transition

On January 6, 2003, 37 (34.55 FTE) former employees of the State Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) became Washoe County employees, joining 19 (18.51 FTE) others who had previously transferred to the County or been hired to fill new positions brought about by Integration. The expanded Washoe County Children's Services Division now totals 168 staff. The programs transferred include Child Welfare Permanency Staff, Adoptions, Foster Care Recruitment, Training and Licensing Clinical Services.

Personnel Issues

The County and State Personnel functions worked together to address any anticipated human resource related issues with the transfer of staff. The actual transfer process went well, with most employees reporting they were aware of the options and benefit choices they had upon County employment.

Integrating the County and State staff into the day-to day operations of the Division proved to be somewhat challenging. Individuals from both organizations were required to adjust to new assignments as well as blending the cultures of the staff. The majority of the DCFS transfers view they have had to adjust to the County's expectations and culture. Attempts to blend these cultures have been met with limited success.

The Department engaged Jim Johnson, an organizational development consultant, to work with managers and supervisors to improve communication and build a consensus for moving the Division forward. Over the last year Jim has conducted multiple workshops on communication, team building, supervision, and management. The staff has indicated these sessions have provided a forum for discussion of the various issues related to integration. I believe there is progress toward an integrated sense of values and organizational culture, but a great deal of work must still be done.

Turnover has been an issue with about 23% percent of the State staff having left County service during the year. Many of these individuals were offered employment in the State system and chose to return to State service. While the Department has typically experienced an eight to ten percent turnover rate, this rate of turnover has presented a significant challenge.

The local DCFS office had a longstanding staff advisory board. Once the last group of staff integrated Washoe County instituted a staff advisory group that works closely with the Division Director, Jeanne Marsh. This group meets monthly and makes recommendations on both short and long term issues.

Financial Issues

The initial transfer of staff, caseload, and budget were approved by the 2001 Legislature. Overall, the County has been able to support the administrative (staffing, operating, etc.) and program (placement, adoption subsidy, etc.) costs within the funding provided by the Legislature. The programs, and the associated expenditures, have been in operation for about 10 months. New procedures and changing policies as well as the changing Cost Allocation Plan have, and will continue, to impact each program and revenue area. Both the operations and the Cost Allocation Plan are different in Washoe County than they were in the State. The County, due to the differences, will need to continue to work with the State and Legislature to fine-tune the financial and revenue authority for current and near future periods. This has already occurred with the County requesting additional Title IV-E authority for FY2003. The requested changes for FY2004 will be submitted soon.

As a summary, the following information describes the status of expenditures since full integration: Salaries – have been within 95% of budget estimate; Operating Costs – have been 150% of budget estimate; Foster Care Placement Costs – have been 115% of budget estimate; Adoption Subsidies – have been 78% of budget estimate. Placement Prevention (Wrap Services) Costs – have been 125% of budget estimate. It is difficult to isolate each budget area as a stand-alone issue. The increase in one area usually covers the other. The Legislature's approval of allowing Washoe County Budget flexibility between line items has made the transfer work.

There are multiple operational and financial issues that State and County staff worked through in the previous periods to insure successful transfer of the State staff, caseloads, and funding for Integration. Some of the following factors are examples:

- 1) The State Division of Child and Family Services did not have complete data on Caseloads, Expenses, or Revenues to separate out by region for the 2001 or 2003 Legislature. Washoe County had only a couple of months experience with the Integration at the time of the 2003 Legislature.
- 2) Federal/State approved Cost Allocation Plan and Methodology - Washoe County did not have a fully approved Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) with appropriate claiming methodology for Public Assistance Programs at the time of Integration. The plan was approved in May 2002.
- 3) System implementation of UNITY, with the associated turning off of the County SSCAT and State CWAF system, impacted the County's and State's ability to post, track, and make payments for children in Higher Level of Care, specifically personal incidentals, clothing and school supplies. It also impacted the

State/County's ability to transfer placement and Adoption Subsidy payments until March of 2003.

4) Due to the new Cost Allocation Plan, Washoe County's revenue mix has to be modified. This requires ongoing analysis and change that will necessitate the County adjusting Federal funds budgeted to new projected estimates. It is anticipated that within FY2004 these revenues will stabilize for future periods.

5) One area of concern is the future impact of the penetration rate for the Title IV-E program at the time DCFS transferred the child welfare program to Washoe County. In FY2002 the lack of appropriate court determinations reduced the Title IV-E penetration rate from 60% to 22% for the North. This is now resulting in an increase in the number of adoption subsidies that are not eligible for federal reimbursement. The lack of IV-E eligibility will have long-term implications for the adoption subsidy program in that more subsidies will be funded with State only dollars.

There are continuing fiscal issues which the County and State continue to strive to resolve. These issues will likely be discussed in the course of the interim session.

Program Updates

Recruitment & Training

The Foster Care Recruitment and Training Unit have been focusing their efforts on the recruitment of new foster and adoptive parents and retention of existing foster parents. Staff has made significant strides in the last eleven months. Below are summaries of the areas of focus:

PARTNERSHIPS DEVELOPED

- The Washoe County Foster/Adoptive parent recruitment and training plan was developed with direct participation of Sierra Foster Family Association (SAFF). Regularly scheduled meetings with SAFF participants are held to update and adjust the plan.
- The SAFF monthly newsletter is being used as vehicle to inform foster parents of agency services and future foster training offerings. Washoe County covers the cost of the copies for the newsletter.
- Surveyed foster parents about their community connections for recruitment of additional foster homes.
- Developed "referral cards" for foster parents to provide to others interested in learning about foster care or adoption.
- Contributed funds for the SAFF holiday party for children.
- The Children's Cabinet (Non-profit family resource center) has partnered with the agency to provide Spanish translation at foster parent trainings at reduced cost.

- Washoe County Community Relations Department has supported agency efforts through media advisories, the production of public service announcements (PSA's) and providing "air time" on local SNCAT (Public Access) television. Three shows have been aired targeting recruitment of adoption and foster parents with two additional shows planned in the near future.
- Media Access Group which represents Wendy's chain of restaurants (Dave Thomas Foundation) has agreed to support recruitment and training efforts in the community by consulting with Department staff in fund raising efforts and the development of PSA's and community recruitment efforts.
- A Junior League grant for \$3200.00 was secured for the production of PSA's for recruitment efforts.
- A local outlet bakery has provided pastries for each orientation and training provided foster parent applicants.
- Developed Model Dairy milk carton advertisement for Adoption/Foster care recruitment.
- Adoption foster care PSA included in Sierra Pacific Water bills mailing November 2003.
- "Wednesdays Child" filmed and featured monthly on Channel 4 TV.
- Monthly "Every child deserves a home" feature in Reno Gazette Journal started Sept. 2003.

RETENTION EFFORTS:

- **INFORMATION**

The agency has sent regular mailings to foster parents regarding training opportunities, program and policy changes and recruitment needs.

- Established Relative foster placement licensure process.

To insure that all relatives meet the minimum safety requirements we have initiated a policy on background checks for relatives and have established the minimum training criteria for relatives to become licensed.

- **FOSTER SUPPORT LIAISONS**

Good relationships and case management between caseworkers and foster families is critical for the retention of foster parents. To this end, WCDSS provides regionally assigned liaisons to answer questions, support foster families and to be a "go between" for the families and agency caseworkers. Each foster home scheduled to meet with their liaison in the foster home twice per year. New foster parents to have liaison in the home within the month of the first foster placement.

- **CLINICAL SUPPORT**

Agency clinical staff has been assigned regionally to support foster placements. Staff responds to foster homes when the foster parent has identified issues in dealing with behaviors the foster child(ren) that might cause disruption. Clinical staff meet in the foster home and develop and manage a plan to support the child(ren) remaining in the home. Additional community and agency resources are provided as necessary.

FOSTER CARE TRAINING

- Reviewed and revised foster parent training curriculum. (Reduced training for contract providers from 36 to 27 hours)
- Streamlined application process.
- Orientations held monthly for applicants.
- Secure CEU's for social workers to attend all foster parent trainings.
- 3 trainings held in November for foster and adopting parents.

ADVANCED FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

Staff with assistance of the local foster parent association (Sierra Foster Family Association or SAFF) surveyed foster parents regarding their wishes for advanced training curriculum. As a result of the "feed back" two trainings were offered in the last 6 months that dealt with "hands on" techniques for foster parents to assist in managing children in their home.

TARGETED RECRUITMENT

The Department recently hired a social worker fluent in Spanish. The primary assignment for this staff in the coming year will be to engage and recruit Hispanic foster and adoptive homes. Staff will additionally provide translation services for applicants and assist interested parties through the Licensure process.

Summary of Results

The following statistics give some indication of the trends the Department has seen over the first eleven months of integration.

Number of families attending foster parent "Orientation" (Singles and couples)
297

January 1, 2003

Number of homes 212
Number of beds 730
Increase in beds 64

November 30, 2003

Number of homes 234
Number of beds 794

Jan. through Nov. 2003

Total new homes *opened* 87
Increase in homes 24

Total number of homes *closed* *63

*Of total *closed* 12 were due to adoption of child in home and 1 home *closed* due to reunification of the child to natural parents.

ADOPTIONS

The Adoption program came to Washoe County with more than 100 children living with the families who it was determined would adopt them; but, due to a backlog of unfinished social summaries, incomplete home studies and no clear process to finalize subsidies, the adoptions were not being finalized in a timely manner.

The Department obtained a small grant from the Administrative Office of the Supreme Court, to hire part-time staff to complete social summaries and to assist with updating home studies. This resulted in the ability of the Department to move many of these adoptions toward finality. In addition, the Department implemented a structured adoption subsidy determination process, which provided a systematic way to identify the specific needs of the child to be adopted, and the family's ability to meet those needs. This has resulted in a true identification and negotiation process between the Department and adoptive families. Fair and timely negotiation of the adoption subsidies has been a significant step in finalizing the adoption of children. The improvements in this area were highlighted on November 22, 2003 when Washoe County celebrated National Adoption Day by finalizing 11 adoptions.

Below is a summary of children whose adoptions finalized in the current calendar year. This exceeds the 68 children who had adoptions finalized in the previous calendar year.

Adoption Finalization-Location 1/1/03-1/1/04		
Reno/Carson	75	71%
Las Vegas	4	4%
Out of State	26	25%

The following table summarizes the age of children at the time the adoption was finalized. It is encouraging to see the children being adopted represent a wide range of ages.

Adoption Finalization-Child's Age 1/1/03-1/1/04		
0-5 years	63	60%
6-10 years	29	28%
10-17 year	13	12%
# of sibling groups	14	30%

As indicated earlier the adoption subsidy is critical to successfully placing special needs children into adoptive homes. Over the last year Washoe County has negotiated 90 subsidies.

WCDSS Adoptions Subsidy Totals	
Total WCDSS Subsidies	445
Total Medicaid Only	45
Total WCDSS Subsidies from 1/1/03	90

UNITY

Washoe County has been using UNITY since the system came on line. Currently our major concern is the lack of management reports. DCFS, Clark and Washoe County are currently working to join forces to resolve this issue. We definitely need set daily, weekly, and monthly management reports, but we also need to be able to create any number of ad hoc reports. This is almost an impossible task right now given the complexity of the data model structure. I would like to see a Crystal Report training setup with an instructor familiar with the UNITY database. It would be helpful if a data dictionary were created making it much easier to link the necessary tables.

UNITY does contain a wealth of information, but we currently are unable to easily glean information from the system. At this point, obtaining accurate management reports from UNITY is a major area of concern.

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Nevada's first "Save Haven" child among newly adopted children

Carla Roccapriore

11/22/2003 08:16 pm

Nine-month-old Taylor was 2 pounds, 9 ounces when abandoned at Washoe Medical Center earlier this year.

He spent four weeks in intensive care and was fed by a tube before being sent home at 4 pounds, 5 ounces with his would-be adoptive parents, Katherine Rodriguez and Michalle Shown of Reno. Taylor's adoption, along with 11 others, were finalized Saturday in the Washoe County Commission Chambers by Family Court Judge Frances Doherty as part of National Adoption Month.

"We went to the hospital three times a day and fed him, changed him and took shifts until he was well enough to take a bottle," Rodriguez said. "It's a dream come true. Every day of the process, you wonder if anyone will come forward."

"There is a relief that he is now my son."

Once known as "Baby Washoe," Taylor was left at the hospital under Nevada's Safe Haven Infant Protection Act, which allows parents to leave a non-abused infant a month old or younger at a hospital, urgent care facility or occupied police or fire station without being prosecuted.

Taylor is the state's first documented Safe Haven baby with a finalized adoption, said David Sanchez, owner and president of Reno-based DGI Marketing, which is developing an ad campaign to make citizens aware of the law passed by legislators in 2001. He said several other children are in the process of being adopted.

The Junior League of Nevada pushed for the Safe Haven Act after two abandoned babies died in Las Vegas, Sanchez said.

"Parents can remain completely anonymous with this program," Sanchez said. "They're OK if they want to surrender a child as long as it's not abused. Law enforcement can't arrest them or ask for names."

Washoe County Social Services is expecting to reach 100 adoptions this year, said Mike Capello, county social services director.

Von and Joyce Stauffenberg of Reno adopted their second child, 20-month-old Cody. Joyce said she got interested in adoption when hearing about experiences from a co-worker. She and her husband then attended an adoption meeting in 1999 for more information.

Joyce Stauffenberg said she looks forward to watching Cody grow up.

"His first words were, 'mama,'" she said. "He and I are a little bonded."

Galena High School student Ashley Cray, 16, recalled being adopted at age 6 and asking her father when she was going to become a Cray.

"Adoption provides a better environment and better opportunity for children and it can take them out of situations not always beneficial," Cray said.

A press conference preceded the adoption ceremonies and included remarks by Elizabeth Muto, the reigning Miss Black USA, who as a infant was abandoned at Reno/Tahoe International Airport.



Andy Barron/Andy Barron

Katherine Rodriguez plays with her newly adopted son, Taylor, 9 months, outside Washoe County Commission chambers Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003.

More information

Call Washoe County Social Services at 337-4470 or log onto

<http://www.co.washoe.nv.us> for more information on adoption or foster care. To donate to the Safe Haven Infant Protection Act advertising campaign, call the Junior League of Nevada at 852-5412.