

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-THIRD HAWAII STATE  
LEGISLATURE 2005**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 200,  
PART III, SECTIONS 31, 32, AND 34, SLH 2003**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION  
NOVEMBER 2004**

## **REPORT ON ACT 200, PART III, SECTION 31, SLH 2003, ON MULTI-AGENCY CASE COORDINATORS AND CASE SUPPORT COORDINATORS FOR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

Act 200, Part III, Section 31, SLH 2003, provided funding to the Department's Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch for Multi-Agency Case Coordinators and Case Support Aides. The Act requires a report on the amount of federal funding available for the positions and the number of children aided by the initiative and the increased service capacity.

### **(1) Report on the availability of Federal funding in support of this initiative, including the amount of this funding and requirements that the Department of Human Services must fulfill to receive this funding.**

Since this is a State initiative, there are no Federal funds specific to it, nor are there any specific Federal requirements to be met. However, it is the policy of the Department to claim Federal funds that are allowable for Child Welfare positions. These positions are part of our Title IV-E administrative cost allocation and are funded by a combination of State and Federal funding with approximately 25% of the total cost of the positions, or \$151,701, paid for with Federal funds.

### **(2) The number of children aided by the services provided by this initiative and the capacity of service provided by this initiative.**

On August 2, 2000 the Department was court-ordered to hire eight Multi-Agency Case Coordinators (MACCs) to comply with the Felix consent decree. The role of the MACC is to provide case coordination, attend Individualized Educational Plan meetings, and to collaborate with the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the Judiciary.

At the same hearing, the Department was court-ordered to hire 21 Case Support Aides (CSAs) in addition to the 10 CSAs positions that were already authorized. The role of the CSA is to provide support to social workers such as transporting children to visit their parents and siblings, transporting children to their therapy appointments, arranging physical examinations, delivering documents, filing, taking phone messages, and entering data into the Child Protective Services System database. These tasks are necessary to ensure that the Department complies with Federal and State statutes and court orders.

As of September 30, 2004, the Department has identified 610 Felix children in its caseload to which these MACCs and CSAs provide vital services, as described above. In addition, there are far more special needs, non-Felix children in the Department's active, out-of-home placement caseload, which averages around 2,700 children statewide at any one time. The support that the MACCs and CSAs provide to the social workers helps the Child Welfare Services program address the distinctive requirements of special needs children.

**REPORT ON ACT 200, PART III, SECTION 32, ON THE TITLE IV-E  
REIMBURSEMENTS AND THE CENTRALIZED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION  
UNIT**

Act 200, Part III, Section 32, provided funding to the Department's Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services program, HMS 301, for the centralized Title IV-E Eligibility Determination Unit. The Act requires a report on the amount of federal fund reimbursements received by the Title IV-E Eligibility Determination Unit and the actual and planned expenditures for the Title IV-E federal funds for FY 04 and the first quarter of FY 05.

**1) Report on the amount of federal funds drawn down by the Title IV-E Eligibility Determination Unit.**

The Eligibility Determination Unit determines the initial eligibility and continued eligibility for Title IV-E foster care payments in an accurate and timely manner to maximize State claims for Federal funds. However, Title IV-E funds reimbursements to the Department for eligible children are the result of all the Child Welfare staff's efforts and not a single unit.

The Title IV-E Eligibility Determination Unit contributed significantly to the \$26,402,572 in Title IV-E funds received as reimbursements for allowable expenses made by the Department in FY 04. For the first quarter of FY 05, the Department received \$5,950,165 thus far, as reimbursements for the \$8,397,880 allowable expenditures.

**2) Report on the amounts and purposes of expenditures of federal funds.**

The Department received \$26,402,572 in Title IV-E funds in FY 04. Of this total, \$13,901,387 was used to cover child out-of-home placement costs in HMS 303; \$9,870,141 was used to cover personnel and operating expenses in child welfare services and \$2,631,044 was used for other expenses, such as legal services, system enhancement and staff training in HMS 301.

Total IV-E allowable expenditures were approximately \$8,397,880 for the first quarter of FY 05. For FY 05, as of September 30, 2004, the Department received \$5,950,165 in Title IV-E funds as partial reimbursement for allowable foster care maintenance, payroll, and purchase of service expenses. Additional claims will be submitted against the balance of the \$8,397,880 as documentation and bills are received. The \$5,950,165 reimbursement was applied as follows: \$3,554,764 was used to cover child out-of-home placement costs in HMS 303; \$2,387,536 was used to cover personnel and operating expenses in child welfare services and \$7,865 was used for other expenses, such as legal services, system enhancement and staff training in HMS 301.

Using FY 05's first quarter allowable expenditures as 25% of the base for the entire fiscal year's total, earnings for the entire fiscal year are projected to be \$33,591,520 ( $\$8,397,880 \times 4 = \$33,591,520$ ). Based on the distribution of the reimbursements received in FY04, it is projected that funds for FY05 would be distributed as follows: \$17,686,495 for out-of-home placement costs in HMS 303; \$12,557,600 for personnel and operating expenses in child

welfare services and \$3,347,425 for other expenses including but not limited to legal services, system enhancement and staff training in HMS 301.

**3) Report on the number of children served and types of services.**

In FY 04, a total of 6,119 children were determined eligible for child out-of-home placement services. The breakdown of services provided to these 6,119 children (a child may receive more than one service) is:

- ? 4,793 children received payments for relative and non-relative foster care
- ? 859 children received payments for emergency shelter care
- ? 152 children received payments for higher education
- ? 1,126 children were provided payments for permanency assistance
- ? 2,334 children were provided payments for adoption assistance
- ? 4,391 children were provided payments for board related services such as transportation, clothing, etc.

For FY 05, the Department estimates that 6,729 children will be determined eligible for out-of-home placement services. The projected breakdown of services provided to these estimated 6,729 children (a child may receive more than one service) is:

- ? 6,119 children will receive payments for relative and non-relative foster care
- ? 957 children will receive payments for emergency shelter care
- ? 123 children will receive payments for higher education
- ? 1,193 children will be provided payments for permanency assistance
- ? 2,354 children will be provided payments for adoption assistance
- ? 4,305 children will be provided payments for board related services such as transportation, clothing, etc.

Source: FY 04 HMS 303 Variance Report

## **REPORT ON ACT 200, PART III, SECTION 34, SLH 2003, ON CHILD OUT-OF-HOME PAYMENTS**

Act 200, Part III, Section 34, SLH 2003, requires the Department to report on child out-of-home payments, including the feasibility of collecting child support payments from parents who have children in out-of-home placements, the average payments for adoption assistance, foster board, and difficulty-of-care (DOC), and the number of children served.

### **(1) Collection of child support payments from parents whose children have been placed in foster care or other out-of-home placements by the Department.**

The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) collects child support payments for children who are placed in out-of-home care. In FY04, CSEA received 4,204 payments totaling \$606,700 in support payments for children in foster care.

### **(2) The average adoption payment per child per month for each year since 1999.**

The maximum monthly payment for adoption assistance is \$529 per child. Average monthly payments in excess of this amount are reflective of retroactive payments. Retroactive payments also account for variations between the following data and data previously provided. The source for this data, the Child Protective Services System (CPSS) database, allocates a client payment benefit to the month in which the service was provided. For example, for a *retroactive* payment issued in August 2004 for a service provided in January 2004, the CPSS will report that benefit in January 2004 and would alter previous data for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004. Therefore, data being currently reported may not mirror previously provided data. See line 2 for specific data in the chart at the end of this Section 34 report.

### **(3) The average foster board payment per child per month for each year since 1999.**

The maximum monthly payment for foster board is \$529 per child. Average monthly payments in excess of this amount are reflective of retroactive payments. Retroactive payments also account for variations between the following data and data previously provided. See line 3 for specific data in the chart at the end of this Section 34 report.

### **(4) The average adoption difficulty-of-care payment per child per month for each year since 1999.**

The maximum monthly payment for adoption assistance difficulty of care is \$570 per child. Average monthly payments in excess of this amount are reflective of retroactive payments. When the Department began issuing adoption assistance difficulty of care payments for children eligible for Title IV-E adoption assistance in the first quarter of FY 2001 many of the payments included payment for benefits retroactive to October 1, 1998. These benefits are combined with the adoption assistance payments because they are considered a part of the adoption assistance maintenance payment. However, the combining of the adoption assistance and the

current and retroactive difficulty of care benefits into one payment, the inconsistency in how payments were issued during the implementation period, and the lack of a specific code in the CPSS payment subsystem to capture adoption assistance difficulty-of-care makes it difficult to determine the unduplicated number of children who received difficulty of care payments in FY 1999 and FY 2001. This is reflected in the data for FY 1999-FY 2001. The data for subsequent fiscal periods is more accurate because special programming was created in CPSS to extract this information. Children eligible for non-Title IV-E adoption assistance became eligible for adoption assistance difficulty-of-care payments in March 2002.

As explained in (2), retroactive payments also account for variations between the following data and data previously provided. See line 4 for specific data in the chart at the end of this Section 34 report.

**(5) The average foster board difficulty-of-care payment per child per month for each year since 1999.**

The maximum monthly payment for foster board difficulty-of-care is \$570 per child. Average monthly payments in excess of this amount are reflective of retroactive payments. Retroactive payments also account for variations between the data in this report and data previously provided. See line 5 for specific data in the chart at the end of this Section 34 report.

**(6) The number of children served in relation to adoption assistance, adoption assistance difficulty-of-care, foster board and foster board difficulty-of-care payments.**

The following chart provides data in response to the above points. “Average Monthly/Child” is the number of children for whom this benefit was issued per month during the fiscal year. “Average Monthly/ Pymnts” is the average number of benefit payments issued for this service per month. “Total Unduplicated” is the total number of children for whom this benefit was issued during the fiscal year, counting each child only once.

		1999		2000			2001		
	Payment type	Average Monthly	Average Monthly	Total Un-duplicated	Average Monthly	Average Monthly	Total Un-duplicated	Average Monthly	Average Monthly
		No. Child	Pymnts		No. Child	Pymnts		Child	Pymnts
2	Adoption assistance	961	\$ 491	1224	1187	\$ 558	1494	1350	\$ 681
3	Foster board	2111	\$ 541	3114	2166	\$ 533	4343	2292	\$ 535
4	Adoption DOC				10	\$930		86	\$1517
5	Foster board DOC	343	\$ 447	470	326	\$ 641	672	359	\$ 624

		2002			2003			2004		
	Payment type	Total Un-duplicated	Average Monthly	Average Monthly	Total Un-duplicated	Average Monthly	Average Monthly	Total Un-duplicated	Average Monthly	Average Monthly
			Child	Pymnts		Child	Pymnts		Child	Pymnts
2	Adoption assistance	1754	1586	\$ 632	2077	1864	\$ 647	2370	2158	\$ 655
3	Foster board	4781	2522	\$ 537	5030	2690	\$ 536	5232	2835	\$ 537
4	Adoption DOC	311	311	\$ 578	422	422	\$ 542	622	622	\$ 436
5	Foster board DOC	774	417	\$ 617	819	461	\$ 596	966	512	\$ 641

(Source for foster board and foster board DOC report on services by fiscal year received from research 11/01/04; AA & AA DOC information for FY02-04 from KFKDOC05-2 and KFKMPFOR from ROSES)