

Additional Required Supporting Information

Juvenile Justice Transfers

During CY 2006, 74 children exited custody with the CD and were transferred to the Division of Youth Services. This information is derived by matching exits from the alternative care population with entries into the state's Juvenile Justice System. Both information systems used the same unique identifier for children/youth served.

Inter-Country Adoptions

CD collected information regarding children who are adopted from other countries and who enter into state custody as a result of the disruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption. Four children who were adopted internationally entered state custody as a result of disruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption during FY2006.

The four children's information is as follows:

- The paperwork provided by the parents does not list a licensed Missouri Child Placing Agency that handled the adoption. This appears to be a private adoption by an attorney. The child entered foster care due to homicidal and suicidal statements against the family and himself. The goal at this time is reunification.
- The child was not adopted through an agency as the adoptive family pursued the adoption on their own. The plan for the child while in custody was to reunify him with his adoptive mother, which was achieved. The reason for the disruption was the child was living with his adoptive father at the time of removal. The father had suffered a head injury as a result of an accident on a riding lawn mower and became unable to care for himself and his child. Efforts to divert the child failed and he was eventually taken into custody.
- The child was adopted in another state (Georgia), unknown placing agency - no Missouri child Placing Agency involved in the placement. The goal is reunification with her adoptive parents. The reason for the disruptions is the child was out of the parent's control
- The child was removed from the adoptive home due to allegations of sexual abuse. Plan was initially reunification. Child was removed from adoptive father who was then killed in a car accident a few days following the court action. Court released custody the following week to allow an emergency guardianship to be granted to relatives living in Colorado. Both adoptive parents are deceased, (adoptive mother died several years ago) original adoption agency information was unable to be obtained. Child now resides in Colorado, however the family members are applying for guardianship subsidy to assist in caring for her.

Child Welfare Demonstration Projects

Missouri does not have a child welfare demonstration project.

Foster and Adoptive Parents Recruitment

During calendar year 2006, the CD worked with the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning on improving recruitment and

retention. The first on-site meeting took place in January, 2006, and final recommendations were given to the director on November 6, 2006. The approved recommendations are currently being written into policy, which include, but are not limited to:

- Creation of an Inquiry Packet to be sent to all prospective foster parents;
- Inquiry Tracking system – changes are being made to the Legacy information system to allow for the tracking of all inquiries through to exit;
- Expansion of STARS to include more information regarding the working relationship between biological families and foster families;
- Development of the Resource Family Profile to be shared with FST members when making placement decisions;
- Regular emails to local staff from licensing workers regarding placement openings for siblings and adolescents;
- Licensing staff will discuss with currently licensed families during the quarterly home visits their willingness to accept sibling groups and adolescents; and
- Use the existing State Foster Care Advisory Committee to support the recruitment effort for adolescents and sibling groups.
- Use of PBC and the Specialized Care Management contracts in recruiting foster parents.

A new contract, currently under development for the contracted 800 number, is anticipated to be in place in early 2008. To increase utilization of the 800 number, CD staff have been working with FACES staff to develop a database to capture each activity once the potential foster/adoptive parent calls the 800 number.

The updated recruitment information packet is available for statewide use. Also, policy on the Resource Family Profile is in the approval phase and should be introduced to staff by the end of the fiscal year.

In an effort to address concerns for multiple moves for children, St. Louis City began offering new foster parents the unique opportunity to hold a dual emergency and traditional foster home contract in April 2006. Children in St. Louis City were often placed in after hours emergency foster home placements. At the end of the emergency time period (usually 30 days unless extended), children were moved from the emergency home and placed in a traditional foster home to stabilize the placement. It determined through a self assessment, partnership with the Casey Family to Family program and community stakeholder, a child's first placement is often the best placement. Children not having to move from an emergency to a traditional foster placement often resulted in lesser trauma to the children. The placement stability measure, tracked through Outcomes Reporting, has increased five percent since March 2006. This has also assisted in the increased availability of emergency placement slots for after-hours placements.

Other than the previously mentioned information in the Adoption section, there have been no additional changes with CD's in state or out of state adoptive parent recruitment plan. There continues to be two components; a group of core-activities for

which Central Office and every county office will be responsible, and a group of optional activities from which offices may select. Core activities of the recruitment plan include:

- Distribution of informational packets
- Completing family assessments timely, within 90 days
- Regular use of the media for recruitment
- *Home for the Holidays* collaboration with the Dave Thomas Foundation
- Utilize and maintain CD Internet web page and work with two national sites where CD children are featured:
- Photo listing: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt>. This web site lists profiles and the pictures of approximately 200 of Missouri's waiting children. This site provides and link and is maintained by the Collaboration to AdoptUSKids <http://www.adoptuskids.org> site. The AdoptUSKids and National Adoption Exchange (www.adoptex.org) are national websites where Missouri's waiting children are featured.
- Celebrate National Foster Care month(May) and National Adoption month (November) to include media campaigns and print materials for recruitment.
- Continue collaboration with community agencies and maintain the CD recruitment efforts.

The optional activities from local office include:

- Northeast and Northwest Adoption Events
- Linking Hearts Adoption Open House at Ft. Leonard Wood. Effort to profile children and meet families interested in fostering and adopting
- Jackson Co. website allows waiting children to be featured as well as information to be shared with the public in electronic format regarding training classes and general information about CD programs. Sponsored by LINC of Kansas City
- Heart Gallery
- National Recruitment Saturday Celebration in St. Louis Co.
- Faith based mini-conferences and activities with the Black Repertory Theater of St. Louis.
- Jackson Co. and St. Louis have started a bus campaign to recruit foster and adoptive families.
- Profiles of waiting children run in the Kansas City Star and the Wendy's project in Springfield promotes as website of waiting children and produces a Wednesday's Child feature.

The successful recruitment collaboration between the CD and Ft. Leonard Wood military installation in Pulaski Co. continues. Another community partnership takes place in the nearby town of Rolla where the community partnership, the hospital, the University of Missouri Rolla's fraternities and sororities host a recruitment event each year. This collaboration has proven to be highly successful for continuing the recruitment of military families as well as further involving and recruiting from the local community for our children.

The One Church, One Child (OCOC) program recruits adoptive homes for waiting African/American children on an ongoing basis. A CD liaison works directly with

participating churches to provide information on the adoption process and specific children waiting for adoption. The OCOC programs in Kansas City and St. Louis have been very active in planning the Faith Based mini-conferences in those cities, sharing their knowledge of recruitment and interaction of the faith community and CD freely.

Wendy's - The CD continues in partnership with Wendy's of Missouri in Springfield. The Wendy's Wonderful Kids program has also expanded in Missouri with two recruiters through the program.

Television recruitment - "A Place to Call Home" is a television special that is shown several times per week on a local St. Louis television station. The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition in collaboration with the Division, organize this program with the television station, taking referrals from Division staff. This television show has resulted in several adoptive placements for children and two featured children even caught the attention of the Hallmark channel. Their success stories were featured on the Hallmark Channel's national television program entitled "Adoption."

On May 4, 2007 the second Missouri Heart Gallery opened in Kansas City. It was a stunning display of 168 photos of children and sibling groups for a total of 240 children featured. The Adoption Exchange has also opened the virtual gallery on their website at <http://www.moheartgallery.org/> and a copy of the complete Heart Gallery schedule and program book may be accessed on the CD website at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt/hgallery.htm>. This gallery will also travel to Arnold, Festus, Barnhart, St. Joseph, Columbia, Springfield, Joplin, Cape Girardeau, Farmington, Florissant, St. Louis and Jefferson City.

This is an awesome display represents a tremendous opportunity for the children who wait for permanent homes in foster care. As a result of the virtual gallery opening in Kansas City, the Adoption Exchange fielded over 40 calls of interest on the children featured the first day. Last year as a result of the gallery the Adoption Exchange saw a 226% increase in inquiry calls they fielded. Last year's gallery featured 63 photos and as a result 27 children were placed.

Adoption Incentive Payments

In FY 06, Missouri did not receive adoption incentive payments to assist CD to cover the costs of adoption recruitment and related activities. However, for SFY 2006-2007, \$50,000 was allotted for faith based activities that also include recruitment of resource families and funding for One Church One Child. Each region was able to devise their own plan for use of the funds

Payment Limitation – Title IV-B Subpart 1

- Report the amount of FY 2004 and FY 2005 title IV-B subpart I funds the State expended for child care, foster care maintenance and adoption assistance payments in FY 2005.

No amount was expended for child care, foster care maintenance and adoption assistance payments in FY 2005.

- Report the amount of non-Federal funds expended by the State for foster care maintenance payments for FY 2005.

Since no IV-B part 1 funds were used for foster care maintenance, none of the state/non-federal funds expended on foster care maintenance was used as a match for the title IV-B, subpart 1 program.