

# Policy and Fiscal Affairs

February 7, 2013:

Child Welfare  
Performance  
Improvement Plan  
Approval



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
4126 Technology Way – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Carson City, Nevada 89706  
(775) 684-4400

February 4, 2013

Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director  
Clark County Department of Family Services  
121 South Martin L. King Blvd.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Dear Mrs. Ruiz-Lee:

It is my pleasure to announce that the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has received notification from the Administration for Children and Families that all requirements and action steps in Nevada's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) have been completed and approved. As you know, in order to meet the requirements of its PIP, Nevada not only had to complete all action steps and tasks leading to systems change, but also needed to meet established goals for improvement based on the national data standards.

This has been a long process and some of the corrective actions were challenging. We could not have been successful without the commitment and dedication demonstrated by you, your staff and community partners. I would like to express my gratitude for your hard work and diligence in our efforts to ensure Nevada provides quality services to children and families.

Not only does the successful completion of the PIP represent positive outcomes for Nevada's children, it also represents a significant fiscal savings. As a result of completing all strategies and action steps, the State has avoided significant fiscal penalties. While we will be entering the non-overlapping year due to two data elements (Item 7 in the case reviews and the national standard for absence of maltreatment in foster care), I am confident that over the next year our continued collaboration and focus on improving outcomes for children in foster care will be demonstrated in improved numbers in both of these areas.

Again, let me say thank you for continued support and perseverance. In spite of competing demands and challenges, you and your staff remained conscientious and dedicated to the effort. I value the relationship that DCFS has with Clark County Department of Family Services and remain committed to doing everything I can to assure that relationship remains strong and collaborative.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need further information and again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amber Howell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Amber Howell, Administrator  
Division of Child and Family Services

# Policy and Fiscal Affairs

February 7, 2013:

DFS Legislative  
Tracking



CLARK COUNTY  
2013 LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SYSTEM  
ALL LIVE MEASURES --  
for a specific department or multiple departments

2/6/2013

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**Family Services**

**Assembly Bill**

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BDR 392

**AB 1** Requires the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to include certain requirements in the State Plan for Medicaid.

Sponsor: Assembly Health & Human Services

Location in Process: Assembly Committee  
Current Committee: Assembly Health & Human Services  
Committee Status: Hearing Not Yet Scheduled

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BDR 403

**AB 67** Revises provisions relating to crimes.

Sponsor: Assembly Judiciary

Location in Process: Assembly Committee  
Current Committee: Assembly Judiciary  
Committee Status: Hearing Not Yet Scheduled

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BDR 67

**AB 81** Revises provisions relating to the protection of children.

Sponsor: Assembly Health & Human Services

Location in Process: Assembly Committee  
Current Committee: Assembly Health & Human Services  
Committee Status: Hearing Not Yet Scheduled

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BDR 78

**AB 82** Revises provisions governing evidence in certain court proceedings.

Sponsor: Jason Frierson

Location in Process: Assembly Committee  
Current Committee: Assembly Judiciary  
Committee Status: Hearing Not Yet Scheduled

**Senate Bill**

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BDR 385

**SB 31** Provides for the sharing of information regarding certain children among child welfare agencies, schools, courts, probation departments and treatment providers.

Sponsor: Senate Judiciary

Location in Process: Senate Committee  
Current Committee: Senate Judiciary  
Committee Status: Hearing Not Yet Scheduled

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BDR 343

**SB 38** Revises provisions governing the dissemination by the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History of information relating to certain offenses.

Sponsor: Senate Judiciary

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Location in Process: Senate Committee

Current Committee: Senate Judiciary

Committee Status: Hearing Scheduled





**CLARK COUNTY**  
**2013 LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SYSTEM**  
**ALL BILL DRAFT REQUESTS -- not yet introduced**  
**for a specific department or multiple departments**

2/6/2013

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**Family Services**

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BDR	5	<b>Makes it a crime for a parent or guardian to fail to report a missing child or the death of a child.</b>
Requestor:		Mark Manendo
BDR	29	<b>Revises provisions governing the filing of a legal action based upon the mandatory reporting of a violent or sexual offense against a child.</b>
Requestor:		Pete Livermore
BDR	59	<b>Revises provisions relating to sexual offenses against children.</b>
Requestor:		Paul Aizley
BDR	61	<b>Makes various changes relating to background checks required to be conducted by child care facilities.</b>
Requestor:		Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
BDR	63	<b>Establishes the crime of sex trafficking of a minor.</b>
Requestor:		Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
BDR	65	<b>Makes various changes concerning the protection of children and youth in the child welfare system from identity theft.</b>
Requestor:		Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
BDR	66	<b>Revises various provisions concerning investigations of reports of abuse or neglect of a child.</b>
Requestor:		Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
BDR	68	<b>Revises various provisions concerning reasonable efforts required of an agency which provides child welfare services to preserve and reunify the family of a child in the child welfare system.</b>
Requestor:		Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
BDR	69	<b>Revises various provisions relating to the hearings concerning children who are removed from their homes.</b>
Requestor:		Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
BDR	73	<b>Revises various provisions concerning abuse or neglect of a child.</b>
Requestor:		Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
BDR	82	<b>Revises provisions governing the recovery of certain benefits paid under the State Plan for Medicaid.</b>
Requestor:		Barbara K. Cegavske
BDR	96	<b>Makes various changes concerning the State Plan for Medicaid.</b>
Requestor:		Senate Health & Human Services
BDR	100	<b>Revises provisions governing the Peace Officer Bill of Rights.</b>
Requestor:		Tick Segerblom
BDR	192	<b>Makes various changes concerning crimes against children.</b>
Requestor:		Greg Brower

BDR	241	<b>Enacts the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act.</b>
	Requestor:	Senate Judiciary
BDR	434	<b>Provides for the establishment of a registry of putative fathers to facilitate termination of parental rights and adoption of certain children.</b>
	Requestor:	Scott Hammond
BDR	457	<b>Increases quality assurance standards for licensed foster care providers.</b>
	Requestor:	Jason Frierson
BDR	474	<b>Makes various changes concerning safety equipment for minors.</b>
	Requestor:	Joe Hardy
BDR	505	<b>Revises provisions concerning persons legally responsible for the psychiatric care of a child who is in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services.</b>
	Requestor:	Committee on Health Care
BDR	506	<b>Revises provisions relating to the placement of a foster child with fictive kin.</b>
	Requestor:	Committee on Health Care
BDR	529	<b>Makes changes related to the healthcare of newborns.</b>
	Requestor:	Senate Health & Human Services
BDR	532	<b>Designates 5 family court judges in larger counties with a population of 700,000 or more to hear only cases involving child abuse and neglect and adoptions of children in foster care.</b>
	Requestor:	Andy Eisen
BDR	610	<b>Revises provisions governing reports of abuse or neglect of a child.</b>
	Requestor:	Andy Eisen
BDR	611	<b>Revises provisions governing child death review teams.</b>
	Requestor:	Andy Eisen
BDR	678	<b>Provides certain protections for sexually exploited children.</b>
	Requestor:	John Hambrick
BDR	700	<b>Revises provisions relating to education.</b>
	Requestor:	Joyce Woodhouse
BDR	705	<b>Revises provisions relating to education for children in detention facilities.</b>
	Requestor:	Patricia Spearman
BDR	750	<b>Revises provisions governing the granting of the right to visit a child to grandparents and great-grandparents.</b>
	Requestor:	Pete Livermore
BDR	785	<b>Revises provisions governing family court.</b>
	Requestor:	Peggy Pierce
BDR	806	<b>Revises provisions governing parentage.</b>
	Requestor:	Assembly Judiciary
BDR	849	<b>Revises provisions relating to education.</b>
	Requestor:	Mark Hutchison
BDR	880	<b>Provides for the protection of parental rights to make choices regarding the care and education of their children.</b>

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Requestor: Mo Denis

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BDR 891 **Makes various changes relating to Medicaid reimbursements.**

Requestor: Barbara K. Cegavske



# Policy and Fiscal Affairs

February 7, 2013:

DFS Governor's  
Recommended  
Budget

Section A1: Line Item Detail by GL

Budget Account: 3142 HHS-DCFS - CLARK COUNTY CHILD WELFARE

In the 2011 Legislative session, the funding for Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) by the Division changed. Currently, CCDFS receives an annual capped block grant each year to support child welfare services. This funding de-categorized the general funds appropriated for the purpose of child welfare integration and allows the agency to redirect child welfare funding to services not restricted by traditional definitions and funding limitations, but driven by the needs of children and families in their community. CCDFS has the ability to retain locally all of the savings generated if the services provided by the county cost less than the amount budgeted. This funding is contingent upon the counties meeting a minimum maintenance of effort. Specifically, the counties must maintain the amount of local funds spent for child welfare and child protective services at a level equal to or greater than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2011. In addition, within this current funding mechanism is a process to support a fiscal incentive program designed to stimulate and support improvement in key areas identified in the agency improvement plan. A second allocation is included that will estimate each biennium the cost attributed to the projected caseload growth for the adoption assistance program to ensure adoptions are continuously reinforced and each Legislative session the funding can be determined based on historical adoption growth. Lastly, the agency which provides child welfare services, must submit annually an agency improvement plan and data demonstrating the progress they have made toward meeting the specific performance targets set forth in the plan. The agency improvement plan is an integral part of the quality division's oversight role.

Item No	Description	Actual Work Program 2011-2012	2012-2013	Year 1 2013-2014	Year 2 2014-2015
<b>B000</b>	<b>BASE</b>				
	This request continues funding for Clark County Child Welfare operating costs. One-time expenditures have been eliminated and partial year costs have been annualized.				
	Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) receives an annual capped block grant to support child welfare services. This funding is de-categorized general fund dollars that has been appropriated for the purpose of child welfare integration and allows the agency to redirect child welfare funding to services not restricted by traditional definitions and funding limitations, but driven by the needs of children and families. CCDFS has the ability to retain locally all of the savings generated if the services provided by the county cost less than the amount budgeted. This funding is contingent upon the counties meeting a minimum maintenance of effort. Specifically, the counties must maintain the amount of local funds spent for child welfare and child protective services at a level equal to or greater than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2011. In addition, within this current funding mechanism is a process to support a fiscal incentive program designed to stimulate and support improvement in key areas identified in the agency improvement plan. Lastly, the agency which provides child welfare services must submit annually an agency improvement plan and data demonstrating the progress they have made toward meeting the specific performance targets set forth in the plan. The agency improvement plan is an integral part of the quality Division's oversight role.				
<b>REVENUE</b>					
2501	APPROPRIATION CONTROL General Fund Appropriation	42,750,000	42,750,000	42,750,000	42,750,000
2516	BUDGETARY TRANSFERS	0	251,827	0	0
3467	FEDERAL TITLE IV-B,1 Federal Title IV-B - CFDA #93.645	186,015	186,015	186,015	186,015
3562	FEDERAL TITLE IV-E Federal Title IV-E Foster Care CFDA #93.658 and Adoption CFDA #93.659	33,431,189	36,135,880	33,431,189	33,431,189
3870	FEDERAL TITLE XX Federal Title XX CFDA #93.667	2,062,635	2,062,635	2,062,635	2,062,635
3871	CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT TOTAL REVENUES FOR DECISION UNIT B000	14,378	13,703	14,378	14,378
		78,444,217	81,400,060	78,444,217	78,444,217
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
12	CLARK CO ONGOING				
7401	CLIENT SERVICE PROVIDER PMTS-A	100,333	0	100,333	100,333
8503	EXPENDITURES CLARK CO	64,225,951	66,772,457	64,225,951	64,225,951
8506	EXPENDITURES ESMERALDA CO TOTAL FOR CATEGORY 12	0	377,603	0	0
		64,326,284	67,150,060	64,326,284	64,326,284
15	FISCAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM This category represents the general fund fiscal incentive dollars used to stimulate and support improvement outlined in NRS 432 as amended by the 76th legislative session (2011).				
8503	EXPENDITURES CLARK CO TOTAL FOR CATEGORY 15	5,250,000	5,250,000	5,250,000	5,250,000
		5,250,000	5,250,000	5,250,000	5,250,000
51	IV-E CLARK COUNTY This category established authority for the Division of Child and Family Services to pass through Title IV-E Federal funding to Clark County for costs associated with pre-custodial children.				
8503	EXPENDITURES CLARK CO TOTAL FOR CATEGORY 51	8,867,933	9,000,000	8,867,933	8,867,933
		8,867,933	9,000,000	8,867,933	8,867,933

State of Nevada - Budget Division  
Line Item Detail & Summary  
2013-2015 Biennium (FY14-15)

Item No	Description	Actual 2011-2012	Work Program 2012-2013	G01 Year 1 2013-2014	G01 Year 2 2014-2015
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR DECISION UNIT B000	78,444,217	81,400,060	78,444,217	78,444,217
<b>M150</b>	<b>ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE</b>				
	This request adjusts base expenditures including eliminating one-time expenditures such as equipment, and adjusts for partial year costs for the continuation of programs. This request moves expenditures related to adoption activities into Category 09 - Adoption Subsidies.				
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>09</b>	<b>SUBSIDIZED ADOPTIONS</b>				
	This category estimates each biennium the cost attributable to projected caseload growth determined by historical adoption growth for the adoption assistance program. This funding is in addition to the Block Grant amount to ensure adoptions are continuously reinforced and avoids de-incentivizing this permanency option for children.				
8503	EXPENDITURES CLARK CO	0	0	22,934,758	22,934,758
	This category allows for better tracking of the Subsidized Adoptions costs which the county is required to track and report back on calculated as follows: FY12 costs of \$22,831,212 plus Non-recurring legal costs of \$103,546. Total moved to Category 09 of \$22,934,758.				
	TOTAL FOR CATEGORY 09	0	0	22,934,758	22,934,758
<b>12</b>	<b>CLARK CO ONGOING</b>				
7401	CLIENT SERVICE PROVIDER PMTS-A	0	0	-100,333	-100,333
	Adjustment made to back out the expenditures to the GL 7401 as one-time and move the costs back to GL 8503 as on-going.				
8503	EXPENDITURES CLARK CO	0	0	-22,834,425	-22,834,425
	TOTAL FOR CATEGORY 12	0	0	-22,934,758	-22,934,758
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR DECISION UNIT M150	0	0	0	0
<b>M201</b>	<b>DEMOGRAPHICS/CASELOAD CHANGES</b>				
	This request reflects the approved Adoption Caseload with a Growth Rate of 10.78%. The projected caseload is 4,065 for FY14 and 4,482 for FY15. [See Attachment]				
<b>REVENUE</b>					
<b>00</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>				
2501	APPROPRIATION CONTROL	0	0	2,337,427	3,979,301
3562	FEDERAL TITLE IV-E	0	0	2,425,198	4,267,733
	TOTAL REVENUES FOR DECISION UNIT M201	0	0	4,762,625	8,247,034
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>09</b>	<b>SUBSIDIZED ADOPTIONS</b>				
	This category estimates each biennium the cost attributable to projected caseload growth determined by historical adoption growth for the adoption assistance program. This funding is in addition to the Block Grant amount to ensure adoptions are continuously reinforced and avoids de-incentivizing this permanency option for children.				
8503	EXPENDITURES CLARK CO	0	0	4,762,625	8,247,034
	TOTAL FOR CATEGORY 09	0	0	4,762,625	8,247,034
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR DECISION UNIT M201	0	0	4,762,625	8,247,034
	TOTAL REVENUES FOR BUDGET ACCOUNT 3142	78,444,217	81,400,060	83,206,842	86,691,251
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR BUDGET ACCOUNT 3142	78,444,217	81,400,060	83,206,842	86,691,251

# Policy and Fiscal Affairs

February 7, 2013:

State Budget  
Presentation Child  
Welfare Divisions



State of Nevada  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Child and Family Services

# Budget Presentation

*Amber L. Howell, Administrator*

*Michael Willden, Director  
Brian Sandoval, Governor*

January 30, 2013



# Child Welfare

## Accomplishments

- The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was verbally approved by the Administration for Children and Families, ending in January 2013. This PIP was created by many committed stakeholders along side the child welfare agencies who believe that positive outcomes can occur if the activities listed in the plan are completed successfully and collaboratively.
- With support from the Casey Family Programs, Differential Response has been extended and Permanency Roundtables were expanded statewide.
- Telemedicine capacity for providing forensic examinations of rural child victims of sexual abuse expanded to the entire rural region.
- Expanded financial assistance and case management supports for youth exiting foster care up to age 21 to support successful transition to adulthood.
- In collaboration with the Court Improvement Project, completed a statewide training with all dependency courts and child welfare agencies regarding the new safety model and developing strategies to achieve timely permanency for children.
- Developed strong oversight for foster children on psychotropic medication by implementing a person legally responsible for the prescription of psychotropic medications for all foster children.

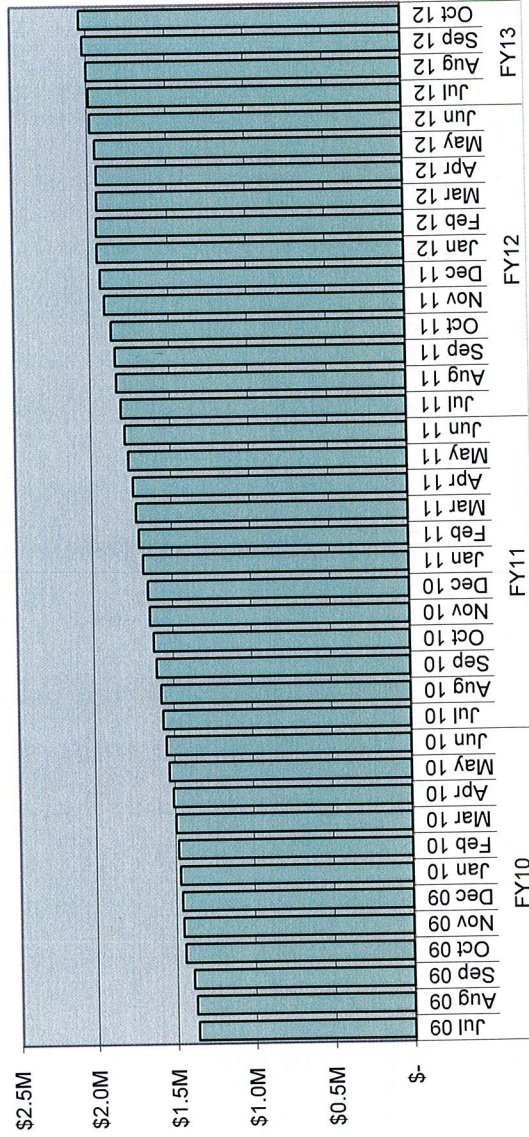
## Strategic Priorities

- Development of a Continuous Quality Improvement Process to ensure sound child welfare practice:
  - Increase competency of middle management staff to support process through participation in a national leadership program.
  - Engage in national technical assistance to develop a framework and policies and procedures.
- Strengthen and reinforce safety practices by:
  - Continuing the development of Nevada's safety assessment model, with expansion to all child welfare agencies.
  - Reinforcing assessing safety through the life of a case through implementation of the family assessment in concert with the safety model.
- Integrate a trauma-informed focus into child welfare practices throughout the state:
  - Increase trauma screening for all children who enter the foster care system.
  - Provide training to staff and providers regarding core components of a trauma informed care.
  - Develop services and treatment for children with a trauma focus.
- Redesign the specialized foster care system through a combination of implementing evidence based practices in foster care settings and fiscal reform.
- Improve the timeliness and appropriateness of permanency planning by:
  - Continuing a collaboration with the Court Improvement Project to bring court and child welfare agency practices in line with one another.
  - Reducing the number of children in out of home care for 18 months or longer.



# Adoption Growth - Clark County

Adoption Subsidies - Clark County



**M201**

Clark County Adoption caseloads are projected at a 10.78% growth per year for the next biennium.

Average Adoption Subsidy Payment: \$596.43/month

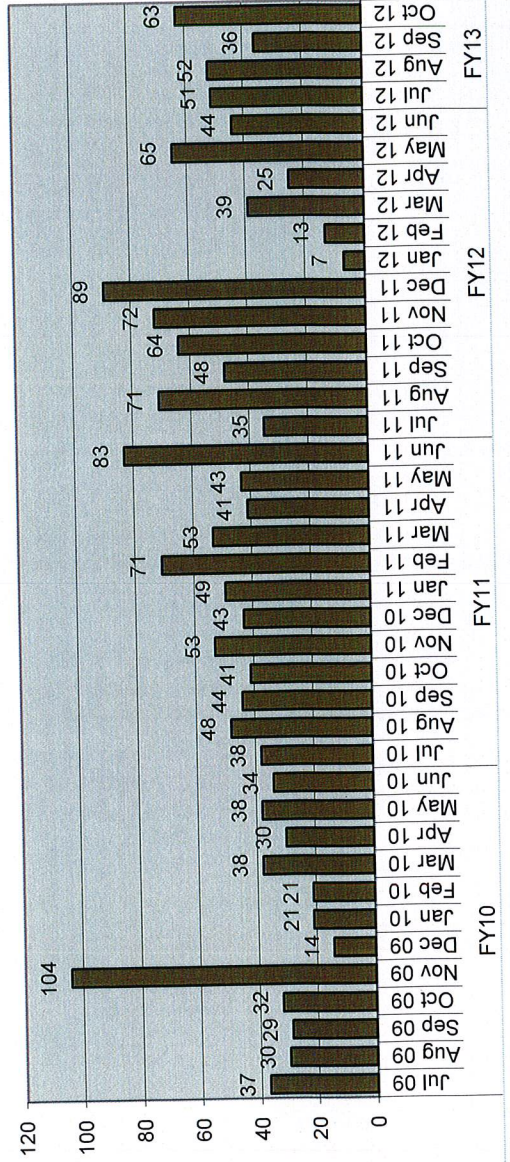
**FY14 = \$4,762,625**  
**(\$2,337,427 GF)**

Bringing adoption totals to \$27,697,382 (includes IV-E and GF)

**FY15 = \$8,247,034**  
**(\$3,979,301 GF)**

Bringing adoption totals to \$31,181,791 (includes IV-E and GF)

Total Finalized Adoptions - Clark County





# Specialized Foster Care Pilot

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 580 from the 2011 Legislative session, the Department of Health and Human Services may, during the 2011-2013 biennium, implement a pilot project to provide therapeutic foster care for youths with serious emotional disturbance through nonprofit providers. The sums appropriated to the Division of Child and Family Services and the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy of the Department by section 18 of this act may be transferred between the various budget accounts of each Division for the purpose of implementing a pilot project with the approval of the Interim Finance Committee upon the recommendation of the Governor. In total, there are about 580 children in specialized foster care at any given time.

## Current system concerns:

- Long length of stay, high rate of placement disruption, and a lack of outcome based practice.
- Fiscal system is a rate structure plagued with cost variability for similar care, fraud allegations, and denials resulting in placement delay/disruption.
- Increased reliance on Basic Skills Training (BST) and Psychosocial Rehabilitative Services (PSR), without improved outcomes.

## Predicted benefits of the pilot include:

- provision of appropriate clinical services resulting in decreased symptoms, negative behaviors, and placement disruptions, and increased permanent placements, along with fiscal accountability

## Evaluation of outcomes and effectiveness:

- DCFS is reviewing and monitoring the Northern Pilot and Clark County Department of Family Services is conducting their own review of their outcomes for the Southern Pilot
- DCFS is Collaborating with DHCFP to monitor use of BST and assess program cost

On August 23, 2012 the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) approved DCFS and Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) to carve out funding from the current budget, BST General Fund, to redesign specialized foster care for seventy (70) children. This funding will expire June 30, 2013.

- 30 children from Clark and Washoe, 10 from Rural Nevada
- Pilot involves training identified foster parents in a behavioral management program and trauma informed care, with elevated agency support.

Pending Pilot success, DCFS will request in the 2015 Legislative Session General Fund to continue to implement the new model. In the 2014/2015 Biennium DCFS is requesting similar language in the Appropriations Act to continue the transfer of Medicaid BST General Fund if positive outcomes are able to be displayed to phase in the remaining 580 youth.



# Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Update

- 1) The second Child and Family Services Review was conducted by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in 2009 with a deadline to create a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) by 2010 that addressed the areas needing improvement found in the CFR. The PIP was created and implemented on December 1, 2010 with a 2 year completion date. The PIP focused on 5 primary strategies to enhance child welfare practices:
  - Assessment of safety practices throughout the life of a case
  - Preserving connections and strengthening relationships
  - Improve timeliness and appropriateness of permanency planning
  - Strengthen child welfare supervision and middle management skills
  - Expand service options and create flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families

Each of the 5 strategies branched out into a total of 8 goals and 41 action steps/benchmarks. To date, Nevada has completed all 8 goals and 41 action steps/benchmarks, however has only been approved for a total of 7 goals and 40 action steps/benchmarks, with the last one being reviewed by ACF.

- 2) In addition, the State must make improvements in all 9 items found to be in need of improvement and must do so within the 2 years of the PIP and a non-overlapping data year (year 3).

- 3) The Third and final thing the state must pass is all 6 National Standard Indicators. Nevada has successfully passed 5/6 to date.

Each action step in the PIP, the 9 items and the 6 National Standards must be achieved in their entirety and as agreed upon with ACF to avoid financial penalties. Annual financial penalties are assigned to every state that does not achieve every item, action step and indicator every year until those items are met.



# CFSR Results, Case Reviews and National Standard Indicators

Outcomes	Items	2010 Baseline	Target	Status Quarter	National Standard Indicators	Standard	NSI at 2009 CFR	Initial AAI	FFY Met
Safety 1	1. Timelines of investigations	76.19	80.4	81.0(8)	S1-Absence of maltreatment	94.6	93.6	94.2	95.1/2008
	Safety 2	3. Services to protected children in home	70.45	74.9					
Permanency 1	4. Risk of harm	48.39	52.5	54.8(4)	S2- Absence of child abuse and neglect in foster care	99.68	99.61	99.64	Not Met
	7. Permanency goal for child	57.14	62	61.9(8)					
Well-Being 1	10. Other planned living arrangement	50	61.3	62.5(4)	P1- Timeliness and permanency of reunification	122.6	153	N/A	153/2009
	17. Needs/services of child, parent and foster parents	41.94	46	46.8(4)					
	18. Child/family involvement in case planning	44.07	48.2	54.2(4)	P3- Timeliness for children and youth in foster care for long periods of time	121.7	120.3	123.7	132.3/2008
	19. Caseworker visits with child	56.45	60.5	71.0(7)					
	20. Caseworker visits with parents	45.28	49.7	50.9(7)	P4- Placement stability	101.5	83.1	85.6	86.6/2009