

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
Director's Report
DJJS/DFS Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board
May 22, 2013

The Department of Family Services (DFS) presents the following updates related to personnel and budgetary statuses, as well as activities related to current initiatives and programmatic activities:

Personnel/Budget:

- Budget projections show that DFS is running slightly under budget and will finish the fiscal year end as such. Ongoing State funding for the coming biennium was approved by the Legislature on May 18, 2013.
- DFS is currently mid-recruitment to fill the remaining 13 case management vacancies. Interviews for Family Services Specialists and Sr. Family Services Specialist are in progress. We anticipate remaining vacant positions will be filled by mid-June.

Major Program Efforts:

- *Quality Parenting Initiative:* From October 2012 through January 2013, DFS conducted Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) sessions with foster parents, biological parents, DFS staff and foster care agencies to explore the QPI Philosophy and develop a branding statement to define the role and expectation of foster parents:

"Foster parents nurture children who have experienced trauma and provide a safe, loving, and healing environment in which the children can thrive. They are parenting partners, who honor and support family relationships.

Foster parents are dedicated informed and committed advocates for children. They are instrumental and fully supported members of the child and family team.

Great foster parents make a difference for children and families in our community."

Another important outcome derived from the initial QPI sessions was the identification of five key workgroups that will fall under the QPI umbrella and will report up through the QPI Implementation Team. The task ahead for these five workgroups, and the QPI Implementation Team as a whole, is to identify and implement specific initiatives designed to support the QPI branding statement and further embed these principals in the Clark County Child Welfare System. The first official meeting of the QPI Implementation Team will take place at the Pearson Community Center on May 30, 2013 at 9:00 AM.

- *Safety Intervention and Permanency System:* From February to May, Intake (Hotline) staff participated in 24 hours of training on the revised intake assessment process. Staff continue to receive on-going coaching and mentoring. CPS supervisors also participated in 16 hours of training, which provided them an overview of the intake assessment process and how it relates to the reports and information dispositioned to CPS units.

Additionally, executive management participated in four implementation team meetings to develop the comprehensive three-year implementation plan and to prepare for necessary revisions to existing policies and procedures. We also held three all staff town Hall meetings in Commission Chambers providing an overview of the model and coming changes to all DFS staff.

Executive Management also held two external stakeholder training sessions providing an overview of the model to critical system partners (CASA and the District Attorneys). An additional session for outside agency attorneys is scheduled for May 24.

In July, we are preparing to conduct competency evaluations of the Intake staff and will be initiating a workload study to evaluate the time it takes to provide services within field operation units.

- *Community Relations:* DFS invites you to attend any of the following events:
 - o *May 30: SHAKING FOR A CAUSE: HARLEM SHAKE GOES BLUE (5-7pm @ Amphitheater).* In honor of National Foster Care Month, DFS in partnership with Project WE and the County Commission will be hosting this event to bring the community together to raise the awareness of foster care and to celebrate and support the children in Clark County foster care. There will be networking and information-sharing between community partners, as well as food, drinks, activities, music and a live taping of the Harlem Shake in blue.
 - o *June 20: FAMILY REUNIFICATION DINNER (6-8pm @ Three Square).* In honor of National Reunification Month, DFS will be hosting its second Reunification Dinner to honor the families that have successfully reunified with their children. Last year, more than 1,200 children were reunified with their families. This event is a tribute to honoring the successfully reunified families by treating them to an evening of festivities including children's activities, professional photography, formal dinner, guest speakers and presentation of gifts ranging from gift certificates, gift baskets and gift cards donated by community partners.
 - o *August 7-8: BUILDING CONNECTIONS: A DFS APPROACH Summit (11am-5pm).* In response to the feedback derived from the November 2011 Building Connections in Child Welfare Summit that was facilitated by the Lincy Institute, DFS will be hosting the BUILDING CONNECTIONS: A DFS APPROACH Summit to begin what is hoped to be a series of Building Connections Summits between DFS and the child welfare community partners. Since January of this year, DFS and its child welfare partners (CAA, NYCP, UNLV, etc) have engaged in regular planning meetings to address the Building Connections series. It was agreed that DFS would host the first series to 1) introduce its two initiatives (QPI & SIPS) both of which address the concerns raised in the 2011 Summit (namely, the quality of foster care and the safety management practices, respectively), and 2) engage in meaningful facilitated discussions with community partners regarding implementing these two initiatives.
 - o *November & December: ADOPTION DAY (actual dates TBD).* In honor of Adoption Day, DFS will partner with the 8th Judicial District Court, CASA and other community partners to raise the awareness of the need to find permanent homes for children who are legally freed for adoption, while also celebrating the successful finalization of adoptions at the family court.

The DFS Statistical Overview for April, 2013 is attached.



DFS Statistical Overview Report for April 2013

All information in this report is from the DFS case management system as of May 14, 2013, unless otherwise noted.

Note: Data is dynamic and changes regularly. Different run dates will result in different totals.

Child Protective Services[^]

	April 2013 Total	2013 YTD Total	Monthly Average
Hotline Calls Answered - Community Line*	2,157	8,206	2,052
Hotline Calls Answered - Emergency Line*	1,149	4,249	1,062
Abuse and Neglect Referrals Received**	1,506	5,584	1,396
Differential Response Investigations	64	247	62
CPS Investigations	901	3,229	807
Substantiated CPS Investigations	125	756	189

[^] The data above represents multiple children and families. Also, some children and families have multiple referrals or investigations during the year.

* Non-case management system data. Not all calls warrant the creation of a referral, differential response or an investigation.

** DFS receives information of child abuse and neglect by various methods: phone, fax, in-person, police reports, email and mail.

Receiving Team, Emergency Reception Center and Visitation Center[^]

	April 2013 Total	2013 YTD Total	Monthly Average
Emergency Reception Center Child Count	<i>April counts not available.</i>	964*	321*
Receiving Team Child Count	<i>April counts not available.</i>	1,204*	401*
Released to Parent, Relative, or Fictive Kin	<i>April counts not available.</i>	348*	116*
Released to Foster Parent	<i>April counts not available.</i>	415*	138*
Released to Other	<i>April counts not available.</i>	7*	2*
Scheduled Visitation Center Visits	2,126	8,805	2,201
Visitors to Visitation Center	6,245	25,761	6,440

*April counts not included.

Child Haven Population in April 2013

Average Daily Population: 26.7

Average Length of Stay (Days): 7.6

[^] All data items in this table, except for Child Haven Population averages, are from non-case management system sources.

Adoptions

	April 2013 Total	2013 YTD Total	Monthly Average
Finalized Adoptions	36	76	19
Children for whom DFS is actively seeking Adoptive Homes*	76	---	84

* Non-case management system data. YTD Total is not available at this time.



DFS Statistical Overview Report for April 2013

Licensed Homes

	Apr 30, 2013 Total
Regular Foster Homes	657
Relative Foster Homes	335
Treatment Foster Homes	271
Treatment Group Homes	10

Placements

	Apr 30, 2013 Total
Children in Parental Care	1,027
Children in Relative Care♦	1,559
Children in Foster Care*	1,215
Children in HLOC**	389
Children in Clark Voluntary Jurisdiction	169
Children in Other Placement Types^	101

♦Unpaid and paid relative homes.

* In addition to regular foster care, this category includes Child Haven, shelter emergency homes, ICPC, non-relative and pre-adoptive homes.

** HLOC is Higher Level of Care. Examples include, mental health residential programs, psychological hospitals and treatment homes.

^ Other Placements Types include: runaway, absconder, detention, youth parole, nursing home, medical hospital and independent living.

Demographics of Children in Placement on Apr 30, 2013

Gender	Percent	Race	Percent	Ethnicity	Percent
Male	50.29%	African American	31.10%	Hispanic	25.98%
Female	49.71%	Asian	1.46%	Non-Hispanic	65.63%
Unknown	0.00%	Caucasian	56.49%	Unknown	8.40%
		Multi-Racial	9.05%		
		Native American	0.65%		
		Native Hawaiian	0.90%		
		Unknown	0.36%		

Contact the Quality Assurance and Improvement Data Analysis Team at DFSHelpDesk@ClarkCountyNV.gov.