



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

APR 17 2007

Secretary Ann S. Williamson
Office of the Secretary
Department of Social Services
State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Secretary Williamson:

We are pleased to notify you that Louisiana's 2006 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) has been reviewed - as re-submitted on February 22, 2007 - and approved. This report meets requirements as set forth in ACYF-CB-PI-05-04, as the annual report of progress on Louisiana's 2005 - 2009 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). A primary review was conducted by your program specialist, Amy Grissom, with secondary reviews completed by Child Welfare staff with functional lead assignments in the Regional Office's Child Welfare Unit. The Louisiana CFSP and APSR are especially strong in integrating the Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan (CFSR PIP), hurricane recovery, and prevention-focused agency reform efforts.

Title IV-E training information provided in the APSR was recently updated to reflect the State's compliance with applicable reporting requirements. The State has agreed to collect additional data, to ensure that appropriate and comprehensive information will be provided in the next APSR. We ask the State to consider which of the specifically allowable title IV-E administrative functions are addressed by the various training activities.

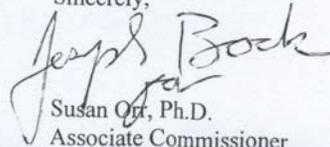
The CFS-101 Annual Budget Request originally submitted included dollar amounts that had been rounded. The State is reminded to provide accurate calculations with the next CFS-101 submission.

We recognize the enormous challenges with which you, Assistant Secretary Gautreau and the Office of Community Services staff are dealing as a result of the 2005 natural disasters. We especially appreciate your staff's diligence to ensure that the APSR is comprehensive and compliant with Federal requirements. The Regional Office, the Child Welfare National Resource Centers and the Children's Bureau staff look forward to working with the State to revise the CFSP to reflect changing priorities resulting from hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Page 2 - Secretary Ann S. Williamson

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Grissom, Program Specialist, at 214-767-4958; or, Program Manager, June Lloyd, at 214-767-8466.

Sincerely,



Susan Orr, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

cc:

Marketa Gautreau, Assistant Secretary; Office of Community Services; Baton Rouge, LA
John McInturf, Division Director; Office of Community Services; Baton Rouge, LA
Joel McLain, Section Administrator; Office of Community Services; Baton Rouge, LA
Joe Bock, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau; Washington, D.C.



State of Louisiana
Department of Social Services
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
333 LAUREL STREET
P. O. BOX 3318 – PHONE – 225/342-2297
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
GOVERNOR

ANN SILVERBERG WILLIAMSON
SECRETARY

June 26, 2006

Mr. Leon R. McCowan
Hub Director
Region VI
Administration for Children and Families
1301 Young Street
Suite 914
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. McCowan:

RE: Annual Progress and Services Report, Revised/Renegotiated Program
Improvement Plan CFS-101, Parts I and II, Annual Budget Request

REF: Log No: ACYF-CB-PI-06-03

The Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS), Office of Community Services (OCS), is pleased to submit the above referenced document. With the electronic submission of the 2006 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), the Department complies with applicable federal regulations and instructions and applies for federal revenue available under the provision of Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2; Title IV-E of the Social Security Act; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and the Educational and Training Vouchers Program. The CFS 101 is also being sent in hard copy.

The plan reflects the services and programs supporting the child welfare continuum in Louisiana and contains reports on ongoing efforts and progress/achievements in achieving the goals of safety, permanency and well-being for the children and families served. DSS/OCS continued to make progress and reach achievements over the past year despite the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As you are aware from ongoing communications, Louisiana was severely impacted by the storms and continues to experience far reaching consequences as a result of the aftermath. DSS/OCS has worked with the Children's Bureau, the Administration for Children and Families and the National Resource Centers to develop a short-term recovery plan and long-term reform goals for the agency. The short-term recovery plan is contained in the agency's revised/renegotiated Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and the long-term reform goals are proposed in the 2006 APSR and amend the goals and objectives set forth in the 2005-2009 CFSP.

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

There is no information included in the plan regarding demonstration projects because the state is not engaged in one at this time; however, the plan does contain the following:

- Changes in the organizational charts for the DSS/OCS are submitted.
- Baseline data/performance measures are provided. The baseline data is obtained and performance is measured through Quality Improvement efforts that include traditional Quality Assurance Reviews and Peer Case Reviews.
- Ongoing collaboration with community members such as prevention groups and American Indian Tribes and is summarized.
- An update on the initiatives of the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act is presented along with an area that has been selected for improvement.
- Also included in the APSR is the Annual Citizen Review Panel Report that contains new recommendations as well as updates on recommendations for 2004.
- An annual report on the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund and a report on the Court Improvement Program are included.
- The APSR contains program descriptions and reports on achievement in programmatic areas has been summarized in a comprehensive manner according to a format that discusses goals, performance/achievement, and barriers/challenges impacting goal attainment.
- Report on the specific accomplishments and planned activities for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Educational Training Voucher Program are included.
- Updates on and revisions to the 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan goals and objectives are provided. Note: System wide goals that were included in the 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan have been revised in this APSR and are identified as long-term reform goals. Each system wide goal that is being phased out has been addressed in the plan whenever and wherever appropriate (i.e., training goals are addressed in the training section and information management goals are addressed in the information management section) and are noted as such.
- The revised/renegotiated PIP is included and the agency has summarized compliance with 82% of the first PIP.

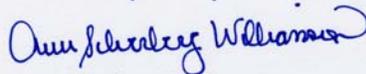
Page 3
Mr. Leon McCown
June 25, 2006

- Innovative and emerging change processes such as A Comprehensive Enterprise Social Services System (ACCESS) are profiled.
- The Department's use of National Child Welfare Resource Center's expertise in our efforts to implement the agency's short-term recovery and long-term reform goals and objectives is outline.
- The CFS 101 budget request, assurances, certifications and signature pages are also completed and submitted with the APSR.

Child welfare services remain a high priority in Louisiana. The children of this state continue to be our most precious resource. In the past, resource limitations in the state have made planning for program enhancements difficult and now even more so due to the economic impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Despite this, Louisiana will continue to strive to deliver the services described in our plan and to strengthen those services whenever possible.

We appreciate the assistance of Ms. Amy Grissom, Children and Families Program Specialist. Her knowledge and support were extremely helpful in the development of this document. We look forward to continuing this close working relationship and would also like to extend our appreciation to the Dallas Regional ACF office staff that has worked on joint planning and policy clarifications during development of this document. Thank you and your staff for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions or need clarification on any portion of this document, please contact Mr. Joel M. McLain, Section Administrator, at (225) 342-2416. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ann Silverberg Williamson
Secretary

ASW:BSC

Attachment (1)

C: Marketa G. Gautreaux, Assistant Secretary
Office of Community Services

Amy Grissom, Children and Family Program Specialist
ACF Regional Office VI

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report



2006

Annual Progress

And

Service Report

Louisiana Department of Social Services

Office of Community Services



STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Introduction.....	Page 01
Organizational Charts.....	Page 04
Quality Improvement.....	Page 09
Baseline Data/Performance Measures.....	Page 12
Community Consultation and Collaboration.....	Page 17
Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund 2005 Annual Report.....	Page 18
Indian Child Welfare Act and Tribal Collaboration.....	Page 22
Court Improvement Project.....	Page 25
Children’s Justice Act.....	Page 27
Technical Assistance.....	Page 28
Research and Evaluation.....	Page 31
Information Management System.....	Page 32
Child Welfare Service Continuum.....	Page 33
• Child Protection Investigations.....	Page 35
• Prevention and Family Services.....	Page 38
• Foster Care/Home Development (including Transfer of Custody to OYD).	Page 42
• Adoption (including Adoption Incentive Awards and Inter-Country Adoption)	Page 50
Louisiana’s Long Term Recovery Goals.....	Page 60
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program FFY 2006 Report/ FFY 2007 Application.....	Page 67
Promoting Safe and Stable Families.....	Page 85
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act	Page 91
Citizen Review Panels	Page 95
Training.....	Page 101
Louisiana’s Revised/Renegotiated PIP.....	Page 109

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Assurances, Certifications, Annual Budget Request for 2006- 2007 and Signature Pages
.....Page 128

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Introduction

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is the single state agency designated in Louisiana to administer and supervise the administration of child welfare services delivered under Title IV-B subparts 1 and 2, and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. In addition, the Department is designated to administer the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (P.L. 104-235). The mandate of DSS is for the development and provision of social services and the improvement of social conditions for the citizens of Louisiana.

DSS administers the state's child and family services programs through a single organizational unit, the Office of Community Services (OCS). OCS provides comprehensive social services and child welfare programs that include protective services, protective childcare, family services, child abuse/neglect prevention, intervention and treatment, foster care and adoption. These services are administered statewide within a centralized organizational framework.

This report updates, profiles and summarizes the progress and achievements made by DSS/OCS in its implementation of the 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). It is during this reporting period that Louisiana experienced the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina swept through the eastern half of the state and a month later Hurricane Rita hit the western half of our state. After the storms, the agency went into crisis mode while trying to locate children and families. These devastating storms took the lives of nearly 2,000 individuals, displaced hundreds of thousands of people and destroyed homes, schools, churches and businesses. Hard hit New Orleans, once our largest city and economic base, is no longer able to provide revenues used for state services. The economic impact, to an already impoverished state, will be felt for decades.

The agency continues to deal with the aftermath of these storms and DSS/OCS is working to address changes in the organization's structure and service delivery. This report contains information on the following areas:

1. **Organizational Charts** – Charts have been updated to include recent organizational changes.
2. **Quality Improvement** – This portion of the plans summarizes Continuous Quality Improvement and Quality Assurance efforts/plans for state fiscal year 2005-2006 and beyond.
3. **Baseline Data/Performance Measures** – This section provides baseline data on safety, permanency and well-being indicators as well as a brief summary of the Title IV-E eligibility review and the program improvement plan.
4. **Community Consultation and Collaboration** – This section provides information on the progress made on ongoing community collaboration efforts.

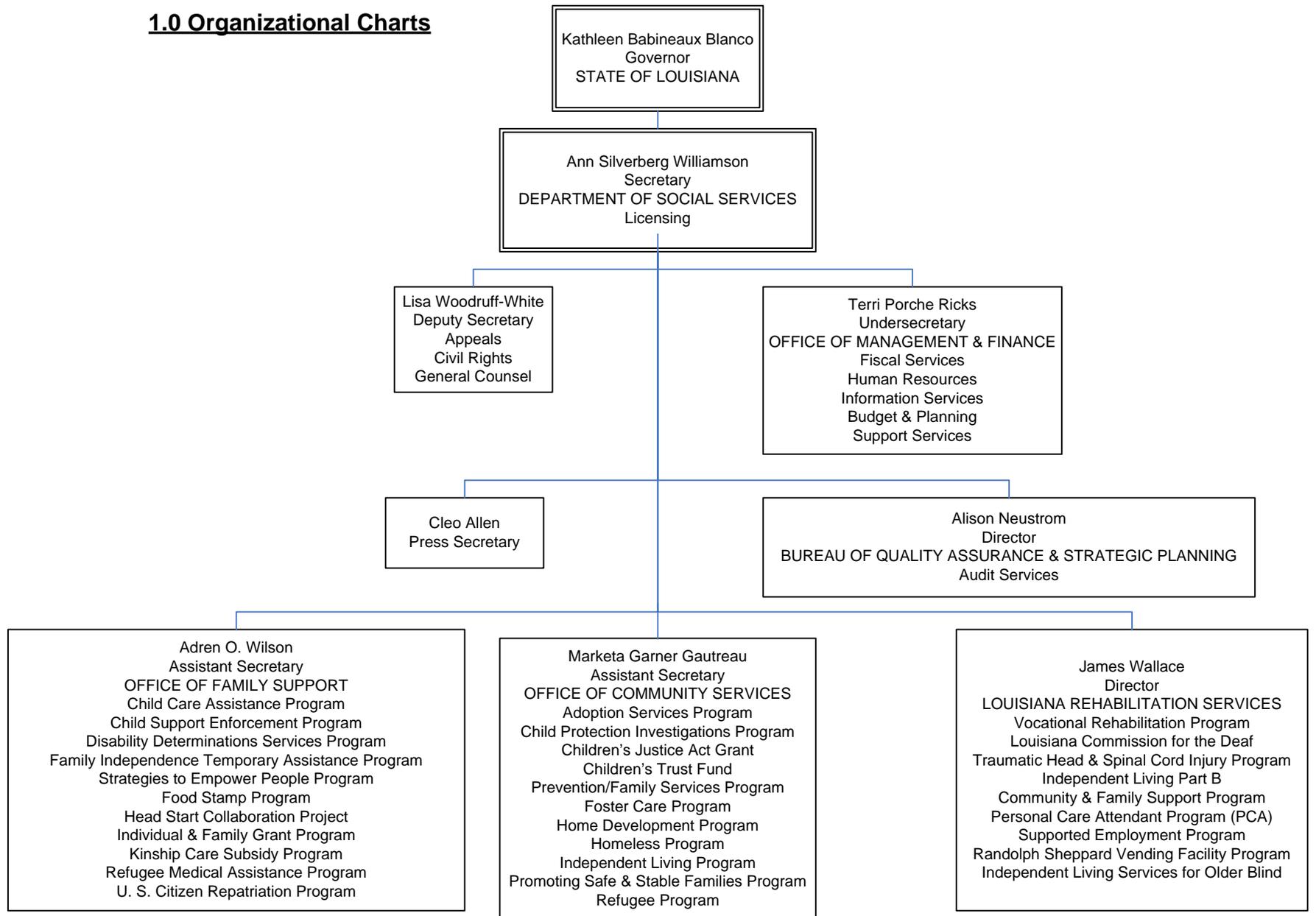
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

5. **Louisiana Children's Trust Fund 2005 Annual Report** – Trust fund and Community Based Family Resource and Support (CBCAP) activities are outlined in this section.
6. **Indian Child Welfare Act and Tribal Collaboration** – Information provided describes the development of an improved infrastructure allowing for networking, agreements, cross training, and communication between American Indian tribal representatives and agency staff at parish, regional, and state levels. Agency compliance with the five major components of ICWA is also provided.
7. **Court Improvement Project** - This section provides an update on various initiatives to improve the relationship between the agency and the judiciary.
8. **Children's Justice Act (CJA)** – A listing of activities and accomplishments of the CJA is listed in this section.
9. **Technical Assistance** – Training and technical assistance (TA) utilized from the Administration for Children and Families is contained in this section as well as TA from National Resource Centers. TA is planned to address Louisiana's short-term recovery and long-term reform efforts.
10. **Research and Evaluation** - This portion of the plan summarizes efforts with regard to identified needs for research and evaluation.
11. **Information Management System** –Updates are provided on the status of the A Comprehensive Enterprise Social Services System (ACCESS).
12. **Child Welfare Continuum**– Progress, achievement, barriers and challenges in the implementation of the major service delivery programs of Child Protection Investigations, Prevention and Family Services, Foster Care and Adoption Services are outlined in this section.
13. **Louisiana's Long-Term Reform Goals** – This section contains new goals for the remainder of the 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan.
14. **Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Report for 2006 and Application For FFY 2007** – This section profiles the efforts to reach adolescents who are in foster care and to prepare youth for young adulthood.
15. **Promoting Safe and Stable Families** – The agency's implementation of the Social Security Act, Title IV-B, Subpart 2 is described in this section.
16. **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)**– This section contains information on agency initiatives funded by the CAPTA grant as well as an area identified for improvement.

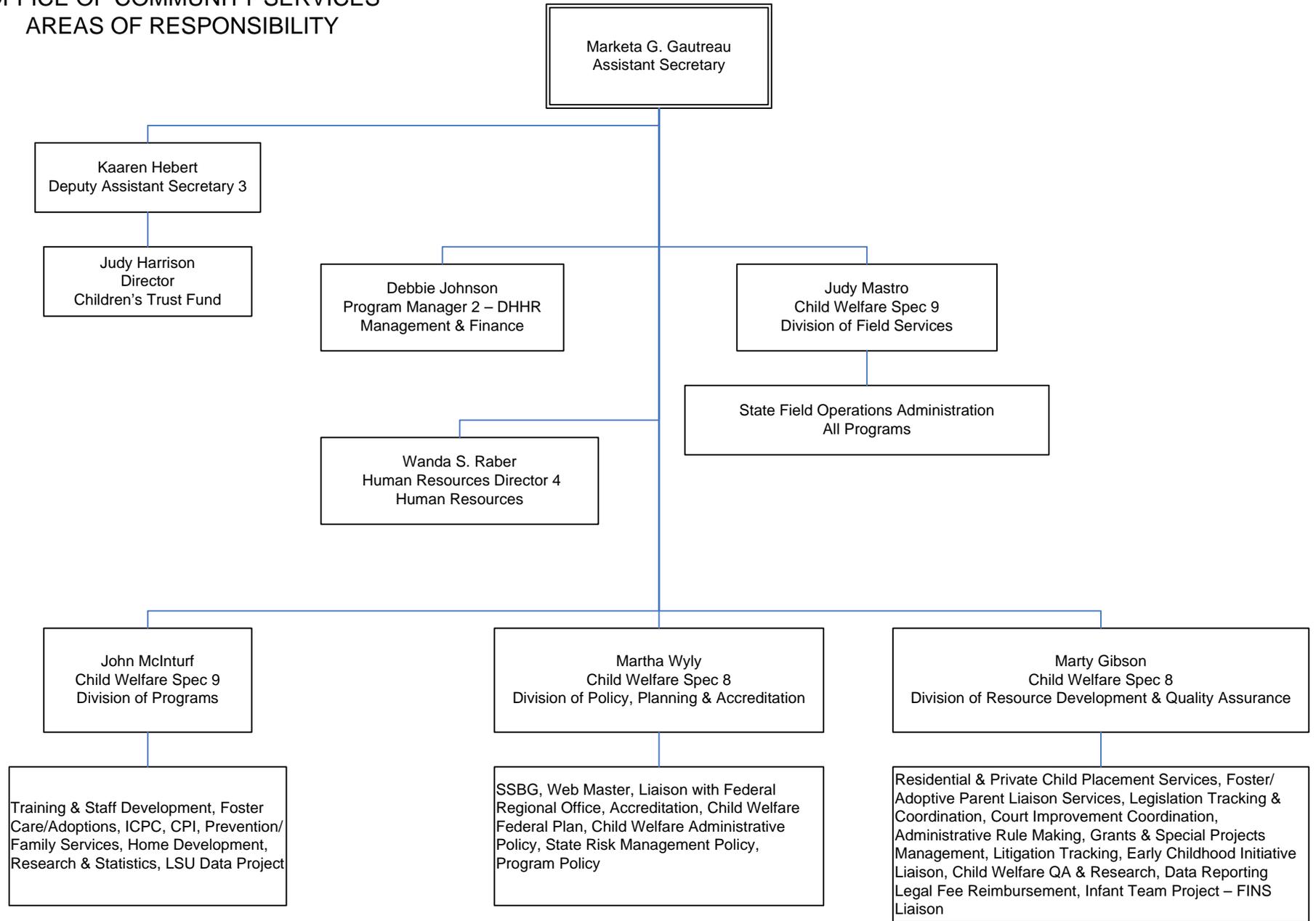
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

17. **Citizen Review Panels** – The 2005 Citizen Review Panel Annual Report and updates to 2004 Citizen Review Panel recommendations are provided in this section.
18. **Training** – This section contains information on new training delivered in SFY 2005 – 2006 and new training planned for SFY 2006 – 2007. Additionally, training delivered with Title IV-E funds are included in terms of courses offered, numbers and positions of prospective trainees and estimated costs for 2007.
19. **Louisiana’s Revised/Renegotiated PIP** – Louisiana’s PIP was renegotiated due to impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the state. This renegotiated PIP focuses on the agency’s short-term recovery plan. Also included in this section is a summary of the agency’s achievements on the first PIP.
20. **Annual Budget Request for 2006 – 2007** – This portion of the plan contains Assurances, Certifications for the CFCIP and ETV program and signature pages as well as the estimated expenditures for delivery of Title IV-B, Subpart 2 services. The request for funding (CFS-101) is also contained in this section.

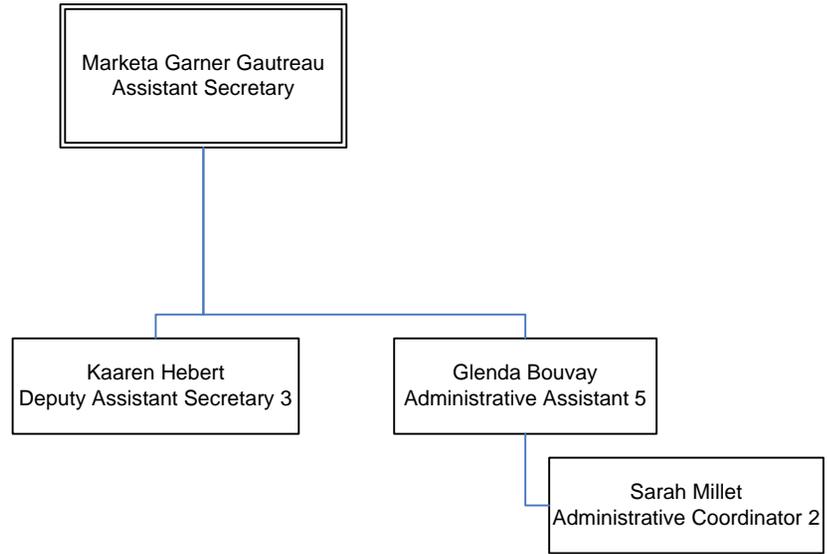
1.0 Organizational Charts



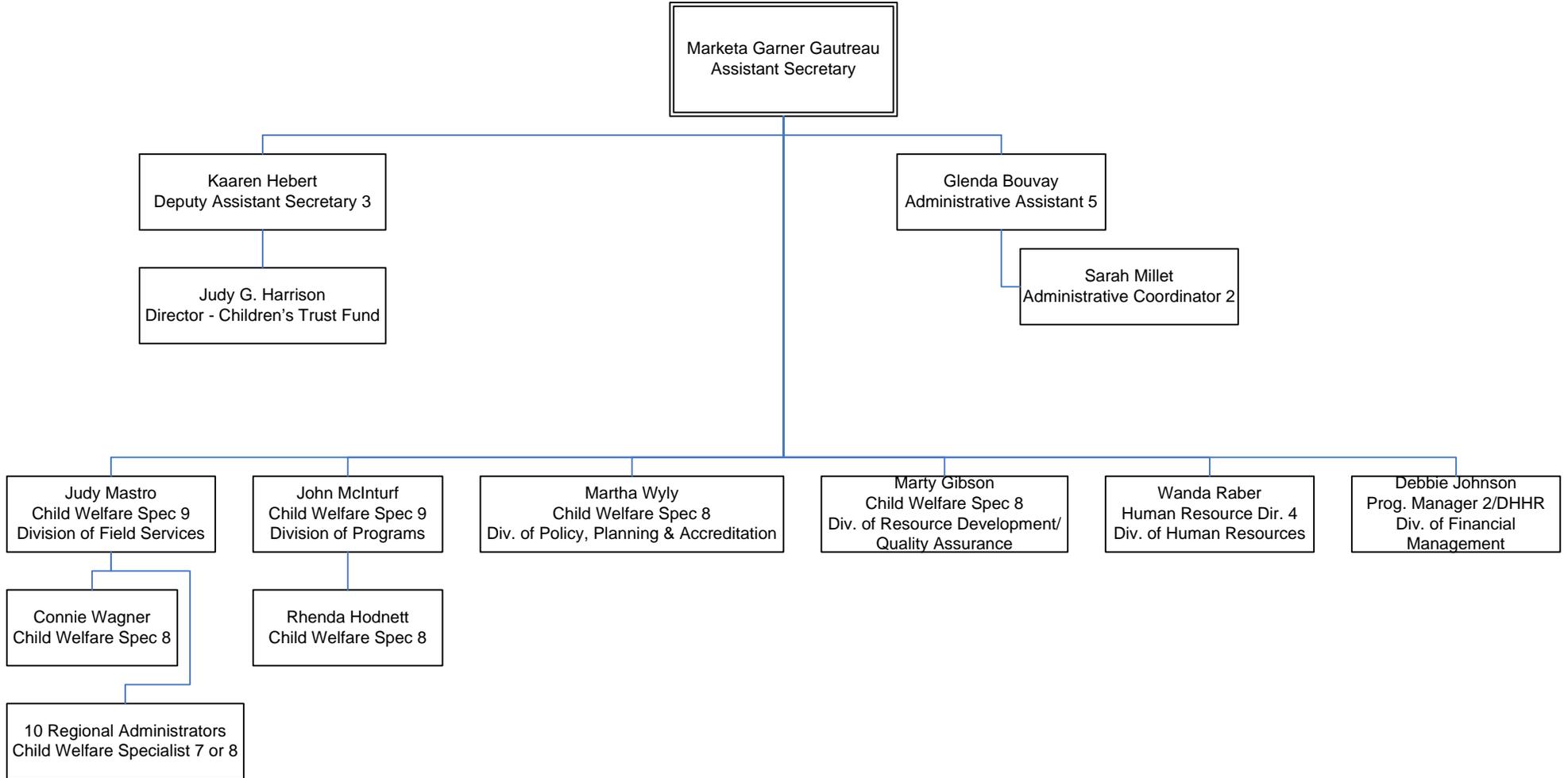
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY



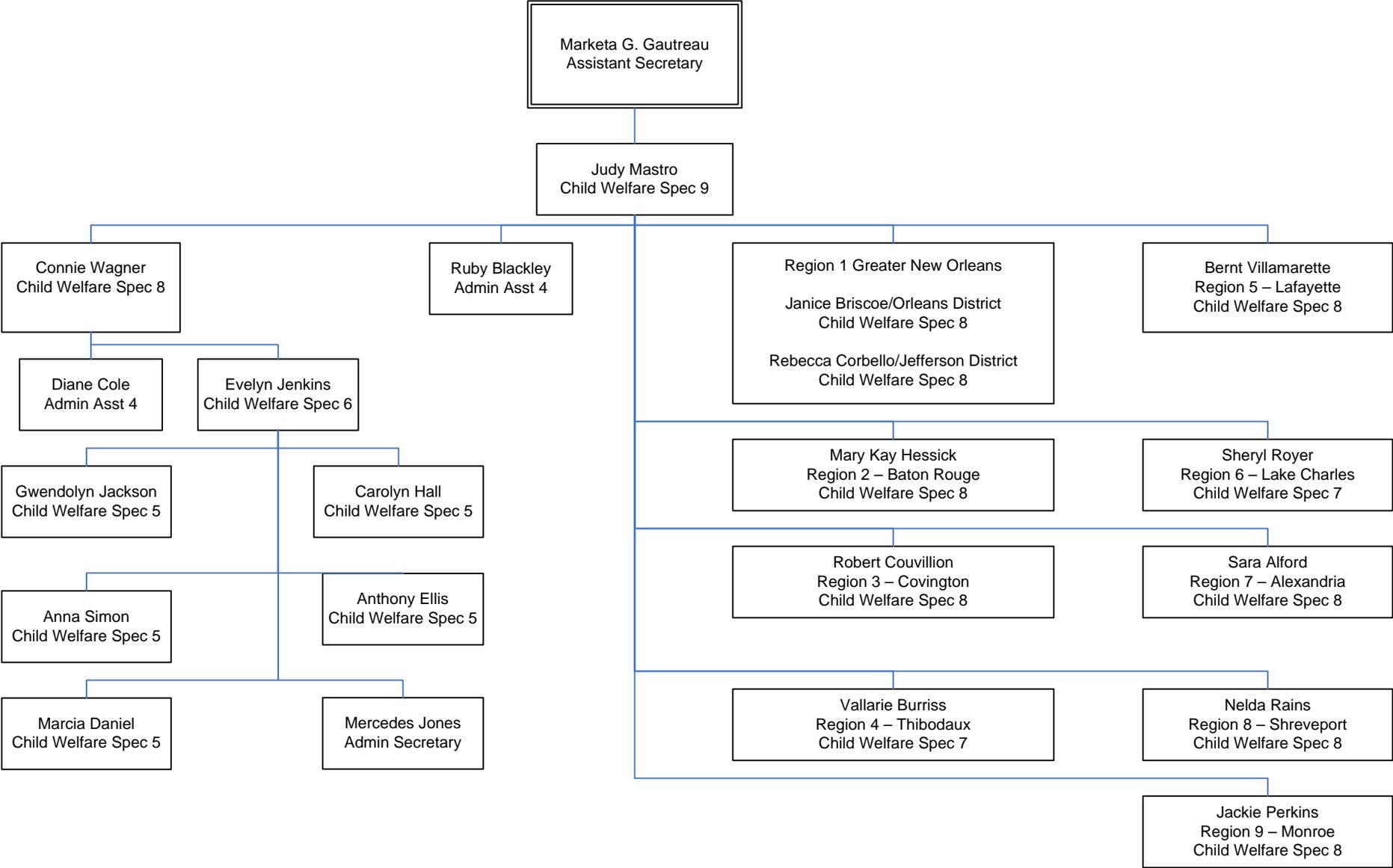
ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S OFFICE



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIVISION OF FIELD SERVICES**



STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

2.0 Quality Improvement

DSS/OCS engages in quality improvement efforts through a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process and a traditional quality assurance (QA) system. In some areas of the state and at the state office level, Quality Improvement (QI) processes came to a halt due to the crisis of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the resulting changes to agency operations. Displaced clients, staff reassignments, the Department's mandate to staff emergency shelters and increased caseloads contributed to the decision to temporarily suspend some CQI processes and QA reviews.

CQI meetings were not held from August 29, 2005 until early 2006 in some areas of the state; however, state level CQI meetings resumed in March 2006. In April 2006 regional offices were directed to resume their CQI meetings/processes and narrow their focus to 2 or 3 broad areas of service delivery. During the months following the storms, our community partners rallied to offer assistance. Church-based and non-profit organizations provided transportation, sheltered thousands of displaced citizens and traveled nationwide on the agency's behalf to ensure the safety and well-being of those served. They also continued to attend stakeholder meetings despite the impact of the hurricanes on their own agencies/organizations.

The Peer Case Review (PCR) process for the 2005-2006 SFY was completed in two regions, but those reviews occurred prior to the storms. Due to staff time and travel costs involved in the PCR process, the agency made the decision to cancel the remainder of scheduled reviews for the 2005-2006 state fiscal year (SFY). The traditional QA reviews (tier two of the agency's peer case review process) continued in most of the state without cessation; however, reviews have not been completed in the Greater New Orleans Region, Orleans and Jefferson Districts, since Hurricane Katrina. Since the agency modeled its peer case review process so closely to the Child and Family Service Review process, corrective action initiated was in alignment with the federal program improvement plan (PIP). Regions have complied with corrective action plans and overall the agency accomplished 82% of the items in the agency's first PIP.

While the agency has returned to some regular business practices, the landscape has changed dramatically. After department wide evaluation and consultation with the Children's Bureau, the Administration for Children and Families, the National Resource Centers and the Council on Accreditation, OCS is working on redefining and refining the organization and service delivery. As a result, the agency will be working toward short-term recovery goals and long-term reform goals. The short-term reform goals are in the agency's renegotiated PIP and the long-term reform goals are included in this document and amend the goals in the 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan.

As part of recovery and reform efforts, both the PCR process and the traditional QA process will be revised to measure the agency's effectiveness in achieving new goals and objectives. The goal is to create a seamless QI process that gathers useable data to inform decision-making and practice. In short, the scope of the QI processes will be reviewed to narrow the focus, to target specific areas of service delivery and to support measurement of the agency's recovery/reform efforts. Until the peer case review and QA processes are revised, the agency will rely on ad hoc case record reviews and traditional QA reviews.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Ad Hoc Case Review

Young Adult Program (YAP) Case Reviews - 100% of YAP cases will be reviewed from May – July 2006. All open YAP cases are being reviewed (approximately 300 cases) to evaluate adherence to policy and appropriate use of this state funded program to meet the needs of youth, as well as consideration of changes which may be needed to the program to more adequately promote independence for youth leaving the foster care system.

Independent Living Services Case Reviews - The review, scheduled for July 2006 – September 2006, is to gain a more complete perspective on how the agency prepares youth for independence and to identify areas needing enhancement. The review will be conducted in every region on a sample of cases of children ages 15 to 17.

Family Services (FS) Case Reviews – QA staff created a FS dataset of currently active FS cases using Web Focus, identified sample FS cases to be reviewed via Microsoft Access, built the case review instrument within the Quality Assurance Tracking System (QATS) to data enter the review instruments and provided data for analysis. An in-depth review of a random sample of 300 FS cases will be conducted in order to identify causative factors in abuse and neglect and assist in the development of prevention services.

Special Board Rate Case Reviews – The review, planned from June-August 2006, will be conducted on a random sample of cases that currently have a special board rate in place for the children. Cases that have had special board rates in place in the past, and cases where there is no special board rate will also be reviewed. The goal is to develop a statewide perspective on the regional conceptualization and utilization of agency policy and corresponding allocation of agency funds for special board rates. The data collected will be utilized to develop a consistent interpretation of agency policies and to provide supportive services to foster parents.

Traditional Quality Assurance Reviews

Regional QA units are currently conducting on-going reviews of Child Protection Investigation (CPI), Family Service (FS) and Foster Care (FC)/Adoption (AD) cases in all regions except the Greater New Orleans Region. QA case reviews are expected to resume in the Greater New Orleans region in July 2006. The chart below outlines the number of cases reviewed in each program area and in PCR:

Instrument	Number of Cases Reviewed – SFY 2004-05
Child Protection Investigation QA 1	2137
Family Services QA 1	1498
Case Compliance Review (FC/AD cases)	7141
Foster Care/Adoption QA 1	1475
Peer Case Review	207

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Quality Improvement for 2006 and Beyond

Staff and CQI teams will use data gathered from QA case reviews and ad hoc reviews (and PCR reviews once the process is restructured and resumed) to inform decision-making. CQI teams will continue to accept referrals from staff and stakeholders and involve community partners in CQI processes statewide. Stakeholder involvement will be achieved through meetings, focus groups and customer satisfaction surveys.

As the agency begins to look at restructuring the peer case review process and the QA review process, workgroups will be convened to review the current instruments, to assess the available data and to identify gaps in the review processes and data. The PCR committee will work to narrow the focus of case reviews, ensure that qualitative data is obtained, target areas needing improvement and/or new areas requiring measurement, gather baseline data and ensure that the process continues to include stakeholder focus groups and cross-regional review.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

3.0 Baseline Data/Performance Measures

The agency measures its performance through a Quality Improvement process that includes a multi-tiered Peer Case Review (PCR) process. This process provides an opportunity for self-analysis and an in-depth examination of caseworker practice and child and family outcomes.

The following chart provides baseline data on performance/outcome measures for safety, permanency and well being measured through the PCR process in SFY 2004 – 2005. A total of 207 cases were reviewed.

NOTE: PCR data listed below includes data from reviews completed in SFY 2004-2005. In SFY 2005-2006, the agency will not have a complete year's worth of PCR data due to the temporary cessation of PCR after the hurricanes.

Peer Case Review
Statewide Report/State Fiscal Year 2004 - 2005

Item Reviewed	Percent of Cases in Compliance
SECTION I: SAFETY	
Outcome Safety 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	
Item 1. Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment	60.9%
Item 2. Repeat Maltreatment	90.5%
Outcome Safety 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.	
Item 3. Services to family to protect child (ren) in home and prevent remove.	93.1%
SECTION II: PERMANENCY	
Outcome Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.	
Item 6. Stability of foster care placement	69.6%
Item 7. Permanency goal for child	92.2%

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Item Reviewed	Percent of Cases in Compliance
Item 9. Adoption – Complete only for children with a current or most recent permanency goal of adoption.	31.0%
Item 10. Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement.	75.0%
Outcome Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.	
Item 15. Relative Placement	81.8%
SECTION III: CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING	
Outcome Well-Being 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.	
Item 17. Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents.	88.3%
Item 18. Child and family involvement in case planning.	78.6%
Item 19. Worker visits with child	81.3%
Item 20. Worker visits with parent(s)	72.9%
Outcome Well-Being 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.	
Item 21. Educational needs of the child	85.0%
Outcome Well-Being 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.	
Item 23. Mental Health of the child.	86.8%
UNIVERSAL QUESTIONS	
Item 24. When necessary, interpreters or translators utilized to promote effective communication in the provision of services to the family?	100%

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Item Reviewed	Percent of Cases in Compliance
Item 25. Were consents and release of confidentiality waivers obtained when necessary during the provision of services to the family?	94.0%
Item 26. For all closed cases in CPI, FS, and FC, is there documentation to support planning with the biological family to access services or resources available in the family system or community if needed to prevent recurrence of the abuse or neglect in the future?	75.7%
Item 27. For all finalized adoptions, is there documentation to support planning with the adoptive family to access services or resources available in the family system or community if needed to support and maintain the adoptive placement?	97.7%

Analysis of Baseline Data/Performance Measures

In the 2005 APSR, OCS reported baseline data/performance measures on safety, permanency and well-being outcomes. That data, covering state fiscal year (SFY) 2003-2004, was obtained from the peer case review (PCR) process. Each year, approximately 300 cases are reviewed statewide. In 2003-2004, the process involved case record reviews using a CFSR-like review instrument, staff and stakeholder interviews and stakeholder focus groups. In 2004-2005 the review process was revised by eliminating staff and stakeholder interviews and by focusing on areas needing improvement as determined by results from previous case reviews. The chart below compares some data elements from SFY 2003-2004 and 2004-2005; however, due to the changes in the review process/instruments, some data elements have been combined in an attempt to measure progress against baseline figures. When items have been combined, the compliance percentage and the percentage of cases with areas rated as a strength have been averaged. The items used to obtain the figures are noted in the corresponding column.

Outcome/Item Measured	2003-2004 compliance percentage	2004-2005 percentage of cases with areas rated as a strength
Timeliness of initiating an investigation	68.6% (S2 & S3)	60.9% (Item 1)
Repeat maltreatment	82.1% (S10)	90.5% (Item 2)
Children have permanency and	77.0%	80.9%

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Outcome/Item Measured	2003-2004 compliance percentage	2004-2005 percentage of cases with areas rated as a strength
stability in their living situation	(P5, P7, P8, P11)	(Item 6 & 7)
Continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children	82.8% (P2, P3, P4, P5, P5, P14, P15)	81.8% (Item 15)
Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents	83.6% (WB13, WB14, WB15 & WB 16)	88.3 % (Item 17)
Child & family involvement in case planning	78.3% (WB5, WB6, WB7 & WB8)	78.6% (Item 18)
Worker visits with child	70.0% (WB9)	81.3% (Item 19)
Worker visits with parent(s)	43.4% (WB10, WB11)	72.9% (Item 20)
Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs	77.9% (WB17, WB18, WB19, WB20)	85.0% (Item 21)
Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs	87.1% (WB21, WB22, WB23, WB24, WB25, WB26, WB27, WB28, WB29 & WB 30)	86.8% (Item 23)

Based on the data presented above, the agency increased compliance in seven areas of service delivery. In the areas of repeat maltreatment, worker visits with child and parent(s) and children receiving the appropriate services to meet their educational needs the agency shows significant improvement. Two items indicate a slight decrease in compliance, while compliance regarding timeliness of initiating an investigation shows a decrease from 68.6% to 60.9%. Overall, the agency showed improvement in outcomes for children and families in the cases reviewed in 2004-2005.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Title IV-E Eligibility Review and Program Improvement Plan

On July 26–30, 2004, a joint federal-state eligibility review of Louisiana’s Title IV-E Foster Care Program was conducted. The review was conducted to determine compliance with the child and provider eligibility requirements, and to validate the accuracy of Louisiana’s IV-E claims for claims made during October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004. Of the 80 cases reviewed, five were determined to be ineligible. The reasons for ineligibility included: (1) Two cases involved the failure of residential facilities to obtain the results of criminal record clearances on all employees; (2) One case involved a delay in the re-certification of the foster home, and (3) Two cases involved the use of residential provisional licenses.

The review also identified the following strengths: timely judicial determinations, well documented certifications of foster homes, well organized case files, improved permanency outcomes for children, good placement stability, court orders contained appropriate language, well documented eligibility determinations, and implementation of uniform courts orders by Office of Youth Development (OYD).

Based on the five ineligible cases, Louisiana developed a program improvement plan to address the three areas of ineligibility. The IV-E program improvement plan is a collaborative process of the Bureau of Licensing, OYD, and OCS to correct the findings noted during the review. Due to the hurricanes that affected the state, Louisiana made a request to ACF to make changes to the PIP. Additionally, some of the items in the PIP required legislative changes. The IV-E PIP will be implemented May 9, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

Many items in the PIP have been met. Licensing no longer uses “provisional” licenses and there are more systems of review to assure criminal history checks are conducted before facility staff begins to work with children. Extensions for home development certifications have been put into Bureau of Licensing and OCS policy, increasing the certification period up to three years.

Additionally, the original timeframe for the second review was changed to the end of 2007. OCS has requested the second review be conducted the week of September 17, 2007. The period under review will be October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007. During the second review, 150 cases will be reviewed. In order to pass this review, there must be less than 10 cases found ineligible, or less than 10% erroneous financial claims. OCS will be reviewing all cases using a modified Title IV-E review instrument to help assure we meet all criteria for the review.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

4.0 Community Consultation and Collaboration

The agency continues to seek input from stakeholders for development of the plan and improvement of agency services. The following information details actions taken to obtain and use input from stakeholders:

- The Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) is available for review in regional offices, the state library and its 31 repositories statewide and on-line on the DSS Intranet.
- The John H. Chafee Independence Program was reviewed by stakeholders along with the APSR. Comments received were complimentary and no recommendations for improvement were made.
- Federal stakeholder consultation on January 31, February 1, February 2 and March 17, April 19, June 16 and June 20, 2006 to discuss plan development and review long term reform efforts/goals and the training portion of the plan.
- A public hearing was held on June 1, 2006. Notice of the hearing was published in the Potpourri section of the Louisiana Register and in seven newspapers statewide. No one attended the hearing.
- Consumer and Community/Stakeholder Committee meetings continue to be held on a quarterly basis and participants were asked to participate in APSR development.
- Social Service Directors of the four federally recognized tribes were contacted and asked to participate in APSR development/review.
- Focus groups were held in the Lake Charles and Covington Regions.
- Customer satisfaction surveys continue to be administered in OCS offices statewide.
- Citizen Review Panels are established in 5 areas of the state and panels continue to meet.
- Collaboration with the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund/Community Based Family Resource and Support continues with the agency and community providers.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

5.0 Louisiana Children's Trust Fund 2005 Annual Report

The majority of Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant (CBCAP) activities in the following report occurred prior to the hurricanes; however, the report also reflects activities funded with CBCAP funds after the storms and contains updates on the statewide network of services.

Outreach and Special Populations

One of the primary uses of the CBCAP funds was the growth of the statewide child abuse and neglect prevention network. This expansion included not only expanding to rural areas where services were previously unavailable, but also the growth of new services to under-served populations. Through contracts with Louisiana State University and Southern University Cooperative Extension Services programs reached rural and grassroots populations. Parenting classes and support groups, mental health outreach programs and respite services were some of the funded programs.

The church based grassroots network included Free Mission Church, Way Makers Ministry, Glory House and St. Catherine=s Community Center. They provided after school care and tutoring, the nurturing program as well as ADads@ programs. Often these church programs would also provide outreach of their programs. One of the ADads@ programs was offered in a barbershop setting in order to reach the population they were serving. Both Way Makers and Free Mission had extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina. Way Makers is rebuilding, but Free Mission will have to be destroyed.

The Friendship House offered by Shreveport and Bossier Community Renewal Program was also a church based program. The Friendship House was a house in an at-risk, high crime area that has been restored as a safe home for children to go to after school. Community agencies such as Girl and Boy Scouts, Big Brothers/Sisters, the Arts Council and the Shreveport Opera and Symphony offered after school programs at the Friendship House. Another church based program was the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

Family resource centers continued to grow across the state delivering a multitude of services. Churches, community action agencies, high schools, YWCA=s, United Way programs, family service agencies, parish hospitals, children=s coalitions and universities all developed family resource centers to meet the needs of the children and families of their geographic areas of the state. During the immediate days after the hurricanes, family resource centers were the true

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

lifeline of services for those impacted by the storms. Before FEMA or the Red Cross responded, the resource centers were serving the families and children.

Population Served	Number Served
Children taught life skills and safety	63,616
Parents provided education and support	12,502
Families furnished hospital and/or home visitation	4,810
Adults given public awareness and education	1,804,197
Professionals and volunteers trained	3,369

There were 253 programs funded at a total amount of \$877,155.55. The total population served was 1,168,494 at a cost of \$.75 per person/family.

Some of the LCTF programs that targeted at risk populations included mental health outreach and parenting support groups through the Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Life Skills Training and Dad Training for Incarcerated Offenders; Life Skills Training for adolescents in runaway shelters; mother and children programs in domestic violence shelters; and Safe Place Visitation and Exchange Centers.

There were also programs that were offered to parents and children with disabilities. Some programs that continue to be offered by the LCTF are the Family Resource Center by Extra Mile and Families Can't Wait support group by Families Helping Families. Both of these programs also included respite services. This past year the Families Can't Wait program added a mental health support component. Two new programs this year included a rural outreach program offered by the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) and an autism support program and summer camp by the Family and Youth Counseling Agency.

Training, Technical Assistance and Evaluation

Grant writing workshops continued to be offered to all potential grantees prior to the grant due date. Continued technical assistance and support was offered, beginning with an annual meeting for all grantees. The assistance included help with grant reporting, evaluation procedures and public relations assistance for grassroots organizations. Through the LCTF website, materials are offered and updated throughout the year.

Online program evaluation reports were done for the final program evaluation report for FY 2004-2005. Grantees were given online training at the annual LCTF meeting in the fall prior to the reporting date. The Louisiana Association of Non-profits (LANO) provided additional training to the grantees. The LCTF underwrote these trainings with assistance of CBCAP funds. The trainings topics were financial management and marketing and communications.

STATE OF LOUISIANA 2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

The training activities included LCTF programs and support of other organizations= conferences and workshops. Stipends were awarded to participants who could not afford to attend. Stipends recipients included LCTF providers as well as clients.

The LCTF played an active role in the development of two evaluation data plans for the state of Louisiana. The Early Childhood Comprehensive System Strategic Plan (ECCSSP) is an integral part of the development of improved delivery of services to the early childhood population. The LCTF served on the advisory board as well as the Parent Education and Family Support working committees. An outcome of the ECCSSP is the quality rating system for statewide childcare. The LCTF has been involved in the development of quality care for children.

Peer Review and Parent Leadership

The peer review process provided input into needs assessment, program planning, implementation and evaluation and program review and outcomes. The peer review network was also used in reviewing potential grants for funding from the LCTF. The primary concerns of the peer review process were peer satisfaction and strengths/weaknesses of services.

The peer review process for LCTF was further developed with a three-tiered approach. The three tiers were service providers, stakeholders and consumers/parents. The process included statewide meetings hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL). These meetings explored what works and what does not work as well as trends that participants were observing.

Parents also played an important role in determining programs funded by the LCTF. A parent has served ex-officio on the LCTF Board. The parent representative has provided insightful information in understanding the needs of parents served. The LCTF Executive Director and the parent representative planned to attend the Parents As Leaders training, but because of the hurricanes, were unable to attend.

Another parent leadership program funded with CBCAP was the Circle of Parents program. The training was offered in Louisiana through the partnership of PCAL and with the FRIENDS resource-training grant. With so many families relocated to trailer villages statewide, it was felt that parent support groups were needed. Developing parent leaders to represent the needs of others living in these villages was a primary goal.

Advocacy and Systematic Change

As mentioned earlier, the LCTF served on the Advisory Board of the Early Childhood Comprehensive System. LCTF has continued to serve on the Governor=s Children=s Cabinet Advisory Board, LANO Policy Advisory Committee and several Hurricane Relief Networks. LCTF=s Executive Director testified before the Legislative Select Committee on Women and Children regarding the affect of the storms on children, families and the LCTF agencies serving those populations. Many of the LCTF providers lost their homes and were struggling to maintain their agencies.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

The LCTF also funded the formation of a new network of family service agencies known as the Louisiana Partnership of Families and Children. This partnership was the combining of two agencies: the Alliance of Children and Families and You Who, Inc. The Alliance membership was agencies primarily involved in providing services, and You Who=s membership was primarily child advocates from across the state. The combining of these two agencies will develop a stronger partnership focusing on the needs of children and families statewide. The primary target for membership has been the local children=s coalition developing in communities throughout the state. The LCTF provided input into the development of both the PIP and the IV-B plans. The relationship between the Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Adoption and Safe Families Act programs and the LCTF has been one of active collaboration and support. The LCTF has participated in the development of all three programs and continued to coordinate services and support programs for the children and families of these programs.

Public Awareness, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Innovative Funding

The LCTF=s “How Are the Children@ public awareness campaign was introduced to the LCTF grantees at the annual fall meeting. Materials were developed for the grantees throughout the year and they were able to access and download them from the LCTF website (www.lctf.org). The trust fund participated in several awareness events. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Chapter held the Grand Rally on the steps of the capitol and the Jefferson Youth Foundation held a “Spank Out@ day. The Baton Rouge newspaper ran a six-day series on child abuse and neglect during the month of April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Other activities held during April included recognition luncheons, public awareness fairs and family fun days.

The LCTF Prime Time for Parents “The Kidformation Hour@ weekly radio program continued throughout the year. Clear Channel Communications’ Kids Fest proceeds went toward the continued funding of the radio show. This year the LCTF focused on healthy kids at the fest. Children were weighed and measured and given pedometers. Parents were given their child’s weight and measurements and the kids were provided with information on walking and burning calories. As part of the event, Blue Cross collaborated with the LCTF and had the Human Body exhibit where children could actually walk through a large replica the human body.

In addition to the funds raised from the Kids Fest, the LCTF also continued with its Safe Kids License Plates. This license plate fundraising mechanism is also a public awareness campaign for the LA Safe Kids Coalition. Additionally, the Mercy River Boys, a southern blue grass singing quartet, donated 10% of the proceeds from their Louisiana concerts to the LCTF after learning of the trust fund from the website.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

6.0 Indian Child Welfare Act and Tribal Collaboration

Louisiana has four federally recognized American Indian Tribes. The American Indian population of these tribes is 0.57% of the total population of Louisiana.

Federal Tribes

Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
(St. Mary Parish)
P.O. Box 661
Charenton, LA 70523
(337) 923-7215
Al Leblanc, Chairman

Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
(Allen Parish)
P.O. Box 968
Elton, LA 70532
(337) 584-2261
Lovelin Poncho, Chairman

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
(Avoyelles Parish)
P.O. Box 331
Marksville, LA 71351
(318) 253-9767
Earl Barbry, Chairman

Jena Band of Choctaw of Louisiana
(Grant, Rapides, & LaSalle Parishes)
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342
(318) 992-2717
Christine Norris, Chairman

On-Going Collaboration/Coordination with American Indian Tribes

- OCS has policies and practices governing the identification of American Indian children, case planning, service delivery, family preservation and family support services. Policy also addresses tribal notifications, tribal jurisdiction, and foster care placement, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive placement and adoptive placement.
- Respect for and protection of the cultural heritage and best interest of American Indians.
- Ongoing staff training on the exclusive rights of American Indian Tribes such as notices of state proceedings and special preference for the placement of American Indian children.
- Formal and informal working agreements with American Indian Tribes.
- Ongoing relationship with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs.
- Ongoing American Indian participation on the OCS Community and Consumers/Stakeholder Committee.
- Tribal participation in regional Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) processes.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

- Request for participation in the development of the 2006 APSR.
- Inclusion of American Indian Tribal staff in regularly scheduled OCS training.

Louisiana's policies and procedures cover the basic provisions of ICWA. They are as follows as follows:

First, OCS policy requires that staff identifies children who are American Indian. In early 2005, the social service directors expressed concern that some children are not initially being identified as American Indian. Lake Charles Regional office in particular has done a great deal of work with the Coushatta Tribe of Elton to improve communication and ensure that American Indian children are identified early on and that communication is open throughout the child's involvement with the agency. Additionally, the Court Improvement Project has developed bench cards for judges to use to help them to identify American Indian children early on in court proceedings.

Second, OCS is working to build relationships with American Indian tribes via the CQI process. Hopefully, by extending the relationship between the agency and tribes to this area of agency functioning the agency will improve communication with tribes on important matters such as notification of family team conferences and court hearings. Tribal participation in the CQI process also provides an opportunity for OCS staff and tribal representatives to meet and develop relationships.

Third, OCS policy recognizes the special placement preferences for American Indian children. Nonetheless, problems have arisen over foster parent and kinship placements with American Indian families. One problem is described as dual certification; that is, both OCS and a tribe have certified a family to foster. OCS has shown a hesitation to place children in dually certified homes. Another issue has been that some American Indian families have been denied certification to foster or adopt based on their inability to meet some licensing standards. OCS planned to look into these issues and clarify policy on these matters by November 2005; however, was unable to do so after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The issue has again been brought before program staff.

Fourth, the Agency seeks to provide services to prevent the breakup of American Indian families. Limitations exist in the availability of services, particularly since the tribes are located in rural areas. Overall, the agency is working toward building a continuum of services that focuses on prevention and the preservation of the family unit.

Fifth, OCS recognizes in policy the right of tribal courts and their jurisdiction. Tribal directors noted that normally the tribal courts allow the local state courts to proceed. However, it was noted that they feel OCS needs to provide their courts with more information for them to make informed decisions. Further, there are situations where the tribal court has decided a child needs to be in care and there are no available American Indian foster parents. Tribes would like to retain jurisdiction while the child is placed in an OCS foster home. It is hoped that through the participation of tribal representatives on regional CQI teams that these types of issues can be

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

discussed and resolved in a manner that is satisfactory to tribes and the agency while serving the best interest of the children and families.

As OCS works to carry out ICWA policy and provide comprehensive child welfare services that meet the needs of all families including the needs of American Indian families. OCS plans to continue consultation with the tribes to address the issues discussed in the April 2005 meeting. The follow up meeting planned for November 2005 at the Coshatta Indian reservation was cancelled due to Hurrricanes Katrina and Rita. The agency is planning to reschedule this meeting at a later date.

Additionally, the agency assures the maintenance of a statewide information system (currently Tracking Information Payment System [TIPS]) that contains demographic data and case information for every child in foster care (including American Indian children) as well as a case review system, and a service program designed to improve the safety, permanency and well being of children served by the child welfare system.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

7.0 Court Improvement Project

The information below details efforts of the Court Improvement Project (CIP) in SFY 2005 – 2006 and provides updates on the implementation of the recommendations developed from the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) site visits and the final report.

- Court delays and ensuring adequacy of hearings.

Update: With respect to reducing delays and ensuring the adequacy of hearings and court orders, the CIP, with the advice and counsel of its Advisory Committee, continues the work of drafting uniform court rules for child in need of care cases. These model rules are made available to local courts for modification and voluntary adoption in the form of local rules.

The Louisiana Task Force on Legal Representation in child protection proceedings is addressing access to qualified, competent legal counsel for children. This group, created by state legislation in 2003 and later re-authorized, consists of representatives from the CIP, the state child welfare agency, the Louisiana Bar Association, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Louisiana law schools, and other child welfare stakeholders. The Task Force has completed work on a set of attorney standards for attorneys representing children. These standards were presented to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which adopted them in the form of a rule, which became effective July 1, 2005.

The CIP continues to partner and collaborate with CASA to provide regional training opportunities statewide for child welfare stakeholders, including attorneys, CASA, agency staff, foster parents, judges and others. The curriculum includes state and federal law and regulations, early childhood and adolescent development and training on relevant court rules and procedures.

Other issues are still being considered by the Child Advocacy Resource Efforts (CARE) Advisory Committee that bases revisions to its strategic plan on the 2005 reassessment report and activities in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- Attorney standards

Update: The attorney standards for representation of children were adopted by rule of the Louisiana Supreme Court, effective July 1, 2005.

- Status of the Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System (IJJIS)

Update: The CIP has contracted with Integrated Information Systems to write the software for the new web-based Child in Need of Care module of the Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System. The design specifications are available for review. Pilot testing is expected to begin during the summer of 2006.

- Curriculum for continuing education of judges

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Update: Various training opportunities for the continuing education of judges will include state and federal law and regulations, early and/or adolescent childhood development, information on the new standards for attorneys representing children, best practices for improved court performance regarding Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) implementation, introduction to the Bench Cards for Essential Judicial Functions and other topics as indicated. CIP staff present at most judicial conferences, including the spring and fall judges conferences. In addition, judges will be invited and encouraged to attend the 2006 “Together We Can” conference that will consist of 6 hours of continuing legal education in the area of dependency law and ethics.

- **Mediation Pilot Program**

Update: Major grant funding for the Mediation Pilot ended June 30, 2005. The CIP is working with the two pilot sites to ensure continuation of the programs. To date, the program has served over 100 children and families and has met or exceeded all of its initial goals. Both Orleans and Jefferson Parish Juvenile Courts have agreed to provide continued support beyond the pilot period. The CIP is working to expand the program into other state courts. The evaluation was successfully completed and is available for review. Of particular note is one finding that showed that in cases sent to mediation prior to disposition, 73% of cases achieved permanency within one year, as opposed to only 44% of cases that followed the traditional litigation route.

- **Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)/Program Improvement Plan (PIP)**

Update: The CIP is responsible for two elements of Louisiana’s first PIP. The first, the promulgation and implementation of practice standards for attorneys representing children, has been successfully completed. The other, the development of a training and education package for judges, lawyers and other child welfare stakeholders, is in process and going smoothly. Out of this effort has come the Children’s Law Advocacy Resource Online (CLARO), which is a collaborative effort of many stakeholders, including OCS and Loyola University School of Law, which as agreed to host the website on its system.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

8.0 Children's Justice Act

The activities and accomplishments outlined in this section represent work done in the 2005 – 2006 SFY.

- Sponsored the statewide “Together We Can” child welfare conference in June 2006. The conference provided seminar tracks for lawyers, social workers, and law enforcement personnel. Over 300 persons participated. They included judges, district attorneys, multi-disciplinary team professionals, OCS program and legal staff, and community representatives who deal with the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.
- Conducted a Children's Justice Act Retreat/Conference in March 2006 to fulfill the three-year assessment requirement of the CJA Grant. This planning and assessment included the participation of judges, district attorneys, multi-disciplinary team professionals, DSS, and the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). OCS program and legal staff, children and parent service providers/advocates and community representatives also participated.
- Aided the Louisiana CASA Association by providing training and assistance to local CASA programs. Over 3,111 children were represented by CASA.
- Assisted the Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) of Louisiana in providing training and assistance to local CAC's. Provided funding for five newly developed or expanding CACs where child friendly forensic interviews are conducted. Over 1,500 children were interviewed in a CAC setting.
- Provided funding for a Mediation Pilot Project in the Orleans and Jefferson Parish Juvenile Courts to demonstrate the efficacy of this form of alternative dispute resolution in reducing the average length of stay of children in foster care. The project provided mediations for 189 cases and has trained 50 qualified juvenile mediators.
- Provided funding for training sessions for OCS staff and support personnel in the “Family Group Decision Making” model. This model promotes the development of case plans with more family input to achieve better outcomes. Over 266 persons received the training.
- Provided funding to coordinate the Louisiana Child Death Review Panels in North Louisiana. There were 23 panels that reviewed over 51 child deaths.
- Helped to sponsor research of the child protection system to make recommendations regarding laws dealing with child abuse.
- Monitored 15 CJA funded contracts and conducted on-site reviews to ensure compliance with grant guidelines and to promote quality services.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

9.0 Technical Assistance

The Federal Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), makes available to states an array of national child welfare resource centers whose purpose is to provide states with training and technical assistance (T/TA) and to implement PIP related projects. During the report period, Louisiana only used one day of T/TA prior to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In close coordination with ACF Regional Office, Amy Grissom, federal program officer, the agency requested TA in FFY 04-05. On July 19, 2005 the agency received assistance from the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning in looking at the agency’s core principles, assessment forms and purpose of the assessment forms and the purpose of assessment forms.

Once the agency was able to regroup after the initial crisis of the hurricanes, the agency worked with the Federal Children’s Bureau, ACF and NRCs to develop the following technical assistance plan.

LOUISIANA DSS/OCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN
Recovery (Short Term)

OUTCOME	ACTIVITY (TA)	NRC LEAD	LA LEAD
Safety	Analyze current CPS Re: Increase in children entering care	NRC for Child Protective Services	Cindy Phillips
Permanency	Locate biological families Parent Locator Service	NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning NRC Legal and Judicial Issues	John McInturf
Permanency	Recruit/retain foster family homes	NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning Adopt Us Kids	Joseph Bruno
Permanency	Develop training on advocating for children/families in the context of Katrina-protocols/values/decision making	NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning	Kaaren Hebert
Permanency	Revise licensing policy (consultation)	NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning	Marty Gibson
Permanency	Develop ICPC protocols	Adopt Us Kids	Rhenda Hodnett
Permanency Well-Being	Maintain/expand service continuum for youth	NRC for Youth Development	Kaaren Hebert & Joseph Bruno
Permanency	Assist with cultural competency supervising practices	NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency	Patsy Johnson, Connie Wagner & John McInturf

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

OUTCOME	ACTIVITY (TA)	NRC LEAD	LA LEAD
		Planning	
QA	Target QA system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify what is to be measured - Redefine roles & responsibilities of QA staff (efficiency) - Expand use of QA 	NRC for Organizational Improvement	Martha Wyly, Marty Gibson & Joel McLain
Safety Permanency Well-Being	Develop general online training curriculum on Legal and Judicial Processes for lawyers, judges, OCS administrators, supervisors, and stakeholders (foster parents, CASA)	NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues NRC for Organizational Improvement	Mark Harris, Marty Gibson & Jan Byland
Safety Permanency and Well-Being	Develop video training on 148	NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues	Mark Harris, Cindy Phillips & Candace LeBlanc
Safety Permanency and Well-Being	Develop training on how to advocate for children and families in the context of Katrina (values, decision making, protocols)	NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning with NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues	Mark Harris & Kaaren Hebert
Safety Permanency Well-Being	Develop Child Law Centers (Legislation changes, design and start-up implementation)	NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues	Mark Harris & Marty Gibson
Safety Permanency And Well-Being	Assist with identification of alternative resources	NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues NRC on Organization Improvement	Mark Harris & Marketa Gautreau
Safety Permanency	Expand needs assessment re: legal representation	NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues	Mark Harris
Safety Permanency	Help for expedited development of automated judicial case management system	NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues	Mark Harris
Safety and Permanency	Legal research Re: ICPC	NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues	Mark Harris & Rhenda Hodnett
Safety Permanency and Well Being	Hurricane Recovery for staff and client services	NRC on Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning	Kaaren Hebert

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

REFORM (Long-Term)

OUTCOME	ACTIVITY (TA)	NRC LEAD	LA LEAD
Safety	CPI Intake Re-design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structured Decision-making - Assessment Model Centralized / Specialized Intake 	NRC for Child Protective Services	Cindy Phillips
Safety Permanency and Well-Being Service Array	Continuum of Services Prevention Re-design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review System of Care Models - Visit El Paso County, Colorado (step down services, contracting, interagency collaboration, etc.) 	NRC for Organizational Improvement NRC for Children's Mental Health Friends NRC	Rhenda Hodnett
Safety Permanency and Well-Being Service Array	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate current family assessments re: needs - Analyze assessment data (agency & parish) - Analyze service array - Design continuum of services 	NRC for Organization Improvement w/ NRC for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and NRC for Information Technology	Rhenda Hodnett
Safety Permanency and Well-Being	Assist in development of service continuum	NRC for Organizational Improvement NRC for Family Centered Practice and NRC for Protective Service	Rhenda Hodnett

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

10.0 Research and Evaluation

OCS has identified several needs that are in the process of being addressed in the area of research and evaluation. These are summarized as follows:

The agency entered into an agreement with the Governor's Office of Workforce Commission to participate in a data-sharing project called Louisiana's Inter-agency Performance Data System (LIPDS). This project matches case level data from different agencies, including the Department of Corrections, Board of Regents (higher education), Department of Labor, and other programs within DSS. The data-sharing project allows OCS to obtain information about the prevalence of former foster care youth in these other systems. The initial data match was broad and included all former foster care youth who had reached at least their 25th birthday by the time of the data sharing. It is anticipated that subsets of the previous foster care population can be analyzed to enable a comparison of outcomes for youth based on specific characteristics of their foster care experience (i.e., multiple foster care episodes, aging out versus permanent placement, foster care exit from residential versus family setting). This process will allow OCS to gain some insight into what happens when foster care youth in Louisiana reach adulthood.

The agency completed some preliminary analysis of youth in residential treatment centers to assist with future planning, refocusing, and development of placement resources. Administrative data was reviewed to explore several characteristics, including: the number of youth whose first placement was a restrictive care setting; youth who experienced only restrictive care settings during a foster care episode, age categories of youth with restrictive care experience, and TPR status of youth with restrictive care experience.

The agency is in the process of developing regional level data reports in which QA outcomes and program demographics are synthesized with PIP outcome measures and community characteristics (i.e., poverty level, school attendance) to support regional management staff in addressing needs of client populations.

The agency has initiated several exploratory evaluation projects. These include:

1. An assessment of Family Services cases to inform decisions about more effective focusing of resources on prevention and intervention strategies.
2. A 100% review of Young Adult Program (YAP) cases to evaluate compliance with policy and to identify needed policy and service revisions.
3. A stratified sample review of youth age 15-17 to evaluate independent living services for foster youth
4. A stratified sample review of cases with special board authorizations to evaluate policy implementation and possible revisions.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

11.0 Information Management System

The DSS envisions the development of an enterprise system using a framework software approach to support the business activities of the Department. The approach is referred to as A Comprehensive Enterprise Social Services System (ACCESS). The Department initiated a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS) project in the fall of 2000 and developed a detail design over the subsequent two years. As the Department began to assess the best way to approach the development of the design, DSS discovered that much of the enhanced functionality being sought was also needed and appropriate to other program areas. An approach was developed in accordance with the Technology Master Plan issued by the Louisiana Office of the Chief Information Officer that would use a commercially available off the shelf product as the base for developing ACCESS. Efforts were undertaken to modify the federally approved SACWIS Advanced Planning Document to include the new approach. Over the last year, a team from the Child Welfare, TANF, Child Care, Fiscal Services, and Information Services sections of DSS have been working on planning activities directed towards the development of ACCESS.

NOTE: System wide goal 2, action step 1 and the corresponding benchmark from the 2004-2009 Child and Family Service Plan are addressed in this section.

DSS is evaluating current system function with respect to Increment 2 function to determine the impacts on the current project timeline and develop a go-forward strategy for completing the remaining Increment 1 work efforts. Effective January 18, 2006, activities for Increment 2 Requirements and Design were suspended indefinitely due to budget constraints resulting from the recent disasters.

The ongoing User Acceptance Testing (UAT) process is continuing to assure all identified functional defects within the scope of the Increment 1 phase of ACCESS have been tracked and corrected. Testing is also being done to ensure that all changes in current system function required to accommodate the CPI Intake screening and CPI Investigation business processes have been successfully completed and functionally proven prior to release of the ACCESS software for pilot. All observations that result in questions regarding system function will be recorded and evaluated with respect to the CPI Intake Screening through CPI Investigation Case completion business processes. User impact for possible inclusion for repair or change prior to system release for pilot, as applicable is also being evaluated.

ACCESS project efforts regarding Case Management/Service Plan functionality for Foster Care, Prevention and Family Services and Adoption programs have progressed through the Increment 2 requirements and design phase. The business need requirements of these activities have been defined and a software design model within the context of the existing, Increment 1, ACCESS software architecture has been developed. The commencement date for development, test and implementation of the ACCESS software to support this functionality has yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, the agency continues to operate under its current information management system (i.e. Tracking Information Payment System [TIPS]).

12. Child Welfare Continuum

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Service components of the Louisiana Child and Family Service System are focused on both short and long-term goals as they relate to an effective and accountable child welfare system. Services are provided statewide in all regional and parish offices. Major service components include:

1. **Child Protection Services** – include skilled, prompt and sensitive intake services to reports of abuse and neglect in families, foster homes, day care centers and restrictive childcare facilities. After an assessment, reports may be directed toward brief service provision when time limited problem solving may be helpful and appropriate. Reports may also be directed toward investigation and crisis intervention. Investigations may identify children who have been or are at serious risk of being harmed by a parent or caretaker. Social services that may be provided during an investigation include safety and risk assessment, coordination of emergency medical care and related services and emergency removal and placement.
2. **Prevention and Family Services** – (child abuse/neglect prevention, intervention and treatment services) includes intensive, preventive family services arranged for or offered to families who, without such services would be unable to provide a safe environment for their child and risk of removal would be imminent. Services are provided with the child remaining in the home. The goal is directed at protecting the child from further harm while maintaining the family unit.
3. **Foster Care Services** – include substitute, temporary care (e.g. foster family home, residential care facility, kinship care) that is utilized when the child’s health and safety is at risk if he remains in the home. The state is awarded legal custody of the child by the court of jurisdiction. The foster parents and private agency foster care providers work with agency staff and parents toward achieving permanency. Intensive work and case management services are offered to families to help them reach a point where the child can be returned home, if return home is appropriate.
4. **Adoption Services** – permanency option for children when it is apparent the biological family is unable or unwilling to resume care of the child. Pre-adoptive service provided by the foster care worker include helping the parents voluntarily relinquish parental rights, preparing the judicial termination of parental rights if the parents are unable or unwilling to surrender, and beginning to prepare the child for the adoptive process. Services by the adoption worker include completing the child evaluation/assessment process, preparing the child for adoption, recruiting adoptive homes, selecting and placing the child in an adoptive finalization, and participating in the legal adoption finalization process. Post-adoption services and subsidies are provided to eligible families after the adoption is finalized until the child’s 18th birthday, mainly by the adoption subsidy program through federal and state funding. Other post-adoption services are provided within budgetary constraints to any adopted child and his adoptive family after the adoption is completed. Families who have adopted a child from another country and live in Louisiana are also eligible to apply for services. Resource centers also provide post-adoptive services.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

The following pages contain additional information on the child welfare service continuum, the agency's efforts to achieve the goals of safety, permanency and well being and the barriers and challenges impacting goal attainment.

Barriers/Challenges Impacting the Child Welfare Continuum

During this time period, Louisiana suffered the nation's worst natural disaster. On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina swept through the eastern half of the state. Activities designed to improve practice were set aside while rescue and recovery became the state's focus. Katrina reduced the state's largest metropolitan area, New Orleans, to its smallest resulting in the displacement of foster children, foster/adoptive families, biological families, and agency staff across the state and country. A month later, Hurricane Rita swept across the western half of the state displacing even more. Seventy-three percent of the state's foster care population resided in parishes declared as disaster areas. Approximately 2,000 of the state's 4500 foster children had to be evacuated in less than 30 days. The agency is focusing on both short-term recover and long term reform efforts to ensure the safety, permanency and well being of children and families amidst the devastating economic and social impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As a direct result of the storms, the agency experienced a mandatory 5% budget cut that affected child welfare service continuum. Specifically, the funding used for recreational services to foster children under age 6, tutoring and orthodontia was eliminated. The cuts to tutoring and orthodontia services not only affected children in foster care but also impacted new adoption subsidy cases. The possibility of even deeper budget cuts and, subsequently a reduction in services, were expected; however, the agency received one-time Title XX, Social Services Block Grant funding. This funding prevented deeper cuts to services for this fiscal year, but the future of programs and services in the next few years is unknown at this time.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Goal: Safety

Ongoing Services to Achieve Goals: Public awareness; intake of reports; investigation of reports; determining risk; ensuring safety by provision of services, making decisions on the report's validity, and taking appropriate legal action; providing follow up services; and PCR and QA reviews.

Performance Achievement:

Listed in the chart below are some policy and practice changes undertaken for improved safety of children.

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
February 2006	Appendix 4-B & C - Allegations by Investigation Levels revised to include Drug Exposed Newborn as a Level 1 Investigation
February 2006	Appendix 4-F Report Categorization updated with Drug Exposed Newborn as a high risk report of neglect
January 2006	4-100 Goal Definition and Objectives of CPI Services - Glossary, has been revised to include family day care home providers in the definition of caretaker; update the definition of the central registry; and to add the definition of a removal.
January 2006	4-200 has been revised to include the current purpose of the registry as specified in the Louisiana Children's Code, Article 616. The policy regarding the sealing of invalid findings for abuse/neglect investigation has been deleted, as Louisiana law no longer requires this.
January 2005	4-210 has been revised to include the extended time frames that information on investigations of child abuse/neglect will be maintained.
June 2005	4-400 has been revised to include information to be obtained from reporters. The revisions include policy previously issued with OCS Policy/Procedure Memoranda 04-03, 04-09, 04-10 and 04-16 regarding forwarding reports to law enforcement, safe haven relinquishments, inquiring from reports whether they have made previous reports, and requesting that mandated reporters follow-up with a written report
June 2005	4-525C has been revised to clarify the concepts of a child being safe or unsafe & 4-525D has been revised to include documentation references to the Form 10
April 2005	4-420 Intake Actions and Notifications; Policy revised to include notification procedures issued in RAM 04-124, PPM 04-10, PPM 04-16, and PPM 05-002. State Office shall be notified of all reports on family day care homes

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
April 2005	4-510 Initiation of the Investigation - Policy revised to include policy on maintenance of digital photographs, Internet searches to locate clients and interviewing a child once prior to the notification to the parent of the investigation.
Ongoing	Family Group Decision Making (FDGM) is being practiced in the Shreveport, Lafayette and Baton Rouge Regions. This process engages extended family and other persons closely connected to the family in assuring safety, permanency & well-being of foster children in placement, independent living and/or upon return home. (For more information on FGDM activities refer to the CAPTA section of this document.)
Ongoing	Monthly Quality Assurance Case Reviews & Quarterly Continuous Quality Improvement Peer Case Reviews (PCR) (PCR-June 2005-August 2005 only). These review processes measure the Agency's compliance with national, federal and state standards of best practice. After Hurricane Katrina the PCR temporarily ceased as the agency was focused on rescue and recovery. At this time, the agency is unsure of whether or not PCR will continue to be performed due to economic constraints
March 2006	4-1310 Investigations of Reports of Abuse Neglect in Day Care Centers – policy revised to clarify the policy with the safety assessment, include the procedure for communication with reports of imminent danger to children, and update investigation form documentation.
March 2006	4-1320 Completion of the Full Investigation – policy revised to include communication of information when children at a center are assessed to be at imminent danger and update investigation form documentation.
March 2006	4-1325 Determining The Findings For The Investigation – is a new section with the policy for the determination of the findings for the investigation.
March 2006	4-1330 Agency Staffing, Termination With Providers And Imminent Danger Notifications – policy includes the new procedure with imminent danger notification with OCS day care providers. The policy regarding abuse/neglect occurring in a child's home has been moved to Section 4-1350
March 2006	4-1335 Notifications And The Release Of Investigation Information – policy for notifications with day care center
March 2006	4-420 Intake Actions and Notifications – policy revised to include the procedure for the communication of reports of serious injuries, child deaths and/or an imminent danger to children in a day care centers.
March 2006	4-510 Initiation of the Investigation- policy revised to clarify compliance with the response priority and initial contact date and time.
March 2006	4-535 Investigation Decisions –Policy revised to incorporate PPM 03-10 into policy. With approval of supervisor and DM a case may be closed in TIPS at the regional level with a valid finding for a perpetrator who was not interviewed due to an inability to make contact after diligent efforts.
March 2006	4-550 Completion of Required CPI Forms – Policy revised to include TIPS instructions to close a case when there is a valid finding for a subject who was not interviewed during the investigation.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
April 2006	4-210 Central Registry Maintenance of Records in TIPS – policy revised to correct an incorrect form reference. Revised policy correctly references OCS Form 29.
March 2006	06-028 Implementation of Act 148 for Removals During and After Investigations - policies changed in order to add the definition of a removal and the statute’s definition of other suitable individual as a person with whom the child enjoys a close established significant relationship, yet not a blood relative, including a neighbor, godparent, teacher, and close friend of the parent.

Child protection investigation services are available statewide to ensure the safety of children who are subjects of reports of child abuse or neglect. By January 2006 the agency had a cumulative total of 13,752 new child protection investigations for the 2005-2006 SFY. The cumulative number of child protection investigations for January 2006 is 9.7% lower than January 2005 during which the agency had 15,228 cumulative new child protection investigations. For SFY 2004-2005 that agency had a total of 27,207 new reports of child abuse and neglect while in SFY 2003-2004 the agency had 26,705 new reports of child abuse and neglect. (Data obtained from Performance Measures Report)

Barriers/Challenges Impacting Goal Attainment:

Louisiana Child Protection Program

- Poverty
- Community and cultural tolerance of child neglect
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health Issues
- Domestic Violence
- Displacement of families and children as a result of Hurricanes Katrina/Rita.
- Lack of community resources such as substance abuse treatment and mental health services
- Increased caseloads/overburdened staff

A long-term goal for OCS is to redesign the CPI intake process into a strengths-based model of intake that will seek to standardize report acceptance and increase referral for community-based services. Throughout the remaining time of the five year Child and Family Services Plan, OCS will be exploring ways to improve front end services to focus on safety while also moving toward a model of family engagement.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES

Goal: Safety and Well-being

Ongoing Services to Achieve Goals: Assessment of family strengths and needs and referral or provision of appropriate services

Performance Achievement: Listed on the following pages is a chart containing (2005 – 2006) policy and practice changes undertaken to improve safety and well-being for children. Additionally, narrative on efforts to enhance the Prevention and Family Services programs statewide is included.

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
April 2005	Family Service Program staff led a study of parenting education programs designed to prevent child abuse or neglect. As a result, a menu of evidence-based parenting programs were instituted within our community Resource Centers and staff are expected to refer parents in need of parenting education to these programs.
April 2005	The agency applied for and received a \$500.00 grant from Entergy Corporation to assist with training facilitators to implement the Nurturing Parenting Programs for 0-5 year olds.
July 2005	The agency modified its mission to include <i>the prevention of child abuse and neglect</i> as well as <i>family strengthening and support services</i> in order to illuminate our commitment to working in partnership with individual citizens, communities, and other child and family advocates (entities such as Children’s Trust Fund, PCAL, etc.) to develop the vision and foundation for a proactive, comprehensive, continuum of services for vulnerable children and families.
July 2005	Began work with the National Resource Center on a 3-phase project: 1) evaluate the agency’s current family assessment and modify as necessary to ensure comprehensive assessment leading to a focused case plan; 2) compile aggregate data from case record assessments to determine the issues which bring families to the attention of the agency; 3) develop a service array that matches the identified needs of the families we serve.
February 2006	5-200 revised to incorporate recommendations referencing referrals of resistant clients to Family Resource Centers (FRC) (PIP Item 18)
February 2006	5-405 revised to reflect completion of the Family Social Assessment within 30 calendar days per Section 5-800
February 2006	5-800 is revised to allow for the substitution of a court report for the required narrative in court involved FS Cases.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
February 2006	The agency applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the Brookdale Foundation to implement Relatives as Parents Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage and promote the creation of expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting. The agency will <i>partner with the Children's Trust Fund/CBCAP</i> recipient to implement this program statewide.
March 2006	Began participation in an on-going collaborative relationship with the state Office of Addictive Disorders as they implement grant funding aimed at preventing substance abuse. The goal is to eventually have a substance abuse counselor in each child welfare agency office to offer assessment and treatment services to the families we serve.
March 2006	Conducted a statewide representative sample (300 cases) survey of Family Service cases to better understand the prevalence of issues such as substance abuse, mental health problems, domestic violence, child mental health problems, and poverty related issues.
Ongoing	Continue to evaluate contracts for Intensive Home Based Services to ensure effective outcomes.
Ongoing	Each region has been assigned a state office program manager in order to develop a closer working relationship between field and administrative staff. This will aid in administrative staff staying abreast of field issues as well as allowing for the field staff to have more input into administrative program development. This is expected to result in improved services to the children and families being served.
Ongoing	FGDM expanded to Lafayette Region and Shreveport Region. OCS contracted with El Paso Human Services, Inc. to train staff and providers in each region. Both regions kicked off their programs by having an FGDM Orientation. A total of 266 people participated in the Orientation sessions, which provided an overview of FGDM. It was an opportunity for many community partners to come together and understand FGDM practice. The orientation presented the foundations of FGDM, the values and beliefs about children, families, and helping as well as the process elements of FGDM. There were 4 orientation sessions, lasting 3 hours each. A total of 62 people received two-day trainings (one in each region) that prepared participants to serve as coordinators and facilitators of a FGDM process. Coordinators prepare all who are involved for a successful meeting. The facilitators facilitate the actual meetings. Participants learned the knowledge and skills of coordination and facilitation. They practiced FGDM preparation and meetings in role-play. FGDM continues to operate in the Baton Rouge Region. An evaluation of results is in progress, and the early data is promising. One of the performance indicators we were looking at was placement disruption--at the six-month review, none of the children experienced more than two placements. Also repeat maltreatment was examined, with promising results, 3.3% in FGDM cases; national standard is 6.1%. A package of forms was developed for the 3 regions, so that we have uniformity of information gathering on the FGDM conferences and outcomes.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Prevention and Family Services are provided to children and families statewide in order to address problems of abuse and neglect and promote the safety of children living with their family. While some clients are court ordered to work with the agency in this program, most clients in this program have demonstrated a willingness to change the abusive/neglectful behavior or circumstances that brought them into to agency contact.

In SFY 2003-2004 the agency served 3,953 families in the Prevention and Family Services program while 4,246 families were served in SFY 2004-2005. As of January 2006 the agency has served 2,869 families in the program. This number indicates a decline compared to the previous two years. There was a 5.4% decline for January 2006 when compared to the 3,034 cases in January 2005. (Data obtained from the Performance Measures Report)

Barriers/Challenges Impacting Goal Attainment:

During this time period, the agency has struggled with very limited resources for family preservation, particularly in the complex areas of substance abuse, domestic violence and serious mental health problems. Additionally, Louisiana suffered the nation's worst natural disaster that displaced thousands of children and families and negatively impacted the state's economy. While confronted by additional issues created as a result of Hurricanes Katrina/Rita, ongoing issues continue to impact service delivery. Many of our most valuable services such as intensive in-home services, protective day care, substance abuse and mental health services are currently extremely limited.

One of the agency's long-term recovery efforts/goals involves the redesign of front-end services with special emphasis on prevention and the development of a continuum of care to prevent and respond to child maltreatment.

Plans/Goals for the Prevention and Family Services Program:

Despite difficult circumstances, the agency is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect as well as to serving the children and families of the state. Some of the plans and goals for the Prevention and Family Services program include:

- Redesign of the family services program to deliver the appropriate service array and create a positive presence in the community by identifying what brings families to agency attention and determining the underlying issues that result in parents being abusive/neglectful to their children.
- Coordination between OCS and Office of Addictive Disorders (OAD) to obtain substance abuse services for clients by participation in the OAD Prevention Task force, coordination of temporary substance abuse workers in each eligible region and working toward the permanent allocation of a substance abuse counselor for each region
- Evaluation of intensive home based services contracts to monitor effectiveness in the prevention of repeat maltreatment and entry into foster care

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

- Support and coordinate the administration of the Nurturing Parent Program by building a provider database, conducting monthly phone conferences with Dr. Bavolek and trainers and coordinating the Nurturing Parent training workshop with Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL).
- Develop a comprehensive, functional assessment allowing for the capture of case level data on an aggregate basis (QA, Peer Case Review, and ad hoc case reviews)
- Explore evidence-based interventions aimed at chronic neglect since this issue accounts for a large percentage of the families involved with our agency.
- Explore the use of MultiSystemic Therapy as a means of safely maintaining adolescents in their own homes rather than placing them in foster care.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

FOSTER CARE/HOME DEVELOPMENT

Goals: Safety, Permanency, Well being

Ongoing Services to Achieve Goals: Outreach, recruitment, retention, health and mental health assessments and treatment referrals, reunification assistance and concurrent planning, program evaluation, collaboration, training, use of contract services and PCR and QA case reviews.

Performance/Achievement:

The agency is constantly working to improve the safety, permanency and well being of children in the care and custody of the state. Since the development of the five-year plan, numerous policies, procedures and practices have been created, reinforced and implemented to enhance service delivery. These changes and achievements are listed in the chart below.

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
February 2006	6-2045 Checklist for Closing a Case for A Child Youth Exiting Foster Care was revised to delete references to transitional services
February 2006	6-230 Child Welfare Family Resource Centers - policy to update information on the Family Resource Centers.
January 2006	6-410 Establishing Paternity - policy was revised to increase the allowable amount to \$275 per person thus allowing for the increased cost of DNA testing
January 2006	6-1020 Expenses Allowed for Education - Section 6-1020A was revised to eliminate agency funded tutoring to assist with meeting the mandatory 5% agency budget reduction
January 2006	6-1105 Ongoing Medical and Dental Care – policy was revised to eliminate agency funded orthodontia to assist with meeting the mandatory 5% agency budget reduction.
January 2006	6-963 Developmental or Socialization Activities Program Ages 6-17 – policy was revised to reflect changes in developmental and socialization activities expenditures for children ages 6-17 to prevent teen pregnancy and fatherhood per the Memorandum of Understanding with OFS for TANF funding.
December 2005	6-1110 Medical Authorization for Children in Custody – policy revised to require court approval if a parent does not consent or is not available to the Agency for consent to a foster child’s participation in clinical drug trials and/or experimental treatment research.
November 2005	6-1605 Board Payments for Foster Children - policy revised to reflect changes in special board that includes special board requests, approval levels, authorizations and a table for determining the amount of the special board. - Made obsolete Levels of Care Pilot in Covington Region.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
November 2005	6-962 Developmental/Socialization Activities Program - age 0-6 made obsolete to assist with meeting the mandatory 5% agency budget reduction.
September 2005	6-1301 Transition Services – policy revised to delete part C of the policy regarding Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Mentors (CFCIP Mentors), which is now obsolete because TANF funds are no longer available.
July 2005	6-436 & 6-1315 The Young Adult Program YAP – policy revised to update payment codes for full board rate and reduced board rates made directly to a foster youth who is his/her own payee in order to prevent IV E funds from being erroneously used as the funding source for such payments
July 2005	Appendix C Interagency Agreement Between OCS and OCDD - The Memorandum of Understanding between the Department Of Social Services, Office of Community Services and Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities dated 5/6/05 was added to replace the Interagency agreement between OCS and OCDD dated 10/30/84 & 11/20/84
July 2005	6-1305 Services to Prepare for Independence & 6-865 Case Plan Services for 16 and 17 Year Olds - policy revised Case Plan for 16 and 17 Years Old: Independent Living to guide staff in the identification of permanent placement or contact and to include such identification on case plans in order to assist the youth in foster care to transition into independence.
July 2005	6-860 Permanent Plan Goal Alternative Permanent Living Arrangement – policy 6-860 Permanent Plan Goal Alternative Permanent Living Arrangement as opposed to previous goals of Permanent Foster Care or Independent Living
June 2005	6-400 Identifying and Locating Placement Resources With Relatives and Friends – policy revised to implement policy to request the court’s assistance in relative search efforts
Ongoing	Family Group Decision Making process continues in the following regions: Shreveport, Baton Rouge and Lafayette. This process engages extended family and other persons closely connected to the family in assuring safety, permanency, and well being of foster children in placement, independent living and/or upon return home.
Ongoing	Monthly Quality Assurance Case Reviews & Quarterly Continuous Quality Improvement Peer Case Reviews (PCR) (June 2005 – August 2005 only). These review processes measure the Agency’s compliance with national, federal and state standards of best practice. After Hurricane Katrina the PCR temporarily ceased as the agency was focused on rescue and recovery. At this time, the agency is unsure of whether or not PCR will continue to be performed due to economic constraints.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
Ongoing	“Case Planning and Transition Planning from a Positive Youth Perspective” – a train the trainer session was held on this August 2-3, 2005. The training focused on the identification of permanent contacts for foster children and developing case plans and transition plans for foster children. The independent living skills providers started training the foster care staff in August 2005 and the training will continue until July 2006.
February 2006	9-615 Recertification Of Foster And Adoptive Homes – policy revised in relation to Emergency Rule (LAC 48:I. 4113) which references: periodic recertification evaluations of each family foster home
April 2005	9-555 Certification of Specialized Family Foster Homes – policy has been revised to begin implementation of the Resource Family Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a more timely manner by dually certifying homes as foster and/or adopt based on family preferences.
April 2005	Youth Handbook – the handbook was published in December 2004 and was distributed to youth. In addition to the foster care staff distributing the handbook; the Independent Living Skills Providers distributed the handbook to youth attending their programs.
April 2005	9-100 Philosophical Premises of Home Development – policy - revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a more timely manner by dually certifying homes as foster and/or adopt based on family preferences
April 2005	9-120 Overview of the Types of Homes Utilized by OCS – policy revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a timely manner by dually certifying homes to foster and adopt.
April 2005	9-210 Qualifications of The Foster And Adoptive Parents – policy revised to: require State Office approval for treatment home capacity exceptions; include additional certification criteria and information for AFC and Specialized homes; describe types of specialized homes; include AFC approval process; and replace subsidy with stipend and special board rate with special board compensation.
April 2005	9-425 Purposes of the Orientation Meeting – policy revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a timelier manner by dually certifying homes to foster and adopt.
April 2005	9-435 Overview of the Certification Process Mandatory Information to be Covered at Orientation, 9-500 Overview of the Certification Process, 9-525 Mutual Assessment of the Home and 9-535 Approval Criteria – policy revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a more timely manner by dually certifying homes to foster and adopt.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
April 2005	9-587 Additional Types of Specific Foster Homes - policy revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a timelier manner by dually certifying homes to foster and adopt.
April 2005	9-588 Certification of Alternate Family Care Homes (AFC) policy to revised to require State Office approval for treatment home capacity exceptions; include additional certification criteria and information for AFC and Specialized homes; describe types of specialized homes; include AFC approval process; and replace subsidy with stipend and special board rate with special board compensation.
June 2005	Independent Living Skills Providers – were instructed to include an identification of permanent contacts for foster children in their transition plans.
June 2005	PPM 05-007 Waiver Requests – change in waiver procedure for foster and adoptive homes.
March 2006	6-1700 Services to Other Agencies - delete Form OCS 109 and replace with PMF 108
March 2006	6-1215 Runaway Missing Kidnapped Foster Child – policy Incorporates Act 503, regarding the prevention of abduction of children. The policy revision requires staff to report a child who is missing or who has run away to NCMEC sooner and to ask law enforcement about entering the child in the Amber Alert System
April 2006	Beginning April 2006 board rates will not be made to foster homes/caretakers, unless the family is certified. 06-022 Discontinuance Of Provisional Certifications (March 6, 2006) REF: 9-550 Certification Of Provisionally Certified Foster Homes 6-440 Emergency Child Specific Applicant(s)Foster homes in Provisional Certified status prior to April 2006 must be certified by June 30, 2006 or board rates must be stopped. If the family cannot afford to care for the child without the board payment, the foster child may have to be moved from a placement that is not certified into a certified placement.
April 2006	Out-of-state day care will only be approved at the state rate. Refer to 12-230 and 8-720. No longer authorize OCS funded orthodontia and tutoring refer to 8-720 and Memorandum in keeping with foster care changes.
March 2006	06-023 Providers Claims for Mental Health Services This memorandum discusses OCS policy for reimbursement to mental health providers. OCS policy provides guidance related to mental health provider reimbursement claims. All claims from providers must be submitted and processed within an established time period.
February 2006	Foster parents may obtain all 15 hours of in-service training on-line through agency-approved websites. This change will enable the agency to save money on in-service contracts, travel and babysitting reimbursements.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
March 2006	06-021 Foster And Adoptive Family Assessment -This memo advises staff of an additional agency approved pre-service training model entitled, Foster and Adoptive Family Assessment. This model was developed in response to the agency's need for a one-on-one home study process to expeditiously select, prepare and certify a prospective child specific foster/adoptive (resource) parent(s). One of the primary functions of this model is the development of certified resource homes to meet the need for child specific placements. Therefore the availability of this model to certify homes within 60 days.
March 2006	06-024 and Policy Section 6-1630 Visitation for Biological Families Displaced by the Hurricanes policy includes changes in the process for resuming visits between parents and children who were displaced by hurricanes. Training also provided on this policy to Orleans, East and West Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemine's staff.
April 2006	6-440 Emergency Child Specific Placement- policy revised to delete reference to board payment prior to certification and previous practice of payment to provisionally certified homes.
January-April 2005	Review of Independent Living Skills Providers' programs – the review was conducted to assure that transitional services were provided to youth.

Foster care services are provided on a statewide basis through nine regional and 50 parish offices. The program provides services for a planned period of time when an abused or neglected child must be separated from his parents or family, and when the state has been awarded legal custody of the child through the court of jurisdiction. As of March 2006, OCS provided foster care services to 7119 children. In 2005, an average of 5902 children were in foster care. The average number is higher than the averages for the 2003 and 2004 state fiscal years (SFY). In SFY 2003, the agency had an average of 4369 children in care, in SFY 2004 OCS had an average of 4316 children in care. (Data obtained from Performance Measures Report)

OCS will be working with numerous National Resource Centers (NRC) to develop and implement a protocol for case management and decision-making for displaced foster children and their biological parents. Additionally, NRCs will work in consultation with the agency to provide more qualified legal representation for children and/or parents involved with the agency.

The foster care program is evaluating current procedures and policies related to the Young Adult Program, Independent Living Services, and special board rate assessment to insure consistency in provision of these services statewide and identify problematic issues, if any.

Statewide Recruitment/Retention Plan

Targeted recruitment remains a necessary component of our child welfare system in view of the fact that over 60% of the children in our care are of African-American descent.

For SFY 2005-2006 regional offices submitted the following universal goals in their recruitment/retention plans:

STATE OF LOUISIANA 2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

- Increase number of certified homes
- Continue recruitment/retention efforts
- Utilize media in recruitment efforts
- Implement faith based initiatives
- Provide in-service training, support and appreciation services to foster/adoptive families
- Educate community regarding the needs of children in care

(Note: In the 2007 APSR the agency will report on the achievement of the goals from the 2005-2006 recruitment plans.)

During SFY 2004-2005, each regional office participated in general, child specific and targeted recruitment of potential foster/adoptive families that reflected the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state. Additionally, regional offices set goals for the 2004-2005 SFY that included the following:

- Increase in the number of families certified to foster/adopt
- Ensure enrollment of potential foster/adoptive parents in MAPP/GPS training in a timely manner
- Offer additional MAPP/GPS training sessions to meet applicants work schedules
- Increase certification of child specific homes

Some regional offices made progress in achieving their goals for recruitment/retention and in some instances exceeded their expectations. For example, the Lake Charles region certified forty-one families, exceeding their goal by twenty-one families while the Orleans region enrolled all applicants within 30-60 days of application to foster/adopt prior to Hurricane Katrina. Orleans region also conducted MAPP/GPS training on weekends and was able to better accommodate their participants as a result. While not all regions met their goals, all regions certified families and some focused on the certification of child specific families and ninety day provisional families.

Faith-Based Recruitment

Faith-based recruitment on a statewide basis was planned, but not implemented as a vehicle to recruit minority families due to the scarcity of funds and efforts to cope with the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Criminal Record Clearances

Foster/adoptive home applicants and all necessary household members complete the fingerprinting process to obtain criminal record clearances through the Louisiana State Police (LSP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Section 9-210 of OCS Home Development policy requires that a criminal record clearance on foster and adoptive home applicants and all other members of the household 18 years of age or older shall be conducted prior to certifying a family to foster or adopt in accordance with R.S. 46:51.2 C.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Additionally, foster/adoptive parents are required to notify the agency if at any time an adult moves into the foster home or when any member of the household has been involved in adult criminal behavior. In these instances, a criminal records check is conducted. If at any time there is reason to believe any foster parent or household member has been involved in adult criminal behavior since the certification and initial criminal record clearance, a criminal record clearance is completed to confirm that the home continues to meet certification requirements. This includes a minor who is a member of the household if there is reason to believe criminal behavior occurred which resulted in the minor being convicted as an adult.

If the worker has personal knowledge of behavior that would place the foster child at risk of harm such as a newspaper report or the foster parent or household member reports criminal behavior, it may not be necessary to obtain a criminal record clearance to confirm the behavior in order for the worker to deny or revoke certification.

The preceding policy description fully complies with the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) Grant requirement. CAPTA is Public Law 108-36, and among other provisions, Section 106(b)(2)(A)(xxii) requires provisions and procedures for requiring criminal background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives residing in the household. (See also Pages 91-94 of this APSR for further information regarding CAPTA and the state's plan, goals, and activities relative to it.)

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Transfers of Custody from State Child Protection System to State Department of Corrections (DOC), Office of Youth Development (OYD)

DSS/OCS data shows the following children who were in the care (custody) of OCS and were transferred to the supervision (custody) of the state juvenile justice system (DOC). Context information about the source of this information and how the reporting population is defined is provided below.

Regional Analysis of Children Transferred from OCS to DOC:

Region of Child's Domicile	SFY 2004-2005 # Children Custody Transferred	SFY 2005-2006 # Children Custody Transferred	SFY 2006-2007 # Children Custody Transferred	SFY 2007-2008 # Children Custody Transferred	SFY 2008-2009 # Children Custody Transferred
Orleans (Orleans District effective 9/05)	1	1			
Baton Rouge	3	4			
Covington	1	1			
Thibodaux	1	0			
Lafayette	4	0			
Lake Charles	0	1			
Alexandria	3	0			
Shreveport	1	1			
Monroe	1	0			
Jefferson (Jefferson District effective 9/05)	2	3			
TOTAL	17	11			

The statistics reflect OCS database information on children who changed custody by region and by year. The data is on children whose case was opened in the state's foster care system and who had their custody transferred to the DOC. DOC has responsibility for children adjudicated to the OYD, the state's juvenile justice system. The information presented in the chart above was obtained through a Web-focus Report. The data for SFY 2004-2005 has been updated to include all four quarters and the data for SFY 2005-2006 includes transfers of custody from July 2005-April 2006.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

ADOPTION

Goal: Permanency

Ongoing Services to Achieve Goals: Evaluation, assessment, outreach, recruitment, retention, collaboration, use of contract services, administration of the adoption subsidy program, participation in the legal adoption finalization process, training and PCR and QA reviews.

Performance/Achievement:

The agency has taken a number of action steps to meet the goal of permanency in the adoption program. Since the development of the 2005-2009 CFSP, OCS has created new policies and procedures to enhance how services are provided and to ultimately increase the number of adoptions. Newly implemented policy and practice changes are listed in the chart below:

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
Ongoing	Maintenance of Louisiana Adoption Resource Exchange (LARE) and link with AdoptUSkids- ongoing review on all foster children available for adoption with a goal of adoption and is in need of adoptive placement to ensure that these children are photo-listed on a timely basis on both Louisiana and national photo-listing websites to assist in child and sibling specific-recruitment efforts.
Monthly/Quarterly	Quality Assurance Reviews and PCR reviews- the agency conducted reviews of the adoption program through these processes.
Ongoing	Adoption Exchange Meetings – Adoption exchange meetings are held with agency staff, community stakeholders and tribal representatives. The exchanges are aimed at strengthening our working relationships and sharing information regarding placement needs, recruitment ideas and resources pertaining to general, targeted and child specific recruitment.
January 2006	6-1020 Expenses Allowed for Education - Section 6-1020A was revised to eliminate agency funded tutoring to assist with meeting the 5% agency budget reduction
January 2006	6-1105 Ongoing Medical and Dental Care – policy was revised to eliminate agency funded orthodontia to assist with meeting the 5% agency budget reduction.
January 2006	6-963 Developmental or Socialization Activities Program (ages 6-17) – policy revised to reflect changes in developmental and socialization activities expenditures for children ages 6-17 per the Memorandum of Understanding with OFS for TANF funding.
February 2006	9-615 Re-certification of Foster And Adoptive Homes – policy revised in relation to Emergency Rule (LAC 48:I. 4113) which references: periodic re-certification evaluations of each family foster home

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
March 2006	8-720 Determination of the Maintenance and Special Services Subsidies – policy revised incorporating CEP mental health guidelines and by deleting orthodontia and tutoring services
April 2005	9-100 Philosophical Premises of Home Development – policy - revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a more timely manner by dually certifying homes as foster and/or adopt based on family preferences
April 2005	9-210 Qualifications Of The Foster And Adoptive Parents – policy revised to: require State Office approval for treatment home capacity exceptions; include additional certification criteria and information for AFC and Specialized homes; describe types of specialized homes; include AFC approval process; and replace subsidy with stipend and special board rate with special board compensation.
April 2005	9-425 Purposes of the Orientation Meeting – policy revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a more timely manner by dually certifying homes as foster and/or adopt based on family preferences
April 2005	9-435 Overview of the Certification Process Mandatory Information to be Covered at Orientation, 9-500 Overview of the Certification Process, 9-525 Mutual Assessment of the Home and 9-535 Approval Criteria – policy revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a more timely manner by dually certifying homes as foster and/or adopt based on family preferences
April 2005	9-587 Additional Types of Specific Foster Homes - policy revised to begin implementation of the "Resource Family" Project to improve and expand opportunities for foster children achieving permanency in a more timely manner by dually certifying homes as foster and/or adopt based on family preferences
August 2005	8-405 Recruitment Requirements For Children Legally Available for Adoption LARE - AdoptUsKids photo listing and registration requirements have been revised
February 2006	9-615 Recertification Of Foster And Adoptive Homes – policy revised in relation to Emergency Rule (LAC 48:I.4113) which references: periodic recertification evaluations of each family foster home
August 2005	8-410 Linking the Child Recruitment Resources - LARE and AdoptUsKids photo listing and registration requirements have been revised

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
April 2006	Beginning April 2006 board rates will not be made to foster homes/caretakers, unless the family is certified. Foster homes in Provisional Certified status prior to April 2006 must be certified by June 30, 2006 or board rates must be stopped. If the family cannot afford to care for the child without the board payment, the foster child may have to be moved from a placement that is not certified into a certified placement. 06-022 Discontinuance Of Provisional Certifications (March 6, 2006) REF: 9-550 Certification Of Provisionally Certified Foster Homes 6-440 Emergency Child Specific Applicant(s)
April 2006	Out-of-state day care will only be approved at the state rate. Refer to 12-230 and 8-720. No longer authorize OCS funded orthodontia and tutoring refer to 8-720 and Memorandum in keeping with foster care changes
April 2006	Funding for special meal for foster/adoptive parent appreciation activities no longer available (refer to Memorandum 06-017.)
March 2006	06-021 Foster And Adoptive Family Assessment -This memo advises staff of an additional agency approved pre-service training model entitled, Foster and Adoptive Family Assessment. This model was developed in response to the agency's need for a one-on-one home study process to expeditiously select, prepare and certify a prospective child specific foster/adoptive (resource) parent(s). One of the primary functions of this model is the development of certified resource homes to meet the need for child specific placements. Therefore the availability of this model to certify homes within 60 days.

Barriers/ Challenges Impacting Goal Attainment:

The agency continues to work on addressing issues and barriers impacting adoption. There have been positive steps in addressing these barriers as evidenced by the number of finalized adoptions (see chart below). Of the 4500 children in care, 469 are available for adoption. Of the children available for adoption, 184 are registered on LARE, www.adoptuskids.org/states/la and the new Children's Bureau Internet site. Of those children listed on LARE, 113 are males; 60 are females; 19 are white; 119 are African American; 5 are multiracial; 58 are members of a sibling group; and 160 are deemed physically, emotional or intellectually challenged.

Examples of agency efforts include but are not limited to the following: identification and remediation of delays in the termination of parental rights process; early and ongoing assessment of children's special needs; simplifying the adoption subsidy approval process; identifying issues related to judicial delays and, with the assistance of the Louisiana Court Improvement Project personnel, addressing those problems with the specific courts of juvenile jurisdiction; working on improving the timeliness of case record transfer from foster care staff to adoption staff; increased focus on and documentation of search, assessment and reassessment of suitable relative resources throughout the life of a case; adopting a resource family child placement approach; and providing dual certification of foster/adoptive parent.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Agency's/Court System Capacity to Process Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)

The chart below contains information on the number of TPRs the agency has filed.

Region	2005 SFY 7/04-3/05	2006 SFY 7/05-3/06	2003 SFY 7/06-3/07	2004 SFY 4/07-3/08	2005-2009 Final Report Totals
Orleans (Orleans District effective 9/05)	26	16			
Baton Rouge	24	17			
Thibodaux	8	3			
Lafayette	43	60			
Lake Charles	29	27			
Alexandria	35	37			
Shreveport	20	14			
Monroe	9	13			
Covington	66	30			
Jefferson (Jefferson District effective 9/05)	6	17			
Statewide	266	234			

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Finalized Adoptions

The chart below depicts the number of finalized adoptions. Data on SFY 2005-2006 includes the first three quarters of SFY 2005-2006. (July 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006)

Region	Adoptions SFY 2004-2005 (7/04-6/05)	Adoptions SFY 2005-2006 (7/05-3/06)*	Adoptions SFY 2006-2007	Adoptions SFY 2007-2008	2005-2009 Final Report Totals
Orleans	58	20			
Baton Rouge	19	33			
Thibodaux	10	16			
Lafayette	118	81			
Lake Charles	37	36			
Alexandria	49	57			
Shreveport	18	33			
Monroe	23	13			
Covington	108	56			
Jefferson	32	8			
Statewide Total	472	353			

*Data represents three quarters of SFY 2005-2006.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Adoption Finalization Data

The chart below represents statewide adoption data. The data provided for state fiscal year 2005-2006 represents data from July 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006. The data for SFY 2004-2005 represents all four quarters.

Categories	SFY 2004-2005 (7/1/04 - 6/30/05)	SFY 2005-2006 (7/1/05 - 3/31/06)*	SFY 2006-2007	SFY 2007-2008	2005- 2009 Final Report Totals
# Children Finalized	472	353			
Average Time to Free (TPR)	1.76	1.79			
Average Time to Sign 427	.95	.82			
Average Time to Finalization	.31	.48			
Average Time of Length of Time in Care	3.02	3.09			
Average Age of Children Finalized	6.66	6.34			

*Data represents three quarters of SFY 2005-2006.

Average Time to Free- Time period from the date the child entered care and the date the child became legally free for adoption.

Average Time to Sign 427-B: Time period from the date the child is legally free to the date the child enters a formal adoptive placement.

Average Time to Finalization: Time period from signing of 427B to date finalized.

Average Time in Care: Time period between the child entering care and time of finalization.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Adoption Incentive Awards

The chart below shows Louisiana’s Adoption Incentive Payment (AIP) baseline data for the 2005 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) along with Louisiana’s AFCAR submission related to AIP for this same time period.

Federal Fiscal Year	Foster Child Adoption	Special Needs	Older Child	Amount Awarded
2005 Baseline	497	253	156	
FFY 2005	453	216	123	No Award
2006 Baseline				
FFY 2006				
2007 Baseline				
FFY 2007				
2008 Baseline				
FFY 2008				
2009 Baseline				
FFY 2009				

Louisiana failed to increase the overall number of foster child, special needs and older child adoptions and therefore did not receive an AIP Award for FFY 2005. A number of factors contributed to this outcome. Salient among these were staff turnover resulting from retirements and experienced employees moving to areas of less stressful employment; foster families adopting and then removing themselves from further placement consideration due to an already existing high level of parenting responsibilities, and or a lack of additional home capacity; the phenomena of younger, less special needs children being more readily adopted and the resultant disproportionate increase in the number of more difficult to place special needs children and older children accumulating in adoption caseloads over time; and also the difficulty in recruiting homes that are accepting of the types of children currently available for adoption.

Louisiana has embarked on an ambitious Training and Technical Assistance (TT/A) Plan (see page 28-30) in order to address the agency’s short and long term needs. There are provisions in the TT/A plan expected to have a positive impact on the number of adoption finalizations. OCS is excited to be working with the National Resource Centers (NRC) for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and AdoptUSkids on recruitment and retention of foster/adoptive families to address immediate and future placement needs. The agency will also be working with AdoptUSkids NRC towards streamlining and improving our ICPC process, and in an effort to expedite our interstate placements.

While Louisiana was unable to increase foster care adoptions, FFY 2005 adoptions exceeded the state’s PIP goal of 21.8% of adoptions completed within 24 months. According to FFY 05 data, 24.5% of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months, up from 18.9% for a 5.6% overall increase. So while the number of finalized adoptions was not improved upon this last federal fiscal year, there was improvement with respect to the timeliness of the foster care adoptions finalized. OCS remains committed to achieving similar future improvements with respect to the number of finalized foster care adoptions, to include special needs and older children.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Inter-Country Adoption

OCS continues to provide post-adoptive services to adoptive families who adopt a child from another country when services are necessary to prevent dissolution. The access points for services for families who have adopted internationally are the same for those families who adopt a child from within the state. Services are provided through our statewide network of 12 regionally based Resource Centers. Services available through the resource centers and the FS program include teen groups, respite, parenting courses, child and family centered social activities, workshops and educational advocacy and crisis counseling. Additionally, OCS offers post-adoption services through the Prevention and Family Services (FS) program. This is usually done at the family's request in order to receive services and maintain family unity. If a case is opened in the program, the family is eligible to receive all the services available through the program; however, TIPS (the agency's information management system) does not track these families any differently, so there is no way of knowing the number of families served who have adopted from another country. Both agency staff and the resource center staff refer families to resources in the community if they are unable to meet the needs of the family.

Though adoption subsidy was designed to help secure permanency for foster kids, the door was opened to all eligible adopted children a number of years ago. However, similar to private agency domestic adoptions, foreign adoptions very rarely meet the requirements imposed by federal IV-E funding rules and regulations, and so they are seldom if ever adoption subsidy eligible.

Almost exclusively, inter country adoptions are finalized in the foreign country of origin and not in Louisiana, so when the family returns with their child, now a United States citizen, they file a petition to have that foreign adoption recognized here in Louisiana. Below is a report on two children who were adopted internationally and are now currently in the custody of DSS/OCS.

Child 1

Child 1 was adopted from Romania through Bethany Adoption Services of Michigan. Child 1 originally entered the custody of the Department of Corrections, Office of Youth Development due to a charge of simple battery. Subsequently, the child was discharged from two residential programs due to negative behavior and was placed in foster care on June 23, 2001. Neither he nor his adoptive parents were willing to work towards reunification and parental rights were severed via a voluntary surrender. Child 1 is currently at Hope Haven Group home and is being transitioned into placement with a Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) family certified through Associated Catholic Charities. He does well academically, but has problems with authority figures. The goal for child 1 is Alternative Living Plan. Child 1 will turn 17 shortly and has been enrolled in our Independent Living Program since age 16.

Child 2

Child 2 was adopted from Bucharest Children's Home in Romania through Adoption Services Associates of San Antonio, Texas. Child 2 entered care on November 12, 1999 in the Covington Region. This child's adoptive parents surrendered their rights on that same day and the child was placed with an adoptive family; however, after a turbulent placement, the family asked for

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

his removal citing the severity of his problems and concerns for their own personal safety. Child 2 was diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder, ADHD-combined type, Depression-NOS, Disruptive Behavior Disorder-NOS, Physical Abuse of Child, Psychosis-NOS, R/O Speech Disorder, R/O Learning Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Personality Traits. After placement at Bethlehem Children's Center, a residential facility geared toward the treatment of children with emotional and behavioral problems, Child 2 was placed in the home of a single father. The child, now age 14, has done well in this placement and appears to be attaching to his foster father. His attachment to his foster father is encouraging as this has been one of the biggest obstacles since Child 2 entered care. His foster father is a true advocate for Child 2 whose goal is Alternate Planned Living Arrangement.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Inter-country Adoption Data

State Fiscal Year	Number of Children With "Out of Country Birth Location"
1983-84	0
1984-85	1
1985-86	35
1986-87	49
1987-88	29
1988-89	40
1989-90	39
1990-91	27
1991-92	29
1992-93	28
1993-94	10
1994-95	13
1995-96	7
1996-97	8
1997-98	15
1998-99	22
1999-00	37
2000-01	60
2001-02	45
2002-03	118
2003-04	69
2004-05	84
2005-06	
2006-07	
2007-08	
2008-09	
TOTAL	765

The data was derived from the TIPS download files (updated 4/13/2006) for the Adoption Petition Program. All cases reported above were closed in the Adoption Petition Program. Cases are counted in the year in which the adoption petition program case was closed. There may be instances in which an adoption is completed judicially in one year and not recorded as closed in the adoption petition program until the following year. This could contribute to an over-count for some years and an undercount for other years.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

13. Louisiana's Long-Term Reform Goals

During this reporting period, Louisiana has worked hard to accomplish the goals, tasks and benchmarks set forth in the state's system wide goals set forth in the 2005-2009 CFSP as well as the original PIP. As stated earlier in this document, progress was severely impacted as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita swept through the eastern and western portions of the state. The majority of activities designed to improve practice were set aside while rescue and recovery and work with displaced children and families became the state's focus.

Despite these disastrous circumstances, the agency has been able to achieve both CFSP goals and objectives and PIP related items. Progress and achievements on the system wide goals and corresponding benchmarks from the 2005-2009 CFSP have been included in the body of this document and are noted as such in the appropriate section. Achievements and progress on system wide goal 2 can be found in the Information Management section of this plan and information on system wide goal 3 can be found in the Training section of this document. System wide goal 1 and the corresponding action steps and benchmarks have been replaced with the agency's new objectives contained in the long-term recovery efforts.

Due to Louisiana's current circumstances, the agency is refocusing its efforts toward short-term recovery and long-term reform. Short-term recovery efforts are contained in Louisiana's renegotiated PIP and long-term reform efforts are part of the goals being amended for the 2005-2009 CFSP. Therefore, the aforementioned system wide goals that have not been achieved will not be carried over, but rather replaced by objectives and strategies designed to achieve the state's long-term recovery plan.

As DSS/OCS continues to work toward the outcomes of safety, permanency and well-being in a climate with limited economic resources, the agency must respond to human needs and continue to deliver quality services that meet the needs of the children and families served by the agency. OCS believes that the objectives and strategies outlined below, along with the agency's short-term recovery plan (PIP), will set a course for the return of a state and agency that is even better able to respond to the needs of those served.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

This long-term reform plan is directed at the six child welfare outcomes. These outcomes look at the safety, permanency and well-being of children.

- Safety 1: Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.

- Safety 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible.

- Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

- Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children (passed by Louisiana).

- Well-Being 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

- Well-Being 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

- Well-being 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Objectives, Strategies and Action Plans

Objective 1: Work with the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS) to evaluate current functioning of the CPI program, to identify possible elements for redesign and to evaluate the feasibility of changes to front-end services. (Completion Date: June 30, 2009)

Strategy 1:1 Review and, as necessary, revise the proposal from NRCCPS regarding the differential response model to assess feasibility for implementation. (Lead: CPI Section Administrator; Completion date: August 31, 2006)

Action Plan

Step 1 Refine policies and procedures on the implementation of the differential response model in Louisiana within budgetary constraints and the framework of Louisiana's SACWIS project ACCESS.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator
Completion date: June 30, 2007

Step 2 Develop training to support a differential response model.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator & Training Section Administrator
Completion Date: December 31, 2007

Step 3 Implement differential response model in one additional region in Louisiana.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator
Completion date: February 28, 2008

Step 4 Establish and implement quality assurance methods to measure the differential response process.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator and QA Section Administrator
Completion date: February 28, 2008

Strategy 1:2 Review and, as necessary, revise the proposal from NRCCPS regarding the development of a centralized intake system. (Lead: CPI Section Administrator; Completion date: August 31, 2008)

Action Plan

Step 1 Develop a work group to create guidelines for a pilot on centralized intake in one region while working within the framework of ACCESS.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Completion Date: August 31, 2006

Step 2 Determine financial feasibility of implementation of centralized intake.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator

Completion Date: September 30, 2006

Step 3 Establish additional positions for intake staff in pilot region.

Lead: Director of Field Services

Completion date: September 30, 2007

Step 5 Develop policies and procedures for the implementation of a centralized intake system.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator & Policy Section Administrator

Completion date: October 31, 2007

Step 6 Develop training to support a centralized intake model.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator & Training Section Administrator

Completion Date: December 31, 2007

Step 7 Establish and implement quality assurance methods to measure the centralized intake process.

Lead: CPI Section Administrator and QA Section Administrator

Completion date: December 31, 2007

Strategy 1:3 Identify issues facing children and families involved in Louisiana's child welfare system that threaten their safety, permanency and well-being. (Completion Date: June 30, 2006)

Action Plan

Step 1 Develop an instrument and survey statewide a representative sample of Prevention/Family Service (P/FS) staff on issues relating to safety and well-being of the children and families currently involved in the P/FS program

Lead: Assistant Director, Programs

Completion date: March 31, 2006

Step 2 Work with the NRCs for Organizational Improvement and Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning to evaluate and modify current family assessments with regard to client's needs.

Lead – Assistant Director, Programs

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Completion date: June 30, 2006

Step 3 Through training, build workers' skill level in conducting comprehensive assessments and in directly connecting appropriate intervention to the client's case plan.

Lead – Assistant Director, Programs
Completion Date: December 30, 2006

Strategy 1:4 Analyze statewide representative data collected in Prevention/Family Services' survey as well as data collected in revised family assessment to better understand the issues facing the families being served in the child welfare system

Action Plan

Step 1 Work with NRC's Organizational Improvement and Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and Data and Technology to compile and analyze data.

Lead – Assistant Director, Programs
Completion Date: On-going beginning March 31, 2006

Strategy 1:5 Develop a service array to meet the needs that threaten the safety and well-being of children and their families who are involved in the child welfare system

Action Plan

Step 1 Evaluate current array of services available to meet the needs of families being served in the child welfare system

Lead – Assistant Director, Programs
Completion Date: Ongoing beginning June 30, 2006

Step 2 Compare identified needs to current service array to expose gaps or duplication in needed services and begin to realign services as appropriate

Lead –Assistant Director, Programs
Completion Date: Ongoing, beginning

Objective 2: Develop a model of practice and intervention directed at assuring the least restrictive placement for children in residential and emergency care facilities. (Completion Date: June 30, 2009)

Strategy 2:1 Decrease the number of children in residential and emergency care facilities. (Completion Date: June 30, 2009)

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Action Plan

Step 1: Collaborate with Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Strategic Consulting Group to develop techniques and procedures for reduction of numbers of foster children in congregate care settings.

Lead – Resource Development & QA Division Director
Completion Date: July 31, 2006

Step 2: Review placements of children in residential settings and emergency care facilities in accordance with a triage schedule that facilitates alternative options for least restrictive and most appropriate placement.

Lead – Residential Program Section Administrator
Completion Date: March 31, 2008

Strategy 2:2 Increase alternative options available for foster children in most appropriate and least restrictive placements. (Completion Date: June 30, 2009)

Action Plan

Step 1: Collaborate with Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Strategic Consulting Group and National Resource Centers to pilot increased community placement options through expanded private foster care services and/or support transitions to relative placements and/or foster care services.

Lead – Residential & Private Foster Care Section Administrator & Foster Care/Home Development Section Administrator
Completion Date: March 31, 2009

Objective 3: Continue to partner with the courts and judiciary to improve permanency outcomes for children and families. (Completion Date: June 30, 2009)

Strategy 3:1 Develop general training curricula on legal and judicial processes for lawyers, judges and stakeholders (foster parents, CASA). Completion Date: June 30, 2009

Action Plan

Step 1 Collaborate with the CARE/Court Improvement Advisory Committee and the Legislative Task Force on Legal Representation in Child Protection Proceedings, to identify core curriculum competencies and evaluate opportunities for CLE training for attorneys.

Lead – Resource Development & QA Division Director

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Completion Date: January 31, 2007

Strategy 3:2 Implement legislative changes recommended by the Task Force on Legal Representation in Child Protection Cases for improving the representation of children and indigent parents. (Completion Date: January 30, 2009)

Action Plan

Step 1 Work with the NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues to develop a child law center for the Greater New Orleans area. (Completion Date: June 30, 2009)

Lead – Court Improvement Project Coordinator
Completion Date: October 31, 2006

Step 2 Design identify potential funding sources, and start-up implementation of a child law center.

Lead – Court Improvement Project Coordinator
Completion Date: June 30, 2008

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

14. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Report for Fiscal Year 2006 and Application for Federal Fiscal Year 2007

The state of Louisiana has designed and conducted its programs to achieve the six purposes of Chafee Foster care Independence Program (CFCIP). The accomplishments and progress on each of the six purposes of CFCIP are as follows:

Helping youth make the transition to self-sufficiency

With the CFCIP funding, OCS served eligible youth 15 years old and older up to age 18 who were likely to remain in foster care until age 18. Former foster care youth in the Young Adult Program (YAP) who are 18 years up to age 21 and have aged out of foster care are also served. YAP is a voluntary program and the young adults in YAP must attend college, high school to obtain a high school diploma, GED classes, or vocational training.

A total of 1,650 youth were served by the ten contract providers located throughout Louisiana during the federal fiscal year 2004 – 2005. This total is an unduplicated total of youth served.

Outreach efforts to attract eligible youth to the CFCIP programs continued to be a key element in the delivery of services. CFCIP providers continued to send flyers to group homes, residential treatment facilities, schools, and other community based sources for possible referrals for CFCIP services. Providers were also given information on how to contact all eligible youth to individually offer CFCIP services to the youth. CFCIP providers also met with school social workers to help identify the foster children in school.

The CFCIP provides many different types of services to transition youth into independence. Independent living skills training is one of the most important services. Independent living skills training encompasses assistance with budgeting/money management, housing, career planning, employment preparation, education, communication, personal care, human sexuality, consumer awareness, safety, and community resources.

Assessment of the youth's independent living skills before and after the independent living skills training is another component of the CFCIP services. Youth entering the independent living skills program completed an initial assessment of their independent living skills using the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment. The assessment allows for an individual evaluation of the youth's skill levels and the services needed to improve his or her skills. A written individual independent living plan of services was developed based on the initial needs assessment. The plan addressed the identified needs and the plan was incorporated into the case plan for the youth. At the conclusion of the program, youth completed another assessment using the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment. The second assessment documents the increase in the youth's independent living skills. A transition plan is also developed for each youth detailing services needed to transition to independent living at age 18. The plan identifies the assistance needed by the young adult and coordinates the needed services.

One CFCIP provider continued to specifically focus on the vocational aspects of independent living. Vocational assessment, job preparation, job placement and continuing vocational support services were components of the program. The program also emphasized the socialization skills

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

necessary to stay employed. Career counseling was provided through individual and group counseling to offer a support system in developing and pursuing career plans. Placement assistance was the final step to guide the individual into activities that will best enhance his or her career goal such as college, employment, or vocational/technical training programs.

CFCIP providers also offered counseling services for youth in the program. Counseling on an individual and group basis with the youth was a critical part of the CFCIP programs, and increased the clients' ability to utilize the independent living skills taught. Some providers also offered parenting assessments and group training on parenting, when needed. CFCIP providers also participated in Family Team Conferences (FTC) and discharge planning conferences when requested to provide information and assist in the planning for youth.

The providers of CFCIP services integrated and coordinated services to youth in their programs by their community networking efforts. Information about and referral to any other needed source of community service was an essential component provided by the CFCIP programs.

The providers also provided home visits to the living arrangements of the youth in the programs. The home visits offered unique opportunities to coordinate services with the foster parents to reinforce the independent living skills taught in the programs.

As a result of receiving donations from the community, some CFCIP providers provided household items, furniture, and personal items for youth in their programs. One program is called the "Hope Chest". In this program, the provider's staff collected recycled clothing, household items, furniture and personal items needed by the youth and these items are provided at no cost to the youth.

The greatest opportunity for youth input into the program is the Youth Advisory Boards. Regional Youth Advisory Boards and the State Youth Advisory Boards operated with the assistance of the CFCIP providers. The Youth Advisory Boards presented youth with opportunities for positive role models and leadership training. The Youth Advisory Boards assisted the CFCIP providers in the planning and implementation of the annual Youth Conference. Youth Advisory Boards continued working on numerous projects. A handbook for youth coming into care was written by the youth on the Youth Advisory Board and was published in 2005. Development of the Youth Handbook was a Program Improvement Plan item and the handbook is now distributed to all youth 12 years old or older coming into foster care.

Several former foster care youth are members of a Legislative Committee reviewing the foster care system in Louisiana to recommend changes to the Louisiana State Legislature. The young adults' perspective on the foster care system, the gaps in the system, and needed changes has been a very valuable asset to the committee.

Helping youth receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment

For foster children under 18 who are attending education or training programs, OCS continued to pay room and board costs, education/training program costs and any other needed support services. The cost of education for foster children were paid by Title XX, Title IV-B, Title IV-E and state general funds.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

For young adults in YAP and attending secondary education, state general funds paid for room and board costs, while Title XX funds and other funds paid for educational/vocational costs. For young adults in post secondary education, Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) were used to supplement the additional cost of education not covered by other sources.

CFCIP providers also utilize a Self Directed Search vocational interest instrument in the independent living skills training to direct youth to vocations of interest. The independent living skills curriculum also teaches the necessary skills for obtaining employment and remaining employed.

Youth attended educational and employment forums sponsored by the CFCIP providers. Youth considered employment options from local businesses and educational opportunities presented by representatives from educational and vocational schools. The young adults obtained information on admission and had their questions answered about a particular school.

Youth also were referred to One Stop Centers for job services and participation in summer employment. OCS partnered with the Department of Labor (DOL) in order to refer foster children and former foster children to the Department of Labor for services. Youth were eligible to receive job readiness services, employment assistance, job placement, tutoring, mentoring and support services. By Interagency Agreement, a joint policy for both OCS and the Department of Labor eliminated any barriers in the referral of foster children and former foster children for services and simplified the referral process.

The Congressional Foster Youth Internship Program provides opportunities for youth to intern in Congressional offices in Washington, D.C. One young adult from Louisiana was selected to be an intern for Senator Mary Landrieu. This internship was a wonderful educational experience for this young adult.

Helping youth prepare for and enter post secondary training and education institutions

Foster children and young adults are provided educational/vocational services including tutoring, costs of education or vocational training, books, supplies, fees, GED tests, college admission tests, and any other service needed to gain admission for post secondary education or training.

Educational and vocational forums sponsored by the CFCIP providers gave youth insight into what type of educational or vocational training was available and the curriculum involved with each type of program.

OCS staff and the CFCIP contractors provided assistance to youth in completing the federal financial aid application and other applications needed to attend college or vocational training programs. CFCIP providers also coordinated with post secondary institutions in the State to coordinate admission, funding and the ETV grants.

As described in the previous section, funding from various sources pays for the cost of education for this post secondary education and training. More detailed information can be found in the section dealing the ETV. An educational plan is also in place to assist the youth in determining an educational or vocational goal and an action plan for achieving it.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Providing personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults

CFCIP providers offered mentoring services to provide positive role modeling opportunities for the youth. Some CFCIP providers conducted formal mentoring programs for youth using volunteer mentors. Some CFCIP providers utilized various types of interns from various universities, colleges, hospitals and other institutions to provide mentoring services as well as independent living skills training. In other programs, the staff of the providers assumed a mentoring role for youth as they provided services.

After completing the independent living skills training, many young adults stayed in contact with the CFCIP providers indicating that supportive relationships have been established with the clients. Moreover, it appears that aftercare services provided by the CFCIP providers are supportive to the youth in handling emotional crises, which may occur while transitioning into independence after leaving foster care.

OCS staff is also a direct source of support for youth while in foster care and for young adults in YAP. While in placement, foster parents, childcare workers, and teachers are also providing personal and emotional support to youth. In case planning for youth, OCS staff is identifying a permanent lifetime connection and support for each child. The search for a permanent connection includes exploring all known relatives, former foster parents, childcare workers, and independent living skills providers. The child's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), school personnel, the child's attorney, members of the child's church, and other community connections are also explored. CASA workers are taking an active role in assisting the agency in locating permanent connections for children. The permanent connection is also listed on the transition plan so each child leaving foster care has the continued support of a caring adult.

Providing financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age

OCS provided services such as, room and board, educational or vocational services, clothing and other support services to former foster care youth ages 18 years up to 21 years old in YAP. State general funds primarily pay for the room and board for YAP clients. CFCIP funds are used to supplement YAP funding for room and board for youth 18 years and older in YAP, when the YAP budget of state general funds is depleted. In this fiscal year, \$155,560 of the CFCIP funds or 11 % of the total amount of CFCIP funds were used provide funding for supervised apartment living for youth over the age of 18 years old.

In YAP, the types of living arrangements included foster family homes, supervised apartments, college dormitories and independent apartment living. In YAP, room and board included housing, food, rent, rental deposits, and utilities. In addition to room and board in various types of living arrangements, youth were provided with clothing, transportation, educational, vocational or employment assistance.

OCS provided Medicaid services for youth ages 18 up to the age of 21 in YAP and covered any needed medical care not covered by Medicaid or other community resources. OCS staff

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

provided case management services, supervised the living arrangement and coordinated the services and support.

Providing vouchers for education and training, including post secondary education to youth who have aged out of foster care

This year there continued to be eight CFCIP providers delivering ETV services in the state. Eligibility of present foster care status or previous foster care status was determined by a check of the computerized data system. Eligible youth received ETV assistance in the amount of the student's need, which did not exceed the smaller of \$5,000 per year or the actual cost of attendance. The ETV coordinator reported the amount of the ETV assistance to the post secondary institution that the student attended to avoid duplication of benefits.

If the young adult was not in YAP, then ETV was the basic source of funding for their cost of education in addition to any federal grants and other scholarships. For young adults in YAP up to age 21, state general funds and some CFCIP funds paid for room and board costs, while Title XX funds and other funds paid for their educational costs. For young adults in YAP, ETV was used to supplement the additional costs of education not cover by other sources.

In order to develop a successful plan for completion of secondary education, the youth in the ETV program participated in a planning conference with the ETV coordinator. The youth could invite other significant persons such as the foster care worker, foster parent, childcare provider, or educational counselors. The focus of the conference was to assess the youth's strengths, needs, set educational goals and develop a plan to achieve the goals. The plan was youth centered and youth driven.

Periodic case reviews of the youth's progress assures that the youth will receive the services to meet their educational or training needs and achieve their educational goals. The young adult submitted his or her grades each semester or each quarter for the ETV Coordinator to evaluate the young adult's progress and performance. This documentation justified the continued expenditure of funds for the education or training program.

Collaboration with other Federal and State Programs

The community agencies, community groups, businesses, universities, churches, community professionals, and individual supporters of the CFCIP programs throughout the state are too numerous to mention. The community support has continued to be enthusiastic. Local school districts, public libraries, churches and vocational schools continued to donate their facilities for CFCIP classes so the location of the classes can be as convenient as possible for the youth.

Other examples of community resources that have coordinated with the CFCIP programs are the mental health centers, hospitals, the United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, Juvenile Courts, Goodwill Industries, National Park Services, IRS, YWCA, and the Salvation Army. Other resources included the New Orleans Aids Task Force, Planned Parenthood, New Orleans Police Department, Health Departments, and American Red Cross. Coordination also continued with community banks, apartment complexes, tourist commissions, Better business Bureaus, grocery stores, department stores, food banks, thrift stores, housing authorities, group homes, residential

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

treatment centers and employment offices. Other partnerships included Head Start, HUD, universities, colleges, vocational schools, Job Corps, and the National Guard Youth Challenge. Collaboration with these agencies will continue in the next fiscal year.

OCS continued to partner with the DOL, Department of Education (DOE) and other state departments at the state office level to coordinate services for foster children and youth aging out of care. The Child Welfare Specialist for the CFCIP participated in the DOL's Shared Vision for Youth Regional Forum in Phoenix, Arizona, on December 13 and 14, 2005. As a result of this regional forum, a Louisiana work group was formed called the Interagency Youth Work Group that focuses attention and resources on Louisiana's youth including foster children and former foster children. In addition to OCS, the Louisiana DOL and other officials with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, Job Corps and local workforce representatives are all members of the work group. This work group will continue in the next fiscal year to address these issues.

The CFCIP Specialist participated in and presented at the Louisiana Discharge Planning Summit - Preventing Homelessness: Discharge Planning from Publicly Funded Institutions which was held in Baton Rouge on March 18, 2005. The Louisiana Interagency Action Council on Homelessness, Louisiana Policy Academy on Chronic Homelessness and the Louisiana Advocacy Coalition for the Homeless co-sponsored the summit. The purpose of the summit was to build on current initiatives and develop recommendations that will help to prevent homelessness in Louisiana. Collaboration with these agencies will continue in the next fiscal year.

The Louisiana Public Broadcasting and Capital Area CASA Association in Baton Rouge partnered with OCS to present a special preview of the foster care documentary film "Aging Out" by Roger Weisberg and Vanessa Roth and a discussion after the film. The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative funded the project. Louisiana legislators, representatives of OCS and other community representatives attended the preview on March 7, 2005. CFCIP providers and representatives of the OCS attended the second preview of the film on May 12, 2005.

OCS has coordinated with other state agencies, such as the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and Bureau of Community Supports and Services to identify foster children and former foster children who may be eligible for services for mentally retarded or developmentally delayed youth. The coordination has resulted in access to federally funded Medicaid Waiver services and other community based services. Interagency staffing was the mechanism used to coordinate and access services from these agencies. Collaboration with this agency will continue in the next fiscal year.

Likewise, the agency has coordinated with the DHH, Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addictive Disorders (OAD) to identify foster children and former foster children who may be eligible for federally funded services such as community outpatient, inpatient, and Mental Health Rehabilitation Option services. Interagency staffing was the mechanism used to coordinate and access services from these agencies. Collaboration with this agency will continue in the next fiscal year.

CFCIP providers continued to coordinate with transitional living programs and various housing alternatives to explore new ways to meet the housing needs of the independent living

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

participants. Additionally, coordination with local parish housing authorities has continued. Collaboration with these agencies will continue in the next fiscal year.

OCS continued to partner with Youth Oasis in Baton Rouge in supporting the operation of a transition living program funded under Part B of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to provide housing and other services to homeless youth and former foster care youth. This program continued to provide housing and other support services to youth.

ETV providers partnered with post secondary institutions in coordinating the ETV program. Brochures on the ETV program were provided to the post secondary institutions. The institutions were also asked to refer any youth to ETV if the youth indicated on the federal financial aid application that they were previously in foster care. The ETV providers' coordination with other agencies included the DOE, the DOL's Workforce Investment Programs, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Orphan Foundation of America to access additional services for foster care youth. Coordination with these agencies will continue next year.

OCS partnered with Casey Family Programs in the testing and implementation of the Chafee Assessment Supplement that collects the National Youth in Transition Data (NYTD) outcomes data. The new instrument allows OCS to gather the outcomes NYTD data that will be required in the future. It will provide an automated way to gather and analyze the data to improve OCS services.

The Casey Family Programs invited Betty Becker, the CFCIP and ETV Specialist, to a work group in Seattle, Washington on May 3-4, 2005. The purpose of the work group was to develop an Agency Self Assessment Instrument for individual states to assess their CFCIP services, gaps in services, data collection and effectiveness of services. This instrument will be a valuable tool to improve services to youth in Louisiana and other states.

The Louisiana Coalition of Independent Living Skills Providers continues to be composed of OCS' CFCIP Specialist and representatives of CFCIP providers. The Coalition met quarterly as a group to exchange information on services, service delivery and provide training to the participants. Additional purposes were to define barriers and problems in service delivery and develop a unified approach to solving problems common to all members.

Training in the Fiscal Year 2006

The Statewide Youth Independent Living Conference was held at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on June 7 – 10, 2005. The university setting allowed participants the opportunity to experience being on a university campus. A CFCIP provider, Family Services of Greater Baton Rouge, hosted the conference.

The Youth Advisory Board assisted in planning the conference, selecting the speakers and making the conference a success. The highlight of the conference was a "Virtual City" where youth were given a specific scenario with a job, earned wages, bills and other life experiences to address. This "Virtual City" gave them hands-on experience in many aspects of living independently. Youth also had the opportunity to obtain information on admission to

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

universities and colleges in Louisiana and information on employment opportunities at the conference. The conference included speakers, who were former foster youth. These young adults spoke about the challenges that they faced aging out of care and how they successfully overcame these obstacles. Youth also participated in a talent contest and attended a dance. The conference had 142 participants and the total cost was paid with CFCIP funds in the amount of \$23,230.60

CFCIP providers offered youth many educational/vocational and employment forums. These forums were opportunities to obtain information to make informed decisions for their future. The importance of completing secondary education, and going on to post secondary educational/vocational training was emphasized.

On November 22 and 23, 2004, Catholic Charities held a Youth Advisory Board Retreat in Westwego, Louisiana. Youth attended a Leadership Skills Development Workshop during the retreat.

CFCIP providers also presented specialized training and consultation for foster parents and other child care providers to build skills in working with this specific population of foster children. CFCIP providers also trained foster care staff on assessment, case planning, and implementation of independent living plans for foster children.

Title IV-E training funds were used to provide Positive Youth Development training to help foster care workers, foster parents, and adoptive parents understand and address issues confronting youth preparing for independent living. The CFCIP providers conducted 48 two day training sessions on Positive Youth Development and trained 592 foster care staff and foster parents. This training was completed in June 30, 2005.

In August 2005, CFCIP providers started a new training for foster care staff entitled "Case Planning and Transition Planning from a Positive Youth Development Perspective". This training will strengthen the foundation of foster care workers' skills needed to prepare the adolescents aging out of foster care. Thirty-two training sessions are planned in 2005 to 2006.

Some CFCIP providers attended the Pathways to Adulthood National Independent/Transitional Living Conference and Independent Living Forum in Atlanta, Georgia on May 17-20, 2005. Some CFCIP providers attended the National Independent Living Association/Daniel Growing Pains Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on September 22-23, 2005.

Training Planned for Fiscal Year 2007

The Statewide Youth Independent Living Conference was planned for June 2006. Because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the conference was cancelled due to disruption in the planning process and the shortage of hotel rooms available in the state. A Statewide Youth Independent Living Conference will be held in 2007.

CFCIP providers will continue to offer youth many educational/vocational and employment forums. These forums are opportunities to obtain information to make informed decisions for

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

their future. The importance of completing secondary education, and going on to post secondary educational/vocational training will continue to be emphasized.

CFCIP providers will continue to provide specialized training and consultation for foster parents and other child care providers to build skills in working with this specific population of foster children during the year. The CFCIP providers will continue to train OCS staff in all regions of the state on Case Planning and Transition Planning next fiscal year. This training will be funded with Title IV-E funding.

The CFCIP Specialist and/or the OCS training staff will present training for OCS staff as needed to update staff on any policy changes in the CFCIP, YAP and ETV Program. The CFCIP Specialist and CFCIP providers will provide training to the youth on any changes in program policy during the year.

The CFCIP Specialist and some CFCIP providers will attend the Pathways to Adulthood National Conference for Transitional Living/Independent Living in 2006 and the Daniel/NILA "Growing Pains 2006".

Financial and Statistical Information Reporting

The actual final expenditure of the CFCIP allocation of \$1,358,131 for the federal fiscal year 2004 is \$1,358,131. The amount spent on room and board in this time period was \$155,560 or 11%. The funds were used to pay for supervised apartment living for youth who are 18 years old up to 21 years old. In federal fiscal year 2005 year to date, \$606,879 of the allocation has been expended. The plan for the room and board portion will be to fund supervised apartment living for youth over the age of 18.

The actual final expenditure of the ETV allocation for the federal fiscal year 2004 is \$400,401. In federal fiscal year 2005 year to date, \$247,198 of the allocation has been expended.

In federal fiscal year 2003-2004, there were 114 youth awarded new vouchers in the first year of this new program. In federal fiscal year 2004-2005, there were 139 youth served in this time period. There were 79 youth receiving vouchers for the first time and there were 60 youth who received vouchers in the 2003-2004 year and continued to receive vouchers in 2004-2005.

In federal fiscal year 2005-2006, 91 youth have received vouchers thus far this year. Of this number, there were 27 youth receiving vouchers for the first time. There were 31 youth who received vouchers in the 2003-2004 year and 2004-2005 and continued to receive vouchers in 2005-2006. There were 33 youth who received vouchers in 2004-2005 and continued receiving vouchers in 2005-2006. A total of 64 youth received continuing vouchers in 2005-2006. The numbers in the 2005-2006 year have decreased due to the temporary displacement of many youth due to the Hurricanes.

ETV services will continue to be available in every region in the state in the federal fiscal year 2007. For the federal fiscal year 2007, the estimated number of eligible youth to be served is 140. The estimated number of youth receiving new vouchers is 70 and 70 youth will continue receiving vouchers in 2007.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Planned CFCIP Changes in 2007

A major change in the way the agency administers YAP, CFCIP and ETV occurred in April 2006. Previously, there was one specialist for the entire state for YAP, CFCIP and ETV. The administration of the program will still be at the state office level. Now, a regional approach is in place and several Child Welfare Specialists in state office have been assigned responsibilities for particular regions in the state.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the restructuring of operating procedures in the southern half of the state will need to occur to address the changes in the population and the services needed. Since the hurricanes displaced foster children and young adults, it is also challenging to provide services and connect out-of-state foster children and youth with the services needed.

There are several opportunities to strengthen CFCIP in the next year. OCS is conducting a self-assessment of the present CFCIP and YAP programs in Louisiana. The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development in Tulsa, Oklahoma is providing consultation and technical assistance to OCS to assess the status and recommend any needed changes in CFCIP and YAP. Case records will be reviewed and a data analysis will be performed to identify the trends. Focus groups will be conducted with youth, foster care workers, foster parents, residential care providers, CFCIP providers and other community partners. Recommendations on policy, program and practice improvement will be issued as a result of this assessment.

OCS staff and CFCIP providers will be assuming an important role in the development of transition plans for foster children. Emphasis is being placed on transition planning at an early stage in order to develop the most appropriate plan at the earliest possible date. The perspective used in developing the case plans for youth and families and transition plans will continue to be a Positive Youth Development approach.

A key strategy in developing permanency for older youth is the identification of permanent contacts and having the permanent contacts involved in the case planning process. CFCIP providers will continue to work closely with OCS staff, CASA and others in identifying permanent contacts, listing the permanent contacts on the CFCIP plan, and involving the permanent contacts in the planning.

Expanding opportunities statewide for vocational testing and counseling regarding higher education and employment for foster children is also a priority this year. OCS will create these opportunities by partnering with the DOL and the DOE under their Shared Vision for Youth strategy.

OCS has been utilizing the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment as a pre and post assessment of independent living skills for youth. OCS will continue to partner with Casey Family Programs in the testing and implementation of the Chafee Assessment that collects the NYTD.

Continued emphasis will be placed on collaboration with community organizations in order to maximize services and new funding streams for those services. The CFCIP providers will play a key role in developing these connections statewide.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Planned Changes for ETV for 2007

The plan for the next fiscal year is to continue to improve the service delivery. In order to strengthen the program in the next fiscal year, providers and OCS staff will intensify efforts to market the ETV program. Younger youth will be targeted to encourage completion of high school or a GED and make youth aware of their eligibility for ETV upon completion of high school or a GED.

Another priority is outreach to foster parents and childcare providers to market the ETV program. ETV providers will continue to educate these groups about ETV and the need to emphasize post secondary education and training for foster youth.

Additionally, ETV providers will continue to increase coordination with post secondary institutions. OCS will work with the Information Technology Section developing the new automated data information and tracking program to include data on youth's educational status for automated tabulation of youth eligible and needing referral to the ETV program.

Services Available to American Indians

The four federally recognized American Indian tribes in Louisiana have been consulted regarding state's CFCIP and ETV five-year plan and for the APSR. The Social Service Directors of these American Indian tribes in Louisiana were asked for their input and suggestions regarding the plans.

In Louisiana, American Indian children in foster care are eligible for benefits and received the same foster care services as other children in care. Any American Indian foster child of the appropriate age group is eligible for any needed services from the CFCIP, ETV and YAP. American Indian foster children have received these services.

Trust Funds

Louisiana does not place CFCIP funds in trust funds for youth.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Supplemental Data on Youth Eligible/Served in the CFCIP and ETV Programs and Outcome of the Programs

During some part or all of the fiscal year (October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005), there were 2,595 foster care children and young adult clients who were age eligible for CFCIP services. In the 2004 – 2005 fiscal year, there were 1,650 clients served by the CFCIP programs. The following is data on the youth eligible for CFCIP and youth served by CFCIP:

Age	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
15 years	46	46
16 years	1071	455
17 years	643	453
18 years	592	445
19 years	139	143
20 years	104	108

Gender	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
Male	1324	887
Female	1271	763

Race	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
Black	1645	1124
White	917	510
American Indian	12	7
Hispanic	4	4
Asian	4	1
Unknown	13	4

Disability Type	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
No Disability	598	565
Mental Illness	274	195
Developmental	43	22
Other	45	20
Unknown	1635	848

Marital Status	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
Single	2461	1527
Married	4	1
Divorced	1	0
Unknown	129	77

Type Living Arrangement	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
Foster Home	904	401
Group Home	321	311

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Type Living Arrangement	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
Institution	698	467
Independently	332	312
Other	166	84
Unknown	174	75

Time in Care	Number of Eligible Youth	Youth Served
< 6 Months	297	126
6 Months - < 1 year	375	222
1 year - < 2 years	729	548
2 years - < 3 years	393	312
3 years - < 4 years	197	133
4 years - < 5 years	126	63
5 years - < 6 years	133	76
6 years +	345	179

Parental Status	Youth Served
Parent	51
Not a Parent	1599

Outcomes of Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

An assessment of independent living services was obtained by using the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment. This assessment was given to the youth before they attended the independent living programs to obtain baseline data on their knowledge and again after they had completed the independent living skills programs. The testing reflects that the participants are learning and retaining the independent living skills taught in the classes.

A second way used to measure the outcomes of the CFCIP programs was the follow-up surveys administered to the clients after they successfully finished the independent living program. This data was collected again this year using the same instrument as last year. Follow-up surveys were obtained from 305 clients who could be located. The surveys are opportunities for the youth to give feedback on services to the service providers. Each CFCIP provider reviews the data tabulated from the surveys from the youth attending that provider's program. That data indicates the overall educational progress of the youth, living arrangement, level of independence, and other data. The data assists the provider in planning for service provision and delivery in the future. The CFCIP specialist tabulates the data statewide for all providers. The information is also made available to all providers to improve services.

The data from the surveys is as follows:

Age	CFCIP Survey Participants
15 years	54
16 years	120
17 years	84

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Age	CFCIP Survey Participants
18 years	41
19 years	6
Total	305

Gender	CFCIP Survey Participants
Male	160
Female	145

Race	CFCIP Survey Participants
Black	203
White	81
American Indian	1
Asian	1
Other	18
Unknown	1

Marital Status	CFCIP Survey Participants
Single	300
Married	0
Unknown	5

Parental Status	CFCIP Survey Participants
Parent	24
Not a Parent	278
Unknown	3

Custody Status	CFCIP Survey Participants
In State Custody	255
YAP	24
Not in State Custody or YAP	24
Unknown	2

Educational Status	CFCIP Survey Participants
Youth Completed an educational or vocational program	11
Youth presently in an educational or vocational program	265
Dropped out of an educational or vocational program	13
Unknown	16

A significant finding of the survey is 90% of the youth surveyed have completed or are presently continuing in some type of educational or vocational program. Only 4% of the youth had dropped out of an educational or vocational program.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Type of Educational/Vocational Program Presently Attending	CFCIP Survey Participants
High School	204
GED	48
Special Education	8
College	4
Vocational Program	1

The high number of youth continuing their education or vocational training is a very encouraging result. Educational or vocational training has been shown to be an excellent predictor of how independently youth will be able to function as adults.

Employment	CFCIP Survey Participants
Full Time Employment	12
Part Time Employment	42
Not Employed	190
Unknown	61

Since most of the young adults surveyed were attending an educational or vocational program, the number of survey participants working was small.

Type Living Arrangement	CFCIP Survey Participants
Foster Home	29
College Dormitory	3
Group Home	84
Relatives	74
Independently	45
Previous foster parent	40
Other	7
Unknown	23

Assistance Received	CFCIP Survey Participants
TANF	5
Food stamps	3
SSI	8
Welfare to Work	1
Medicaid	139
Child Support	10
Parent's Veterans	2
Parent's Social Security	1
Assistance from family	23
Educational Grants	8

Community Services Received	CFCIP Survey Participants
Mental Health	45
Substance Abuse	27

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Community Services Received	CFCIP Survey Participants
Family Planning	46
Drug Education	1
Vocational Rehabilitation	3
Developmental Disability	1

Indication of Positive Relationship with an Adult While in Foster Care	CFCIP Survey Participants
Had a Positive Relationship	237
Did not have a Positive Relationship	21
Did not answer	47

Data On Youth Served in ETV

The data on youth served is based on the state fiscal year and not the federal fiscal year. In the 2004 – 2005 state fiscal year, there were 159 youth served by the ETV program. There were 25 more youth served this year than last year. At the present time, our computerized data collection system does not collect information on foster children’s or YAP clients’ educational levels or when they complete an educational or vocational program. Therefore, a specific number of eligible youth cannot be automatically tabulated. OCS is working with the Information Technology Section to include data on youth’s educational status for automated tabulation of the youth eligible and outcomes of the ETV program. The following is data collected on youth served in ETV:

Age	Youth Served
16 years	1
17 years	4
18 years	35
19 years	41
20 years	38
21 years	19
22 years	21
Total	159

Gender	Youth Served
Male	53
Female	106

Race	Youth Served
Black	116
White	38
Hispanic	1
Other	1
Unknown	3

Marital Status	Youth Served
----------------	--------------

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Marital Status	Youth Served
Single	159
Married	0
Divorced	0

Parental Status	Youth Served
Parent	38
Not a Parent	107
Unknown	14

Type Living Arrangement	Youth Served
Previous Foster Parent	14
College Dormitory	30
Relative	7
Independently	104
Group	2
Other	1
Unknown	1

Outcomes of the ETV Program

Program Entered	Youth Served
College	114
Vocational School	45
Total	159

Outcomes for Youth Served	Number
Completed college	1
Completed vocational program	4
In college making satisfactory progress	96
In vocational program making satisfactory progress	35
In college and not making satisfactory progress	7
In vocational program and not making satisfactory progress	4
Youth left college	7
Youth left vocational program	2
Unknown (unable to locate due to Hurricane Katrina)	3

For the youth in ETV, 136 of the 159 or 85% of the youth had a good outcome because they graduated or continued in college or vocational training with satisfactory progress.

Ninety percent of the ETV funds were spent on the vouchers and ten percent spent on staff salaries, travel, supplies and expenses, etc. to operate the program. The voucher expenses for youth included college or vocational tuition, books and supplies, dormitory costs, meal tickets, off campus living expenses, computers required for college or vocational training, tutoring, and

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

child care. The vouchers did not exceed the smallest of \$5,000 per year or the total cost of attendance.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

15. PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Goals: Safety, Permanency & Well-Being

Ongoing Services to Achieve Goals: Prevention and support services, crisis intervention, time-limited reunification services and adoption promotion and support services

The Agency assures that significant portions of expenditures will be made in these four areas and is proposing to use the following percentages for Title IV-B, Part 2 funding:

- Prevention and Support Services (PSS) – 22.5% - Community-based services that promote the well-being of children and families and are designed to increase the strength and stability of families.
- Crisis Intervention (CI) – 22.5% - Services for children and families designed to help families at risk or in crisis.
- Time Limited Reunification Services (TLR) – 22.5% - Services and activities that are provided to a child who is removed from the child’s home and placed in a foster family or a child care institution, and to the parents or primary caregiver of such a child, in order to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and in a timely fashion.
- Adoption Promotion and Support Services (APSS) – 22.5% - Services and activities designed to encourage more adoptions out of foster care as well as pre and post-adoptive services and activities.

NOTE: PSSF services listed in the chart below have been identified by PSS, CI, TLR and/or APSS.

Performance/Achievement:

The agency has taken a number of actions steps to meet the goals of safety, permanency and well being through the use of Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) resources. Services provided for prevention and family support, family preservation, time limited reunification and adoption promotion and support are detailed below.

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
Ongoing	In-home services and post-adoption case management services offered through contracts with individual providers. Major services provided included psychotherapy, parenting, mentoring, respite and information, referral and advocacy services. (PSS, TLR & APSS)
Ongoing	Louisiana Advocacy Support Team (LAST) operated out of the Monroe Regional Family Resource Center. Support is available to foster and adoptive parents who are dealing with allegations of abuse and neglect. (CI & PSS)

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
Ongoing	Infant Team Assessment Model in Jefferson and Orleans Districts. This specialized, multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment targets the needs of very young abused and neglected children and their immediate caregivers. Until Hurricane Katrina the Orleans Infant Team was operational; however, this project had to be eliminated due to budget cuts. Jefferson District Infant Team is still operational, but it's future is unknown at this time. (PSS & TLR)
Ongoing	Legal Contracts to Assist with TPR Backlog (APSS)
Ongoing	Healthy Start Services for first time parents offered in Shreveport Region. This prevention program provides parenting skills. (PSS)
Ongoing	Consumer/stakeholder participation via OCS committee structure and other special initiatives such as collaboration with OFS on the Healthy Marriage Initiative. (PSS)
Ongoing	Preventive Assistance (PAF) and Reunification Assistance Funds (RAF) Administration of funds to provide "basics of living" needs and assistance to prevent out of home placement and to families being prepared for reunification. (PSS & TLR)
Ongoing	Monitored contracts and provided assistance to resource center providers/contractors through regional liaisons, state office staff and monthly monitoring reports. In May 2005, OCS began discussion with the LSU School of Social Work, Office of Social Services and Research Development, regarding completing an evaluation on services rendered under the 2003-2005-contract period. However, these discussions ended due to budget cuts in the aftermath of the hurricanes. (PSS, CI, TLR & APSS)
September 2005	Convened a workgroup to evaluate services provided through Louisiana Family Resource Centers. The workgroup developed a menu of standard services to be provided by all centers in addition to any region specific services, identified research based parenting curricula to be used by centers, and arranged training for staff from all centers in use of the Nurturing Parents Program. Additionally, the workgroup recommended moving forth on the concept of Family Resource Centers, rather than separate Foster/Adopt and Child Welfare Centers, for the new contract period that became effective September 1, 2005. (PSS, CI, TLR & APSS)
Ongoing	Recruitment Initiatives: Annual state and regional recruitment/retention plans developed by state office and regions (TLR & APSS)

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Date	Performance/Achievements/Changes to Policy & Practice
Ongoing	<p>Programs to Strengthen Marriage: The Knapsack project and Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) Training, implemented by all resource centers, provide interventions focused on relationship building and maintenance. The Louisiana Healthy Marriage “Knapsack Project” is a service added to the already existing menu of services offered to families served by the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services (DSS/OCS) Family Resource Centers. The project is a three-year (3) demonstration grant targeting the national “Healthy Marriage” initiative and is currently in its final year. The Knapsack Project seeks to enhance and stabilize the environment in which children live by training their caregivers in skills that enhance their relationship. With improved communication, understanding and negotiation, caregiver stress may be reduced and mutual support may be increased, thereby reducing the risk of child maltreatment. The project has enjoyed tremendous success both statewide and nationally. It was recently featured in the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families national publication on the “Healthy Marriage Initiative. The project has served 1956 families since October 2003. This number surpassed the projected/contracted number of 1080 families and the service delivery area is steadily increasing. Funding for these healthy marriage initiatives end on September 30, 2006. OCS will be applying for both the Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood grants available for application. (PSS) Note: On July 11, 12 & 13 2006, PREP, Inc. will train additional Family Resource Centers and OCS staff on the usage of the PREP curriculum.</p>
Ongoing	<p>Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) process continues in the following regions: Shreveport, Baton Rouge and Lafayette. This process engages extended family and other persons closely connected to the family in assuring safety, permanency, and well being of foster children in placement, independent living and/or upon return home. (For more on FGDM refer to the CAPTA section of this document) (PSS, CI, TLR)</p>

Numerous PSSF services are offered via resource centers. There are 12 contracted resource center providers operating statewide through multi-year contracts. The centers provide respite, supervised family visitation, information, referral and advocacy, parenting classes, psychotherapy, support groups and training. Until August 31, 2005, there were 30 sites around the state. Because of an eight percent (8%) budget cut imposed on all centers in early 2005, the centers were allowed under the new contract period to set-up satellite sites through the use of churches and other local community services agencies rather than the lease of a building. The charts below provide information on the number of clients served in each resource center. The data was obtained from the resource center database. Please note that with the ending of a contract period and the combining of Foster/Adoptive and Family Resource Centers, some numbers will be for a limited period of time, April 2005 –August 2005.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program Family Resource Centers

Foster and Adoptive Family Resource Centers	Region	SFY 04 – 05 Clients Served (7/04-4/1/05)	SFY 05-06 Clients Served	SFY 06-07 Clients Served	SFY 07-08 Clients Served	Final Report Total 2005-2009
VOA – Greater New Orleans	Orleans	20	172			
VOA – Greater Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge	313	434			
Bayou Land Families Helping Families (Contract terminated 8/31/05)	Thibodaux	243	223			
The Extra Mile, Inc. (Combined reports for all locations)	Lafayette	26	623			
Educational & Treatment Council (REST) (Center's combined report)	Lake Charles	64	1126			
Community Support Programs (Center's combined report)	Shreveport	24	114			
ULM – Family Connections (4/1/05 – 8/31/05)	Monroe	240	271			
New Horizons Youth Service Bureau (Positive Steps)	Covington	127	205			
Family Services of Greater New Orleans (Family Matters)	Jefferson	11	10			

Child Welfare Family Resource Centers	Region	SFY 04 – 05 Clients Served (7/04-4/1/05)	SFY 05-06 Clients Served (4/1/05-3/31/06)	SFY 06-07 Clients Served	SFY 07-08 Clients Served	Final Report Total 2005-2009
VOA – Greater New Orleans (EB)	Orleans	25	50			
VOA – Greater New Orleans (WB)	Orleans	14	99			
Southeastern Louisiana University (Discovery)	Baton Rouge	400	1052			
Kingsley House	Thibodaux	133	104			
Nicholls State University Dept. of Family & Consumer Science	Thibodaux	160	158			
The Extra Mile, Inc. (Iberia)	Lafayette	32	See previous chart			
The Extra Mile, Inc. (Opelousas)	Lafayette	62	See previous chart			
Beauregard Community Action Association (Evolving Circles) (Contract terminated 8/31/05)	Lake Charles	211	105			

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Child Welfare Family Resource Centers	Region	SFY 04 – 05 Clients Served (7/04-4/1/05)	SFY 05-06 Clients Served (4/1/05-3/31/06)	SFY 06-07 Clients Served	SFY 07-08 Clients Served	Final Report Total 2005-2009
VOA – North Louisiana (Alexandria/Pineville)	Alexandria	116	193			
VOA – North Louisiana (Jena)	Alexandria	83	91			
Community Support Programs	Shreveport	261	49			
Project Celebration	Shreveport	184	202			
ULM – Family Matters (4/1/05 –8/31/05) (Combined ULM report for 9/1/05-3/31/06)	Monroe	174	262 1254			
ULM – Family Ties (Delhi) (4/1/05 – 8/31/05)	Monroe	178	107			
New Horizons Youth Service Bureau (Positive Steps)	Covington	220	317			
Family Services of Greater New Orleans (Real Alternatives)	Jefferson	57	25			
Family Services of Greater New Orleans (Horizons Unlimited)	Jefferson	133	60			

Barriers/Challenges Impacting Goal Attainment:

OCS will be working with numerous National Resource Centers (NRC) to develop and implement a protocol for case management and decision-making for displaced foster children and their biological parents. Additionally, NRCs will work in consultation with the agency to provide more qualified legal representation for children and/or parents involved with the agency.

One of the agency’s long-term recovery efforts involves the redesign of front-end services with special emphasis on prevention and the development of a continuum of care to prevent and respond to child maltreatment. Throughout the remaining time of the five year Child and Family Services Plan, OCS will be working on this redesign.

The Agency has contracted with 12 providers to operate family resource centers statewide. Statistics obtained from the resource centers indicate that the resource centers served 7306 clients from April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

During this planning cycle, the agency monitored the implementation of policies and procedures on referrals to resource centers as well as the use of the resource centers. The goal was to increase the community-based continuum of family support and family preservation services available/provided to children and families. The number of referrals fluctuated during this period. The increase was not steady. This maybe attributed to staff’s attention being diverted to other activities during the months immediately after the hurricanes as well as four centers being closed for a few months. Additionally, the signing of the contracts for the new funding cycle did not occur until two months into the contract period.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

The contract with Turning Point Solution for management of the Resource Center Database expired February 28, 2006. The DSS in-house web-based system became operable on March 16, 2006 for input of new data. They continue to work on the conversion of data that was stored in the Turning Point data system. The inability to access prior information is a current barrier to evaluation of outcomes of the family resource centers. We continue to work with the DSS IT staff to resolve this issue expeditiously.

Transportation continues to be an issue for families accessing services through the resource centers. Family Resource Centers are required to assist families in the development of a transportation plan when rendering services. However, lack of funding has also been a major issue prohibiting the expansion of services (including transportation) offered through the resource centers.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

16. Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA)

This section profiles updates and accomplishments in OCS' administration of initiatives to prevent, identify and treat child abuse and neglect situations.

- The statewide Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) and its regional/local peer support and care team counterparts provided valuable services for staff in crisis. From February 2005 through December 2005, 24 interventions were conducted, some for individuals and some for groups. The reasons for the interventions varied: worker attacked by client, unexpected death of an employee, death of a foster child from leukemia, suicide and attempted suicide by a foster child, fatality of a child in a caseload, and the death of an agency staff's child in a car accident. The CISM team continues to help agency staff cope with the stressful events of child welfare work. Without such assistance staff may leave the agency after such traumatic events.

- The agency continues to provide information to communities statewide by distributing brochures and conducting targeted campaigns such as foster care/adoption recruitment and child abuse prevention. OCS distributed public service announcements to local radio stations regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month and delivered flyers to local churches and businesses to display in the month of April. An article was also published in one of the local church's newsletters thereby reaching approximately 3,000 congregants.

Each year the agency prints and distributes hundreds of its brochures on "Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse or Neglect" and "Understanding Child Protection in Louisiana." The public, including school children working on school projects, frequently ask the Agency for these materials. Also, staff across the state distributes them as they make presentations to community organizations. These materials are also distributed at state and national conferences such as the Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL) Conference.

- The agency coordinates preventive services with private organizations, particularly with PCAL, to inform the public on issues of child abuse and neglect. In 2006, Governor Blanco declared April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. PCAL staff accompanied OCS staff on the steps of the Capital to participate in the Children's Rally. During the past year, OCS has contracted with PCAL to support our statewide parenting initiative, the Nurturing Parenting Program, for parents of children age 0-5 who have been referred for parenting education. The agency is also contracting with PCAL on the Safe Haven public awareness campaign and PCAL is still distributing posters and brochures to various groups who are helping to inform the public about the Safe Haven legislation. OCS was also on the planning committee for PCAL's annual "Kids Are Worth It!" Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect that was held in Baton Rouge on May 21-23, 2006.

Additionally, OCS and PCAL are planning a collaborative effort that is inclusive of, but not limited to, a Child Abuse Prevention Forum for the Baton Rouge community. It will

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

consist of a panel of professionals that encounter issues regarding child abuse in their daily professions. It will include a question and answer period from the audience.

- OCS works with Children’s Hospital in New Orleans within the Family Advocacy Care and Education ([FACES]. (For more on this program go to www.chnola.org/faces) program that provides services to families dealing with HIV and/or substance abuse.) This program has provided services to families who are identified with at least one HIV positive family member (typically a mother) with at least one minor child. Many of these parents also have a history of substance abuse and are in need of a variety of social services, including housing assistance. The chaotic lifestyles of many of these families coupled with the in-utero exposure of the infant to the HIV virus and/or illegal substances, leads many of these families to the attention of the child protection system and foster care. Historically, the Children’s Hospital FACES program provided case management services, health education, treatment education, mental health and substance abuse counseling, vocational and employment coordination, child development assessments and interventions, transportation assistance, child respite care, and peer advocacy to individuals and families. During the first quarter of this state’s fiscal year, Hurricane Katrina hit, and severely affected this contract. With the city closed for a month and the population dispersed, FACES program operations were severely impacted. The agency has not had the opportunity to assess how the program and population has changed; however, plans are to do so prior to the expiration of this contract at the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2006). If the provider is able to continue to help prevent child abuse and neglect referrals and foster care referrals, the contract will be considered for renewal.

- In 2005 – 2006, staff attended or planned to attend the following major conferences and meetings:
 - The Domestic Violence Coalition had to postpone their 2005 annual conference due to Hurricane Katrina. The conference has not been rescheduled at this time; however, when it is rescheduled staff will attend this conference.

 - In 2005-2006, the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement offered three teleconferences attended by OCS staff. Topics included “A Framework for Implementing Continuous Quality Improvement” with ten attendees from state office; “Keeping Children Safe: Strategies to Reduce Recurrence of Maltreatment” with eight attendees from state office; and “Solution Focused Practice (Part 1)” with 25 attendees from state office and three regions.

 - In 2005-2006, the Child Welfare League of America offered one teleconference attended by OCS staff: “Evidence-Based Treatment for Child Sexual Abuse” with 55 attendees from state office and five regions. In addition, the National Child Advocacy Network sponsored a teleconference “Fatal Child Abuse”, which was attended by 125 professionals from the state office and all regional offices. This teleconference included numerous community and multidisciplinary team professionals.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

- The “Together We Can Conference”, sponsored by OCS, the Louisiana Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program and other Louisiana sponsors, was rescheduled and held on June 29 and June 30, 2006 in Alexandria and Port Allen. The conference was broken up into two one-day sessions and two sites so attendees could go to a site nearest them thereby reducing cost of travel to participants.
- One staff member attended the NCCAN liaison officer meeting in June 2006. The meeting is sponsored by the Children’s Bureau of CAPTA state grantees. Topics included culturally competent approaches to program evaluation, a community-based home visitation program in New York, and the implementation of CAPTA. Along with program initiatives, staff obtained information on CAPTA expectations.
- Regional staff is planning to attend the annual conference of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault. The conference had to be rescheduled due to Hurricane Katrina. The new date for the conference is December 6-8, 2006, in Baton Rouge. Information and training on the victims of sexual assault will be useful to staff.
- The North American Council on Adoptable Children held their 31st annual conference in August 2005, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A total of twelve staff from all regions and from state office attended sessions on various adoption topics.
- The Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board held their annual training program June 7-9, 2006 in Baton Rouge. Over fifty regional and state office staff attended, along with adoptive parents and community partners such as New Orleans Catholic Charities. The focus of the sessions was on reunions, trauma and ethics.
- The agency continues to work on improving its data collection and reporting of data in order to better determine the successfulness of interventions with families. One area that the agency continues to work on is the collection of data for recurrence of abuse. The result of this focus on data improvements has been the development of new outcome reports, including recurrence, case closure, and placement with siblings. These reports are sent to the management staff statewide. The agency continues to work on the development of additional reports such as reports on children in specific jurisdictional districts and resulting dispositions.
- Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) expanded to Lafayette and Shreveport Regions. OCS contracted with Colorado’s El Paso County Human Services, Inc. to train staff and providers in each region. Both regions kicked off their programs by having an FGDM orientation.

STATE OF LOUISIANA 2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

A total of 266 people participated in the orientation sessions that provided an overview of FGDM. It was an opportunity for many community partners to come together and understand FGDM practice. The orientation presented the foundations of FGDM, the values and beliefs about children, families, and helping as well as the process elements of FGDM. There were 4 orientation sessions, lasting 3 hours each.

A total of 62 people received two-day trainings (one in each region) that prepared participants to serve as coordinators and facilitators of a FGDM process. Coordinators prepare all who are involved for a successful meeting. The facilitators facilitate the actual meetings. Participants learned the knowledge and skills of coordination and facilitation. They practiced FGDM preparation and meetings in role-play.

Also, FGDM continues to operate in the Baton Rouge Region. An evaluation of results is in progress, and the early data is promising. One of the performance indicators OCS was looking at was placement disruption. At the six-month review, none of the children experienced more than two placements. Repeat maltreatment was examined too, with promising results (3.3% in FGDM cases; national standard is 6.1%). Additionally, a package of forms was developed for the 3 regions, so there are uniformity of information gathering on the FGDM conferences and outcomes.

- In December 2005, the DSS/OCS completed its collaborative work with health care providers in order to promulgate the rules for implementation of legislation that expanded the definition of neglect to include newborns affected by prenatal illegal drug exposure caused by the parent. Then in January 2006 an emergency rule and notice of intent on neglect of newborn identified as affected by illegal use of a controlled dangerous substance was submitted and subsequently published. By February 2006, policy was issued to OCS staff with instructions for working with the medical community in their areas. Also brochures explaining the new law and duty to report were distributed by the DSS/OCS to OB/GYN, pediatricians, and family practitioners. (THIS ITEM HAS BEEN SELECTED AS AN AREA OF IMPROVEMENT.)
- Statutorily, Louisiana is only required to have three citizen review panels, but the agency has worked with concerned citizens around the state and developed five citizen review panels. Panels meet in three regions, Monroe, Shreveport and Covington; and two parishes, Beauregard and Rapides.
- In accordance with and in response to requirements of CAPTA, the Agency has implemented provisions and requirements of Louisiana legislation. Louisiana Revised Statute 46:51.2.C requires that no child shall be newly placed in a foster home for temporary care, except for emergency placement, or for adoption until it is determined that no adult living in such home has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in R.S. 15: 587.1 C. (See Pages 47-48 “Criminal Record Clearances” for additional information describing this policy which has been implemented.)

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

17. 2005 Annual Citizens Review Panel Report

Louisiana has five Citizen Review Panels (CRP) located in various areas of the state. Two of the panels are parish based; Beauregard (located in the southwestern corner of the state within the Lake Charles Region) and Rapides (located in central Louisiana within the Alexandria Region). The additional three panels are regionally based and are made up of a number of parishes. These panels are the Covington Region, Monroe Region, and Shreveport Region.

Shreveport Region CRP

Membership includes: Nadalie Thomas, Richard Rodgers, Margaret Basco, Judi Christian, Sgt. Larry Nunnery, Jill Welsh, Charles Beckhan, James Smith, Lucy Becken, Rep. Lydia Jackson, Fayrine Gilbert, Trudie Abner, Rebecca Evans-Kelly and Representative Cedric Glover.

2005 Activities:

The Shreveport CRP met twice during the year. This panel is currently undergoing a leadership and membership change. The two meetings focused on orientation and program overviews. The panel did not meet after August 2005 due to hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the aftermath of the storms. The CRP did not submit an annual report.

Monroe Region CRP

Membership includes: Linda Christmas (Chair), Sylvia Rugg, Melody Breland, Randy Evans, Ray Owens, Bernadine Adams, Stephanie Herrmann, Patty Newman, Judith Mower, Pat Melton, Greg Guthrie, Dan Bounds, John Washington, James Turner, Caroline Cascio and Jackie Perkins.

2005 Activities:

The Monroe CRP was initially convened in Quachita Parish on December 13, 2001. The panel changed to a bi-monthly meeting format to facilitate more accomplishments throughout the year. The panel met a total of five times this past year: February 23, 2005, April 20, 2005, July 20, 2005, October 19, 2005, and November 16, 2005.

Panel Accomplishments:

- Mandated Reporter Training
 - Mandated reporting and confidentiality, with an emphasis on the school setting
 - The panel recruited presenters, assisted with training, and referred trainees
- Recruited new panel members and strengthened their retention efforts
- Submitted a proposal for additional funding for a region wide public awareness campaign targeting child abuse/neglect prevention from the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund (LCTF).

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

2005 Monroe CRP Recommendations/Agency Responses

CRP Recommendation: The Office of Community Services' (OCS) needs to replace outdated technology in parish offices (i.e. phone systems with no voice mail capability) to improve access by clients, providers, and other agencies.

Agency Response: Technology, such as the one mentioned, is allocated in the OCS yearly budget. The agency works hard at ensuring that the allocation for new equipment is strategically utilized. To this end, new equipment is prioritized. There are many factors that determine which office gets what technology. Those factors include age of existing equipment, volume of service, location, and the administrator's preference. However, we try to ensure our clients and stakeholder access is not compromised in the process.

CRP Recommendation: OCS should consider new strategies and policies related to emergencies and disasters that relate to children in states custody, as follows:

- a. Foster parents should be mandated to evacuate. It should not be an option if the children are at risk.
- b. If parents decide not to evacuate (if this remains an option), make evacuation arrangements for foster child (with the child's worker).
- c. Train foster parents on how to respond during emergencies and place a plan in the placement agreements.
- d. Have an evacuation site already planned ahead of time (and make sure workers have this information on file).
- e. Provide sufficient counseling and supportive assistance to the victims.
- f. Establish a policy on how to get emergency funds, such as transportation vouchers at the bus or train stations or gas vouchers for foster parents who may need to leave quickly.
- g. Put foster parents on alert status when emergencies arise. They may need to have evacuation protocol that specifies when they should automatically begin evacuation procedures.
- h. Have special needs accommodations planned out in advance so parents with special needs children will know where to go.
- i. Have foster parents submit an evacuation plan.

Agency Response: The recent disasters caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 prompted OCS to draft guidelines for OCS staff and resource families to assist in managing the care of the children in the agency's custody during a disaster. Your suggestions were sent to our Program Section to be assessed along with the guidelines that were being drafted. This guideline is currently in circulation and will become OCS policy prior to the next hurricane season. It also addresses the many lessons learned and how to better provide supportive assistance to our resource families before, during, and after a disaster. A copy of the policy will be sent to all of the panels once it is approved. It will also be available on the DSS website at www.dss.state.la.us.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Beauregard Parish CRP

Membership includes: John Marcello, City Savings Bank, Ron Hebert, Beauregard Parish School Board, Don Wells, CASA, Reverend Alan Knuckles, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Jeanne Faciane, Robert McCullough, Beauregard Parish Sheriffs Office, Monya Gott, Kid's Company Daycare, Terri O'Hara, Beaucare, Tanya Craig, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Lisa Guillet, Prevent Child Abuse.

2005 Activities:

The CRP of Beauregard Parish also underwent a leadership and membership change. The panel met sparingly prior to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Its focus was on continued education of OCS policies and procedures and actively attempting to recruit new panels members. The panel did not meet after August 2005 due the hurricanes. They did not produce a report.

Rapides Parish CRP

Membership: Sara Alford, OCS Regional Administrator, Linda Bordelon, Martha Kendrick, OCS District Supervisor, Stacy Bender, Jay Barber, Arthur Johnson, David Sikes, Michael Johnson, Beth Lord Whittington and Marian Brian.

2005 Activities:

The Rapides panel met twice in 2005. During those meetings, the panel reviewed a child fatality case and participated in subsequent discussions of the agency's investigation process and case disposition. The final meeting focused on the issues facing the agency (budget cuts, decrease in service delivery, confidentiality laws, and local working agreements with the police and sheriff departments. In addition, there was discussion on recent agency sponsored legislation and its impact on future service delivery. The panel did not meet after August 2005 due the hurricanes and the aftermath.

Covington Region CRP

Membership includes: Terrie Martin, R.N., Livingston Parish Health Unit, Cindy Richard, Washington Parish School board, Sarah Kent, LCSW, Retiree/St. Helena Parish School Board, Pupil Appraisal, Reverend and Mrs. H. Gene Richard, foster parents, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Ila Dietrich, CASA Director, Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany Parish, Martha Green, Panel Chair, Junior League of Greater Covington, Dawn Mabry, M.D., North Oaks Hospital and Jean Voohrees, Director, New Horizons Youth Service Bureau, Mr. And Mrs. Martin Klier, foster parents, Cindy Martens, Tanya Garrene, Livingston Parish Sheriff's Department, Judy Wold, SSD#1 Teacher, Don Cox, 22nd Judicial District Court, Det. Riginald Bryant, Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Dept., Maurice Badon, SLU School of Social Work, Ann Nevers, Patsy Ritchie, Asst. Chief Effie Clayton, Bogalusa City Police Dept., Jackie Badon, Dr. Robert Allanch, Youth Services Bureau, Pat Schexnayder, CASA and Michelle Hazelett.

2005 Activities

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

The Covington CRP met a total of five times this past year; however, the panel did not meet again after Hurricane Katrina. Many of the panel members were impacted by the storm, as they resided in areas that sustained heavy damage. The panel's yearly activities included the following: a review of the Department's and agency's organizational structure, an overview of programs, confidentiality statute, LA RS: 4656, a discussion of the collaborative problems with parish's coroner's office, the budget and its impact on the parish's child welfare offices, and agency's need to develop its own protocol to respond to negative media publicity.

Covington CRP Recommendations/Agency Responses

CRP Recommendation: We would recommend that there be no further consideration given to consolidation of the Covington Region and St. Tammany Parish OCS offices, as this will be detrimental to the functioning of both offices as well as the clients served by the agency. Additional rationale for this recommendation is in the letter to Senator Jody Amadee dated April 19, 2005.

Agency Response: Decisions regarding consolidation of offices are based on multiple factors, including service delivery to clients, availability of space, and the budget for the agency. In 2005, budget reductions of our agency forced us to identify ways in which we could identify cost savings. Several options were considered, some enacted, including office consolidation/co-housing of regional and parish offices. Based on the specific needs and upcoming activities in the Covington Region, we determined that we would not proceed with consolidation/co-housing of those regional and parish offices at that time. We also want to clearly articulate the Department of Social Services is fully committed to improving service delivery through our "No Wrong Door" philosophy. This philosophy seeks to streamline services and increase efficiency in our work with children and families. As we continue to identify ways to achieve these goals, consolidation/co-housing of offices is a viable action to be considered to improve service delivery to children and families. We deeply appreciate the advocacy and support the panel provides our agency in the Covington Region and your recommendations to assist us in providing quality child welfare services.

CRP Recommendation: We would recommend that state office explore difficulties in the working relationship between OCS and Coroner's offices and reach memorandums of understanding regarding cooperation and sharing of information. The current working agreements called for in policy are ineffective in promoting positive and productive relationships due to resistance in adhering to the agreement by various parish coroners.

Agency Response: We would like to consider this recommendation and would request more details regarding specific problems and resistance cited.

CRP Recommendation: We would recommend that state office develop a protocol for responding to negative media publicity concerning OCS. A failure to address this type of publicity causes the agency to appear incompetent or "guilty" to the public and insensitive or uncaring to agency staff.

Agency Response: This recommendation is currently under review by the Assistant Secretary.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Update on 2004 CRP Recommendations/Agency Responses

CRP Recommendation: The Shreveport region respectfully requested that DSS/OCS consider identifying sources of appropriate training for forensic interviews and to fund such training for not only their own personnel but also any law enforcement or district attorney personnel who might be interested.

Agency Response: This recommendation has a fiscal impact; therefore, it has been forwarded to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for review. Upon completion of that review, you will be notified of the agency's position on your recommendation.

Update: There were and continue to be no funds to fund such a venture in the agency's current budget. The agency does support training for its personnel around this issue where applicable and when funds are available.

CRP Recommendation: The Monroe Regional CRP suggested a comprehensive effort to increase knowledge and awareness of OCS' role and work should be undertaken throughout the region. A LCTF Grant could possibly fund the effort.

Agency Response: Educating the public about OCS' role in combating child abuse and neglect is an ongoing effort. As the Department's financial resources continue to decrease, it is important that we collaborate with our community partners, stakeholders and advocates to continue to educate the public about what we do to assist families when abuse and/or neglect is identified. Applying for funds through the LCTF offers a great opportunity to utilize the collaborative expertise of the panel to advance this issue.

Update: All of the CRPs were advised and encouraged to apply for funding through the LCTF to advance the role of OCS in their communities. Only the Monroe CRP applied for funding during the LCTF's most recent funding period and are awaiting the outcome of their proposal.

CRP Recommendation: Monroe CRP members felt that retention of panel members is a concern. Efforts need to be undertaken to engage members more fully, provide orientation, and sustain their commitment to the panel. Utilize strategies offered at the Together We Can Conference, if possible.

Agency Response: Panel member retention is a concern of all the panels. The key to retention is to recruit members around their particular interest or interests in child welfare services. The panel was directed to the National Citizen's Review Panel website, www.uk.edu/SocialWork/crp, to the resources link and the document entitled Citizens Review Panel Guidelines and Protocols. The information Blake Jones, National Citizen Review Panel Coordinator, shared at the Together We Can Conference comes from this document. It is a great resource for training and recruitment of panel members, which all of our panels will be asked to utilize in the future. We are in the process of planning a meeting of all the panels to provide guidance in this and other areas that may strengthen panel effectiveness.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Update: A statewide CRP meeting was held on February 24, 2006. Participation was sparse, as many of the panels are going through a restructuring period following the aftermaths of the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The meeting gave panel members an opportunity to discuss goals for 2006 and provide an opportunity for networking and technical assistance. A CRP Handbook was finalized at this meeting and is currently being edited for dissemination to all of the panels. We plan make this meeting a yearly event.

CRP Recommendation: The Beauregard CRP would like more feedback on its' recommendations (including CRP's from other areas of the state) from OCS. If panel members do not feel that their recommendations are given any serious consideration or do not see any explanation or change, then CRP's will not feel that their time is valued and that they are being productive. This will negatively impact membership on the CRP. The panel also suggests more communication and networking between the CRP's throughout the state.

Agency Response: The agency is truly appreciative of the work of the panels, which are designed to help the agency become stronger—stronger in terms of the services we provide and stronger in terms of our governance and organizational structure. Your dedication provides assurance that the agency delivers effective services that the community needs, with benefits for everyone from our internal and external stakeholders to the clients we serve. To that end, we are striving to provide a response to all panel recommendations within three months of receipt of the annual report. We are also in the process of planning a fall meeting of all the panels to provide an opportunity for networking and guidance to strengthen panel effectiveness.

Update: The agency received two of the five panel's yearly reports. Of these reports, only two of the panels had recommendations to which the agency has provided responses.

Update on 2005 Plans and Plan for 2006

- Working with state and local OCS to make the CRP a more viable, productive mechanism to improve services to children and families.
- Thorough review of OCS cases, policy and procedure, the panel can determine if there are any gaps in our community and attempt to find ways to address these issues to further benefit children and families.
- Maintaining membership in the panel by diligently working on all of the above so that members feel as though their contribution is valuable.

The panels continued to review OCS cases, policy, and procedures during the last calendar year. Panel members were encouraged to participate in other regional committees, (i.e. CQI and Community and Consumer Stakeholder Committees) to provide further input into issues that affect the families served by the agency. The agency plans to increase technical assistance to all of the panels this upcoming year. There is a current need to assist the panels in recruiting new members, as many of them are now restructuring in the aftermath of last year's hurricanes.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

18. Training

This section contains information on training with Title IV-E funds. The Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS/OCS) did not utilize Title IV-B funds for training or administrative costs for training.

During the 2005-2006 state fiscal year (SFY), the DSS/OCS training section worked to maintain, develop and strengthen the training curriculum. Training sessions are open to various levels of agency staff, foster and adoptive parents, providers and community partners including American Indian tribal representatives. All courses are directed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of participants to perform jobs in child welfare and serve children and families in the child welfare system.

The agency's training data system currently does not capture information regarding positions of trainees, evaluations of all trainings, and course descriptions; however, the agency is working with a provider to develop and manage a training data system that will incorporate these data elements. The new system, expected to be functional in SFY 2007-2008, will gather numerous data elements including positions of participants, course descriptions, and course evaluation information, thus enabling the agency to provide more comprehensive information regarding IV-E training expenditures beginning SFY 2007-2008.

The following chart which provides broad categories of training, the number of participants, broad categories of trainees and hours of training for SFY 2005 -2006 and for July 1, 2006 and through February 14, 2007. (As per the request of the regional office, the information on training was separated into broad categories; however, the full report containing each training course/session is also provided as an attachment.) Training evaluations received were rated as above average; however, the agency is unable to provide specific information regarding each course or training evaluation since course descriptions were not requested and evaluations were either not obtained or were destroyed prior to the agency's move to its new building located at 627 N. Fourth Street in Baton Rouge. Unfortunately, no reports were generated on the evaluations prior to their destruction.

Broad Training Category	Actual Number of Training Participants	Categories of Trainees/ Participants	Total Number of Training Hours/Category (includes both long & short term trainings*)
**Child Welfare/General	4,005	Staff and Foster Parents	20,398.2
*Technical	834	Staff and Foster Parents	4,299.5
**Clinical	318	Staff and Foster Parents	2,306.65
**Safety & Health	817	Staff and Foster Parents	2,827.5

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Broad Training Category	Actual Number of Training Participants	Categories of Trainees/ Participants	Total Number of Training Hours/Category (includes both long & short term trainings*)
**Core Curriculum	1,129	Staff and Foster Parents	24,244.5
**Ethics	411	Staff and Foster Parents	1,883.5

*The agency considers short-term training to be 1-8 hours in duration and long-term training to be 9-32 hours in duration.

** See attached report listing individual training sessions.

For the 2006-2007 SFY and through the 2007-2008 SFY, the agency will continue to offer trainings in the core curriculum. For additional information on ongoing training in the core curriculum, please refer to the OCS Training and Staff Development Catalog. Each course in the core curriculum is described in detail in the OCS Training and Staff Catalog and the duration of each course/training is listed as well as the individuals targeted as participants. Courses are provided for an estimated 25 participants per session; however, the number of participants for courses for new hires may vary depending on the number of new hires.

Additionally, the agency will continue training on the use of ACESS and develop new and innovative trainings to build the skills of our staff as they implement the recovery and reform initiatives the agency is pursuing. Training staff work with various National Resource Centers and Louisiana universities to conduct needs assessments and develop training programs to address the changing face of child welfare in Louisiana post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

New courses to be offered in addition to the core curriculum for the 2006 – 2007 SFY and July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 are presented in the table below.

Training & Brief Training Description	Estimated # of Training Participants	Positions of Trainees	Estimated Duration of Training (Includes long & short term trainings*)
<u>Cultural Diversity</u> - training to address the changing face of child welfare in Louisiana since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita	25 per session	Child Welfare Specialists 4-8 (supervisors)	3-4 Hours per session (Short - term)
<u>Multi Ethnic Placement Act</u> – update to existing training	25 per session	Child Welfare Specialists 1-6	3-4 Hours (short-term)
<u>Indian Child Welfare Act</u> – update to existing training	25 per session	Child Welfare Specialists 1-6	3-4 Hours (short-term)
<u>Leadership Training</u> – focused on	25 per session	Supervisors-	12 Hours

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Training & Brief Training Description	Estimated # of Training Participants	Positions of Trainees	Estimated Duration of Training (Includes long & short term trainings*)
strengthening the supervisory skills in supporting staff in decision making and safety interventions		Child Welfare Specialists 4-8	(long-term)
<u>Caseworker Core Modules I – VIII</u> - this curriculum to replace current core curriculum- this research-based curriculum was developed by the Institute of Human Services	25 per session but may vary depending on the actual number of new hires	Child Welfare Specialists 1-3	32 Hours (long-term)
<u>Abbreviated Home Studies/Family Assessments</u> – This course was developed (after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita) for response to special situations demanding the quick placement of children. The model procedure allows for a speedier process without compromising the integrity of a strong family assessment that assures a safe family and environment for children. This course is being provided to all home development staff.	25 per session	Child Welfare Specialists 1-5 (Home Development workers & supervisors)	5 Hours (short-term)
<u>Emergency Planning</u> –This course was developed in order to give our staff and family resources essential information needed to prepare for a future disaster, (i.e., hurricanes, etc). In addition, resources will be provided for organizing personal action plans, for enhancing communication lines with the agency, and special identification bracelets for added security of our foster children.	25 per session	Child Welfare Specialists 1-8 & Foster Parents as indicated	3 Hours (short-term)

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Training & Brief Training Description	Estimated # of Training Participants	Positions of Trainees	Estimated Duration of Training (Includes long & short term trainings*)
<u>Managing Grief, Loss, Separation and Attachment</u> – This course is currently being developed to increase staff awareness and understanding of the issues for all team members (i.e. birth family, foster child, foster parents, and child welfare staff) The training will focus on the experiences of separations and losses inherent to the foster care system and also provide critical information regarding the development of and the severing of attachments.	25 per session	Child Welfare Specialists 1-6 (includes workers and supervisors)	1.5 days (9 Hours) Long-term
<u>Coaching Supervisors Project</u> – project designed to provide needed skill development for supervisors through monthly meetings, ongoing consultation training and periodic observations	30 slots per time period of training	Child Welfare Specialists 4 (first line supervisors)	Long-term (over the course of several months)

* Short-term training = 1-8 hours in duration and long-term training = 9-32 hours in duration.

Estimated Total Cost/Indication of allowable Title IV-E Administration

1. The training costs allocated to Title IV-E are based on Random Moment Sampling (RMS) procedures and “stat sheets” prepared by training staff. “Stat sheets” serve to document and track training activities. RMS procedures capture the levels and types of staff activities that may be claimed as Title IV-E allowable expenditures.
2. OCS expended \$12,918,843 in allowable Title IV-E cost during federal fiscal year 2005/2006. These costs were funded with 75% federal and 25% state general funds. For the 2007 federal fiscal year, (based on Title IV-E 1) \$10,812,209 is the projected cost of Title IV-E foster care training. State general funds, in the amount of \$2,703,052, are allocated for foster care training. For adoption training, \$827,630 Title IV-E funding is projected along with an allocation of \$275,877 of state general funds. RMS data is used to determine the percentage of IV-E funding to be used for foster care and adoption training. RMS is used to determine the percentage of IV-E funding to be allocated to foster care training and adoption training.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

3. The agency utilized a random moment sampling process to identify training activities. Depending on the function being trained, the appropriate federal fund is claimed. Costs deemed matchable as training expenditures include: travel, per diem, tuition, books and registration fees for trainers; salaries, fringe benefits, travel and per diem for staff development personnel assigned to training functions to the extent of time spent performing such functions; costs of space, postage, training supplies and purchase or development of training material.

Category of Expenditure	Actual SFY 2005-2006	Projected SFY 2006-2007
Salaries	\$3,436,796	\$4,310,972
Travel	\$10,147	\$12,728
Operation Services	\$83,711	\$105,004
Supplies	\$5,171	\$6,486
Acquisitions	\$206	\$258
Interagency Transfers	\$2,402,922	\$3,014,124
Other Charges	\$1,149,003	\$1,497,342
Total	\$7,087,956	\$8,946,914

Cost Allocation Methodology

1. Louisiana is entitled to federal matching funds for the proper and efficient administration of the state plan. The State's federally approved Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) identifies which costs are allocated and claimed under Title IV-E and other benefiting programs. This approved CAP is in compliance with 45 CFR 1356.60.
2. The agency has exercised the provisions of the Social Security Act, Sections 474(a)(3)(A) and (B); 45 CFR 1356.60(b) and (c), 235.63-235.66(a) to make claims under Title IV-E at the 75% rate for training (including both short-term training and long-term training at educational institutions, through state grants to the public institutions or by direct financial assistance to students enrolled in such institution) of personnel employed or preparing for employment by the state agency. The amount deemed claimable is specified in individual contracts with the institutions and individuals.
3. Under section 474(a)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act, the state agency makes claim for available federal financial participation at the 75% rate for the short-term training of current or prospective foster or adoptive parents and the members of the staff of state-licensed or state approved child care institutions providing care to foster and adopted children receiving assistance under this part, in ways that increase the ability of such current or prospective parents, staff members, and institutions to provide support and assistance to foster and adoptive children, whether incurred directly by the state or by contract. These costs are isolated in expense forms submitted for processing and contracts with trainer

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Title IV-E Stipends:

Educational Stipends are awarded to non-employees with the expectation that the individual agrees to work for OCS after graduation. The stipend amount for the BSW student is \$5000 for all universities with the exception of Northwestern State University (NSU) which is \$4500.00 and the stipend for the MSW student is \$7000. The entire amount of each contract is charged to IV-E.

In FY 2005-2006, 26 BSW stipends were awarded, totaling \$137,000. and 20 MSW stipends were awarded, totaling \$140,000.

FY 2005 -2006
Educational Stipends of Non Employees

University	BSW (\$4500 to \$5000)	Total Stipends BSW	MSW (\$7000)	Total Stipends MSW
Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)	2	\$10,000	9	\$63,000
Grambling State University (GSU)	4	\$20,000	5	\$35,000
Southern University at Baton Rouge (SUBR)	6	\$30,000	0	
University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM)	4	\$20,000	0	
Northwestern State University (NSU)	6 @ \$4500	\$27,000	0	
Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU)	6	\$30,000	0	
Louisiana State University (LSU)	0		6	\$42,000
Totals for Year	28	\$137,000	20	\$140,000

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

In FY 2006-2007, 20 BSW stipends were awarded, totaling \$97,000 and 20 MSW stipends were awarded, totaling \$140,000.

FY 2006-2007
Educational Stipends of Non Employees

University	BSW (\$4500 to \$5000)	Total Stipends BSW	MSW (\$7000)	Total Stipends MSW
Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)	0	0	7	\$49,000
Grambling State University (GSU)	0	0	8	\$56,000
Southern University at Baton Rouge (SUBR)	4	\$20,000	0	
University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM)	4	\$20,000	0	
Northwestern State University (NSU)	6 @ \$4500	\$27,000	0	
Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU)	6	\$30,000	0	
Louisiana State University (LSU)	0	0	5	\$35,000
Totals for Year	20	\$ 97,000	20	\$140,000

University Contracts

All universities are providing ongoing training in a variety of skill development areas, including: Substance Abuse; Helping Children and Adolescents Cope with Violence, Disaster and Daily Stress; Assessing and Treating Reactive Attachment Disorder: Beyond Oppositional Defiant Disorder; Stress Management and Selected Specified Applications in Child Welfare Using the DSM IV-TR; "Psychopharmacology: Medication Management of Mental Health Disorders." Increasing agency involvement to address specific areas that our staff have indicated as needs has enhanced university partnerships.

Southern University in New Orleans (SUNO) - continues to make strides in providing quality educational opportunities to their students. They are recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Katrina and have resumed classes on the north campus. The program staff experienced an enormous displacement of staff and some were not able to return. Interviews for the position of Title IV-E Project Coordinator were held on March 23, 2006. The focus of the Social Work Department continues to be supportive of the Greater New Orleans Region, Jefferson District and Orleans District in training and staff development.

Southern University in Baton Rouge (SUBR) - will continue to conduct the agency's training and needs assessment and develop a Title IV-E web page.

University of Monroe at Louisiana (ULM) - continues to develop and enhance collaborative relationships with stakeholders. The program will be developing a Title IV –E Newsletter.

Grambling State University (GSU) - continues to focus on the development and enhancement of training and staff development for the northern portion of our State.

Northwestern State University (NSU) - continues to focus on substance abuse training for the region as well as staff development. It has also provided on-line training for staff.

Louisiana State University (LSU) - is involved in developing and providing sexual abuse certification for agency staff; committed to assist in the development of on line training for critical information that is conducive to short, online presentations and: is providing training for staff on utilizing the DSM –IV-TR in casework with children and families.

Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) - is setting up a model of recruitment and retention to address the need of increased family resources for children as well as to improve the relationship of foster care staff and foster parents. They have organized recruitment steering committees, developed a recruitment video, and are providing training for staff and foster parents to address the need for enhancing teamwork in providing care to children with challenging behaviors.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

19. Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan (renegotiated/revised June 14, 2006)

Louisiana's original Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on September 28, 2004 addressing deficiencies noted in the September 2003 onsite review. For almost a year, the state worked diligently to accomplish goals, tasks and benchmarks set forth in the two year plan with noted success in meeting many of the PIP goals relating to the national data standards. In June 2005 the state renegotiated minor changes to tasks, benchmarks and timeframes.

As the state approached the last month of the PIP's first year, all work came to a halt as Hurricane Katrina swept through the eastern half of the state. Activities designed to improve practice were set aside while rescue and recovery became the state's focus. Katrina reduced the state's largest metropolitan area, New Orleans, to its smallest resulting in the displacement of foster children, foster/adoptive families, biological families, and agency staff across the state and country. A month later, hurricane Rita swept across the western half of the state displacing even more. Along with the catastrophic damage of the two hurricanes came the economic impact to an already poverty stricken state, having its largest city and related economic base no longer providing revenues used for state services.

With many tasks already completed in the first year of the PIP and with the drastically altered outlook for the state, it was determined that a new direction must be taken in the PIP to address short-term recovery efforts. This renegotiated or revised PIP sets forth the direction the agency is taking to provide for the Safety, Permanency and Well Being of the state's most vulnerable citizens in light of the current crisis.

Though the original PIP was scheduled for completion on September 30, 2006, the state's federal partners have granted Louisiana an extended PIP completion date of September 30, 2007.

Progress on Original Action Step and Benchmarks

The original PIP consisted of a series of item-specific Action Steps. Each Action Step was broken down into Benchmarks to be achieved during a specific quarter. The PIP included 40 Action Steps with 186 attendant Benchmarks. Of the total number of Benchmarks, 157 were due for completion in PIP Quarters 1 through 5. The remaining 29 Benchmarks were due in PIP Quarters 6 and 7. During the first 5 Quarters of PIP implementation, and in spite of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 82% of the Benchmarks due for completion were fully achieved, and 94% were fully, substantially or partially achieved. See following 2004-2005 PIP Completion Summary for a detailed summary of action steps and benchmark completion.

Federal Measures and Standards

The purpose of the PIP is to advance the way the state provides for the safety, permanency and well-being of children through the state's child welfare system. There are six federal data measures used to assess how each state is performing in line with set national standards relating

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

to the three overall outcomes listed above. Louisiana passed one of the data standards as part of its 2004 review and therefore is required to address only the remaining five measures in the PIP. The original PIP goals were established using baseline data from the 2003 Data Profiles. The following presents each measure, the national standard, the originally established goals and what the state is proposing as the newly renegotiated goal. Also provided is Louisiana's 2005 AFCARS data relating to each measure.

Recurrence of Maltreatment: Of all children associated with a substantiated, indicated, or alternative response victim finding of maltreatment during the first six months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated, indicated, or alternative response victim finding of maltreatment within a six-month period.

National Standard:	6.1% or less
Louisiana Baseline:	8.7%
PIP Goal (original):	7.8%
PIP Goal (renegotiated):	(to be determined when FY 05 data is available)
Federal FY 05 Data:	(data not yet available)

Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care: Of all children who were served in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage were found to be victims of maltreatment. A child is counted as having been maltreated in foster care if the perpetrator of the maltreatment was identified as a foster parent or residential facility staff.

National Standard:	.57% or less
Louisiana Baseline:	1.78%
PIP Goal (original):	1.64%
PIP Goal (renegotiated):	(to be determined when FY 05 data is available)
Federal FY 05 Data:	(data not yet available)

Reunification: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than twelve months from the time of the latest removal from home?

National Standard:	76.2% or more;
Louisiana Baseline:	68.5%
PIP Goal (original):	72.3%
PIP Goal (renegotiated):	70.92% (based on 2.42% sampling error)
Federal FY 05 Data:	71.10% (Goal met)

Adoption in Twenty-Four Months: Of all children who exited care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in less than twenty-four months from the time of the latest removal from home?

National Standard:	32% or more
Louisiana Baseline:	18.9%
PIP Goal (original):	21.8 %

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Federal FY 05 Data: 24.5% (Goal met)

Placement Stability: Of all children served who have been in foster care less than twelve months from the time of the latest removal from home, what percentage have had no more than two placement settings?

National Standard:	86.7% or more
Louisiana Baseline:	80.9%
PIP Goal (original):	85%
PIP Goal (renegotiated):	81.9% (based on 1% or ½ sampling error rounded up)
Federal FY 05 Data:	82% (Goal met)

This renegotiated goal of improvement is being requested in light of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The storms affected our ability to achieve stability for many of our families. Seventy-three percent (73%) of Louisiana's foster care population was directly impacted by the hurricanes and as of March 1, 2006 there were as many as 250 foster children still located out of state. A large percentage of biological parents have still not been located since the storms. Due to the extra costs of dealing with the storm and the loss of revenues from the New Orleans area (1/3 of state revenues), the state faces budgetary problems.

New Direction

In light of recent events that now shape Louisiana's current reality and impact the state's vision for the future, this revised PIP sets forth direction for the state's child welfare system in both short-term recovery and long-term reform.

Short-Term Recovery

Louisiana is now and will for a lengthy period of time be in the recovery stage from the nation's worst natural disaster. Conservative estimates are that recovery will last more than five years as communities and support systems will have to be reconstructed from the ground up. This creates challenges for the state's child welfare system as it seeks to make sure under these dire circumstances that children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect (both in and out of home), that they are provided stable living arrangements that continue to meet their needs and that efforts are made toward permanency.

Long-Term Reform

Louisiana must also take advantage of opportunities brought about by the storms in reevaluating and rebuilding certain aspects of its service delivery system. Though long-term reforms are not part of this PIP, they will begin during this PIP timeframe.

Actual detail planning for long-term reform will be part of the agency's five-year plan. It will focus on two major initiatives, the first of which is to redesign front-end services with special emphasis on prevention, CPI intake and decision-making and the development of a continuum of services to prevent, and in response to, child maltreatment. The state will work with the National

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Resource Center for Child Protective Services in identifying effective models for redesign of CPI Intake and decision-making. The National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement and the National Resource Center for Children's Mental Health will work with the state on the development of a continuum of services that will support a prevention re-design. As part of this initiative, the state will create a more accurate picture of its clients, the issues they face and the services necessary for the safety, permanency and well being of their children.

The second major initiative for long-term reform is directed at decreasing the number of children in residential and emergency care facilities. This will require a review of all children in residential settings and emergency care facilities to triage for more appropriate placement. In doing so, the state hopes to promote a culture change from a placement system to a continuum of care service system.

The Plan

This renegotiated/revised PIP is a proactive approach toward recovery from the devastation left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The plan consists of objectives, strategies and more detailed action plans. Action plans will be flexible and further defined in consultation with the National Resource Centers.

The Plan is also directed at the six child welfare outcomes. These outcomes look at the safety, permanency and well being of children.

Safety 1: Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.

Safety 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible.

Permanency 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Permanency 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children (passed by Louisiana)

Well Being 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Well Being 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Well Being 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

A chart presented on page 125 entitled Outcomes and related Objectives and Strategies, depicts how each of the above outcomes will be addressed by the individual objectives and strategies put forth in this plan.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Objectives, Strategies and Action Steps

Objective 1: The state will work in consultation with the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services to analyze current CPI data, practice and external factors as they relate to the current rise in foster care placements. (Outcome: Safety 2) Target Completion Date: May 31, 2007

Strategy 1.1: To develop a series of data views that will provide further insight into the possible factors relating to the increase in children entering foster care. (Outcome: Safety 2) Target Completion Date: May 31, 2007

Action Plan

Step 1: Create a list of variables or factors that may be contributing to the increase in placements, including regional and parish differences.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due date: May 31, 2006

Step 2: Gather or develop reports and data views relating to the list of variables and factors.

- Lead: QA/Research Program Administrator
- Due date: September 30, 2006

Step 3: Conduct a formal analysis of data to determine relationships to the increase in placements.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due date: February 28, 2007

Step 4: Distribute analysis results to appropriate OCS staff and agency stakeholders.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due date: May 31, 2007

Strategy 1.2: To examine changes in law and local practices that would have an effect on the rise in children entering care. (Outcome: Safety 2) Target Completion Date: May 31, 2007

Action Plan

Step 1: Create a list of changes in law and agency practices that may be contributing to the increase in placements.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

- Due Date: May 31, 2006

Step 2: Conduct a review of listed changes to determine relationships to the increase in placements.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due Date: February 28, 2007

Step 3: Distribute analysis results to appropriate OCS staff and agency stakeholders.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due date: May 31, 2007

Strategy 1.3: To examine external factors, including increased substance abuse, added stress on families due to hurricanes, decreased or overwhelmed services and other social/environmental factors that may be affecting the rise in children entering care. (Outcome: Safety 2) Target Completion Date: May 31, 2007

Action Plan

Step 1: Create a list of possible external factors that may be contributing to the increase in placements.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due Date: May 31, 2006

Step 2: Conduct a review of possible factors to determine relationships to the increase in placements.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due Date: February 28, 2007

Step 3: Distribute analysis results to appropriate OCS staff and agency stakeholders.

- Lead: CPI Program Administrator
- Due date: May 31, 2007

Objective 2: The state will work in consultation with the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning, to develop and implement a protocol for case management and decision-making for displaced foster children and their biological parents. (Outcomes: Safety 1, Permanency 1, Well Being 1,2 and 3) Target Completion date: June 30, 2007

Strategy 2.1: To develop guidelines for worker contacts for continued assessment of safety and well being of foster children in foster homes or relative placements displaced due to the storms. (Outcomes: Safety 1, Permanency 1 and Well Being 2 and 3) Target Completion Date: Pending completion due to documentation review

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Action Plan

Step 1: Meet with staff in New Orleans and Jefferson regions to draft preliminary guidelines for contacting foster children displaced by the storm.

- Lead: Foster Care Section Administrator
- Due Date: Pending Completion due to documentation review

Step 2: Prepare and distribute a memorandum using the results of the meeting with New Orleans and Jefferson Parish staff establishing the guidelines for staff to follow for making contact with displaced children.

- Lead: Foster Care Section Administrator
- Due Date: Pending Completion due to documentation review

Strategy 2.2: To develop action plans for finding missing biological parents, including maximizing use of Parent Locator Services. (Outcomes: Permanency 1 and Well Being 1 and 3) Target Completion date: August 31, 2006

Action Plan

Step 1: Collect information from individual workers and supervisors in the New Orleans and Jefferson regions on biological parents who were evacuated due to the storms and have not been located.

- Lead: State Office Liaison to New Orleans/Jefferson
- Due Date: May 31, 2006

Step 2: Work with the National Resource Center and the CIP Coordinator to develop a hierarchy of procedures for assisting caseworkers in finding missing biological parents.

- Lead: Program Division Director
- Due Date: June 30, 2006

Step 3: Implement specific procedures to assist caseworkers in finding biological parents.

- Lead: State Office Liaison to New Orleans/Jefferson
- Due Date: August 31, 2006

Strategy 2.3: To develop broad guidelines for visitation and maintaining contact between foster children and their biological parents who remain separated due to the storms. (Outcomes: Permanency 1 and Well Being 1) Target Completion date: Pending completion due to documentation review

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Action Plan

Step 1: Meet with staff in New Orleans and Jefferson regions to draft preliminary guidelines for visitation and maintaining contact between foster children and their biological parents who remain separated due to the storms.

- Lead: Foster Care Section Administrator
- Due Date: Pending Completion due to documentation review

Step 2: As a result of the meeting with New Orleans and Jefferson Parish staff issue a policy memorandum establishing the guidelines for visitation of displaced foster children and their families.

- Lead: Foster Care Administrator
- Due Date: Pending Completion due to documentation review

Strategy 2.4: To develop a case decision-making model in conjunction with the courts to assist workers in making placement choices for foster children evacuated and continuing to live out of state due to the storms. (Outcomes: Permanency 1 and Well Being 1) Target Completion date: September 30, 2006

Action Plan

Step 1: Establish a task force comprised of Orleans and Jefferson staff, supervisors, attorneys and representatives of the Orleans and Jefferson courts to create a basic placement decision-making model relating to case decisions for out of state children.

- Lead: State Office Liaison to New Orleans/Jefferson
- Due Date: May 31, 2006

Step 2: With the help of the task force, create the basic placement decision-making model relating to case decisions for out of state children.

- Lead: State Office Liaison to New Orleans/Jefferson
- Due Date: August 31, 2006

Step 3: Publish the Decision-making model in a memorandum to staff and shared with the courts as a guide for case decisions.

- Lead: State Office Liaison to New Orleans/Jefferson
- Due Date: September 30, 2006

Objective 3: The state will work in consultation with the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement and the National Resource Center for Legal and Judicial Issues, to provide more qualified legal representation for children and/or parents in the

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

child welfare system. (Outcome: Permanency 1 and Well Being 1) Target Completion date: June 30, 2007

Strategy 3.1: To assist in the recruitment, training and retention of qualified legal representation for children and families impacted by the storm. (Outcome: Permanency 1) Target Completion date: June 30, 2007

Action Plan

Step 1: Work with National Resource Centers to develop a plan for recruiting and training qualified legal representation for storm impacted families and children.

- Lead: LA Court Improvement Program Coordinator
- Due Date: August 31, 2006

Step 2: Implement plan and monitor its effectiveness.

- Lead: LA Court Improvement Program Coordinator
- Due Date: June 30, 2007

Strategy 3.2: To develop training on how to advocate for children and families in the context of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. (Outcomes: Permanency 1 and Well Being 1) Target Completion date: June 30, 2007

Action Plan

Step 1: Work with the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning and the Louisiana Court Improvement Program to develop training on how to advocate for children and families in the context of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

- Lead: Training Section Administrator
- Due Date: October 31, 2006

Step 2: Deliver training to specific OCS staff, qualified attorneys and service providers.

- Leads: Training Section Administrator and LA Court Improvement Program Coordinator
- Due Date: June 30, 2007

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

2004-2005 PIP Completion Summary

The state's CFSR PIP was designed to correct deficiencies in areas of safety, permanency, and well-being through a series of item-specific action steps. Each action step was broken down into benchmarks to be achieved during a specific quarter. The PIP included a total of 40 action steps with a total of 186 attendant benchmarks. Of the total number of benchmarks, 157 were due for completion in PIP quarters 1 through 5. The remaining 29 benchmarks were due in PIP quarters 6 and 7.

This summary provides the number of benchmarks for each PIP Item by action step. The benchmarks are designated as:

- Achieved - indicates that the state fully completed all aspects of the benchmark
- Substantially Achieved - indicates that most of the activities necessary to achieve the benchmark were completed or that more than 50% of the regions completed the benchmark
- Partially Achieved - indicates that some activities necessary to achieve the benchmark were completed, but that other significant activities were incomplete; or that some, but 50% or fewer, of the Regions completed the benchmark
- Not Achieved - indicates that no significant progress was made toward benchmark achievement.

Due in 6th or 7th Quarters - indicates that activity on the benchmark was not required during the first 5 quarters of PIP completion.

Note: During the first 5 quarters of PIP implementation, and in spite of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 82% of the benchmarks due were fully achieved, and 94% were fully, substantially or partially achieved.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Benchmark Achievement by Outcome, Item, and Action Step:

Items/Action Steps	Number of Benchmarks	Benchmarks Achieved	Benchmarks Substantially Achieved	Benchmarks Partially Achieved	Benchmarks Not Achieved	Benchmarks Due 6 th & 7 th Quarters
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect						
<i>Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.</i>						
1. Reduce the paper work demands for CPI staff	7	7	0	0	0	0
2. Develop an oversight and tracking system for initial contact to provide feedback on timeliness of investigation initiation	4	2	1	0	0	1
3. Seek funds and positions to establish the intake program in support of emerging integrated service delivery and to support implementation of new CAPTA regulations	4	2	0	0	1	1
4. Strengthen practice and policy related to the intake process	6	5	0	0	0	1
5. Develop monitoring process for case closure within 60 days	4	3	0	0	0	1
6. Develop a monitoring process for cases open over 6 months	4	3	0	0	0	1
<i>Total Item 1:</i>	29	22	1	0	1	5
<i>Item 2a: Repeat maltreatment (recurrence)</i>						
1. General reports that provide demographic and geographic data on repeat maltreatment to identify trends and target populations, and develop and implement a screening protocol to identify families at risk of repeat maltreatment.	7	4	2	0	0	1

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Items/Action Steps	Number of Benchmarks	Benchmarks Achieved	Benchmarks Substantially Achieved	Benchmarks Partially Achieved	Benchmarks Not Achieved	Benchmarks Due 6 th & 7 th Quarters
2. Propose legislation changing the Louisiana Children's Code to all access to invalid reports to aid more comprehensive assessment	3	2	0	0	0	1
Total Item 2a:	10	6	2	0	0	2
Item 2b Repeat maltreatment (maltreatment of children in foster care)						
1. Expand initial and ongoing assessment of children's risk of abuse/neglect in foster care placements	7	4	1	0	0	2
2. Conduct joint in-service training for caseworkers, foster parents, and social service directors from the four federally-recognized American Indian tribes to promote safety of children in foster care	5	4	0	1	0	0
3. Increase capacity in services continuum of out of home care resources	8	6	0	1	0	1
4. Collaborate with residential facilities to reduce maltreatment in restrictive care	4	3	0	0	0	1
Total Item 2b:	24	17	1	2	0	4
Total Safety 1:	63	45	4	2	1	11
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate						
<i>Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal.</i>						

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Items/Action Steps	Number of Benchmarks	Benchmarks Achieved	Benchmarks Substantially Achieved	Benchmarks Partially Achieved	Benchmarks Not Achieved	Benchmarks Due 6 th & 7 th Quarters
1. Enhance clinical knowledge of staff pertaining to risk and safety screening of substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence	5	2	0	1	1	1
2. Develop a workgroup comprised of agency and state resource center staff to address effectiveness/accessibility of Louisiana Family Resource Centers	4	3	0	0	0	1
3. Strengthen policy and practice on the use of comprehensive assessments throughout the life of a case designed to reduce risk and increase safety	4	2	0	1	0	1
4. Provide a more comprehensive assessment and service delivery through inclusion of support services	7	2	0	0	2	3
Total Safety 2 and Item 3:	20	9	0	2	3	6
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situation						
<i>Item 6: Stability of foster care placement</i>						
1. Increase support to foster parents	4	2	0	1	0	1
2. Develop and implement a Resource Family Home System	3	1	0	0	1	1
Total Item 6:	7	3	0	1	1	2

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Items/Action Steps	Number of Benchmarks	Benchmarks Achieved	Benchmarks Substantially Achieved	Benchmarks Partially Achieved	Benchmarks Not Achieved	Benchmarks Due 6 th & 7 th Quarters
<u>Item 7: Permanency goal for child</u>						
1. Develop and implement a statewide education package for legal stakeholders, DSS/OCS staff, Office of Youth Development Staff, and other relevant stakeholders on federal, state and agency regulations regarding permanency and explore establishing standards for legal representation standards for legal representation in child welfare	5	2	1	0	1	1
2. Review permanency goals for all children in foster care	2	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Total Item 7:</i>	7	3	1	0	1	2
<u>Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives</u>						
1. Expand utilization of currently available resources and services to achieve and support permanency	4	4	0	0	0	0
2. Explore expansion of resources and services for families to achieve permanency	4	3	0	0	1	0
3. Clarify legal/court issues to reduce barriers to permanency within 12 months	3	3	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Item 8:</i>	11	10	0	0	1	0
<u>Item 9: Adoption within 24 months</u>						
1. Initial and ongoing search, assessment, and reassessment of relatives throughout the life of the case or until a permanent family is identified	3	3	0	0	0	0

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Items/Action Steps	Number of Benchmarks	Benchmarks Achieved	Benchmarks Substantially Achieved	Benchmarks Partially Achieved	Benchmarks Not Achieved	Benchmarks Due 6 th & 7 th Quarters
2. Reduce delays in the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) process	4	2	1	0	0	1
3. Transfer cases from foster care to adoption timely	2	2	0	0	0	0
4. Improve recruitment and retention of foster/adoptive families	4	4	0	0	0	0
Total Item 9:	13	11	1	0	0	1
Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement						
1. Identify and support permanent placements and contacts for children	8	6	0	1	0	1
2. Strengthen services to assist children in the transition to independent living	4	3	1	0	0	0
Total Item 10:	12	9	1	1	0	1
Total Permanency 1:	50	36	3	2	3	6
Well Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs						
Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents						
1. Strengthen Family Services program assessments to better target interventions	5	3	0	0	1	1
2. Assess and strengthen contracted in-home psychotherapy services to prevent foster care placement and to reduce time to reunify	6	5	0	0	0	1
3. Develop, conduct, and evaluate joint in-service training for caseworkers, foster parents, and the four federally-recognized American Indian Tribes	4	2	0	2	0	0

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Items/Action Steps	Number of Benchmarks	Benchmarks Achieved	Benchmarks Substantially Achieved	Benchmarks Partially Achieved	Benchmarks Not Achieved	Benchmarks Due 6 th & 7 th Quarters
4. Include Social Service Directors of the four federally-recognized American Indian Tribes in quarterly CQI meetings	3	3	0	0	0	0
Total Item 17:	18	13	0	2	1	2
Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning						
1. Educate Staff on strategies and policy to improve child and family involvement in case planning	6	5	1	0	0	0
2. Explore use of community resources via state family resource center staff in engaging resistant clients in Family Services cases	5	4	0	0	0	1
Total Item 18:	11	9	1	0	0	1
Item 20: Worker visits with parent(s)						
1. Clarify agency policy impacting worker visits with parents to support parental involvement	4	4	0	0	0	0
2. Provide consistent efforts statewide in locating absent parents	4	3	1	0	0	0
Total Item 20:	8	7	1	0	0	0
Total Well Being 1:	37	29	2	2	1	3
Well Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs						
Item 21: Educational needs of the child						
1. Identify and address critical educational problems and issues for children	3	2	0	0	0	1
2. Improve communication across service delivery providers	5	3	0	1	0	1
Total Well Being 2 and Item 21:	8	5	0	1	0	2

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

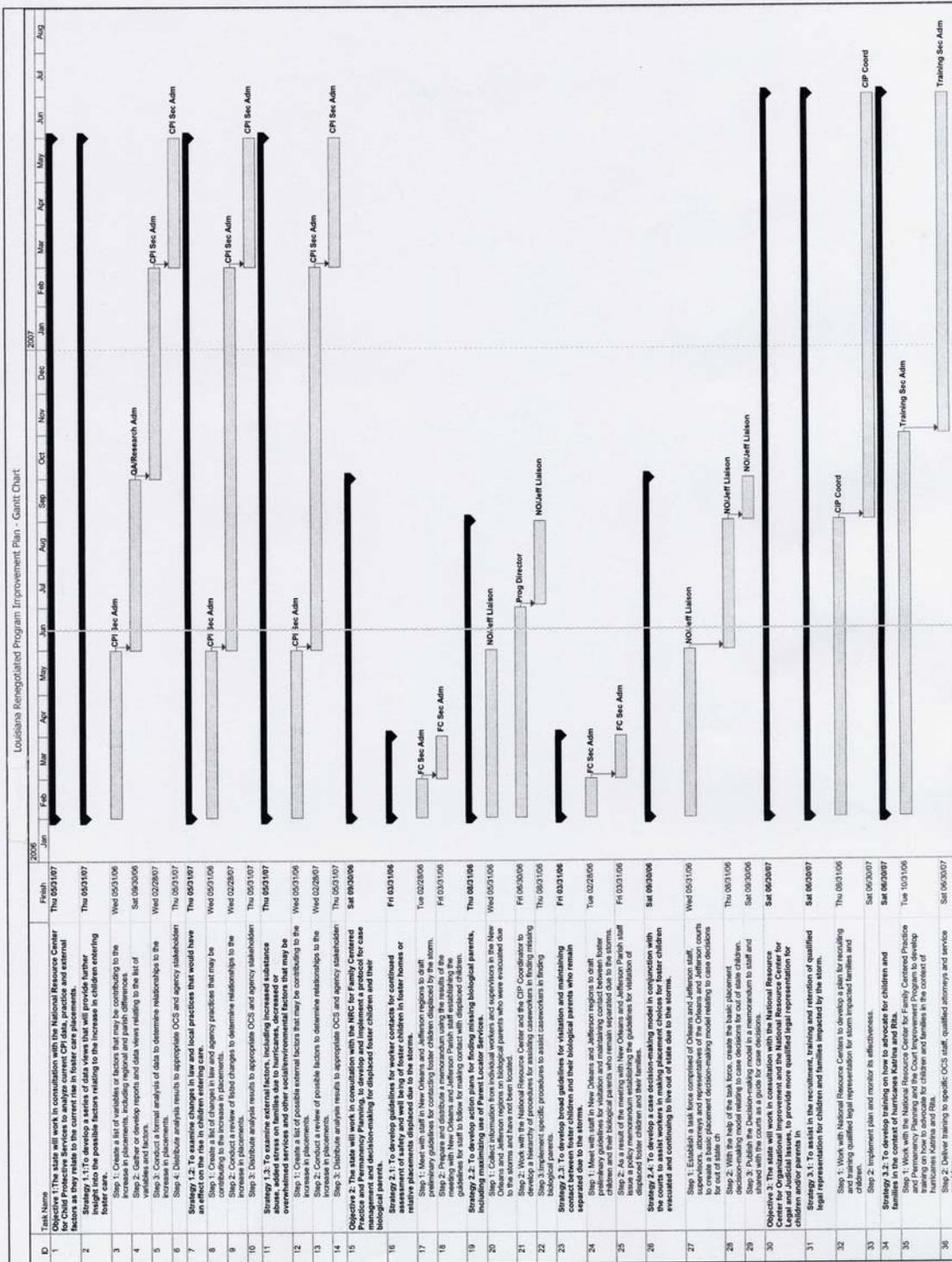
Items/Action Steps	Number of Benchmarks	Benchmarks Achieved	Benchmarks Substantially Achieved	Benchmarks Partially Achieved	Benchmarks Not Achieved	Benchmarks Due 6 th & 7 th Quarters
Well Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs						
<i>Item 23: Mental health needs of the child</i>						
1. Maximize service delivery to children to better meet their mental health needs	8	6	1	0	0	1
Total All Outcomes and Items:	186	130	10	9	8	29

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Outcomes and Related Objectives and Strategies

Objectives	Strategies	Outcomes Addressed					
		Safety		Permanency	Well Being		
		1	2	1	1	2	3
1. The state will work in consultation with the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services to analyze current CPI data, practice and external factors as they relate to the current rise in foster care placements.	1.1. To develop a series of data views that will provide further insight into the possible factors relating to the increase in children entering foster care.		X				
	1.2. To examine changes in law and local practices that would have an effect on the rise in children entering care.		X				
	1.3. To examine external factors, including increased substance abuse, added stress on families due to hurricanes, decreased or overwhelmed services and other social/environmental factors that may be affecting the rise in children entering care.		X				
2. The state will work in consultation with the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning, to develop and implement a protocol for case management and decision-making for displaced foster children and their biological parents.	2.1. To develop guidelines for worker contacts for continued assessment of safety and well being of foster children in foster homes or relative placements displaced due to the storms.	X		X	X	X	X
	2.2. To develop action plans for finding missing biological parents, including maximizing use of Parent Locator Services.	X				X	X
	2.3. To develop broad guidelines for visitation and maintaining contact between foster children and their biological parents who remain separated due to the storms.			X	X		
	2.4. To develop a case decision-making model in conjunction with the courts to assist workers in making placement choices for foster children evacuated and continuing to live out of state due to the storms.			X	X		
3. The state will work in consultation with the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement and the National Resource Center for Legal and Judicial Issues, to provide more qualified legal representation for children and/or parents in the child welfare system.	3.1. To assist in the recruitment, training and retention of qualified legal representation for children and families impacted by the storm.			X			
	3.2. To develop training on how to advocate for children and families in the context of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.			X	X		

STATE OF LOUISIANA 2006 Annual Progress and Service Report



STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

21.0 Assurances, Certifications, Title IV-B, Subpart 2 Expenditures Annual Budget Request for 2006 – 2007 and Signature Pages

**STATE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATIONS
FOR THE CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM**

As Chief Executive Officer of the State of Louisiana, I certify that the State has in effect and is operating a statewide program relating to Foster Care Independent Living and that the following provisions to effectively implement the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program are in place:

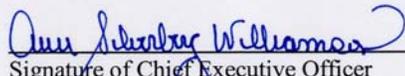
1. The State will provide assistance and services to youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(A)];
2. Not more than 30 percent of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment for a fiscal year will be expended for room and board for youth who have left foster care because they have attained 18 years of age, and have not attained 21 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(B)];
3. None of the amounts paid to the State from its allotment will be expended for room or board for any child who has not attained 18 years of age [Section 477(b)(3)(C)];
4. The State will use training funds provided under the program of Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance to provide training to help foster parents, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living, and will, to the extent possible, coordinate such training with the independent living program conducted for adolescents [Section 477(b)(3)(D)];
5. The State will adequately prepare prospective foster parents with the appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the needs of the child before a child, under the supervision of the State, is placed with prospective foster parents and that such preparation will be continued, as necessary, after the placement of the child. [Section 471(a), as amended];
6. The State has consulted widely with public and private organizations in developing the plan and has given all interested members of the public at least 30 days to submit comments on the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(E)];
7. The State will make every effort to coordinate the State programs receiving funds provided from an allotment made to the State under subsection (c) with other Federal and State programs for youth (especially transitional living youth projects funded under Part B of Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974); abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies [Section 477(b)(3)(F)];

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

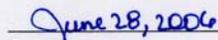
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

STATE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATIONS - Continued

8. Each American Indian tribe in the State has been consulted about the programs to be carried out under the plan; there have been efforts to coordinate the programs with such tribes; and benefits and services available to American Indian youth in the State on the same basis as to other youth in the State [Section 477(b)(3)(G)];
9. Adolescents participating in the program under this section will participate directly in designing their own program activities that prepare them for independent living and the adolescents will be required to accept personal responsibility for living up to their part of the program [Section 477(b)(3)(H)]; and
10. The State has established and will enforce standards and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse in the programs carried out under the plan [Section 477(b)(3)(I)].



Signature of Chief Executive Officer



Date

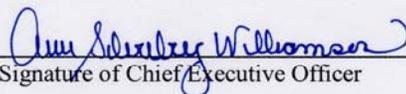
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

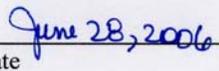
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATIONS
FOR THE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM
CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM**

As Chief Executive Officer of the State of Louisiana, I certify that the State has in effect and is operating a statewide program relating to Foster Care Independent Living and that the following provisions will be implemented as of September 30, 2003:

1. The State will comply with the conditions specified in subsection 477(i).
2. The State has described methods it will use to:
3.
 - Ensure that the total amount of educational assistance to a youth under this and any other Federal assistance program does not exceed the total cost of attendance; and
 - Avoid duplication of benefits under this and any other Federal assistance program, as defined in section 477(3)(b)(J).



Signature of Chief Executive Officer



Date

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report**

2007 Federal Fiscal Year CFCIP Funds Requested

CFCIP Federal Funds Requested: \$1,358,131.00

Request for Re-allotted Funds, (if available): \$135,000.00

We presently have ten private contractors who provide services in the CFCIP to the foster children and former foster children of Louisiana. The total amount of these contracts is \$1,285,131.00. The amount of CFCIP Federal Funds to be used for room and board for youth aging out of foster care from 18 years old up to 21 years old is \$35,000. Administrative charges are budgeted for \$38,000.

The eligible population is expected to be approximately 2,600 in fiscal year 2007. The estimated number of eligible youth to be served is 1,700. The estimated number of youth 15 to 17 years old to be served will be 1,088 and youth 18 years up to 21 to be served will be 612.

State Match Amount: \$339,533.00

Sources of State Match:

1. Private providers in kind or cash and may originate with a third party.
2. Expenditures for former foster children 18 years old up to 21 years old for services such as clothing, transportation, evaluations/therapy and room and board are paid with state funds.

I certify that I am authorized to submit CFCIP and CFCIP ETV applications for FY 2007 funds in the state of Louisiana.

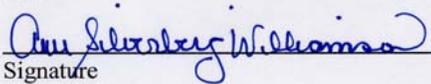
Application submitted by:

Ann Silverberg Williamson

Name

Secretary, Louisiana Department of Social Services

Title



Signature

June 28, 2006

Date

Approval Date: _____

Signature ACF Regional Administrator or Hub Director

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

2007 Federal Fiscal Year CFCIP ETV Request for Funds

Federal Funds Requested \$ 380,537

State Match Amount \$ 95,135

Request for Re-allotted Funds, (if available): \$20,000

Sources: State General Funds paid for education and training related costs, such as room and board.

I certify that I am authorized to submit CFCIP and CFCIP ETV applications for FY 2007 funds in the state of Louisiana.

Application submitted by:

Ann Silverberg Williamson

Name

Secretary, Louisiana Department of Social Services

Title

Ann Silverberg Williamson

Signature

June 28, 2006

Date

Approval Date: _____

Signature ACF Regional Administrator or Hub Director

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

Title IV-B, Subpart 2 expenditures for family preservation, community-based family support, time-limited family reunification, adoption promotion and support services and administrative costs are listed below.

FFY 2005 Expenditures by purpose		
Family Preservation		22.50%
Family Support Services		22.50%
Time-Limited Family Reunification Services		22.50%
Adoption Promotion and Support Services		22.50%
Administration		10.00%
TOTAL		100.00%

STATE OF LOUISIANA

2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

OMB APPROVAL # 0980-0047
Approved through October 31, 2008

CFS-101, PART II: ANNUAL SUMMARY OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
State of Louisiana
For FY October 1, 2006 TO September 30, 2007

SERVICES/ACTIVITIES	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM (IN THOUSANDS)										(k) NUMBER TO BE SERVED	(l) POP. TO BE SERVED	(m) GEOG. AREA TO BE SERVED
	(a) I-CWS	(b) II-PSSF	(c) CAPTA*	(d) CFCID* including ETV	(e) TITLE IV-E	(f) TITLE XX (SSBG)	(g) TITLE IV-A (TANF)	(h) TITLE XIX (Medicaid)	(i) OTHER FED PROG.	(j) STATE LOCAL DONATED FUNDS			
1) PREVENTION & SUPPORT SERVICES (Family Support)	2,004	2,744	149			2,330	1,876		251	3,915	24,584	Statewide	
2) PROTECTIVE SERVICES	1,367		348			1,035	832		585	455	24,391	Statewide	
3) CRISIS INTERVENTION (Family Preservation)													
(a) REPLACEMENT PREVENTION		1,372								457	12,629	Statewide	
(b) REUNIFICATION SERVICES		1,371								457	7,713	Statewide	
4) TIME-LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES		2,744								915	7,713	Statewide	
5) ADOPTION PROMOTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES		2,744								915	821	Statewide	
6) FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE: (a) FOSTER FAMILY & RELATIVE FOSTER CARE	1,302												
(b) GROUP/INSTITUTIONAL CARE				16,255			7,646	11,877	3,298	13,455	7,713	Statewide	
7) ADOPTION SUBSIDY PMTS.				8,752			4,117		173	3,789	1,768	Statewide	
8) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES				10,542						4,563	4,804	Statewide	
9) ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT	1,184	1,073		31,891						435	1,840	Statewide	
10) STAFF TRAINING		146		7,210		380				32,644			
11) FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT & TRAINING										2,452			
12) ADOPTIVE PARENT RECRUITMENT & TRAINING						190							
13) CHILD CARE RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING						190							
14) TOTAL	5,857	12,194	497	1,739	74,650	4,125	14,471	11,877	61,344	15,000	36,176	Statewide	

States Only, Indian Tribes are not required to include information on these programs.
Medicaid; SSI; SSA; VA; Child Care Block Grant; Children's Justice Act; Community Based Family Resource
Other Federal Programs:

STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

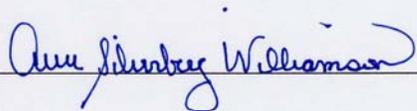
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2006 Annual Progress and Service Report

STATE OF LOUISIANA
ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICES REPORT SIGNATURE PAGE

EFFECTIVE DATE AND SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

I hereby certify that the State of Louisiana complies with the requirements of law listed in the Assurances and Certifications Section of the 2005-2009 Child and Family Services Plan. I have reviewed and approve the 2006 Annual Progress and Services Report submitted herein.

Date: June 28, 2006

Certified by 

Title Secretary

Agency: Department of Social Services/Office of Community Services

Transmittal Date June 30, 2006

Page 135