

STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child and Family Services



Nevada
Annual Progress and Service Report
(APSR)

SFY 2011

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**NEVADA ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICE REPORT SFY 2010
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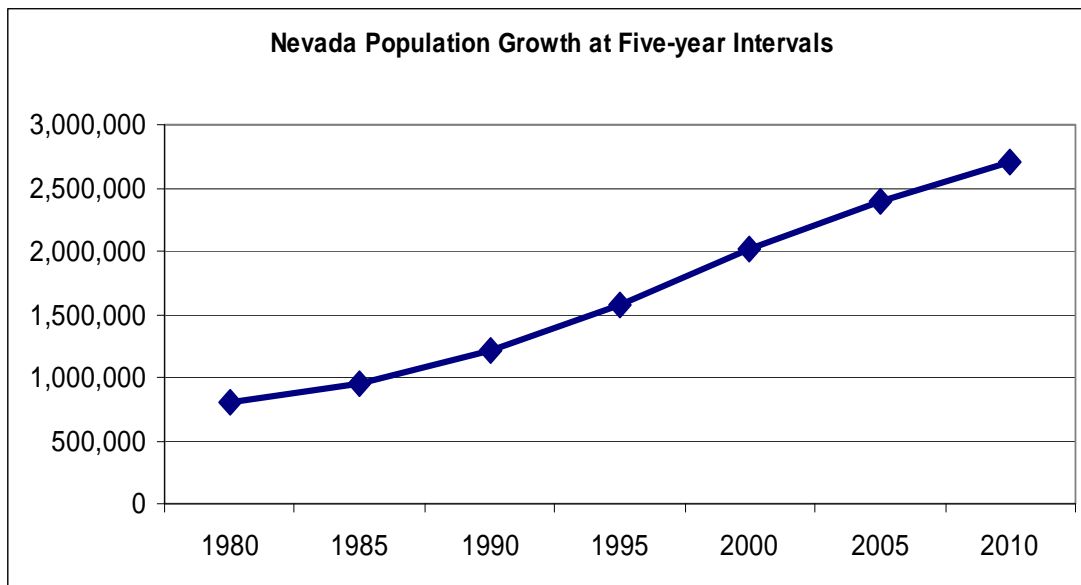
SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

Nevada Demographics

Population and Geography

Nevada is the seventh largest state in the nation with a total of 110,567 square miles. The state has seventeen counties and 27 Native American Tribal areas. In the 2000 Census, Nevada ranked 35th in the nation for population, with a total of 1,998,257 inhabitants. The U.S. Census recently began releasing results from last year's decennial census, and Nevada was the fastest-growing state between 2000 and 2010, growing by 35.1 percent. Nevada has changed significantly over the previous ten years. The city of Las Vegas was the third fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States with 41.8 percent growth from 2000 to 2010. The Las Vegas metro area accounted for almost three-quarters (72 %) of Nevada's 2010 population and over four-fifths (81.9%) of the state's growth. Lyon County's population doubled over the decade adding 17,400 residents. Four counties had population growth in excess of 25 percent: Lyon (50.7%), Clark (41.8%), Nye (35.3%) and Lincoln (28.3%). Nevada is the only state that has maintained a growth rate of 25 percent or greater for the last three decades; it has been the fastest-growing state for five straight decades.

Figure 01: Nevada Population Growth at Five-Year Intervals



1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
800,508	951,032	1,220,695	1,581,578	2,018,244	2,401,621	2,700,551

Source: 2010 US Census Bureau

Overall, Clark County (Las Vegas/Henderson area) has a population of 1,951,269 (making it 72% of the overall state population). Washoe County (Reno/Sparks area) has the second most populous area, with 421,407 residents (16% the overall state population). The remainder of the state is made up of 15 rural and frontier counties. This area is vast, covering approximately 95,000 square miles, with the distance between most towns at an hour or more apart; the 15 remaining counties comprise 327,875 individuals or 12% of Nevada's population.

Nevada's population has a varied racial background that has changed considerably over the last ten years. Data from the US Census Bureau (2010) reports that the majority of the population in 2010 was Caucasian (66.2%) down from 75.2% in 2000, followed by some other race alone 12%; African Americans (8.1%); Asian Americans (7.2%); multiracial persons (4.7%); American Indian and Alaska Native persons (1.2%) and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (.6%).

Hispanics/Latino population, which is not classified as a racial category has increased by 81.9% over the last decade growing from 19.7 % to 26.5 % of Nevada's total population.

The Nevada Kids Count Data Report for 2010 reports that Nevada's household population is estimated to be at 965,715 (2009 data). Families made up 65%, (632,236), of the households in Nevada. This percentage is made up of 71% married-couple families; 10% male-headed families (no wife present); and 19% female-headed families (no husband present). Family households with their own children under the age of 18 with their own children in the home made up 47% of all family households. The average household size was 2.7 individuals and the average family size was 3.3.

Economy

For years, Nevada's economy had grown at rates well in excess of national norms, regardless of the health of the national business cycle. Since the late-1990s, for instance, job growth in Nevada had averaged 3.1 percent vs. just 0.5 percent in the nation as a whole. Much the same was true for nearly every other economic indicator, including personal income and population growth.

However, the U.S. recession began in December 2007, and by the end of December 2009 all of Nevada's major economic indicators had declined. The end of December 2009 marked a historically bad year for Nevada's economy, and by the end of 2010 Nevada's unemployment rate was at an all time high of 14.9 percent. Currently, in 2011 Nevada's economy is slowly beginning to show modest signs of recovery in some economic indicators, but continues to lag overall in recovery from the recession. Welfare indicators as an economic indicator reveal how low-income families are fairing, and currently these indicate more families are seeking social welfare assistance as compared to this time last year. Some of the economic indicators are as follows:

- While the unemployment rate has fallen for four consecutive months in 2011 Nevada continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the Nation at 12.5% followed by California at 11.9%.
- Nevada led the national foreclosure rate during the recession, and while foreclosure rates have declined by 15% for the first part of 2011 the housing market continues to have a slow recovery.

Nevada's public finances have been significantly impacted by the lagging recovery.

- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) information reveals that in April of 2011 29,859 individuals were receiving assistance, and since April 2010 the level of assistance has increased 1.9 percent or 566 additional recipients.
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as "food stamps" has an all-time high in April with 331,623 Nevadans participating in the program. Over-the-year the number of participants receiving assistance has increased 19.9%.

Prior to the recession, Nevada's economy was among the strongest in the nation, if not the strongest. As a result, the State served as a magnet for individuals in search of increased economic opportunity.

Child Welfare Administrative Structure

Nevada uses a state-administered and county-operated structure for the management of child welfare services. The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, under the umbrella of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, provide oversight to child welfare and direct child welfare services.

State Agency Administering Plans

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is responsible for Children's Mental Health (in Clark and Washoe, the two largest populated counties), Youth Corrections, Child Welfare Services and Child Care Licensing. As such, the implementation and administration of the Child and Family Services Plan is the responsibility of DCFS. This includes: Title IV-E, Title IV-B, Subpart I (Child Welfare Services) and Subpart 2 (Promoting Safe and Stable Families), Child Abuse

and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). DCFS has an annual operating budget of approximately \$215 million with a workforce of over 1,100 employees. Our work encompasses:

Protection and Permanency for Children: The Division creates opportunities and programs that prevent and respond to issues of parental/caregiver maltreatment, mental health, and delinquency. The Division strives to support permanency within the child's biological or primary and extended family so children may grow and develop within stable environments. The Division also recognizes the responsibility to create and support alternative permanent environments when biological or primary families are unable or incapable of caring for their children. The Division will collaboratively craft public policies to promote the strength and well-being of families.

Preservation of Families: The Division supports the value that the family is the best structure to assure stability, nurturing, care, and safety of its members and communities. Services are designed to build upon family strengths, honoring the family's traditions, history, and culture.

Juvenile Justice Services for Youth: The Division recognizes that services must balance youth rehabilitation, treatment, and community safety. Many juvenile offenders have been victims of maltreatment and therefore accountability must be balanced by the provision of services addressing trauma, loss, substance abuse, and mental health issues. Juvenile offenders are held accountable through a comprehensive system of graduated sanctions that include commitment to state-operated juvenile facilities.

Children's Mental Health: The Division uses a system of care model that strives to provide creative, individualized, strength-based, and culturally responsive services for families with children that experience severe emotional disturbances. A developing continuum of care focuses on meeting the needs of children and families in the least restrictive environment, including utilization of the wraparound process to coordinate effective service delivery that enables children to reside with families when possible and with the assistance of informal supports rather than dependency on government or paid providers.

Mission

DCFS, together in genuine partnership with families, communities and county governmental agencies, provide support and services to assist Nevada's children and families in reaching their full human potential.

Vision

DCFS recognizes that Nevada's families are our future and families thrive when they:

- Live in safe, permanent settings;
- Experience a sense of sustainable emotional and physical well being; and
- Receive support to consistently make positive choices for family and common good.

Guiding Principles

Service principles guide our work towards achieving this vision and are consistent with children and family services principles specified in federal regulations [45 CFS 1355.25(a) through 1355.25(h)]. These practice model principles are:

- Protection - Children's safety is paramount;
- Development - Children, youth, and families need consistent nurturing in a healthy environment to achieve their full human potential;
- Permanency - All children need and are entitled to enduring relationships that provide a family, stability and belonging, a sense of self that connects children to their past, present and future;
- Cultural Responsiveness - Children and families have the right to be understood within the context of their own family, traditions, history, culture, and community;
- Partnership - The entire community shares accountability for the creation of an environment that helps families raise children to reach their full potential;
- Organizational Competence - Effectively structured and managed organizations with committed, trained, skilled staff are necessary to achieve positive outcomes for children and families.
- Continuous Quality Improvement - Strategic sequencing of continuous quality improvements must occur to reach

Nevada's child and family services vision; and

- Professional Competence - Children and families need a relationship with skilled and empathetic case managers who can provide ethical support, confront difficult issues, and effectively assist them towards positive change that reinforces safety, permanency, well-being, and community safety.

Purpose

The Division is responsible for accomplishing the following purposes:

- Protecting and promoting the welfare and safety of all children, including individuals with disabilities; homeless, dependent or neglected children;
- Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems that may result in the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or delinquency of children;
- Preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families by identifying family problems and assisting families in resolving their problems and preventing the breakup of the family where the prevention of child removal is desirable and possible;
- Restoring to their families' children, who have been removed and may be safely returned, by the provision of services to the child and the family;
- Assuring adequate care of children away from their homes in cases where the child cannot be returned home or cannot be placed for adoption; and

- Placing children in suitable adoptive homes in cases where restoration to the biological or primary family is not possible or appropriate.



Figure 02: County Map of Nevada

Child Welfare Agencies

The organizational structure of DCFS and program delivery of child welfare services are influenced by the state size and concentration of county population. NRS 432B.325 states that in counties where population is 100,000 or more, that the county shall provide protective services for children in that county and pay the cost of those services in accordance with standards adopted by the state. In 2001, the state legislature expanded the county's responsibility to include all child welfare services of child protection, foster care and adoption (NRS 432B.030 and NRS 432B.044). Figure 02 provides a map of the state with each county outlined.

Agency Regional Coverage

The Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS), located in Las Vegas, provides child welfare services to all children and families in Clark County in the Southern most part of the State. Washoe County Department of Social Services (WCDSS) located in Reno, Nevada provides child welfare services directly to all children and families located in Washoe county in the northwestern part of the State and DCFS provides child welfare services to the remaining 15 counties in

the state through its Rural Region offices.

The DCFS Rural Region is separated into four districts, each providing services to multiple counties each. District 1 covers the northern part of the State with its main office based in Elko. This District provides services to Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln and White Pine Counties. District 2 covers the western/central part of the state and is based in Carson City. This District provides services to Carson City, the State's Capitol, Douglas County, Storey County, and a portion of Lyon County. District 3 covers the eastern/central part of the state and is based out of Fallon. This office

provides services to Churchill, Lyon, Pershing and Mineral Counties. District 4 covers the southern rural part of the state and is based out of Pahrump. This office provides services to Esmeralda and Nye Counties. For the most part, growth in Nevada's rural counties has been fairly stable. Elko has seen substantial growth in the past few years.

Staff and Work Load:

There are currently 466 caseworkers and 117 supervisory/management positions in child welfare filled statewide. There is currently a 22.4% vacancy rate statewide for all child welfare caseworkers and supervisory/management positions. The 22.4% vacancy rate is due in large part to frozen positions and budgetary restraints.

Clark County Department of Family Services: CCDFS currently has 314 caseworkers and 77 supervisory/management positions filled and 110 vacancies. CCDFS has a current case load ratio of approximately 1 worker to 8.3 new investigation/18.2 Total investigations for child protective services; 25.9 children per worker for permanency out-of-home workers, and 25.0 children per worker for permanency in-home workers. The current staff turnover rate is not available.

Washoe County Department of Social Services: WCDSS currently has 95 caseworker (case manager) and 25 supervisory/management positions filled and 12 vacancies (12 vacant caseworker positions) The current turnover rate for WCDSS case workers is 11.24% which is a slight decline from the previous year. Exit interviews instituted in 2009 continue to demonstrate that employees who leave voluntarily due so primarily because of workload and stress-related issues. WCDSS permanency case load is approximately 1:25 children and the assessment worker caseload averages 1:12 new investigations per month.

DCFS – Rural Region: DCFS currently has 57 case worker (Social Worker II/III) positions filled. There are 4 district office manager positions and 11 Social Work Supervisors positions filled. There are currently 9 Social work position vacancies (7 substitute Care and CPS, 1 Adoption, 1 QA). The DCFS Rural Region has a current caseload size of 17-20 cases for each CPS worker and 19-22 cases for substitute care in offices that are fully staffed. In offices that have multiple vacancies the caseloads are considerably higher. In July 2010 the Rural Region had 5 social work positions vacant, and in April 2011 the Rural Region had 9 social worker positions vacant.

Children in Care in Nevada

For the State Fiscal Year period of July 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011; Nevada had a total of 7,224 children in care. Table 01 shows a variety of information on how many children are currently in care; how many entered and left care during the year long period and how many had previous exposure to the foster care system. Compared to SFY 2010 data for the same time period (July 1 – May 31); there were a total of 7291 children in care during the fiscal year. Nevada has shown a 0.9% decrease in the number of children in care from this fiscal year to last fiscal year.

Table 01: Foster Care Summary Information

Summary	Total	Rural	Washoe	Clark
Total during this current time frame	7224	659	1254	5311
Total Entering	2533	252	455	1826
Entered with less than 2 placements in first year	2103	211	405	1487
Total with prior Foster Care Experience	9	1	5	3
Total Leaving Care During this time frame	2371	194	464	1713

Source: UNITY Report CFS721 for July 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011.

The majority of children entering care are birth to four years of age (43.7%); followed by children five years to nine years of age (26.02%). Children age 10 to 14 years entered care at a rate of 19.53% while youth age 15 to 19 years were the smallest group entering care (10.74%). Table 02 shows the breakdown of children in care during SFY 2011 and includes a breakdown of the ages of the children entering and leaving care during the year.

Table 02: Age Facts of Children in Care

Age	Total Number	Percent	Upon Entering	Percent	Upon Leaving	Percent
0 to 4 year	3156	43.69	1304	51.48	1029	43.4
5 to 9 years	1880	26.02	607	23.96	654	27.58
10 to 14 years	1411	19.53	447	17.65	454	19.15
15 to 19 years	776	10.74	175	6.91	233	9.83
20+ years	1	0.01	0	0	1	0.04
Total	7224		2533		2371	

Source: UNITY Report CFS721 July 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011

A summary of children in foster care Table 03 shows the breakdown of children and youth by race/ethnicity in Foster Care. It is expected that there would be a similar breakdown of ethnicity in foster care as there is in the general population. However, based on a comparison of data from Nevada's SACWIS System – UNITY and information provided by the Nevada State Demographer for estimated population characteristics for children age 0-19 for 2011, there are a disproportionate number of African American children in Foster Care in Nevada. It is expected that approximately 8% of the children in care would be of African American heritage; however, currently there are 28% of children in care of this ethnicity.

Table 03: Statewide Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Children Entering Foster Care by Fiscal Year

Race/Ethnicity	SFY 2006	SFY 2007	SFY 2008	SFY 2009	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	**2011 Estimated Population Children age 0-18
African American	2150 21%	2472 22%	2531 22%	2475 23%	2246 28%	2251 28%	55550 8.2%
American Indian/Native American (includes Eskimo or Aleut)	148 1%	177 2%	184 2%	209 2%	217 3%	205 3%	8648 1.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	302 5%	356 6%	332 5%	303 5%	154 2%	170 2%	45974 6.8%
Caucasian	5899 58%	6336 56%	6465 55%	5859 54%	5225 65%	5222 66%	310936 45.9%
Hispanic (All Races)	1683 17%	2011 18%	2170 19%	2085 19%	1879 25%	1917 27%	256028 37.8%
Statewide Total*:	8499	9371	9512	8846	7842	7963	677,136

*Excludes Hispanic as these individuals are counted in other races.

** Source: Nevada State Demographer

Source: Unity Report CFS721 figures run from July 1 through May 31 for each fiscal year

Legislative Activities

Nevada's legislature meets every biennium. Nevada entered its 76th regular session this year in 2011. In the spring of 2011, several bills were enacted during this 76th regular legislative session that have had an impact on child welfare and will bring about new initiatives. Table 04 lists the Bills that passed during the session that effect child welfare and are being addressed during the current biennium. Some of these have required regulation and policy development and/or revision.

Table 04: Legislative Bills enacted in 2011

Bill	REQUESTOR/COMMITTEE	ID	SUBJECT
<u>SB371</u>	Senator Cegavske	Psychotropic Medication	Makes various changes concerning the protection of children.
<u>AB147</u>	Assemblywoman Mastroluca	Inheritants rights	Revises provisions relating to the termination of parental rights.
<u>AB110</u>	Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice (NRS 218E.705)	Kinship Guardian Assistance	Establishes provisions relating to assistance for certain guardians.
<u>AB111</u>	Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice (NRS 218E.705)	Adoption Residency Requirements	Revises provisions relating to adoption.
<u>SB113</u>	Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice (NRS 218E.705)	Disaster Response	Revises provisions relating to the care of certain children during disasters.
<u>SB112</u>	Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice (NRS 218E.705)	Sharing of Records	Revises provisions relating to the release of certain records of children in the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services.
<u>AB536</u>	Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice (NRS 218E.705)	Background Checks	Revises provisions relating to background checks of certain persons who work with children.
<u>SB167</u>	Senator Leslie	Share report with Guardian	Revises provisions governing the confidentiality of certain reports of child welfare agencies.
<u>SB66</u>	Attorney General	AG Child Death Review	Authorizes the Attorney General to organize or sponsor multidisciplinary teams to review the death of a victim of domestic violence.
<u>SB57</u>	Attorney General	AG Custody	Revises provisions concerning missing, abducted, removed or concealed children.
<u>SB23</u>	Child and Family Services, Division of-Health and Human Services	Retroactive Adoption Subsidy	Clarifies the entity responsible for notifying a potential adoptive parent of the availability of adoption assistance during a private adoption.
<u>AB148</u>	Assemblywoman Mastroluca	Safe Haven	Revises provisions governing the delivery of a newborn child to a provider of emergency services.
<u>SB111</u>	Senator Settlemeyer	Austin's House	Makes various changes concerning the placement of a child into protective custody.
<u>AB350</u>	Assemblywoman Mastroluca	Fictive Kin	Revises provisions governing children in foster care.
<u>SB246</u>	Senator Leslie	Medication Training	Revises provisions concerning governmental facilities for children.
<u>AB154</u>	Assemblyman Frierson	Foster Care Bill of Rights	Enacts the foster care children bill of rights.

<u>SB370</u>	Senator Horsford	Placement priorities and parental incarceration parole conditions	Revises provisions governing family preservation and restoration.
<u>SB447</u>	Budget and Planning, Division of-Administration	Block Grant	Implements an annual capped block grant to support child welfare services.
<u>SB480</u>	Budget and Planning, Division of-Administration	Rural CPS Assessments	Provides for assessment of rural counties for the cost of child protective services provided by the State.

SECTION II: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF MEASURING PROGRESS

Nevada has had an established process for measuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children in the child welfare system for the past six years. This process was modeled after the federal Child and Family Services Review of state cases. However, due to consistent budget reductions over the last several years this process that was projected to be expanded to all 45 items in the next five year cycle as part of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) will be truncated to accommodate for the diminished resources available.

Overall Goal

- **To ensure that the child welfare system in Nevada is meeting compliance in all Safety, Permanency, Well-Being and Systemic Outcomes as outlined in individual 45 performance indicator items.**

Overall Objectives

The overall objective of the state in its five year plan is to ensure a comprehensive ongoing review process using a variety of methods for examining compliance on Safety, Permanency, Well-Being and Systemic Performance Indicators. This is planned to be accomplished by redesigning the existing Quality Improvement Framework for Nevada to include a variety of processes. Each of the 45 performance indicators include key elements, such as statewide policy review and revision; development and monitoring of quantitative reports to address specific performance indicator questions; and the development and implementation of a qualitative process to answer those questions that cannot be measured through quantitative reporting. This includes the potential of developing targeted case reviews, stakeholder surveys, and other methods for gleaning the performance on individual items. The overall process also includes the provision for ensuring ongoing coordination and collaboration with key child welfare stakeholders to be involved in all levels of the Quality Improvement Framework process.

Progress on the individual methods outlined in Section III of the Nevada Child and Family Services Plan are included in several systemic performance indicator items and are highlighted below.

1. **Coordinating and Collaborating with Stakeholders:** Throughout the quality improvement process for the State of Nevada; Family Programs Office (FPO) representatives, child welfare agency representatives and key external stakeholders have been and continue to be involved in the process. Current progress on this item is reported out on in Item 38: State Engagement in Consultation with Stakeholders and Item 40: Coordination of CFSP Services with other Federal Programs. Current stakeholder involvement has included members from a variety of areas including representatives from the judiciary, child advocates, caregivers (foster parents, adoptive parents, relative caregivers, etc.), foster youth, tribal representatives, educational representatives, medical/behavioral health representatives, differential response representatives, service providers (substance abuse, domestic violence, etc.) and other members as identified. A number of existing stakeholder groups are regularly collaborated with to ensure consistent involvement in the CFSP process.
2. **Review, Revision and Development of Policies and Procedures:** The State uses a collaborative process to develop statewide policy. To accomplish the review, revision or new development of statewide policies and procedures related to Safety, Permanency, Well-Being and Systemic Performance Indicators collaborative workgroups are convened with members from DCFS, the child welfare agencies and applicable external stakeholders in accordance with federal and state laws. This process is outlined in Item 31: Quality Assurance

System and individual policy updates are included as applicable under all items.

3. **Review, Revision and Development of Quantitative Reports:** . Nevada's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on October 21, 2010 with an implementation date beginning on December 1, 2010 (Quarter 1). PIP Strategy (4) "Strengthen Child Welfare Supervision and Middle Management Skills" addresses quantitative reporting as it relates to timeliness to permanency. A list of current reports was provided in Nevada's PIP Quarter 1 submission. Currently, a workgroup has convened to develop any identified needed reports. The developed reports will be due in the PIP Quarter 4 submission. Also, during the 2011 Legislative Session the Legislature approved DCFS's Technology Investment (TIR). The TIR will enhance the UNITY system, and help support Nevada's state and local child welfare agencies and statewide quality improvement and assurance efforts in the ability to better review, revise and develop quantitative reports. In addition, Nevada will become a member of the American Public Human Services Association's Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data (the State Data Center) to further support our child welfare agencies in building our capacity to:
 - Analyze key child welfare outcomes, including time to reunification, time to adoption, placement stability, and reentry to care
 - Compare outcomes for different administrative offices within the state or with other states
 - Trace outcomes from the aggregate to the individual child level
 - Use historical trends to project future service patterns and test the impact of service and policy innovations
 - Set performance goals and monitor progress Link financial decision making to outcome measures

4. **Review and Improvement of Existing Stakeholder Survey Instruments/Qualitative Review Methods:** This objective covers a qualitative method for obtaining information from key stakeholders regarding specific performance indicators. A pilot of this process was conducted during the spring of 2009 during the Nevada Statewide Assessment. This process may include the review and improvement of existing stakeholder survey instruments and/or development (where needed) of new qualitative review methods for assessing system performance through the regular consultation with stakeholders key to the child welfare system in Nevada. Nevada is currently in the 3rd Quarter of its Program Improvement Plan (PIP) which includes approval of the Methodology of Measurement for the Qualitative portion of the PIP. In addition, recent legislative activity will require the Division to assess and develop an oversight system to include data reports, case reviews and Agency Action Plans, including performance targets and incentive payments to be made to the child welfare agencies in response to performance achieved.

5. **Review and Improvement of the existing Quality Improvement Case Review (QICR) Process:** This process has been redesigned as part of the PIP. The progress is reported in Item 31: Quality Assurance System.

6. **Quality Improvement Loop:** As mentioned, Nevada is in the 3rd Quarter of the PIP and has completed 2 reviews one in Clark County and the other in the Rural Region. The Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC) has not convened due to work involved in development and implementation of the PIP. Nevada is working towards a re-design of the Quality Assurance System in response to legislative action and the approved Measurement Methodology submitted with the PIP. It is anticipated that technical assistance (TA) may be requested to assist in development and re-design of Nevada's Quality Improvement System which may or may not include reconvening the SQIC.

Technical Assistance

Table 05: Technical Assistance Received for State Fiscal Year 2011

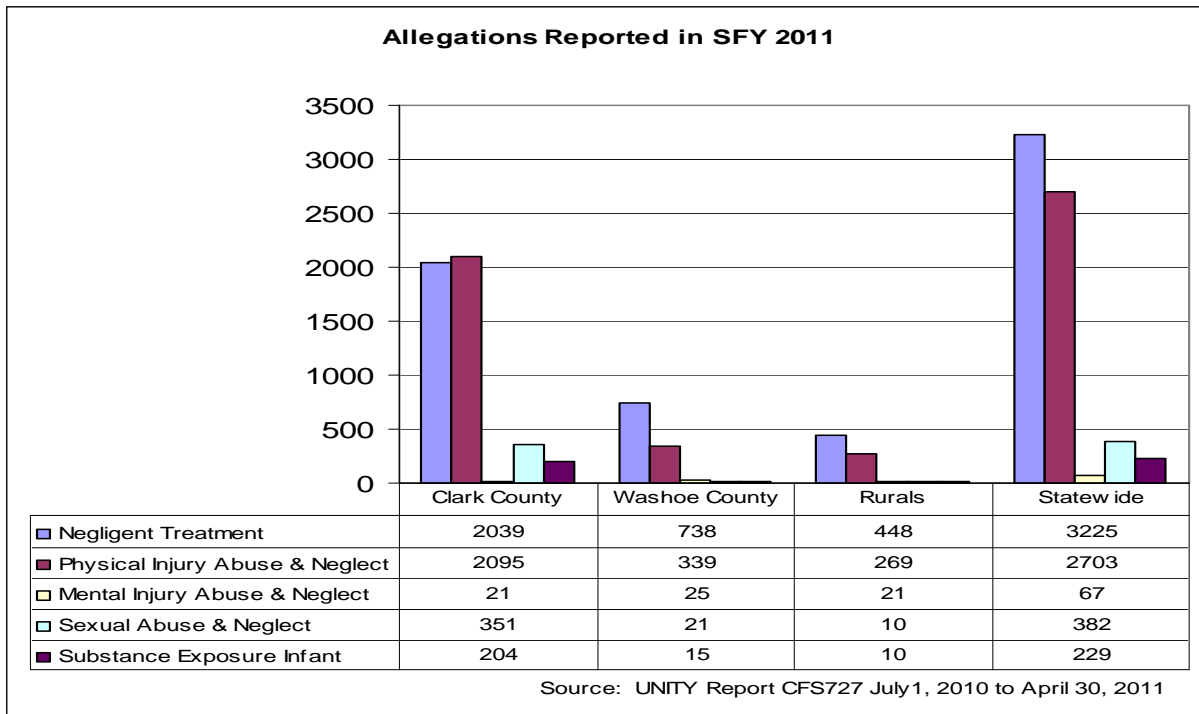
TA357 Nevada Court Improvement Program Status: In progress	
Request/Objective: Nevada Court Improvement Program (CIP) requests technical assistance from a facilitator for up to three Community Improvement Council (CIC) meetings in each of the 8th and 5th Judicial Districts located in Clark and Nye Counties. The requested TA is in response to the Child and Family Services Review. In the DCFS Program Improvement Plan, the courts have been asked to establish workgroups and work with stakeholders to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Workgroups or "Community Improvement Councils" have proven effective in other States.	Date Requested: 12/08/2010 Direct Recipients of T/TA: Community Improvement Council members in Clark and Nye Counties and DCFS
TA401 Clark County In-home Services Model Status: In progress	
Request/Objective: Develop a new in-home services model that does not require court-ordered wardship of children; conduct facilitated discussions with staff and managers on voluntary programs and identifying which families are appropriate for the service; training on the NCFAS-G training on engagement and chronic neglect.	Date Requested: 2/15/11 Direct Recipients of T/TA: Clark County DFS
TA463 Nevada CIP Statewide Conference Child Safety Model Presentation Status: In progress	
Request/Objective: The CIP has asked NRCCPS to provide technical assistance for a plenary and a concurrent session on the Child Safety Model at the Nevada CIP Statewide Conference to be held July 21-23, 2011. During the plenary session the instructor will offer a general overview of the Child Safety Model with emphasis on a comprehensive understanding of present and impending danger and how to control the safety threats while working to strengthen families and reduce the number of children in foster care. The concurrent session following the plenary will be oriented toward educating social workers in greater detail about the revisions to the Nevada Initial Assessment.	Date Requested: 4/21/11 Direct Recipients of T/TA: The audience will include judges, attorneys, and social workers with some CASA directors/staff and tribal members
TA55 Program Improvement Activities and the Nevada Court System Status: In progress	
Request/Objective: Technical assistance to help State child welfare agencies and courts streamline the process for timely permanency for children in care or who are awaiting adoption	Date Requested: June 3, 2010 Direct Recipients of T/TA: Child welfare agency policy developers and court representatives
TA245 Review Independent Living (IL) Program Status: Complete	
Request/Objective: Standardization of IL policies and procedures	Date Requested: August 2009 Direct Recipients of T/TA: Statewide
TA245 ACLSA Train-the-Trainers and Senior Certification Status: Complete	
Request/Objective: Nevada is requesting assistance from the NRCYD to train staff to administer the Ansell-Casey IL assessment (ACLSA); State partners include Washoe County Department of Social Services, Division of Child and Family Services, Rural Region, and the Division of Child and Family Services, Juvenile Services; Clark County Department of Family Services has already received training on this assessment and has implemented into practice; Nevada would like to use a consistent tool throughout the State	Direct Recipients of T/TA: Nevada will send four State (FPO) representatives, four Rural Region DCFS representatives, Juvenile Justice DCFS representatives, and Washoe County representatives
TA56 Comprehensive Safety Assessment Status: Complete	
Date Requested: 06/18/2010 Request/Objective: Technical assistance is being requested to help build organizational capacity in the area of safety assessment and planning in the Washoe County Department of Social Services and the Division of Child and Family Services; the TA support will focus on developing a model to ensure that safety assessments are conducted throughout the life of a case; this T/TA request will assist in ensuring compliance with safety items in the child and family services review as well as with the State and Federal laws and policies	Date Requested: September 20, 2010 Direct Recipients of T/TA: Washoe County Department of Social Services, Division of Child and Family Services

SECTION III: SAFETY

Trends in Child Safety

Child safety is a paramount concern for the Nevada child welfare system. The most frequent types of child abuse or neglect allegations reported for the period of July 1, 2010 through present highlight that Negligent Treatment (48.8%) and Physical Injury Abuse or Neglect (40.9%) are the most prevalent allegation types that children experience in the child welfare system. To a lesser degree children experience Sexual Abuse or Sexual Abuse Neglect (5.8%), Substance Exposed Infants (3.4%), and Mental Injury Abuse or Neglect (1%). Figure 02 shows the breakdown of allegations reported by child welfare agencies over the past year.

Figure 02: Allegations Reported in State Fiscal Year 2010



A variety of initiatives have been reported by Clark, Washoe and the Rural Region in their efforts to improve child safety over the past year.

Clark County Initiatives

- Clark County has hired 9 part-time hourly (PTH) coordinators to assist in setting up Child Protective Services (CPS) Safety Team Meetings (Family Decision Making Model) within the first 48 hours of a child's removal.
- All CPS Staff have engaged in training and partnering with law enforcement to enhance collaboration between their Agency and Law Enforcement. Clark's County's analysis of emergency removals in response to PIP item 1.2.1 indicated that more collaboration was needed with Law Enforcement. Clark County has worked to improve collaboration between Law Enforcement and the Agency in efforts to reduce the number of those removals.
- CPS Supervisors, Assistant Managers and Managers attended the Marsha Salus training on Supervision and Leadership. The District Attorney's (DA) office has facilitated a petition program to better streamline petition processing orders to effectively serve families in the court system.

- Clark County has coordinated a court liaison program to reduce the amount of time caseworkers are waiting in court making for more efficient use of caseworker time to spend with families.
- Clark County has collaborated with detention centers to allow CPS workers access to incarcerated parents quickly and timely in order to determine placement options for children.

DCFS Rural Region and Washoe Initiatives

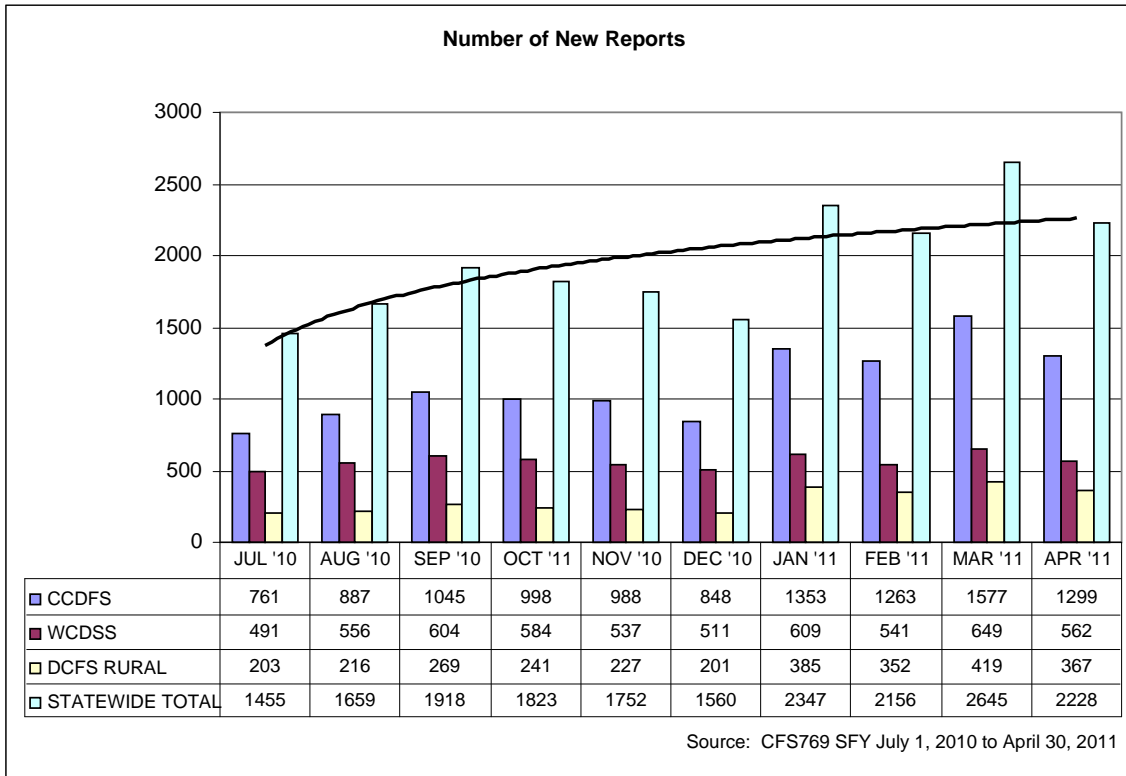
- The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in conjunction with Washoe County Department of Social Services (WCDSS) is working with National Resource Center for Child Protective Services (NRCCPS) and Action for Child Protection to enhance the Nevada Initial Assessment to include more accurate and timely identification of present and impending danger and to emphasize parental protective capacities and the relationship of deficient caregiver capacities to impending danger safety threats. The enhanced model includes increased accountability for supervisors. In August 2010 WCDSS received technical on-site assistance from the NRCCPS in which a case review was completed in follow up from a review in 2008. The review focused on the quality of information gathered during the intake and investigation process and if that information was used appropriately in determining the safety of the children on the case.
- Following the review WCDSS partnered with the Division's Rural Region in meeting with NRCCPS and ACTION staff to establish the new practice model process and design assessment tools. Upon case initiation, workers will complete a Present Danger Assessment (PDA). If there is present danger identified, they will complete a Safety Plan Determination analysis to rule in or out an in-home safety plan.
- Beginning June 6th, 2011 the Rural Region has begun meetings with an implementation team of safety purveyors who will be trained in the model and identified as regional "safety experts". During that same week, Action staff will be coming to the rural region to complete an Intake review of 10% of reports received during an identified timeframe. This will identify how the current screening process relates to the new model and whether reports assigned for investigation contain present or impending danger threats, and whether they are being dispositioned correctly to ensure safety of all children. The review will also identify the appropriateness of cases being screened out.
- August and September 2011 have been identified as training dates for all the staff in the Rural Region: a three day training on the revised NIA and two day training on Confirming Safe Environments (assessing safety throughout the life of the case) and Conditions for Return, and 1½ day intake training are being planned. Community presentations to stakeholders are tentatively planned for August and September 2011, regarding the results of the Intake Study and the enhanced safety/ new practice model. Additionally, there will be enhancements to UNITY (SACWIS system) to make Intake and investigative screens streamlined thereby maximizing face time workers can spend with families. The timeline for rollout of the enhancements to the front end is October 2010. Assessing fidelity of the model will occur in March 2012. Following the front end rollout, DCFS will begin working on the roll out of the back end of the new practice model which will continue emphasize assessing safety throughout the life of the case.

Program Areas

Reports and Investigations

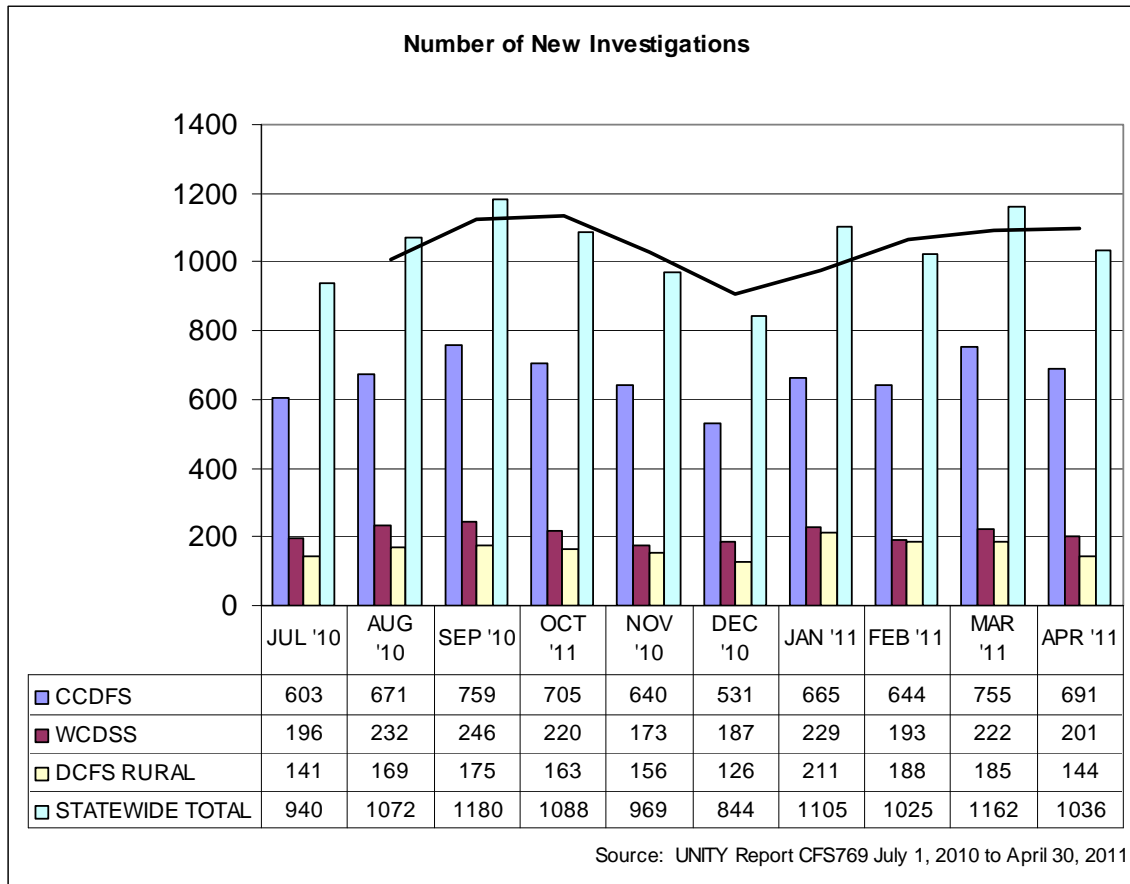
A referral becomes a report upon child welfare agency determination that information received constitutes an allegation consistent with Nevada child abuse and neglect allegation definition. Reports are then forwarded to a supervisor or supervisory-level designee for review and a priority response time is assigned. The following graph depicts the number of new reports from July 2010 through April 2011. There was a 30.7% increase statewide in the number of new reports over the same time period last year from 14,949 new reports in SFY 2010 to 19,545 new reports in SFY 2011. Clark County showed an increase of new reports from 6,885 to 11,019 or 60%. Washoe County new reports increased from 5,155 to 5,644 or 9.5% while the Rural Region showed a decrease in new reports from 2909 to 2880 or 0.9%. Figure 03 shows that a total of 19,545 new reports received statewide since June 2010.

Figure 03: Number of New Reports



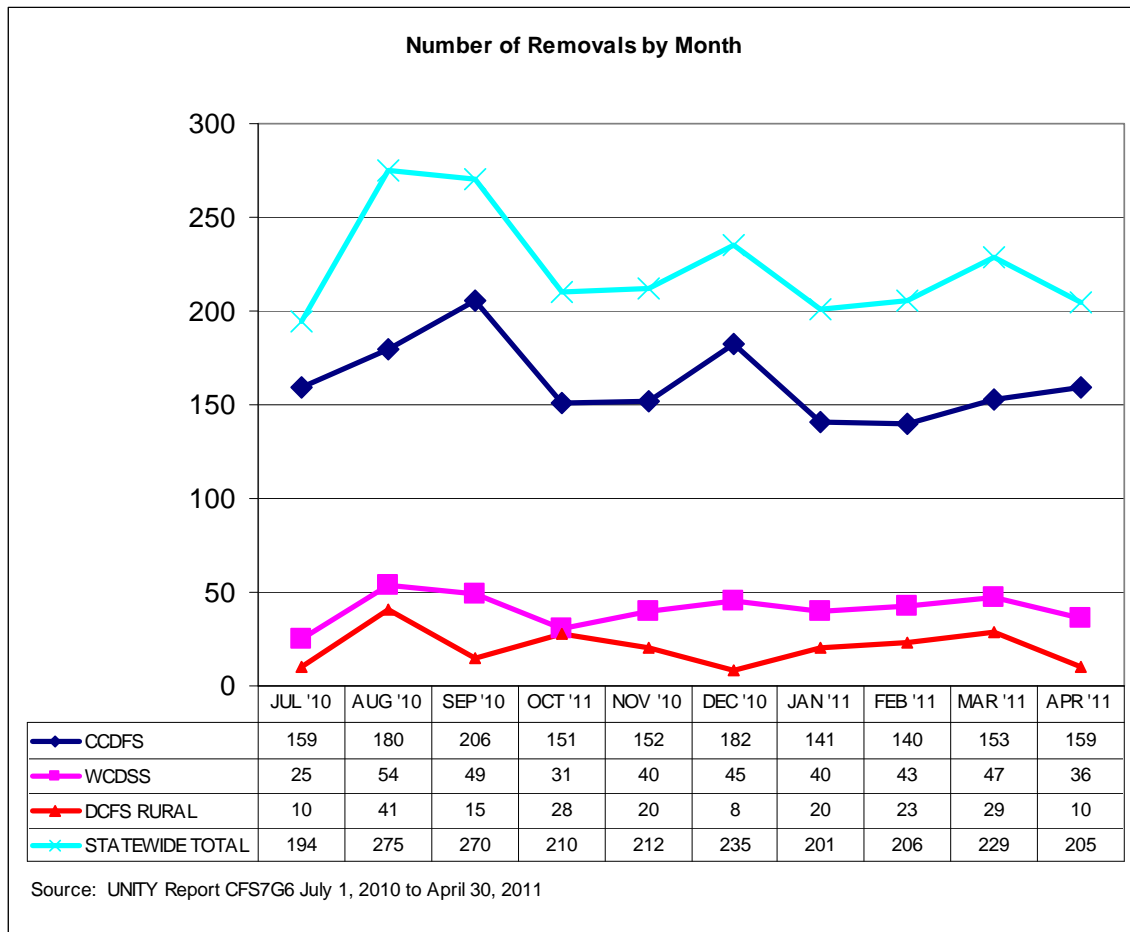
When a report is screened in, it is assigned for investigation by a child welfare agency per policy 0506 Intake and Priority Response. The investigation process is outlined in the 0509 Nevada initial Assessment (NIA) Policy and includes interaction with a family for the purpose of assessing factors or conditions that are known to contribute to the likelihood of child abuse or neglect; to determine the strengths and/or protective capacities that can help mitigate risk and safety threats; to reconcile information contained in the Intake reports about alleged child abuse and neglect and alleged threats to child safety; and to make a conclusion regarding the existence of present and/or impending danger. Figure 04 depicts the number of new investigations from July 2010 through April 2011. Clark County had a 17% increase in the number of new investigations for SFY 2011. The percentage of New Reports to New Investigations has declined for Clark County from 82% of New Reports in SFY2010 being investigated to 60% in SFY 2011. Washoe County showed an increase of 6.6% of New Investigations in SFY 2011. The percentage of New Reports being investigated for Washoe County stayed consistent at 38% for SFY2010 and 37% for SFY 2011. Rural Nevada stayed relatively flat with an increase of 0.78%, with 56.78% of New Reports to New Investigation for SFY2010 to 57.56% for SFY 2011. Statewide there was an increase of New Investigations of 11.9%, with New Reports to New Investigations decreasing from 62% in SFY2010 to 53% in SFY 2011.

Figure 04: Number of New Investigations



A child is considered unsafe when present or impending danger threats exist and cannot be managed by the caregiver/family’s protective capacities. If present danger can not be mitigated with safety planning or resources the child is removed. The following graph in Figure 05 shows the number of children removed from July 2010 through April 2011. This figure demonstrates some variation over time in the number of children that have been removed statewide during the past year. In SFY 2011 to date there has been a slight increase of 3.3% in the number of removals statewide over SFY 2010, from 2,164 to 2,237 children. Clark County had a 4.8% increase in removals while Washoe County had a 4.2% decrease in removals. The Rural Nevada had an increase of 8.5% in removals. The number of removals statewide, as compared to the number of investigations, decreased from 23.2% for SFY 2010 to 21.5% for SFY 2011.

Figure 05: Number of Total Removals



Child Fatality

In an effort to promote child safety, Nevada collects information and participates in a variety of teams to examine incidences of child abuse and neglect that result in child fatalities or near fatalities. Nevada continues to follow recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel reported in previous APSR's. These recommendations have resulted in numerous revisions to policies, procedures, legislative changes, quality improvement activities as well as participation from the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) auditors in ensuring continuous monitoring and review of fatalities and near fatalities that occur statewide.

Nevada continues the work of both state and local teams that review child fatalities. The Regional Multidisciplinary Child Death Review Teams are charged with periodic review of child deaths which occur within their region. The Administrative Team is comprised of agencies which provide child welfare services, vital statistics, public health, mental health and public safety. They provide oversight for local teams and receive the reports and recommendations from local multidisciplinary teams for review. The Administrative Team meets quarterly to discuss issues to improve and enhance data and to identify where Nevada needs to make policy changes. The Executive Committee is comprised of members of each Regional Multidisciplinary Child Death Review Teams as well as other stakeholders. The Executive Committee makes funding decisions about prevention and awareness initiatives, oversees training initiatives, oversees training and development of the MDT's, compiles and distributes a statewide annual child death report, and adopts statewide protocol.

The Executive and Administrative Teams continue their work with local and statewide initiatives as a result of recommendations from the Regional Multidisciplinary Child Death Review Teams. In 2010, public awareness and education campaigns targeted four leading causes of child death in Nevada, including: promoting safe sleep environments, drowning prevention, safety and proper storage of firearms, and accidental overdose. One of several ongoing activities included the printing and distribution of approximately 50,000 safe sleeping brochures to hospital labor

and delivery units, pediatric clinics, Family Resource Centers, and WIC Offices statewide. These brochures educate parents of newborn infants and young children about safe sleeping environments and the prevention of asphyxia deaths. To help support safe sleep efforts the Executive Committee also provided funding to a pilot “Cribs for Kids program” in Washoe County. The drowning prevention activities included production of pool safety magnets that were distributed to pool and spa vendors throughout the state. Multiple billboards were placed throughout the state, in both rural and urban areas regarding the importance of safe storage and properly securing weapons. Finally, accidental overdose was addressed through a public awareness campaign consisting of the production of multiple brochures and magnets that were distributed at community events.

Multiple training opportunities were also provided in 2010. The CDR Executive Team provided scholarships for one person from each of the six CDR regions to attend the *Investigation and Prosecution of Child Fatalities and Physical Abuse* conference in February 2010. The conference was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. SIDS training was held in both Las Vegas and Reno and was open to the public at no charge. Finally, the Executive Committee sponsored a conference on multiple facets of the dangers of substance use, including teen suicide, overdose and the effect prenatal substance use on children.

The multiple collaborations with both local public health agencies, safety and law enforcement organizations, and not for profit organizations has proven to be a strength for creating an active child death review system. The partnerships that have been created, such as with the Southern Nevada Health District, CAN Prevent, Join Together Northern Nevada, First Candle, rotary clubs and others, has enabled the child death review teams to engage in multiple activities. An additional strength in this area is larger focus on collecting improved data and the development of tools to ensure better consistency in the data. The Family Programs Office continues to participate in standardized data reporting since July 2008, and is in the process of creating an improved data base for tracking child death data. The newly designed database utilizing ACCESS will track the data related to public disclosures, case reviews and track trends, child deaths, compliance with policy, and help track prevention initiatives. At this time, UNITY does not track the information needed concerning child death data.

Policy Development and Revision

In the past year the policy 0507 “Corporal Punishment in Public Schools” was approved by the DMG on 10/15/2010. The Corporal Punishment in Public Schools policy was created to provide guidance to agencies which provide child welfare services regarding their roles and responsibilities in responding to complaints of corporal punishment in schools. The policy was developed due to a 2009 amendment to NRS 392.4633.

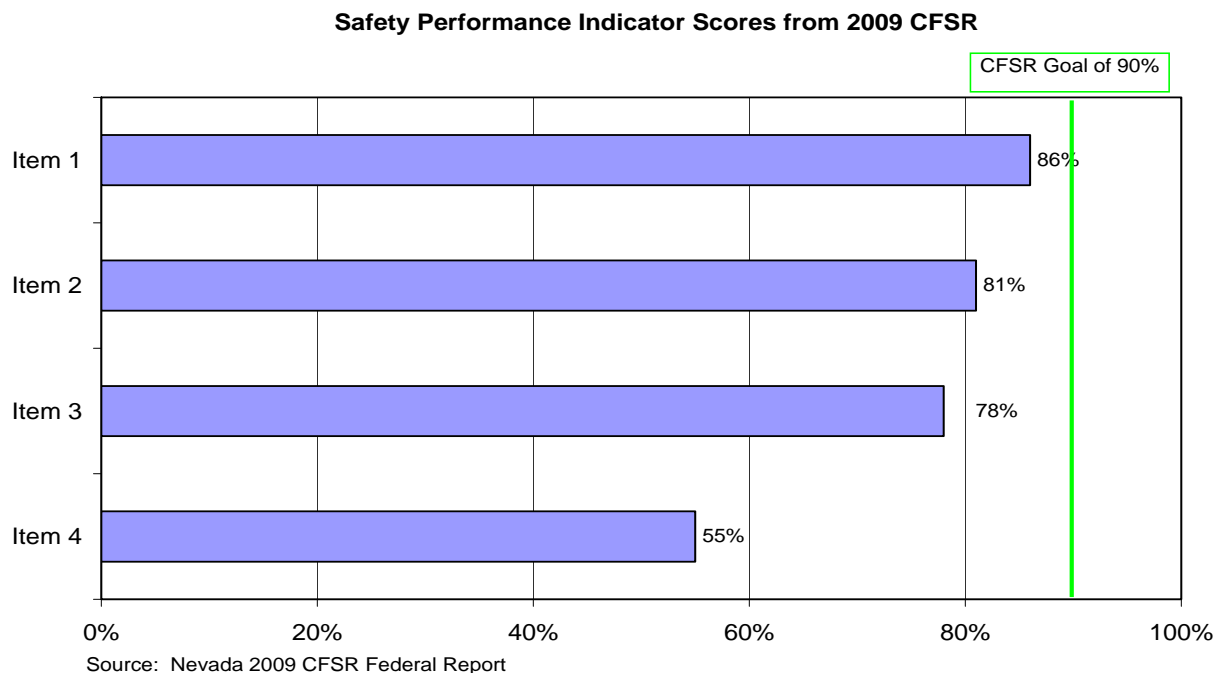
In addition to the above statewide policy, Clark County has updated sections of their CCDFS Hotline, CPS and In-Home Policies. WCDSS had updated procedures for protective custody hearings “Protective Custody Hearing Outline” in the WCDSS manual. WCDSS and the Rural Region will be adopting a “Safety Assessment Family Evaluation” policy that will be incorporating revisions to intake, initial assessment, safety planning, case planning, permanency and case closures policies, and a “Safety Provider” policy that will provide a process for assessing homes/individuals as provisional caretaker for children on safety plans. Lastly, WCDSS anticipates approval by 6/30/2011 of a new policy “Warrant Hearings” which provides a process for obtaining warrants from District courts for placement of children in protective custody.

CFSP Goals and Objectives for Safety

In the 2010-2014 CFSP, each performance indicator was given an overall goal and one or more objectives. Nevada’s Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved on October 21, 2010 with an implementation date beginning on December 1, 2010 (Quarter 1). The Safety Performance items 1, 3 and 4 were identified to be measured by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010 – November 2011 (first year of PIP) case reviews. At that time the improvement goals will be set using the federal method 2 prospective formulas. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP outlines several Safety items and outcomes that are and will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (1) of the PIP focuses on “Strengthening and Reinforcing Safety Practices throughout the Life of the Case” addresses these areas of improvement.

Figure 06 shows a brief graph of how Nevada rated statewide in the 2009 CFSR on the individual performance indicators for safety.

Figure 06: Statewide Safety Performance Indicator Scores vs. 90% goal



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

Item 1: Timeliness of initiation investigations of reports of child maltreatment

Goal: To determine whether responses to all accepted child maltreatment reports received are initiated and face-to-face contact with the child has been made, within the timeframes established by statewide policy.

To reach this goal, the State had the objective to ensure that responses to all accepted child maltreatment reports are initiated, and face-to-face contact with the child is made within the timeframes established by statewide policy and that appropriate documentation (including reasons why timelines were not met, if applicable) is made in UNITY in 90% of cases reviewed. Table 6 below shows the CFSR 2009 data related to this item. Statewide, Nevada rated just below the overall goal of 90%, with Washoe County’s review exceeding the goal. This item remains as an area needing improvement. Safety performance item 1 was identified to be measured by case reviews during the PIP implementation period using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- January 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County.

Table 06: SFY 2010 Data for Item 1

Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	86%	90%*	No
Clark County	85%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	80%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Item 2: Repeat maltreatment

Goal: To determine if any child in the family experienced repeat maltreatment within a 6-month period.

To reach this goal, children in the child welfare system in Nevada will not have experienced an incidence of repeat maltreatment within a 6-month period in a minimum of 90% of cases. CFSR 2009 data in Table 7 shows that Nevada needs some improvement in this area. Clark County's portion of the CFSR review indicated that they are currently meeting this objective.

Table 07: SFY 2010 Data for Item 2

Item 2: Repeat Maltreatment	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	81%	90%*	No
Clark County	92%	90%*	Yes
Washoe County	83%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	33%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

The following Table 08 presents the most recent CFSR Data Profile provided by ACF dated February 23, 2011 for Repeat Maltreatment. As depicted in the table "Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence" the standard is 94.6%. For the most recent data profile FFY 2010 Nevada does not meet this national standard; however, Nevada did meet this standard in FFY 2008. The National standard of 94.6% is the preferred percentage to meet for this measure. In addition, "Absence of Child abuse and/or neglect in Foster Care (12 months)" data is provided in the same table. The national standard for this measure is 99.68%. For the most recent data profile FFY 2010 Nevada does not meet the National Standard. Nevada currently has a PIP improvement goal of 99.64% which will be measured through future federal data profiles. The PIP identifies that Safety item 2 will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (1) of the PIP focuses on "Strengthening and Reinforcing Safety Practices throughout the Life of the Case" and addresses this item for improvement.

Table 08: CFSR Data Profile Information for Repeat Maltreatment

CHILD SAFETY PROFILE	2007b08a	FFY 2008	2008b09a	FFY2009	FFY2010	STATUS
Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence [standard: 94.6% or more; national median=93.3%, 25th percentile=91.50%	93.6	95.10	N/A	93.90	94.5	National Standard achieved FY08
Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (12 months) [standard 99.68% or more; national median=99.5, 25th percentile=99.30]	99.61	99.56	N/A	99.54	99.4	Improvement goal 99.64

Source: CFSR data profile provided 2/23/2011

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

Item 3: Services to families to protect children in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care

Goal: To determine whether the State is making concerted efforts to provide services to the family to prevent children's entry into foster care or re-entry after a reunification.

To meet this goal, the State projected that an evaluation of case records would be needed to determine if concerted efforts were made to provide or arrange for appropriate services for the family to protect children and prevent their entry into foster care or re-entry into foster care after a reunification. Further, the State projected that if a child was removed from the home without providing for or arranging for services that the action was necessary to ensure the child's safety. A further objective is that the above information would be documented appropriately in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of applicable cases. Table 9 shows that Nevada as a whole is not currently meeting this goal as reported in the Nevada

2009 CFSR report. For Clark County and the DCFS – Rural Region this item is an area that needs improvement. However, based on the CFSR 2009 data, Washoe County shows this to be an area of strength.

Table 09: SFY 2010 Data for Item 3

Item 3: Services to family to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care.	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	78%	90%*	No
Clark County	60%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	77%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Safety performance item 3 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- January 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the December 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Safety item 3 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (1) of the PIP. This strategy focuses on “Strengthening and Reinforcing Safety Practices throughout the Life of the Case” and is addressing this item for improvement.

Item 4: Risk assessment and safety management

Goal: To determine whether the State is making concerted efforts to assess and address the risk and safety concerns relating to the child(ren) in their own homes or while in foster care.

To meet this goal, there are several objectives planned in the Child and Family Services Plan. These focus on initial risk assessment, ongoing assessment of risk, and safety assessment. Safety concerns focuses providing assessments on the child’s living environment (both in the home and in foster care), during visitation with family members, and in trial home visits. A further objective is to ensure that this information is appropriately documented in UNITY in 90% of cases. Data from the 2009 CFSR, as shown in Table 10 below indicates that Nevada is not currently reaching this goal.

Table 10: SFY 2010 Data for Item 4

Item 4: Risk assessment and safety management	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	55%	90%*	No
Clark County	50%	90%*	No
Washoe County	78%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	39%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Safety performance item 4 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- January 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Safety item 4 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (1) of the PIP which focuses on “Strengthening and Reinforcing Safety Practices throughout the Life of the Case”. This further addresses this item for improvement.

SECTION IV: PERMANENCY

Trends in Permanency

In Nevada, when a child must be removed from his/her home, the first placement option considered is relative care. Table 11 shows the number of paid and unpaid relative foster care placements by agency and statewide from September 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011.

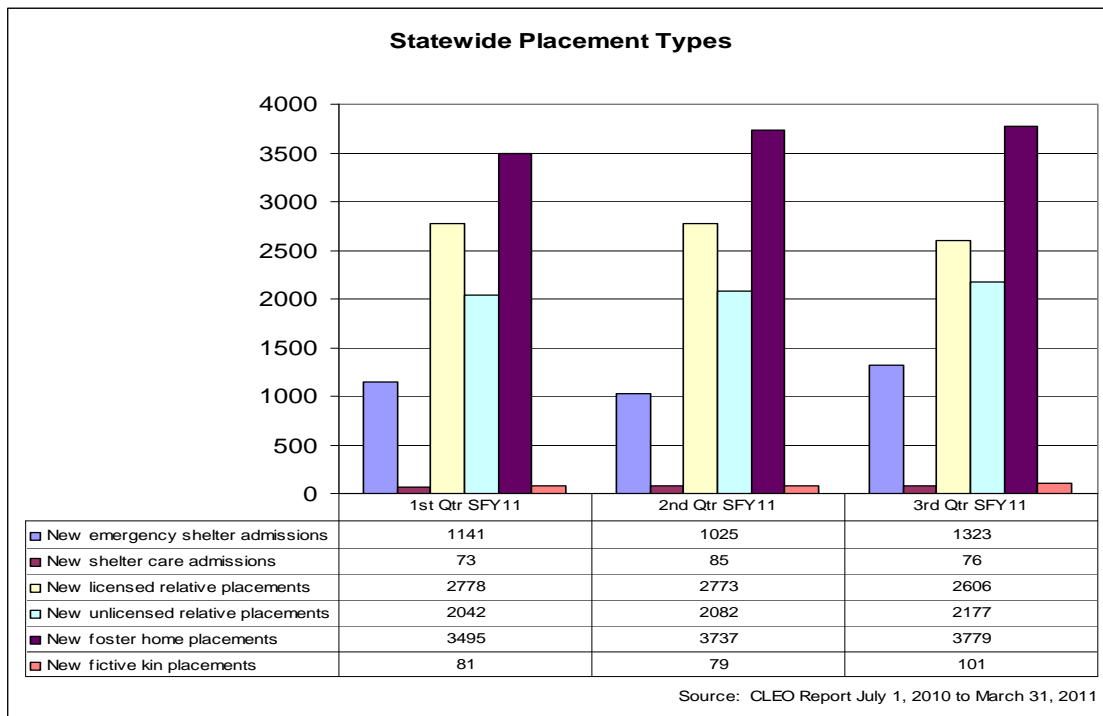
Table 11: Paid and Unpaid Relative Foster Care

Child Welfare Agency		Sep '10	Oct '10	Nov '10	Dec '10	Jan '11	Feb '11	Mar '11	Apr '11
Clark County	Relative Foster Care	778	765	781	766	744	727	684	694
	Unpaid Relative Care	602	605	589	591	625	633	653	628
Washoe County	Relative Foster Care	140	145	142	141	135	137	139	142
	Unpaid Relative Care	38	36	30	22	20	24	19	23
DCFS – Rural Region	Relative Foster Care	11	11	11	11	12	14	14	12
	Unpaid Relative Care	70	66	72	71	88	24	91	96
Statewide	Relative Foster Care	929	921	934	918	891	878	837	848
	Unpaid Relative Care	710	707	691	684	733	681	763	747

Source: CLEO Report September 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011

Figure 07 below shows the different placement types that occurred overall in the first three quarters of SFY 2011 (fourth quarter data is not available until July 2011). In addition to being the preferred placement type, relative home placements both licensed and unlicensed, are also the most prevalent placement type in Nevada (49%). This is followed by foster home placements at 37.38%. New licensed relative home placements (27.69%) are utilized more frequently than new unlicensed relative placements (21.39%).

Figure 07: Statewide Placement Types

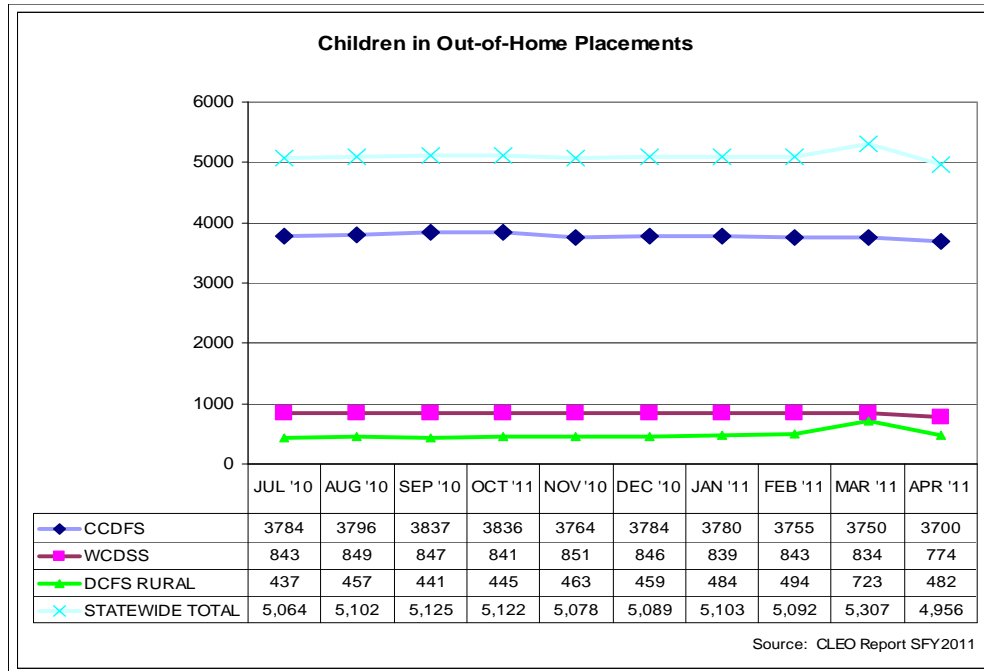


Relatives who care for their kin typically receive funds from the State in two ways. They become licensed foster care providers and receive payment through the States' child protective services agency. The State is then reimbursed for these payments through the Title IV-E program. The reimbursement rate for Nevada is 52.6%. Relatives who are unable to become a licensed relative foster family or who care for a child who has not gone through Child Protective Services (CPS) can receive a TANF child-only grant from the state's welfare agency. The State has continued to see a rise in the number of children placed with relatives, therefore the ability to support relatives financially while achieving permanency for children is something Nevada has been exploring through programs for relative and kinship care while establishing feasibility with our current budget crisis.

To assist relatives who care for children in out-of-home placements, Nevada has a Non-Needy Relative Caregiver Kinship Care Program. The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services currently administers the Kinship Care Program which went into effect on October 1, 2001. Since that time children living with a relative Non-Needy Caretaker (NNCT) may receive a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payment allowance which is a percentage of the State of Nevada foster care rate. NNCT is defined as relative caretakers who are not requesting assistance for themselves. In order for a relative caretaker to be eligible for this program they must be 62 or older; be a non-parent; be a non-needy caretaker; be caring for the child who is related (up to the 5th degree as described in the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Eligibility and Payment Manual) by blood, adoption or marriage for at least six months; file for Nevada court approval of legal guardianship; comply with court imposed requirements; relative household members must have combined income below 275% of the federal poverty level; and the child must meet the age, citizenship and resource eligibility requirements. There is an exception to the age requirement due to undue hardship and a waiver can be provided under certain circumstances. According to the Eligibility and Payments Manual provided by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (04/09), current payment rates for the Kinship Care Programs are \$534.00 per month for each child, age 12 years and younger; and, \$616.00 per month for each child age 13 and older. The Kinship Care Program also makes available certain other services such as legal assistance to obtain guardianship, child care, transportation for certain situations and respite care. During the 2011 Legislative Session the Legislature passed AB 110 the "Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program". Nevada is currently working on an analysis of the necessary amendments to policy and practice as well as a necessary amendment to the State of Nevada's IV-E Plan in order to submit for approval to implement the program.

Figure 08 shows the caseload sizes of caseworkers serving children in out-of-home placements from July 1, 2010 until April 31, 2011. There was an average of 5,105 children in out of home placement SFY 2011 which is a 2.5% increase over SFY 2010 caseloads. Clark County averaged 3,779 out of home placement for a 2.3% increase while Washoe County had 837 out of home placements for a decrease of 3.7%. The Division's Rural Region had 489 children placed in out-of-home for an increase in caseloads of 18.11%.

Figure 08: Children in Out-of-Home Placements



Clark County Initiatives

- Permanency roundtables (PRT) were held in December 2010 and January 2011, and 64 youth were reviewed during these sessions. To date 28 youth have an improved permanency status either through achieving permanency or reconnections with families or significant adults by entering into permanency pacts with the youth. PRT's are being utilized across the agency to continue a focus on being permanency oriented.
- Clark County Assistant Managers are reviewing the North Carolina Family Assessment (NCFAS) and Case Plans for quality. Based on these reviews Assistance Manager's will develop a plan for training case managers on the NCFAS and the case plan.
- Assistance Manager's are implementing parent contact logs to track contacts with parents
- A workgroup has been convened to re-tool the Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. Permanency staff will be assisting in facilitating the 48 hour Safety Decision Making Teams.
- Permanency staffs are participating in a workgroup to reform Therapeutic Foster Care. Also, Permanency staffs are working on improved tacking of a youth's well being status specifically a youth's educational status.
- Permanency staffs are attending 3-5-7 Training which focuses on understanding and supporting a child's need to deal with grief and loss.
- Permanency staff have participated in Intermediate CORE training to provide feedback regarding change needed for the curriculum to benefit experienced employees.
- Permanency staffs are participating in monthly case reviews to identify areas of practice that can be improved.
- A communication plan was developed with Assistant Managers to improve consistency in communication with supervisors and staff to ensure consistency across all programs.
- By implementing new policy and procedures Clark County has established and initiative of achieving more Adoptions this year. Clark County' benchmark is 50 Adoptions per month with a goal to finalize 600 adoptions by the end of 2011.
- Clark County is building capacity in contracts to complete timely home studies and social summaries.

Washoe County Department of Social Services Initiatives

- In the past fiscal year and most significantly WCDSS was one of six agencies awarded a multi-year demonstration project grant, Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) through the Administration for Children and

Families (ACF) to reduce the number of children in long term care. The strategy implements a Safety Intervention Permanency System (SIPS) based on two innovative intervention strategies (SAFE and Family Connections) to keep children safe and prevent them from coming into care and to improve permanency outcomes for subgroups of children that have the most serious barriers to permanency.

DCFS Rural Region Initiatives

- DCFS is no longer waiting for SSI determination decisions prior to finalizing adoptions (family must/will re-apply after adoption as Representative Payee);
- The DCFS adoption subsidy worker is taking a more aggressive approach to expediting subsidy negotiations by doing the following; calling adoptive family one week after the subsidy packet is sent by adoption worker to assist it's timely completion and return (sent/received Fed Ex); the Subsidy worker is reviewing the case plan to improve subsidy negotiation processes with the family & Rural Region Manager (RRM); the Subsidy worker is inputting work/action taken in UNITY; Pre-Transfer meetings are now occurring where an adoption worker is pre-assigned cases prior to formal transfer which includes but is not limited to: children in care 14 months consecutively, TPR paperwork at the AG's office, children 0-5 years old, & children who are 50% free. The Adoption Supervisor is reviewing quarterly reports from UNITY as an alert to cases that garner supervisory review/status update/concern regarding progress towards reunification or TPR/adoption unit assignment; the assigned Adoption Worker in pre-transfer stage is attending IEP, CFT, & Court and reviewing case notes & orders;
- Homestretch Adoption Review Team (HART) is now being held at the direction/need of the ongoing caseworker and not just once a month;
- DCFS is requesting an order from the court for an expedited ICPC at the onset of the case to relatives ASAP;
- DCFS is requesting an Order from the court, to the parent, to provide all names of relatives, fathers, and other children both in & out of state to DCFS immediately; and
- DCFS Adoption supervisor is reviewing ongoing cases with ongoing supervisors every two months, that fall within the category of, but not limited to: Infants in care who can not go home; TPR at AG's office; children who are at least 50% free; and a child in care for 14 out of the last 20 months (NRS 432B.590).

Policy Development and Revision

Statewide Policy: Over the past year there have been new and revised policies that have been approved by the DMG and implemented statewide:

- 1401 Educational Stipends policy, replacing the previous 200 Educational Stipend Program Policy: 7/1/2010
- 0204 Case Planning policy: 11/10/2010
- 0101 Adoption Subsidy policy which amended the section on third party medical coverage: 11/19/2010
- 0801 Independent Living policy which incorporated the new changes from the "Fostering Connections" federal legislation: 12/17/2010
- 0209 Use of Psychotropic Medications in Child Welfare Custody Children which establishes and maintains a process regarding the safe and effective use of psychotropic medication for children within child welfare custody: 1/21/2011.
- 0802 National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) policy which provides guidance to ensure Nevada Child Welfare Agencies collect case-level information on youth who are in or who have aged out of foster care per federal requirements: 2/18/2011.

In addition to policy development and revision, the State asked the Interim Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice to submit a bill on behalf of the child welfare agencies for the 2011 session to amend NRS 127.060 to allow Nevada agencies to finalize adoptions of children in their custody who are placed with families (usually relatives) in another state. In addition it was suggested to add permissive language to allow (but not mandate) local finalization of adoptions of children in the custody of a Nevada agency that provides child welfare services when the petitioners do not reside in Nevada. Allowing local finalization of adoptions of children in the custody of a Nevada agency that provides child welfare services would eliminate delays that our local agencies have no ability to control. The intent was to eliminate

unnecessary delays; improving permanency outcomes for children as well as CFSR Adoption measures. During the 2011 Legislative Session the bill was passed, and now current policy will be amended.

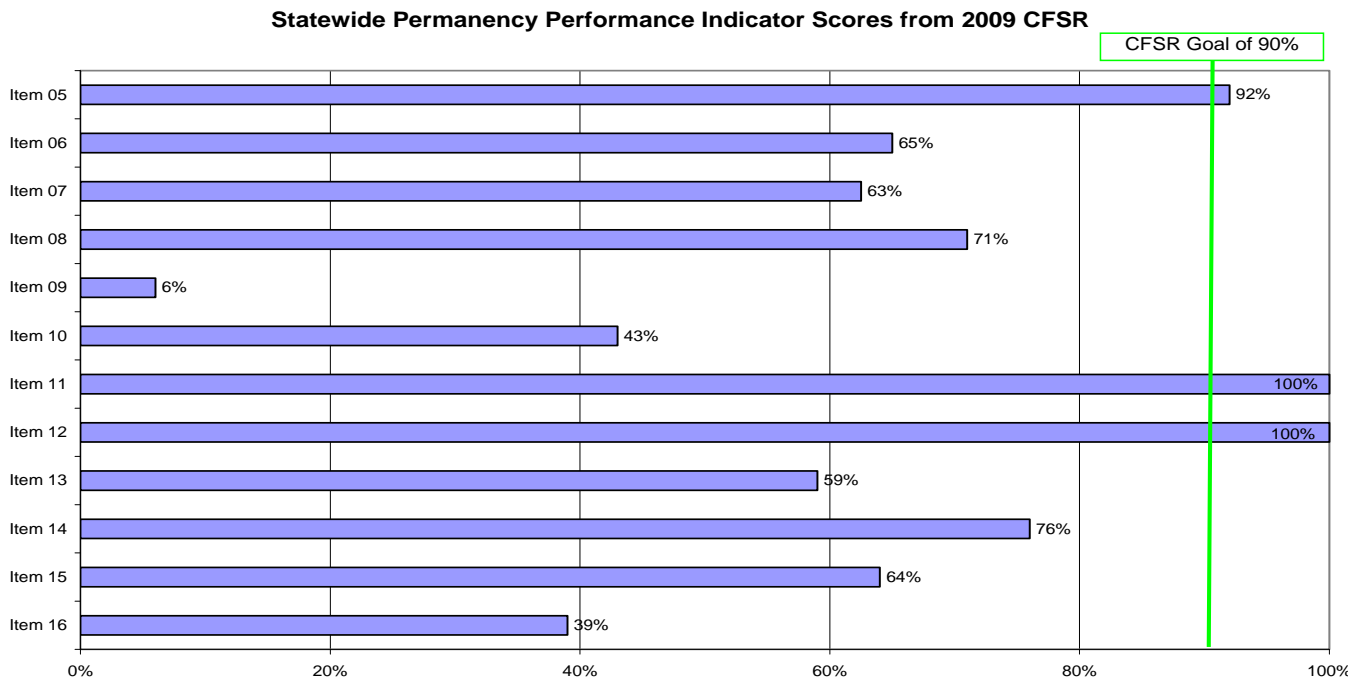
Agency Level Policy: On an agency level, there was also implementation of local policies and procedures related to permanency. CCDFS did not report any agency level policy development or revision related to permanency for this past fiscal year. However, WCDSS has developed a new policy “Child and Family Teams (CFT)” outlining procedures for CFT meetings that include Family Solutions Teams: Case Planning CFT; 120 Day CFT; ICPC CFT; Placement transition; and permanency to Adoption CFTs. WCDSS also has updated the Agency Adoption manual “Legal Consideration” that revises the process for filing termination of parental rights petitions. Lastly, WCDSS reports that the “Placement Review Team” process has been revised for placement of foster children including pre-adoptive placements.

CFSP Goals and Objectives for Permanency

The Permanency Performance items 7 and 10 were identified to be measured by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from November 2010 - January 2011 case reviews. At that time the improvement goals will be set using the federal method 2 prospective formulas. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP outlines several Permanency items and outcomes that are and will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (1) of the PIP focuses on “Strengthening and Reinforcing Safety Practices throughout the Life of the Case” and Primary Strategy 9 2) of the PIP focuses on “Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationship”. Also, Primary Strategy (3) “Improve the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency Planning across the Life of the Case”, and Primary Strategy (4) “Strengthen Child Welfare Supervision and Middle Management Skills” address these areas of improvement.

Figure 9 shows a brief graph of how Nevada rated statewide in the 2009 CFSR on individual performance indicators for permanency.

Figure 9: Statewide Permanency Performance Indicator Scores vs. 90% goal



Source: Nevada CFSR 2009 Federal Report

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

Item 5: Foster care re-entries

Goal: To assess whether children who enter foster care at a given point in time are re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.

To meet this goal, the State must make concerted efforts to prevent re-entry episodes for children who are in the foster care system and appropriately document these efforts in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. Table 12 below shows that as a State, this is a strength. In the most recent CFSR review, only Washoe County fell below the required goal of 90%.

Table 12: SFY 2010 Data for Item 5

Item 5: Foster care re-entries	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	92%	90%*	Yes
Clark County	100%	90%*	Yes
Washoe County	75%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	100%	90%*	Yes

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

In addition to the information presented in Table 12 above, the most recent CFSR Data Profile provided by ACF dated February 23, 2011 provides current data for Component B: Permanency of Reunification Measure C1-4: "Re-entries to foster care in less than 12 months." The component is one measure in the overall Permanency composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification. The national median for this measure is 15.0% and the 25th percentile is 9.9%. A lower score is preferable in this measure. Nevada scored 6.8% for the FFY 2010 indicating a continued strength in performance on this measure.

Item 6: Stability of foster care placement

Goal: To determine if the child in foster care is in a stable placement and that any changes in placement that have occurred are in the best interest of the child and consistent with achieving the child's permanency goals.

To meet this goal, the State must ensure that the child's placement is stable and if a placement move was necessary, that the move was made in an effort to achieve the child's case goals or meet the needs of the child. Appropriate documentation in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of applicable cases is also an important objective. Table 13 shows that this is an area needing improvement for Nevada, and is not a particular strength for any child welfare agency in the State. This item is measured differently using the CFSR on-site review tool, and takes into consideration if a move was in the best interest of the child and consistent with achieving the child's permanency goal. As the results indicate this item is in need of improvement based on the CFSR results. In contrast, the CFSR data profile measurement simply measures the number of moves of the child based on federal requirements. The most recent CFSR data profile provided on February 23, 2011 provides current data for Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability.

Table 13: SFY 2010 Data for Item 6

Item 6: Stability of foster care placement	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	65%	90%*	No
Clark County	70%	90%*	No
Washoe County	70%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	50%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

The national standard for this composite is 101.5 or higher, however, in the last measurement period, Nevada needed to meet at least 85.6 based on past performance and a required improvement factor of 1.03. For FFY 2008b09a Data Profile Nevada scored 86.9 as shown in Table 14 indicating that Nevada was minimally achieving this goal. However, the results over the past data profiles indicate and upward trend in this measure.

Table 14: CFSR Data Profile

PLACEMENT STABILITY	2007b08a	FY 2008	2008b09a	FY2009	FY2010	STATUS
Placement Stability (Standard: 101.5 or higher)	83.1	84.5	86.9	88.5	93.4	Improvement goal 85.6

Source: CFSR data profile dated 2/23/2011

The PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 1 and Item 6 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (4) of the PIP which focuses on “Strengthening Child welfare Supervision and middle management Skills.”

Item 7: Permanency goal for child

Goal: To determine whether appropriate permanency goals are established for the child in a timely manner.

To meet this goal, the objective of the State is to ensure that the child’s initial permanency goal and any amendments to the child’s initial permanency goal are established in a timely manner; are appropriate to the child’s needs for permanency and the circumstances of the case; and that cases that meet ASFA and statewide policy criteria for termination of parental rights (TPR) have a petition filed in a timely manner (unless there is a compelling reason not to do so). Documentation continues to be critical. In Table 15 based on results of the 2009 CFSR, shows that this performance indicator is an area needing improvement for Nevada.

Table 15: SFY 2010 Data for Item 7

Item 7: Permanency goal for children	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	62.5%	90%*	No
Clark County	55%	90%*	No
Washoe County	60%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	80%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Permanency performance item 7 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- January 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 1 and Item 7 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (3) of the PIP which focuses on “Improving the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency Planning across the life of the Case. This will further address this item for improvement.

Table 16 below shows the number children in care between July 1, 2009 and April 30, 2011 (22 months) who had a TPR petition filed between 14 and 22 months as required by State policy, 514 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR),. The table depicts the number of children placed out of home who have not had a TPR filed in 14 months from removal and in 21 months from removal. This report does not determine whether or not there were compelling reasons not to file in those cases. This may be due to a variety of factors. However, one of the main reasons stated in the 2009 CFSR stakeholder interviews were that delays were due to increasing waits for treatment programs for parents with substance abuse problems, thus extending the requested time for reunification.

Table 16: Status of Petition to Terminate Parental Rights

Status of Petition to TPR	Total
Number of Children with a TPR Petition Filed Between 14 and 21 Months:	366
Number of Children placed Out of Home over 14 months without a TPR Petition Filed:	3117
Number of Children placed Out of Home over 21 Months Without a TPR Petition Filed:	359

Source: CFS7B3 July 1, 2009 – April 30, 2011

Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives

Goal: To determine whether concerted efforts are being made to achieve reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives in a timely manner.

To meet this goal, the State must ensure that concerted efforts are made to achieve the permanency goal of reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives in a timely manner and that efforts are appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of applicable cases. Table 17, based on CFSR 2009 results, shows that Washoe County is the only child welfare agency meeting this goal. Based on this data, statewide, this is still an area need improving for Nevada.

Table 17: SFY 2010 Data for Item 8

Item 8: Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	71%	90%*	No
Clark County	50%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	83%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

In addition, the most recent CFSR Data Profile provided by ACF dated February 23, 2011 provides current data for Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification. The data profile indicates that in order to be in compliance with this measure, that a state must meet the standard of 122.6 or higher. Nevada has achieved the national standard for FY 2008, 2009 and 2010 on this measure. Based on the data profile for FFY 2010, the median number of months a child is in care is 6.5 months. The national median is 6.5 months and the 25th percentile is 5.4 months. Also, the PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 1 and Item 8 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (3) of the PIP which focuses on “Improving the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency Planning across the Life of the Case.

Item 9: Adoption

Goal: To determine whether concerted efforts are being made to achieve a finalized adoption in a timely manner.

There is one main objective that the State has projected to achieve this goal. The State and court will ensure that concerted efforts are made to achieve the goal of finalized adoption in a timely manner and that efforts are appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of applicable cases. Table 18 shows Nevada’s most recent performance on this performance indicator from the CFSR conducted in 2009. Statewide, Nevada only rated 6% out of a possible 100%. Clark County met 10% of this goal, while Washoe County and the DCFS – Rural region did not achieve any compliance.

Table 18: SFY 2010 Data for Item 9

Item 9: Adoption	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	6%	90%*	No
Clark County	10%	90%*	No
Washoe County	0%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	0%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Timeliness of Adoptions is a Federal Permanency Composite Measure. Component A: Timeliness of Adoptions of Children discharged from Foster Care Measure C2-2: “Exits to adoption, median length of stay” is the second of two measures in Component A, and one measure in the overall Permanency composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions. The national median for this measure is 32.4 months and the 25th percentile is 27.3 months (a lower score is preferable in this measure). The most recent data profile on this measure from the Children’s Bureau dated April 20, 2010 reports Federal FY 2009ab median months as 36.2 months which is higher than the national median.

Please note that Nevada measures the **average** months to adoption from the date of removal on UNITY report CFS732. In contrast the federal measure depicts the **median** length of stay from the date of the removal. Overall, and in contrast this graph presents higher average months to adoption than are required. Table 19 shows the results of UNITY report CFS732 – Adoptions in Less than 24 Months. This report is run each May and counts back 24 months from the date run to demonstrate the percentage of children adopted in less than 24 months. The table shows a decrease in the percentage of adoptions in less than 24 months compared to the same time one year before. Currently, the percent of children adopted in less than 24 months is 15%. Nevada’s Child and Family Services Review Data Profile for FFY 2010 indicates Nevada’s current percentage is 14.4, which is lower than the UNITY CFS732 reports. The percentage is for different timeframes but is comparatively close.

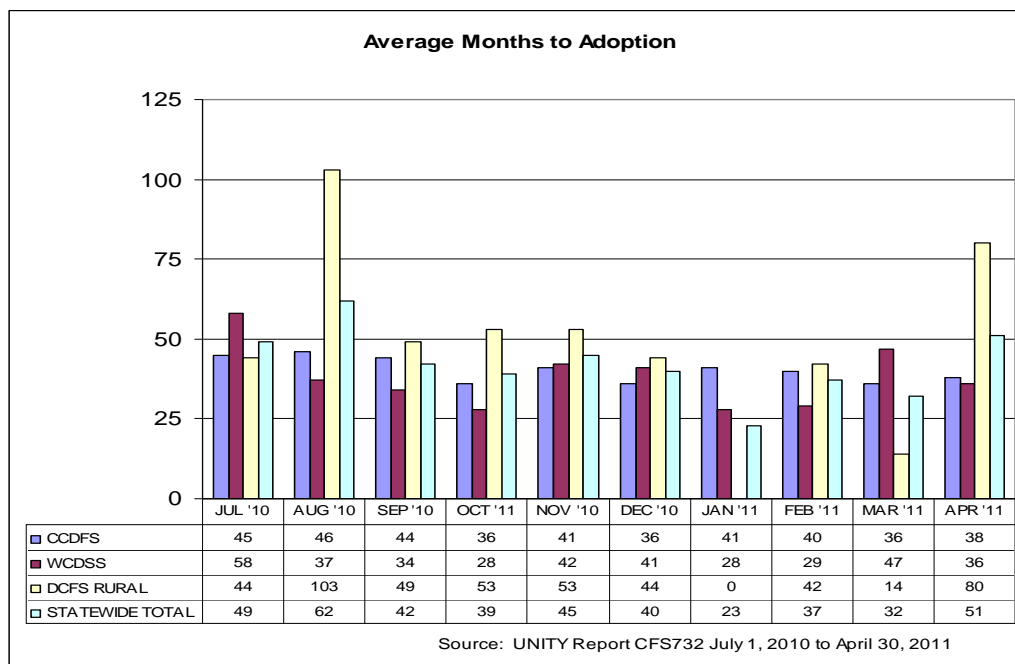
Table 19: UNITY CFS732 Report – Adoptions in Less than 24 Months

	Adoptions with a Custody Date in UNITY	Custody to Adoption Average Months	Number Adopted in less than 24 Months	Percent Adopted in less than 24 Months
Adoptions in Less than 24 Months <i>April 1, 2008 – April 30, 2010</i>	510	41	81	16%
Adoptions in Less than 24 Months <i>April 1, 2009 – April 30, 2011</i>	617	41	91	15%

Source: UNITY Report CFS732 Data for each May looks back 24 months from the date run on May 31.

Figure 10, also based on UNITY report CFS732, depicts the average months to Adoption from July 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011. The average months to Adoption from July 1, 2010 to April 20, 2011 are 41 months. In 617 adoptions, 91 or 15% were adopted in less than 24 months. Adoption from relinquishment of parental rights is averaging 16 months, with custody to relinquishment of parental rights averaging 25 months. Finalizations of adoptions are not occurring within 24 months as required by ASFA. Some of the reasons given by stakeholders during the 2009 CFSR review were that there is a shortage of adoptive homes and that those that are in place not being secured until a child’s TPR is finalized; in addition to court proceedings. This practice has led to increased time to finalize adoptions. This item continues to present as an area needing improvement in Nevada. The PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 1 and Item 9 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (3) of the PIP which focuses on “Improving the timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency planning across the Life of the Case. This will address this item for improvement.

Figure 10: Average Months to Adoption



The most recent CFSR data profile dated February 23, 2011 provides current data for Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions. The national standard for this composite is 106.4 or higher, however, in the last measurement period, Nevada needed to meet at least 82.8 based on past performance and a required improvement factor of 1.041. For FFY 2008b09a Nevada scored 85.6 indicating that Nevada was minimally achieving the goal at that time and the results from the FFY 2010 data profile indicate that Nevada met the National Standard in FFY 2010 as well.

Adoption in Nevada

The overall goal of Nevada's adoption program is to continue to provide safe and permanent homes for children whose birth parents cannot care for them. Nevada Adoption services continue to provide pre-placement and post-placement counseling to birth parents; case management; legal service to free children for adoption; recruitment, training, home study preparation for pre-adoptive families; adoption subsidy; and, post legal adoption support. The State continues to be responsible for licensing and administrative oversight of private non-profit child placing agencies in the state. DCFS currently licenses nine private adoption agencies, two of which have full Hague accreditation, and one other has indicated their intent to apply for accreditation.

The State continues to facilitate quarterly meetings with the Adoption Coalition; a forum for collaboration between public child welfare agency adoption programs and the licensed private child-placing agencies. Meetings include discussion of issues, concerns and challenges such as ICPC requirements, the impact of state and federal legislative changes (Adam Walsh Child Protection Act, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act and Nevada's Domestic Partnership Act) and the increasing number of drug and/or alcohol affected children being placed for adoption by private child-placing agencies necessitating the provision of information about adoption assistance. Coalition members have all signed confidentiality agreements since the body may also function as a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) by discussing the circumstances of specific cases; including service needs, sharing of information on community resources and information about birth parents who may be working with multiple agencies and/or accepting reimbursement of pregnancy related expenses from more than one adoptive family.

Inter-Country Adoptions: The State of Nevada had zero number of children adopted from other countries who entered State Custody in SFY 2010. Also, children in the custody of state and county child welfare agencies may be placed with

relatives in other countries. Placement approval and supervision are arranged by way of a process similar to ICPC through cooperative agreements with social service agencies in the prospective adoptive parent's country of residence. Most families who adopt from other countries are served by licensed, private child-placing agencies. However, state and county child welfare agencies may serve families who adopt internationally, as they are able, contingent upon caseloads and staffing ratios. Home studies, post placement supervision, information and referral and other support services are provided.

Adoption Incentive Grant Funds: For FFY 2010, the total amount of incentive payments earned by States exceeded the amount of funds available and a prorated amount was calculated. This resulted in the smallest ever award to Nevada (\$24,000). The state allocated this \$24,000 for FFY 2010 as follows in SFY 2011. Annual membership dues to the Adoption Exchange Association, as well as a separate sub-grant for the Adoption Exchange to act as the state's Recruitment Response Team (RRT) for the AdoptUsKids project and in-state travel expenses for renewal and initial licensing of child placing agencies were paid from these funds. The remaining funds were used for travel to facilitate out-of-state placements and payment of court fees.

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 re-authorized the Adoption Incentive Grant Program for an additional five years; including updating the baseline above which incentive payments are made and doubling the incentive payments for adoptions of children with special needs and older children adoptions. Consequently, the award for FFY 2011 was significantly larger at \$467,665. Funds awarded from the 2011 Adoption Incentive Grant for use in SFY 2012 will be used to cover above expenses, with the remainder sub-granted to the three public child welfare agencies to facilitate in jurisdictional placements; including travel for pre-placement transitional visits, post-placement supervision, specialized assessments, respite care and privatized delivery of therapeutic services not covered by Medicaid. The grant funds will also support specialized recruitment and adoption finalization activities, including National Adoption Day as well funding contracts for the completion of social summaries and home studies to remove barriers to timely permanency through adoption.

Adoption Assistance Program: It is the policy of the agencies providing child welfare services to provide financial, medical, and social service assistance to adoptive parents; thereby encouraging and supporting the adoption of special-needs children from foster care. Statewide policy outlines the special needs eligibility criteria, application process, types of assistance available and the necessary elements of a subsidized adoption agreement. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 adds a new IV-E Plan requirement that agencies must inform prospective adoptive parents about the Federal Income Tax credit for adoption. The Adoption Subsidy Policy has been revised to specifically require agencies to so notify prospective adoptive parents and document this in the case record. Adoption Tax Credit information, including a fact sheet developed by the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), was sent by mail to each family who adopted a special needs child(ren) within the preceding five years. The Act also phases in "de-linking" of a child's eligibility for federally funded adoption assistance payments from the outdated AFDC income requirements from 1996, thereby increasing the number of children with special needs who can be adopted with federal support. The state's IV-E Plan was amended to include these provisions. Eligibility policy will be amended to direct this change in eligibility determination as the revised adoption assistance eligibility criteria are phased-in from FY 2010 to FY 2018.

Item 10: Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Goal: *To determine whether the State is making concerted efforts to ensure:*

- *That the child is adequately prepared to make the transition from foster care to independent living (if it is expected that the child will remain in foster care until he or she reaches the age of majority or is emancipated).*
- *That the child, even though remaining in foster care, is in a "permanent" living arrangement with a foster parent or relative caregiver and that there is a commitment on the part of all parties involved that the child remain in that placement until he or she reaches the age of majority or is emancipated.*
- *That the child is in a long-term care facility and will remain in that facility until transition to an adult care facility.*

There are two main objectives related to this goal. The first is that the State will ensure that concerted efforts are made to provide the child with a primary or concurrent permanency goal of OPPLA with services to adequately prepare him or her for independent living when the he or she leaves foster care (at age 16 or older or for any age child with a goal of emancipation/independence) and the second is that the State will ensure that concerted efforts are made to achieve the goal of OPPLA in a timely manner by placing the child in a living arrangement that is "permanent" and the child will remain

in the living arrangement until his or her discharge from foster care. Overall, these efforts must be appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of applicable cases.

Table 20 shows the results from the 2009 CFSR. While Washoe County individually achieved compliance on this item, the results indicate that this item is an area needing improvement for Nevada.

Table 20: SFY 2010 Data for Item 10

Item 10: Other planned permanent living arrangement	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	43%	90%*	No
Clark County	25%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	50%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Permanency performance item 10 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010-January 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 1 and Item 10 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (3) of the PIP which focuses on “Improving the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency planning across the Life of the Case.

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children

Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement

Goal: *To determine whether concerted efforts are being made to ensure that the child's foster care placement is close enough to the parent(s) to facilitate face-to-face contact between the child and the parent(s) while the child is in foster care.*

To reach this goal, the State will ensure that the child's current placement is close enough to his or her parents or other potential permanent caregivers to facilitate frequent face-to-face contact between the child and the parents/permanent caregivers while the child is in foster care (unless the placement is based on the child's needs and intended to ensure that the child's case plan goals are achieved and are in the best interest of the child) and that these efforts are appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. Results from the 2009 CFSR, as listed in Table 21, demonstrate that Nevada is effectively meeting this goal and that this is a strength for Nevada child welfare agencies.

Table 21: SFY 2010 Data for Item 11

Item 11: Proximity of foster care placement	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	100%	90%*	Yes
Clark County	100%	90%*	Yes
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	100%	90%*	Yes

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Item 12: Placement with siblings

Goal: *To determine if concerted efforts are being made to ensure that siblings in foster care are placed together unless a separation was necessary to meet the needs of one of the siblings.*

To meet this goal, the State will ensure that the child and his or her siblings who are also in care are in the same placement (unless there is a valid reason not to do so, such as it is not in the best interest of the child) and that this information is appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. Table 22 shows that this is another

area of strength for Nevada. 2009 CFSR results demonstrate that 100% of cases reviewed show that each agency is exceeding this goal.

Table 22: SFY 2010 Data for Item 12

Item 12: Placement with siblings	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	100%	90%*	Yes
Clark County	100%	90%*	Yes
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	100%	90%*	Yes

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care

Goal: To determine if concerted efforts are being made to ensure that visitation between a child in foster care and his or her mother, father, and siblings is of sufficient frequency and quality to promote continuity in the child's relationship with these close family members.

There are several objectives that the State must reach in order to be in compliance with this goal. Overall, the State will ensure that the frequency and quality of visits (or other forms of contact if visits are not possible) between the child and his or her mother, father, and siblings are of sufficient frequency to maintain or promote the continuity of the relationship. In addition, the State must ensure that these visits including the typical pattern of visitation are appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. In Table 23 from the 2009 CFSR show that Nevada is not currently meeting this goal, with the exception of Washoe County. This is an area needing improvement for Nevada.

Table 23: SFY 2010 Data for Item 13

Item 13: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	59%	90%*	No
Clark County	44%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	60%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

The PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 2 and Item 13 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP which focuses on "Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationships. This will address this item for improvement.

Item 14: Preserving connections

Goal: To determine whether concerted efforts are being made to maintain the child's connections to his or her neighborhood, community, faith, extended family, tribe, school and friends.

To reach this goal, the State must ensure that concerted efforts are made to maintain important connections for the child. This includes keeping the child close to his or her home neighborhood, placing the child in his or her home school, and placing the child with a family with similar faith or culture, etc. Efforts to preserve a child's connections are to be documented appropriately in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of applicable cases. Results from the 2009 CFSR report shown in Table 24 indicate that with the exception of the DCFS – Rural Region, that Nevada is not meeting this goal.

Table 24: SFY 2010 Data for Item 14

Item 14: Preserving connections	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	76%	90%*	No
Clark County	63%	90%*	No
Washoe County	80%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	100%	90%*	Yes

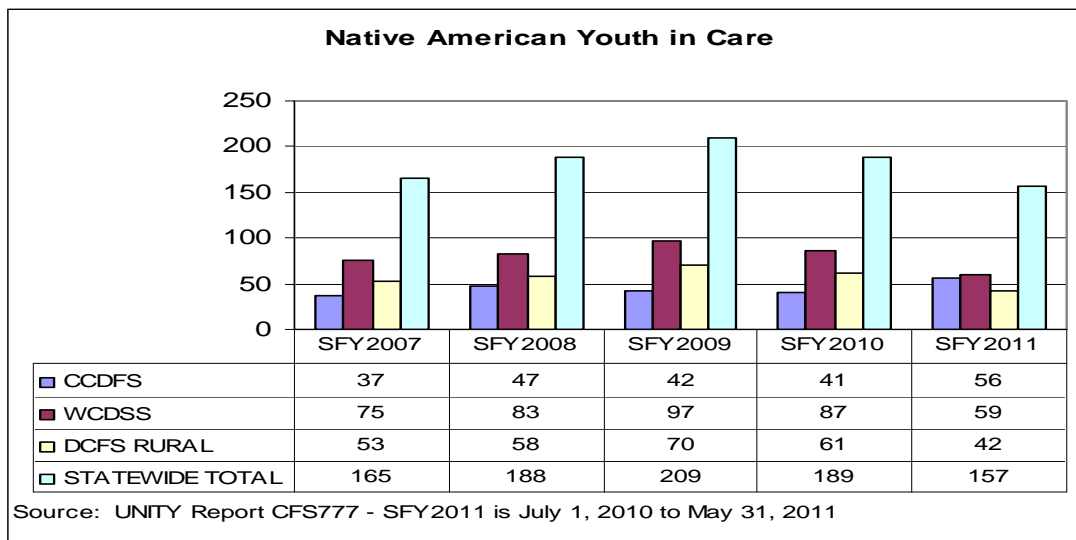
*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

One primary objective for this item is ensuring that sufficient inquiry is conducted with the parent, child, custodian or other interested party to determine whether the child may be a member of, or eligible for membership in, a Native American Tribe. If the State determines that a child is a member or may be eligible for tribal membership that the tribe is provided timely notification of its right to intervene in any State court proceedings seeking an involuntary foster care placement or termination of parental rights. Additionally, the State must ensure that if a child is a member of, or eligible for tribal membership that concerted efforts were made to place the child in foster care in accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) placement preferences. In Nevada, there are systems in place to ensure that these efforts are being made and are being improved. The State continues to follow provisions of the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act that was added in 1995 as a result of State Assembly Bill 351, and the state continues to maintain the following activities to comply with ICWA.

1. Inquiry about Indian heritage of a child (NRS 432B.397 and Nevada Administrative Code 432B.263).

The State's UNITY system collects the required information regarding Indian children and DCFS is able to identify Native American Indian Children. UNITY provides a special quarterly Detail Report CFS777 that collects data on the number of children statewide, by region and by individual child welfare agency. Figure 11 shows the results of this report. Compliance with this requirement to identify Indian children has been met and has been maintained since 2006.

Figure 11: Number of Native American Youth in Care



2. Notification of Indian parents and Tribes of State proceedings involving Indian children and their right to intervene (NRS 432B.425).

Nevada child welfare agencies continue to use a standardized Tribal Notification form that was developed in accordance with ICWA guidelines. The form and protocol are contained in the Nevada Indian Child Welfare Resource Guide, updated in May 2007. The Resource Guide is a tool for use by State and county child welfare staff. Information regarding ICWA is also contained in the Parent's Guide to Child Protective Services Booklet, revised April 2006, and in a separate ICWA brochure. Compliance with this requirement has been met since 2006 through application of the Nevada Revised Statutes and it continues to be maintained through the court system and training. ICWA is part of the Nevada New Worker Core Training.

3. Special placement preferences include Indian children (NRS 432B.455, .457).

Compliance continues to be met through application of the Nevada Revised Statutes, regulation, and placement policy. Compliance continues to be maintained through placement activities and staff training listed in our response to question 2 above.

4. Active efforts, reasonable efforts (NRS 432B.393);

Compliance with this requirement has been in place since 2006 through application of the Nevada Revised Statutes, regulation, and placement policy. "Active efforts" is part of the ICWA training curriculum that has been provided to

staff listed in question 2 above. ICWA is now a web-based curriculum and was deployed originally in June 2009. The curriculum was piloted for several months and then was revised based on stakeholder feedback. ICWA is also part of the Nevada New Worker CORE Training.

5. Use of tribal courts and the tribe's right to intervene in State proceedings and allow transfer of the proceedings to the jurisdiction of the tribe for a child custody proceeding due to child abuse or neglect (NRS 432B.425).

Compliance with this requirement has been met through application of the Nevada Revised Statutes, regulation, and adoption and policies. Compliance continues to be maintained through the court system and staff training listed in question 2 above. There is a clear understanding garnered from the development of the statewide "ICWA Jurisdictional Matrix" with representatives of each of the 27 Nevada Tribes that the State of Nevada is responsible for providing the assurances outlined at Section 422(b)(8). These assurances include provision of demographic and specific case placement and foster care information into the statewide informational system (UNITY); case review system; service programs; reunification or placement options; pre-placement preventative services; and policies and judicial procedures regarding children abandoned at or shortly after birth.

Lastly, the PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 2 and Item 14 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP which focuses on "Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationships.

Item 15: Relative placement

Goal: *To determine whether concerted efforts are being made to place the child with relatives when appropriate.*

Under this goal, the State has the objective to ensure that concerted efforts are made to identify, locate, and evaluate maternal and paternal relatives as potential placements for the child. In addition, the State must ensure that a placement made where a child placed with relatives is stable and appropriate to the child's needs. All of these efforts must be appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. As the data in Table 25 shows, Nevada is not currently meeting these objectives. Statewide, in the number of cases reviewed, Nevada only had 54% of cases listed as a strength in this area. Relative placements are sometimes unable to meet licensing regulations because of a variety of circumstances including: housing conditions, previous child abuse/neglect allegations and or criminal history. Such issues can slow the placement decision making process while the agencies assess the potential for issuing waivers for specific regulations. However, Statewide from the CLEO reports indicates that for the first three quarters of SFY 2010, that 14,204 licensed and unlicensed relative placements occurred. This is in contrast to 11,777 foster care placements. This data indicates that more children are being placed with relatives than not. Please refer to Figure 07 in the introduction to this section for the total placements made statewide.

Table 25: SFY 2010 Data for Item 15

Item 15: Relative placement	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	64%	90%*	No
Clark County	53%	90%*	No
Washoe County	70%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	78%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

The PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 2 will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (1) of the PIP focuses on "Strengthening and Reinforcing Safety Practices throughout the Life of the Case" and may improve this item if the agencies emergency analysis indicates that relatives are not actively being identified during emergency removals.

Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents

Goal: *To determine whether concerted efforts are being made to promote, support, and/or maintain positive relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother and father or other primary caregivers(s) from whom the child had been removed through activities other than just arranging for visitation.*

To meet this goal, the State must ensure that concerted efforts are made to promote, support, and otherwise maintain or strengthen a positive and nurturing relationship between the child in foster care and his or her mother and father and that these efforts are documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. Table 26 below shows the results of the 2009 CFSR. This data indicates that with the exception of Washoe County that the State is not meeting this goal and this continues to be an area needing improvement.

Table 26: SFY 2010 Data for Item 16

Item 16: Relationship of child in care with parents	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	39%	90%*	No
Clark County	21%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	25%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

The PIP identifies that Permanency Outcome 2 and Item 16 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP which focuses on “Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationships. This will address this item for improvement.

SECTION V: CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Trends in Child and Family Well-Being

Initiatives

Statewide: The State is engaging and will continue to engage in a variety of initiatives, workgroups and projects during the PIP implementation period. The PIP outlines several Child and Family Well-Being items that will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP focuses on “Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationship” and Primary Strategy (5) “Expand Service Options and Create flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and Families” address these areas of improvement.

Agency Level: The local agencies are not only involved in their work with initiatives, workgroups and projects on the improving performance as it relates to the PIP the agencies continue to implement other initiatives and projects that improve their performance in other identified areas. WCDSS has participated in a variety of projects related to child and family well-being. WCDSS and Washoe County Juvenile Services entered into a joint agreement to coordinate and share mental health services under the direction of a licensed psychologist. Furthermore, WCDSS reorganized mental health services under the direction of the Mental Health Director and developed an assessment and clinical care management model. Initiation of the clinical care management model included identifying the most severe emotionally disturbed youth and co-assigning those youth to a clinical care manager to help the primary worker with issues related to behavioral mental health. WCDSS in coordination with the Public Defender’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, and representatives from parents, foster parents, and youth sectors developed a training and practice guideline regarding visitation including introduction on an icebreaker component to the visitation process. A local church organization is working with WCDSS to develop an off-site visitation center that should be operational in the summer of 2011. WCDSS diligently works to keep children in their school of origin and has received tremendous support from the Washoe County School District (WCSD) through a Memorandum of Understanding reducing barriers to enrollment, expediting services to children, and arranging transportation when possible through a creative routing process. WCDSS and WCSD also created a school-based setting at the Kids Kottage emergency shelter to meet the educational needs of youth placed at REACH or who needed unique educational services not available in the home school.

The DCFS Rural Region and the Nevada Rural Housing Authority (NRHA) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to pilot the Family Unification Program (FUP). This program will provide Housing Choice Vouchers to help preserve and reunify families in the child welfare system and assist in the transition of youth aging out of care. Also, the DCFS rural region is collaborating with community partners to establishing three Child Advocacy Centers (CAC); one in Pahrump, NV, which is nearing accreditation, and the second is in the infancy planning stages of CAC development in Elko, NV. Another CAC is also being considered in Fernley, NV as soon as an MDT protocol is written and the process is

developed. Child Advocacy Centers provide neutral, child-friendly settings for children to be forensically interviewed re: serious reports of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, where forensic medical examinations can occur and where families receive support and advocacy all in an effort to reduce trauma and improve outcomes for children and families. The CAC offers a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach involving law enforcement, prosecutors, child protective workers, therapists and medical personnel working together as a team.

Furthermore, DCFS supports the creation of a Foster Child Monthly Medical History form that foster parents can access on the DCFS website and email updated medical and educational information to DCFS for entry into the UNITY system. Updates by the social worker / foster parents can also be completed on a hardcopy version of the form at monthly home visits necessary.

Lastly, DCFS Intensive Family Services staff has been trained and have established a protocol for the provision of screenings for youth who exhibit sexual behavior problems, to address risk and safety issues and to ensure placement stability.

Clark County Department of Family Services has participated in several projects related to child and family well-being. CCDFS is working towards improvement of the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale NCFAS assessment. Assistant Manager's are reviewing random NCFAS for quality and connection to the case plan. Based on these reviews Assistant Manager's will develop a plan for training case managers on the NCFAS. Also, CCDFS is working on Re-Tooling the Child and Family Teams (CFTs). Permanency staffs are part of a work group to re-tool CFT's. Permanency Supervisors will be assisting in facilitating the 48 hour Safety Decision Making Teams. Supervisors will conduct a time study to determine what other job responsibilities might be reduced to allow the time it will take to facilitate these meetings. CCDFS is completing a redesign of the child well being form, to be used at the time of initial removal and completed by CPS investigators. The completion of the standardized form will better ensure DFS staff are aware of and can support the child's well-being needs while in care.

Policy Development and Revision

Several policies relating to child and family well-being were approved during this SFY 2011. These include policies related to independent living services for youth, case planning, and psychotropic medication policy related to legislation from the 2009 legislative session.

Independent Living for Youth: During this reporting period 0801 Youth Independent Living Program policy was approved by the DMG on 12/17/2010 and 0802 Chafee National Youth in Transition Database policy was approved by the DMG on 2/18/11. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2009 (P.L. 110-351) and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-148) have amended the John H. Chafee Independent Living Program requirements of the Social Security Act. Each state is required to develop a Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan to address these changes, and this is included in APPENDIX (B). In an effort to adhere to the Fostering Connections Act that requires youth exiting care to have an individual transition plan established within 90 days prior to their discharge from foster care the statewide policy now includes this requirement. The recent requirement from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, our statewide policy, 0801 Youth Independent Living Program, states that youth must be educated on the importance of deciding who they would want to make medical decisions for them should they not be able to do so and will assist them in creating a valid Power of Attorney for Health Care at the time they exit care. The requirement for a Power of Attorney for Health Care has also been incorporated into the new policy.

Agency Level Policies: In addition to the above statewide policies, WCDSS updated their local policy manual related to well-being Section 33 "Psychotropic Medication" which provides procedures to follow when foster children are prescribed psychotropic medications. WCDSS also provide a Fostering Connections Instructional Memo to Staff advising staff on Educational Stability. The memo directed staff to maintain children in their school of origin and to consult the WCDS liaison for procedures for keeping a child in their school of origin.

Training

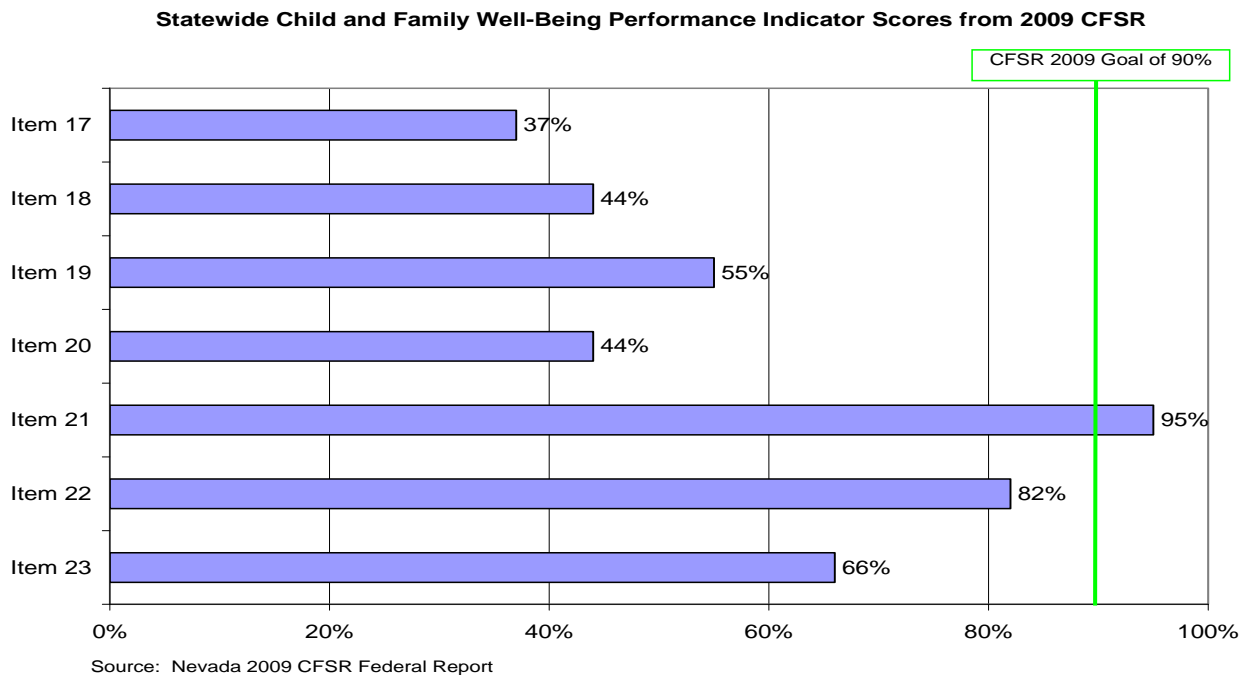
In the previous APSR reporting period for FY 2010, Nevada's IL sub-grantees and service providers in the southern region were provided with additional technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD) with a Train the Trainer training in the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment Plus (ACLSA Plus) curriculum. Due to some staff changes and losses, there was a need for additional trainers in Nevada. In SFY 2011 the NRCYD returned to Nevada and trained staff in both the Northern and Southern regions of the state. In this round of training juvenile justice

staffs were also trained. Once the ACLSA is consistently implemented in both the child welfare and juvenile justice settings as the assessment tool, Nevada will be the first state to implement this system consistent across programs.

CFSP Goals and Objectives for Child and Family Well-Being

In the 2010-2014 CFSP, each performance indicator was given an overall goal and one or more objectives. The Well-Being items 17, 18, 19, and 20 were identified to be measured by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from November 2010- November 2011 case reviews. At that time the improvement goals will be set using the federal method 2 prospective formulas. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP outlines several Child and Family Well-Being items that will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP focuses on “Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationship” and Primary Strategy (5) “Expand Services to meet the Needs of Children and Families” addresses these areas of improvement. Figure 12 shows a brief graph of how Nevada rated statewide in the 2009 CFSR on individual performance indicators for child and family well-being.

Figure 12: Child and Family Well-Being Performance Indicator Scores vs. 90% goal



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

Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents

Goal: To determine whether the State is making concerted efforts to assess the needs of children, parents, and foster parents (both at the child’s entry into foster care and on an ongoing basis) to identify the services necessary to achieve case goals and adequately address the issues relevant to the agency’s involvement with the family, and provide the appropriate services.

To meet this goal, the State must ensure that concerted efforts are made to conduct formal or informal initial comprehensive assessment of the child’s and his or her parents’ and foster parents’ needs and/or ongoing assessments to provide updated information regarding the child’s needs for case planning purposes. In addition, the State must ensure

that concerted efforts are made to provide appropriate services to meet the child’s and his or her parents’ and foster parents’ identified needs. The State must also ensure that that this information is appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. Table 27 below shows the results from the 2009 CFSR conducted in Nevada. Currently, this is an area needing improvement for Nevada, as only 37% of the cases had this area rated as a strength during this review.

Table 27: SFY 2010 Data for Item 17

Item 17: Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	37%	90%*	No
Clark County	27%	90%*	No
Washoe County	50%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	39%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Permanency performance item 17 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- November 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that this item will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on “Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families.”

Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning

Goal: *To determine whether the State is making concerted efforts to involve parents and children (if developmentally appropriate) in the case planning process on an ongoing basis.*

To comply with this goal, the State must ensure that there are concerted efforts to actively involve the child (if developmentally appropriate) and his or her parents in case planning and that these efforts are documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. Results in Table 28 from the CFSR conducted in 2009 indicate that this is an area needing improvement for Nevada, as only 44% of cases statewide were rated as a strength in this area.

Table 28: SFY 2010 Data for Item 18

Item 18: Child and family involvement in case planning	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	44%	90%*	No
Clark County	29%	90%*	No
Washoe County	75%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	35%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Permanency performance item 18 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- November 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Well-Being Outcome 1 and Item 18 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP which focuses on “Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationships.”

Item 19: Caseworker visits with child

Goal: *To determine whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the child or children in the case are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of the child and promote the achievement of case goals.*

This goal refers to the frequency and quality of visits between the caseworker and child in care. To reach this goal, the state must ensure that the frequency and quality of visits between the caseworker and child are sufficient to address issues pertaining to the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote the achievement of case goals and

that these visits are appropriately documented in UNITY. In Table 29 below shows that this is an area needing improvement for Nevada, as only 55% of the cases reviewed in the last CFSR met this requirement.

Table 29: SFY 2010 Data for Item 19

Item 19: Caseworker visits with child	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	55%	90%*	No
Clark County	62%	90%*	No
Washoe County	67%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	33%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

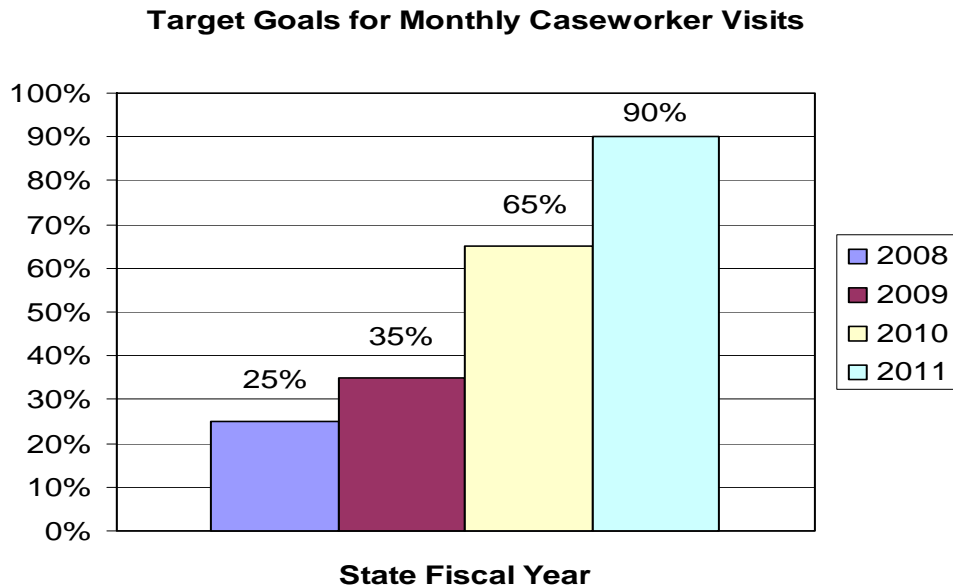
Permanency performance item 19 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- November 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Well-Being Outcome 1 and Item 19 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP which focuses on “Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationships.

To assist in reaching this goal DCFS is dispersing the caseworker visitation funds to the three child welfare agencies to fund additional positions to expand caseworker visitation capacity, fund overtime for caseworkers to increase the number of children visited, complete appropriate paperwork in a timely manner and to purchase needed equipment to facilitate caseworker visits and documentation. In response to recent federal legislation PL ACYF-CB-07-08, the Information Management System (IMS) staff developed a monthly report which tracks caseworker visitation as well as in placement visitation based on the federal requirements. The new Federal guidelines were used to determine the monthly visitation and in-placement visitation compliance rates and include the following provisions:

- Children who have been in custody for a full calendar month during the report period are included in the compliance calculations “Custody Visit Months” and “In-Placement Visit Months” are calculated and displayed.
- Children who have more than one foster care episode, whether under same Person ID or not, are included only once in the report. They are displayed in the report under the organizational unit that handled the most recent custody during the report period.
- Children who are placed out of state are included in the population.
- The report now displays the number of visits by any Nevada worker.
- The report shows the monthly visitation and in-placement visitation compliance percentage goals.

Figure 13 shows the established targets for compliance based on discussions with the three child welfare agencies to produce a progressive target, by year, to achieve compliance with the required 90% in 2011. The target for 2008 was 25%; the target for 2009 was 35%; the target for 2010 will be 65% and the target for 2011 will be 90%. The agencies pull information monthly from UNITY down to the caseworker level to determine how well goals are being met. Based on the federal reports filed for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009, the percentage of Nevada children in foster care who were visited during *each and every* calendar month was 39.83% in FFY 2008 and 49.7% in FFY 2009. The Nevada goal of 25% was met and exceeded in 2008 and 2009. In 2009, 73.61% of these visits occurred in the child’s place of residence. In FFY 2010 79% of visits occurred in the child’s place of residence. This is measured very differently during an on-site CFSR case review in that it assesses both frequency of the visit and quality. The actual visit numbers depicted in this UNITY report are higher than what was determined in the CFSR findings, which indicates that in only 55% of cases reviewed the frequency and or the quality of the visits with the child were not being met.

Figure 13: Target Goals for Monthly Caseworker Visits



In the spring of 2011 Nevada requested reconsideration of the annual caseworker contact compliance submission for Federal Fiscal Year 2010. Per the Program Instruction (P.I.) 07-08, it indicates “*the percentage of children in foster care who were visited during each and every calendar month determined by the number of children who were visited each and every full calendar month.*”

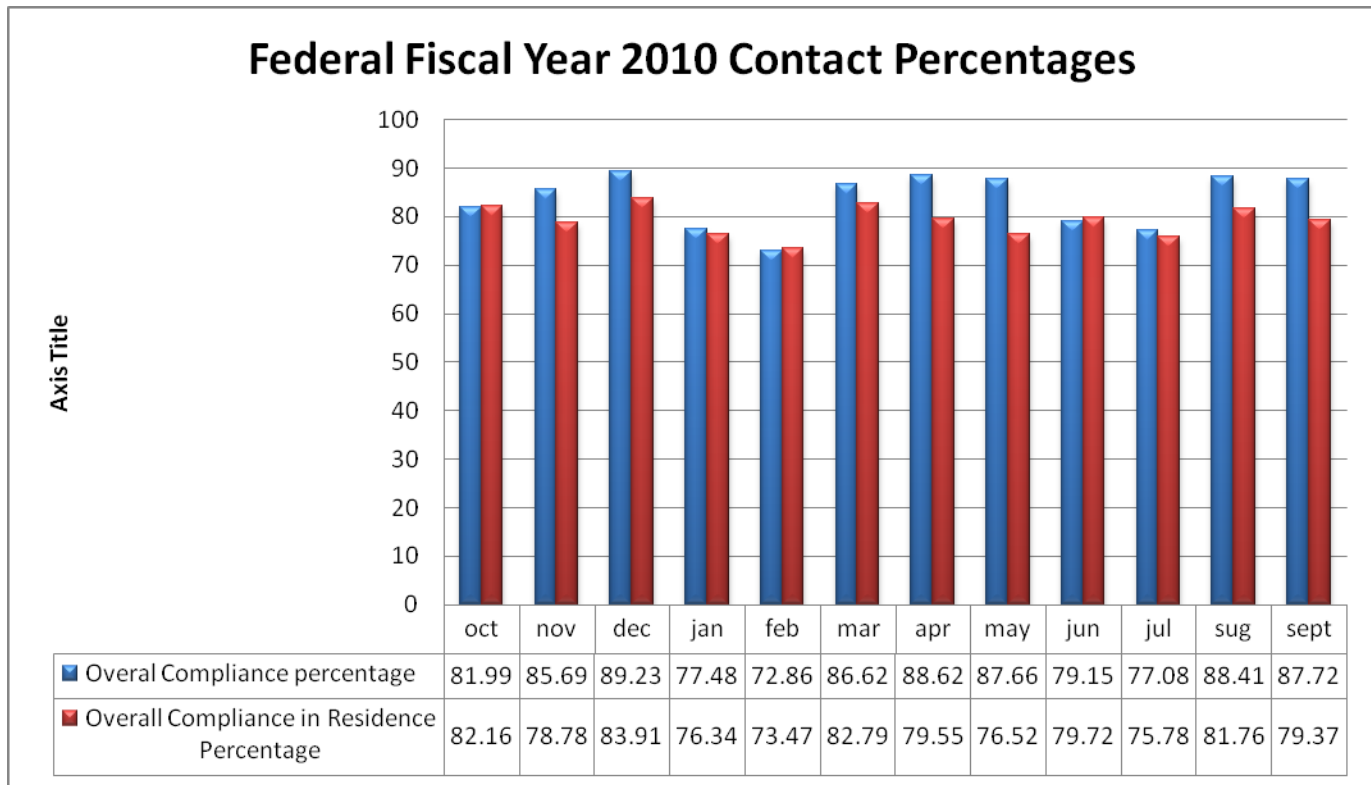
Our SACWIS (UNITY) system was designed based on the instructions listed in the P.I. to roll up the monthly data into a yearly submission. Our state is having great difficulty with this formula based on the following interpretation:

If our UNITY system takes a single month to assess whether the state was in compliance with visiting Child X and the contact did occur, our state would achieve compliance. However, If UNITY calculated 12 months of data for Child X and assessed whether contacts occurred each and every calendar month and contacts were made 11 out of 12 months, our state would not meet compliance. Instead of Child X indicating a 91.7% compliance rating, the child becomes a 0% rating.

We have been utilizing this report since its creation to monitor staff’s performance and it has been extremely beneficial to assess our monthly progress in achieving the necessary 90% compliance by 2011.

In Figure 14 below is Nevada’s performance for FFY 2010 by running data reports per month for the exact same months used in the 2010 submission:

Figure 14 Caseworker Contact Percentages



Nevada submitted an analysis in response to our most recent rating of 55.08% and our state was denied the reconsideration.

Our state has continued to express this concern every year since our initial submission in 2007. Our state continues to have discrepancies between our monthly calculations and our yearly submission. If our state calculated a percentage of the above monthly averages Nevada would be at 76.15% which is a significant difference when comparing the 55.08% that was submitted based on the required formula.

Nevada is making excellent progress in monthly contact performance and our performance is a priority, however this calculation and percentage based on the required formula will continue to be different than actual monthly practice.

Item 20: Caseworker visits with parents

Goal: *To determine whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the mothers and fathers of the children are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the children and promote achievement of case goals.*

To achieve this goal, the State must ensure that the frequency and quality of visits between the caseworker and mother and father are sufficient to address issues pertaining to the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and promote the achievement of case goals and that these visits, including the typical pattern of visitation, are appropriately documented in UNITY in a minimum of 90% of cases. Data from the 2009 CFSR, as shown in Table 30 below indicates that Nevada is currently not meeting this goal and that this is an area needing improvement.

Table 30: SFY 2010 Data for Item 20

Item 20: Worker visits with parents	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	44%	90%*	No
Clark County	27%	90%*	No
Washoe County	64%	90%*	No
DCFS Rural Region	50%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Permanency performance item 20 was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010- November 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Well-Being Outcome 1 and Item 20 will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP which focuses on "Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationships. This also will address this item for improvement.

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

Item 21: Educational needs of child

Goal: *To assess whether the State is making concerted efforts to assess children’s educational needs at the initial contact with the child and on an ongoing basis, and whether identified needs were appropriately addressed in case planning and case management activities.*

To meet this goal, the State must ensure that an assessment of the educational and/or developmental needs of each child in care according to the requirements in statewide policy is conducted and that appropriate services are provided in a minimum of 90% of cases. This is an area that is a particular strength for Nevada. In the 2009 Nevada CFSR, the State achieved a rating of 95% and all child welfare agencies rated above 90% (see Table 31). The child welfare agencies have initiated a variety of methods to ensure that the educational needs of children are met. These include educational liaisons with the schools, referrals to Nevada Early Intervention Services, and tracking of children’s progress while in the school system. These areas are outlined more fully in the Initiatives section above.

Table 31: SFY 2010 Data for Item 21

Item 21: Educational needs of the child	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	95%	90%*	Yes
Clark County	95%	90%*	Yes
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	92%	90%*	Yes

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Educational Stability: In relation to educational stability 0204 Case Planning Policy was approved 11/10/2010 by the DMG and reflects the promoting educational stability of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (PL 110-351 language).

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

Item 22: Physical health of child

Goal: *To determine whether the State is addressing the physical health needs of the child, including dental health needs.*

To achieve this goal, the State must ensure that child welfare agencies are conducting assessments of the physical and dental health needs of each child in care according to the requirements in statewide policy and that appropriate services

are provided to meet these needs in a minimum of 90% of cases. As listed in the Initiatives section above, Clark County reports a redesign of their “Child Initial Well Being Form” that is to be used at the time of initial removal and is completed by CPS investigators. The completion of the form will better ensure DFS staff are aware of and can support the child’s well-being needs while in care. Also, Clark County reports that they utilize the UNITY system for documenting the child’s health information. This allows Clark County Staff to compile medical records into a medical passport that is provided to the caregivers. Washoe County also has implemented several measures to ensure that this is a priority in caring for children in their charge, as both Washoe and Clark County have medical personnel on staff to assist in this care. In the 2009 CFSR, this was an area needing improvement for Nevada, as shown in Table 32 below. The PIP identifies that this item will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on “Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families.”

Table 32: SFY 2010 Data for Item 22

Item 22: Physical health of the child	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	82%	90%*	No
Clark County	78%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	67%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

Item 23: Mental/behavioral health of child

Goal: To determine whether the State is addressing the mental/behavioral health needs of the child.

To reach this goal, the State must ensure that the child welfare agencies conduct assessments of the mental/behavioral health needs of each child in care according to the requirements in statewide policy and provide appropriate services to address these needs in a minimum of 90% of cases. With the exception of Washoe County, this is an area needing improvement for Nevada. The 2009 Nevada CFSR showed that statewide only 66% of cases met this goal (see Table 33).

Table 33: SFY 2010 Data for Item 23

Item 23: Mental/behavioral health of the child	CFSR 2009	NV Goal	Goal Met
Statewide	66%	90%*	No
Clark County	55%	90%*	No
Washoe County	100%	90%*	Yes
DCFS Rural Region	57%	90%*	No

*Unless otherwise negotiated or if exceeds federal requirements

The PIP identifies that this item will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on “Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families.”

SECTION VI: SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Each of the following performance indicators mirrors the 22 items from the Federal Statewide Assessment Instrument. The overall structure for each performance indicator includes the legal requirements, archival and anecdotal data, the overall goal to be reached and specific objectives for that item. In general, goals mirror the lead federal compliance question for each item. Objectives under each goal are modeled after specific data or program monitoring requested in the statewide assessment process and may include more specific compliance areas to be reached based on state statute, regulation or policy.

The PIP outlines several Systemic Factors that will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (2) of the PIP focuses on “Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationship” ; Primary Strategy (3) “Improve the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency Planning across the Life of the Case”; Primary Strategy (4) “Strengthen Child welfare Supervision and middle management skills”, and Primary Strategy (5) “ Expand Service Options and Create Flexibility for Services to meet the needs of Children and Families”..

In the 2009 CFSR the systemic factor overall ratings were as follows:

- Systemic Factor A: Statewide Information System
 - This factor was not in substantial conformity with a rating of 2. The one performance indicator, Item 24 was an Area Needing Improvement.
- Systemic Factor B: Case Review System
 - This factor was not in substantial conformity with a rating of 2. Item 25, 28 and 29 were areas needing improvement. Items 26 and 27 were strengths.
- Systemic Factor C: Quality Assurance System
 - This factor was in substantial conformity with a rating of 3. Item 30 and 31 were listed as strengths.
- Systemic Factor D: Staff and Provider Training
 - This factor was not in substantial conformity with a rating of 2. Item 32 and 33 were areas needing improvement and item 34 was listed as a strength.
- Systemic Factor E: Service Array and Resource Development
 - This factor was not in substantial conformity with a rating of 2. Item 35 was a strength and items 36 and 37 were areas needing improvement.
- Systemic Factor F: Agency Responsiveness to the Community
 - This factor was in substantial conformity with a rating of 3. Items 38 and 39 were strengths and item 40 was an area needing improvement.
- Systemic Factor G: Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention
 - This factor was in substantial conformity with a rating of 3. Items 41, 42, 43 and 45 were listed as strengths and item 44 was listed as an area needing improvement.

Systemic Factor A: Statewide Information System

Item 24: Statewide information system

Goal: *The State will ensure that the State’s SACWIS system (UNITY) has the tracking capacity that will, at minimum, readily identify the status, demographic characteristics, location and goals for the placement of entry of every child who is (or within the immediately preceding 12 months, has been) in foster care.*

The PIP identifies that this systemic factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on “Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families.”

To meet the parameters under this goal, the State will continue to work on several objectives. The first of these is to assess the reporting capacity for system users to include program or case management areas and/or information, including, but not limited to, the status, demographics, current location and permanency goals for children in foster care. The DCFS – Information Management System (IMS) department continues to work to achieve SACWIS certification for UNITY.

UNITY currently has the capacity to provide reports to system users regarding all functions that the system supports. This includes program and case management reports covering services provided to children, their status, demographics, location, and permanency goals. Currently there are over 60 scheduled reports available to the agency and external stakeholders. Many other reports can be run on demand. Additionally, IMS supports the agency by responding to ad hoc data requests and requests for new standard reports.

There have been three separate reviews and/or audits that have examined the UNITY system within past six years. These included the Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) for the Review of Child Deaths; the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP); and the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). These reviews provided a number of recommendations including:

- UNITY should generate helpful reports.
- The state's UNITY data system must be examined by a team of internal and external experts to determine the necessary changes to ensure it is user-friendly, more efficient, produces adequate hard copy documents in order to analyze the flow of the case, and produces management reports that can be used effectively as a management tool.
- UNITY was found to be problematic for staff relative to navigating the system and was found not to be a useful case management tool (based on the 2009 CFSR).

In response to the recommendations issued by the BRP, NICRP and the CFSR, DCFS contracted with Integrating Factors Incorporated (IFI) to conduct an evaluation of UNITY. Among IFI's findings were the following:

- Time spent on an appropriate level of case documentation far exceeds and is disproportionate to the time spent on client facing tasks.
- UNITY'S positioning as a case documentation tool, as opposed to a tool that drives and guides the work processes, often keeps it disconnected from the operational processes.
- Significant data entered into UNITY are not available for searching, reporting, analysis, or quality oversight.

The IFI study characterized UNITY as a data capture system that does not adequately support the business process of its users. Consequently, users only complete data entry to the minimal extent possible in order to meet the requirements of a particular task. Thus, UNITY provides insufficient business intelligence to allow for the modeling of business trends or to identify critical areas of needed improvement. To begin addressing the evaluation conducted by IFI, the DCFS requested a Technology Investment Request. The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) Technology Investment Request (TIR) mission is to enhance the Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) system, an automated case management solution which supports Nevada's state and local child welfare agencies such that DCFS will significantly increase the service delivery and practice for the safety, permanency and well-being of Nevada's children and families. DCFS seeks to accomplish two main goals through the TIR. First is to design and implement a new presentation layer for UNITY using Web Portals that are better tailored to suit the needs of the specific functional roles performed by UNITY users. The second is to implement a Data Warehouse for use by DCFS management and other stakeholders to extract data in statistically relevant ways. On June 14, 2010 the TIR was presented to the committee and was approved. During the 2011 Legislative Session the TIR was approved, and now DCFS will be working in the next reporting period to implement the changes included in the TIR. The progress on this project will be reported in the SFY 2012 APSR.

Another objective under this goal is for IMS to assess the accessibility of the system to staff and external stakeholders (who require access) in all areas of the state. This objective has been met as UNITY is currently available to all agency staff and external stakeholders in all areas of the State.

A third objective was for IMS to develop a mechanism for linking the UNITY system with the Quality Improvement Case Review efforts to ensure a continuous quality assurance feedback loop, including methods for monitoring data consistency. IMS staff has been meeting since March 2010 with DCFS staff to identify and develop a mechanism for linking the UNITY system with the quality improvement case review efforts and continuous quality assurance efforts. At the initial meeting concerning UNITY automation the following four functional areas were identified in developing a Qualitative Review: Sample Selection, Sample Management, Case Review and Reports. The new QICR tool was released in January 2011. After utilizing the tool during PIP reviews some problems were identified, and currently some enhancements were requested and are being implemented. Also, a report has been developed from the PIP reviews for data reporting to the Administration for Children and Families.

IMS in collaboration with DCFS staff continues to review and analyze current UNITY reports with the intent of developing additional reports, and or redesigning the current reports to ensure a consistent monitoring of the data that captures and tracks specific data indicators on outcomes for children and families.

A fourth objective is that IMS will assess the quality assurance mechanism for ensuring that information generated from the UNITY system is complete, accurate, and current and includes the locations of all children in care, including those in relative care, unlicensed placements, voluntary placements and unpaid placements. UNITY has many quality assurance mechanisms for helping ensure that data gets entered into UNITY correctly. Features such as drop down lists and radio buttons ensure that only proper values for some data elements are entered. Window and other edits ensure that data entered is consistent with other related data. Window edits also ensure that mandatory data elements are entered. UNITY's missing data functionality generates alerts when certain data elements have not been entered or when certain tasks have not been completed in a timely manner. These features work together to help ensure that the data stored in UNITY is accurate and current. This work has been on-going over the reporting period, and as the practice changes due to new laws and regulations, IMS implements new functionality. The implementation of web enablement will assist IMS in implementing the new requirements in UNITY.

A fifth objective is that IMS will develop tracking systems for monitoring children in out-of-home care, including those served by Title IV-E agreements with other agencies. IMS reports that UNITY currently has functionality that allows system users to record the placement of children that have been removed from their home and placed in an out-of-home setting both by the DCFS Rural Region, CCDFS and WCDSS. Placement status of children can be viewed on-line and through reports. The ICPC subsystem of UNITY allows the tracking of children that are placed out-of-state and during this reporting period IMS has been making enhancements to the ICPC subsystem due to new requirements.

Beginning October 1, 2010, Nevada's NYTD process was implemented, and caseworkers meet and continue to meet individually with youth shortly after their 17th birthday to complete the initial survey on-line. While the youth actually completes the survey, the caseworker is there to answer questions, etc. Nevada provides aftercare services via contract providers throughout the state. These providers will be responsible for maintaining contact with the youth once they leave care and facilitating in having the youth complete the survey shortly after their 19th and 21st birthday. By marketing the survey through FosterClub and through our network of providers, the State has accomplished the implementation of NYTD. DCFS submitted the first data file to the NYTD portal before the May 15, 2011 deadline with no errors. IMS will continue to insure that accurate data is collected by audit reports and independent living windows that enhance the workers ability to enter data.

Systemic Factor B: Case Review System

Item 25: Written case plan

Goal: *The State will ensure that each child has a written case plan, to be developed jointly with the child, when appropriate, and the child's parent(s), that includes the required provisions.*

To meet this goal, the State must ensure that each child has a written case plan, to be developed jointly with the child, when appropriate, and the child's parent(s), that includes the required provisions in 90% of cases. Nevada Revised Statutes 432B.540, 553 and 580 require the agencies which provide child welfare services to adopt a plan for permanency in accordance with the requirements and timeframes in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA); including periodic review by the Court. Further, the plan must include; a description of the type, safety and appropriateness of the home or institution in which the child could be placed, including, without limitation, a statement that the home or institution would comply with the provisions of NRS 432B.3905, and a plan for ensuring that he or she would receive safe and proper care and a description of his/her needs, a description of the services to be provided to the child and to a parent to facilitate the return of the child to the custody of his parent or to ensure his/her permanent placement and the appropriateness of the services to be provided under the plan.

Nevada Administrative Code 432B.190 requires that each case have a written case plan which identifies barriers to the provision of a safe environment for the child, clarifies responsibilities of the involved persons to address those barriers, and defines the overall goals of the case and the step-by-step proposed actions of all persons to reach the goal within a specified time. Each case plan must be reviewed and signed by the supervisor of the caseworker and updated at least

every 6 months. Each case plan must include identifying information, a statement of the goal, objectives and activities of the case, and the time to meet each goal, objective and activity. Case plans must be realistically related to the familial situation, safeguard the child, and help the parents to gain the confidence and capacity to care appropriately for their child, and be sufficiently flexible to allow changes in the situation and the use of the services based on a continuing reevaluation of how the child is being affected. Parents must be encouraged to participate in the development of a written agreement for services and engage in a set of processes for receiving resources.

The 0204.0 Case Planning policy was approved by the DMG on 11/10/2010 and is based upon the existing statutory authority and regulations cited requires all cases opened for service to have a written case plan. This plan must be developed through a process of engaging the family, gathering information, evaluating it with the family and eliciting goals and solutions from the family. A Child and Family Team (CFT) is to be convened for decision making about desired outcomes and determining with the family and team what activities should be performed, by whom, how, and when to achieve proposed actions. Case planning is a family centered process that focuses on family strengths and resources to assist the parents in building protective capacity and increasing family functioning.

While the legal requirements for this item are in place, the Nevada 2009 CFSR rated this item as an area needing improvement based on data from UNITY that only 53% of children had case plans. Also, during the CFSR review, reviewers determined that the agency had made diligent efforts to involve mothers in case planning in 62.5% of the applicable cases and fathers in case planning in 57% of the applicable cases.

The DCFS Rural Region reports that to ensure uniformity through out the Rural Region, caseworkers are now required to use the case plan template in UNITY. Caseworkers and supervisors were trained to use the case plan and visitation windows in the fall of 2010.

Permanency performance item 18 "Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning" was identified to be measured during the PIP implementation period by case reviews using a prospective baseline developed using data from December 2010-November 2011 case reviews. The baseline data will be reported in the first PIP quarterly status report after the November 2011 reviews are completed. To date Nevada has conducted two PIP case reviews one in the Rural Region and one in Clark County. Also, the PIP identifies that Systemic Factor (25) will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy 2 of the PIP which focuses on "Preserving Connections and Strengthening Relationships. This will further address improvement in this systemic factor.

Item 26: Periodic reviews

Goal: *The state will ensure that periodic reviews are conducted on the status of each child, no less frequently than once every 6 months, either by a court or by administrative review.*

Court procedures may differ by child welfare agency regarding the scheduling and tracking of hearings, but most courts schedule the semiannual review at the dispositional hearing to ensure compliance within ASFA timelines. Clark County assigns a judge and a court master to hear child welfare cases thus increasing the time available for reviews. Washoe County has a Model Court Program where the family court judge holds a monthly model family court meeting which is comprised of administrative representatives from social services, district attorney, public defender, Washoe Legal Services, school district, CASA and judges. These meetings address ways to improve court hearings, troubleshoot problems and to develop local rules. Washoe County also has an agreement with the court that in lieu of a court hearing the agency conducts a formal case plan review meeting 90-120 days from removal. This child and family team meeting is facilitated by one of four Coordinators (Managers) in the department. In addition to child and family team members the county district attorney must be also present. Washoe County further reports that there is adequate court time and that the court has moved to a scheduled calendar instead of a stacked calendar. Court clerks have been resourceful in scheduling extra time for cases they know will be longer.

The Nevada 2009 CFSR report rated this item as a strength. Based on the efforts in this area, this item continues to be a strength for our State.

Item 27: Permanency hearings

Goal: *The State will ensure that each child in foster care under the supervision of the state or county child welfare agency has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date that*

the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

To meet this goal, the State is planning to review the system currently available in UNITY for monitoring that each child in foster care under the supervision of the state or county child welfare agency has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date that the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter. In addition, the State plans to develop a reporting mechanism to review the timeliness and quality of hearings for the purpose of providing a continuous quality improvement feedback loop for key stakeholders involved in the process.

Currently, Nevada Revised Statute 432B.590 mandates that the court shall hold a hearing concerning the permanent placement of a child no later than 12 months after the initial removal of the child from his home and annually thereafter, or within 30 days a finding that agency which provides child welfare services is not required to make the reasonable efforts toward reunification pursuant to NRS 432B.393.3. In compliance with ASFA, DCFS Policies 0206 Court Hearing Notification and 0514 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) require agencies to make and finalize permanency plans by no later than 12 months after the child's removal and provide notice by certified mail to all the parties to any of the prior proceedings and parents and "any persons planning to adopt the child, relatives of the child or providers of foster care who are currently providing care to the child."

The Nevada 2009 CFSR report also rated this item as a strength. Nevada is in compliance with this item.

Item 28: Termination of parental rights

Goal: *The State will ensure that a process is in place for Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA).*

The PIP outlines several Systemic Factors that will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (3) "Improve the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency Planning across the Life of the Case" and goal #1 under that strategy "Reduce the number of children in out of home care for 18 months or longer and reduce barrier to adoption and TPR. This strategy and goal is addressing this area of needed improvement. The Court Improvement Project (CIP) is working collaboratively with DCFS on reducing the barriers to TPR and adoption in efforts to achieve timely permanency. CIP has convened a workgroup by jurisdictions and has identified barriers and solutions to those barriers. CIP is currently implementing a plan to improve permanency planning across the life of the case.

The most recent CFSR data profile provided on February 23, 2011 indicates that Exits to Adoption in less than 24 months continues to be an area of needed improvement reflecting that statewide adoptions are being finalized in only 14.4% of cases, and the national median is 26.8%(Table 34). The data also indicates that the median length of stay of a child before exiting to adoption is 36.9%, and the national median is 32.4 months. There are various reasons for a delay in a child exiting to Adoption. It was indicated in the 2009 CFSR that stakeholders reported that in Clark County there were delays in filing the TPR petitions, and in the Rural Region stakeholders reported that there was a reluctance to file TPR before the court has ordered a goal of adoption. The PIP identifies that this Systemic Factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (3) of the PIP which focuses on "Improving the timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency planning across the Life of the Case. Nevada's PIP is addressing this systemic issue.

Table: 34 Timeliness of Adoptions

TIMELINESS OF ADOPTIONS DISCHARGED FROM FOSTER CARE Component A:	FFY 2009ab	12-month Period Ending 03/31/2010 (09B10A)	FFY 2010ab
Exits to Adoption in less than 24 months(national medium 26.8%, 75th percentile=36.6%)	16.4%	16.1%	14.4%
Exits to Adoption, median length of stay (national medium 32.4 months, 25th percentile 27.3)	Median=36.2 months	Median=35.9 months	Median=36.9% months

Source: CFSR data profile dated 2/23/2011

Item 29: Notice of hearings and reviews to caregivers

Goal: *The State will ensure that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.*

The PIP outlines several Systemic Factors that will be addressed during the PIP implementation period. Specifically, Primary Strategy (3) "Improve the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency Planning across the Life of the Case" has been identified to address this systemic factor. The Court Improvement Project (CIP) is working collaboratively with DCFS on improving the timeliness and appropriateness of permanency planning across the life of the case. CIP has convened a workgroup by jurisdictions and has identified barriers and solutions to those barriers. CIP is currently implementing a plan to improve permanency planning across the life of the case. See Page 74 for a more detailed report regarding this initiative.

To meet this goal, the State will work with the courts and child welfare agencies to develop a mechanism for child welfare agency reporting on the timeliness and consistency of notification for hearings for foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care for any review or hearing held with respect to the child and will ensure that this system is effective in 90% of applicable cases. To accomplish this goal, the State must develop a mechanism for reporting on the involvement of foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care at reviews and hearings.

NRS 432B, NAC 432B and statewide policy 0206 Court Notification mandate that proper notification of court hearings and court reviews regarding the status of a child in the custody of a child welfare agency must be provided and is necessary to ensure active involvement and participation of parents, foster parents, guardians, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers in the child's safety, permanency and well-being. While internal policies and procedures regarding court notification requirements and protocols may differ between child welfare agencies, formal written notification to the aforementioned caregivers must be supplied pursuant to NRS 432B.580 (6) (a) (b). Notice of the hearing must be given by registered or certified mail to all parties to any of the prior proceedings, and parents and any persons planning to adopt the child, relatives of the child or providers of foster care who are currently providing care to the child. If a child in protective custody is determined to be of Indian descent, the child welfare agency must notify the tribe in writing at the beginning of the proceedings. If the Indian child is eligible for membership in more than one tribe, each tribe must be notified.

In the 2009 Nevada CFSR, this item received a rating of area needing improvement.

Systemic Factor C: Quality Assurance System

Item 30: Standards ensuring quality services

Goal: *The State will ensure that standards are adequately developed and implemented to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children.*

This goal has two main objectives. The first is that the State will engage in necessary regulation development to ensure quality standards for foster care are updated according to bills passed in the 2011 legislative session. The second is that the State will develop a system for evaluating the implementation of the standards for foster care, including a mechanism to provide feedback to key stakeholders; to ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children. The second objective is dependent on the outcome of the first. Specifically, it will not be addressed until the regulations are adopted and an evaluation protocol is developed. Therefore, for this reporting period, only first objective will be addressed in Nevada's effort to reach this goal.

This item refers to quality standards. These standards for foster care fall into several categories including statute, regulation and statewide policy. These categories include child protection and foster care; licensure of foster care homes, residential facilities and foster care agencies; and out-of-state placements. To ensure child protection while in foster care, child welfare agencies must oversee and monitor the placement of children in foster homes or residential facilities pursuant to the Child Protection Statutes (NRS and NAC 432B), Foster Care Statutes (NRS and NAC 424) and statewide policies, such as out-of-home placement (Policy Chapter 1000); training, assessment, and licensing (Policy 1004), and case planning (Policy 0204); that outline requirements for quality standards. These regulations and policies embody elements of quality service delivery, such as the consideration of cultural differences, timeliness, safety, visitation location, placement preference, scheduling of medical, dental and mental health needs. In addition, child welfare staff and child care facilities that provide services to foster children must meet personnel requirements for appropriate licensure and

training to work in various positions. Fingerprinting and a criminal background checks are mandatory in the State in order to work with children (NRS 432.100). Staff must have appropriate supervision and are monitored through regular evaluation of work performance standards. The law and regulations also designate the number of children that may be placed in a foster care home or group home and the physical requirements for the home or facility. These measures are intended to ensure that quality services are provided to children in foster care by child welfare agency staff. The law and regulations designate the number of children that may be placed in a foster care home or group home.

The standards for placement in a facility outside of the State of Nevada are established and monitored by the Out-of-State Placement Committee. Monthly visitation and monitoring by the local child welfare agency are required and an annual rigorous on-site facility review must be conducted by the State. Child Care facilities statutes and regulations (NRS 432A, NAC 432A) outline requirements for the protection of health and safety of children in facilities (educational, shelter care, and residential), and provides standards for child care including the provision of qualified service providers. These regulations include the provision of ensuring that no child under the age of six is placed in a congregate care facility.

In addition, the expectations for a foster parent's care and treatment of a child is contained in regulations (NAC 424.495-.610) where authority is given to the foster parent to administer appropriate discipline and supervision, but limitations are imposed to guarantee the safety and health of the child. The care and treatment of a foster child in care is monitored by the caseworker's monthly home visitation which requires time spent alone with the child. The caseworker and licensing authority work together to cross-report any activity that may impact the safety or health of child in placement. The monitoring of a single foster home or group home setting and a facility follow similar procedures and may involve other agencies or types of expertise as indicated.

In the 2009 Legislature, AB227 was enacted. This bill revises provisions relating to the provision of foster care. This will help develop standards of performance for the Foster Care Agencies, and to help differentiate between a Specialized Foster Home and a Regular Foster Home. This bill became effective May 29, 2009 for the purpose of adopting regulation and January 1, 2011, for all other purposes. A new workgroup was formed in the previous fiscal year to draft the regulations for this bill. The drafted regulations were submitted for review to the Nevada Legislative Council Bureau on July 1, 2010. On January 3, 2011 the State received a letter from the Governor instituting a moratorium on adopting regulations unless an exemption is requested and necessary. The State did submit a letter requesting exemption and on June 10, 2011 the State was approved to move forward with the regulatory process. The state will insert any additional regulations required in response to the 2011 legislative session and these will be resubmitted to LCB for review and then the state will move forward with the adoption of all foster care regulations that have been revised.

The 2009 Nevada CFSR report rated this item as strength, which is consistent with the ongoing work that has been done since this review.

Item 31: Quality assurance system

Goal: *The State will ensure that an identifiable quality assurance system is in place in the State where the services included in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) are provided, and that it evaluates the quality of services, identifies the strengths and needs of the service delivery system, provides relevant reports, and evaluates program improvement measures implemented.*

To address this objective, the CFSP was developed so that each of the 23 Safety, Permanency and Well-Being Performance Indicators and 22 systemic factors has specific goals and objectives. Nevada is continuing to work towards a re-designed quality assurance system. IMS staff has been meeting since March 2010 with DCFS staff to identify and develop a mechanism for linking the UNITY system with the quality improvement case review efforts and continuous quality assurance efforts. At the initial meeting concerning UNITY automation the following four functional areas were identified in developing a Qualitative Review: Sample Selection, Sample Management, Case Review and Reports. The new Quality Improvement Case Review (QICR) tool was deployed in January 2011 and UNITY report CFS7L3 "Nevada Quality Improvement Case Review Rating Summary" has been developed to aggregate the raw data. The newly designed tool is modeled after the CFSR tool, and focuses on specific items for completion of the PIP. It is anticipated that future enhancements and expansion of the tool and development of other quality assurance tools will enable Nevada to conduct not only CFSR related reviews but reviews that target specific identified performance issues. To date the new QICR tool has been utilized during two PIP QICR reviews in the Rural Region and Clark County and is extremely helpful and accurate.

During the 2011 Legislative Session the Legislature approved DCFS's Technology Investment Request (TIR). The TIR will enhance the UNITY system, and help support Nevada's state and local child welfare agencies and statewide quality improvement and assurance efforts. The TIR will accomplish implementation of a new presentation layer for UNITY using Web Portals that are better tailored to suit the needs of the specific functional roles performed by UNITY users. Also the TIR will allow DCFS to implement a Data Warehouse for use by DCFS management and other stakeholders to extract data in statistically relevant ways that will increase The Division's ability to track, monitor and analyze child welfare data as required in the CFSP. The approval of the TIR will bring "hard" IT infrastructure that is critical and necessary to analyze, monitor and evaluate child welfare performance data to ensure continuous quality improvement (CQI).

The TIR will assist DCFS in the development of a Statewide Performance Dashboard (as used in other states) which produces an environment of accountability and transparency to stakeholders. Furthermore, the TIR will provide the following:

1. Data-Based Management:
 - Improve the capabilities to manage, evaluate, and improve programs
 - Improve accountability and decision support
 - Improve business processes
 - Improve the ability to forecast business trends and identify critical program areas that need improvement.
 -
2. Client Service Provision:
 - Improve Social Workers and other child services providers' ability to use UNITY to perform essential tasks such as safety and risk assessment, case planning, and placement matching.
 -
3. Process Management:
 - Improve Social Workers Supervisors and Managers abilities to monitor critical day-to-day activities and ensure that key steps in the service processes are achieved timely and accurately.

In addition to the TIR, DCFS will join other states in membership to Chapin Hall's Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago has, since its inception in 1985 as a research and policy center, focused on a mission of improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities. A variety of optional technical assistance opportunities are available through Chapin Hall's Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data. This includes the strategic use of data for program evaluation, budgeting, policy analysis, and compliance reporting.

The Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data (State Data Center) is a partnership of the American Public Human Services Association and Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. The Center's pioneering information management tools will provide Nevada with an evidence base to assess program initiatives and monitor the impact of innovation.

One of the main benefits of joining the center is access to the Center's unique longitudinal database. This database will help provide Nevada state administrators a powerful new capacity to:

- Analyze key child welfare outcomes: time to reunification, time to adoption, placement stability, and re-entry to care
- Compare outcomes for different administrative offices within their state or with other states
- Trace outcomes from the aggregate to the individual child level
- Project future service patterns based on historical trends
- Test the impact of service and policy innovations
- Set performance goals and monitor progress
- Link financial decision-making to outcome measures
- Tell their story to media and make their case to legislators

Membership also allows state administrators to work with other state members in a unique national community to:

- Enhance the database model to maximize the above capacities and to track other child welfare outcomes while minimizing additional IT development costs.

- Participate in a forum in which states can work together to recognize and analyze national patterns and trends in a timely manner.
- Determine and guide a research agenda that will benefit not only individual states, the field of public child welfare in general.

Also, during the 2011 Legislative Session SB447 was passed. The purpose of this bill is to implement an annual capped block grant to support child welfare services. DCFS is required to ensure that child welfare agencies carry out corrective actions when the agencies are not in compliance with the law or with statewide plans or policies. As a part of a system of quality assurance and improvement this bill will require an agency which provides child welfare services to carry out any identified corrective actions and develop and implement corrective measures to improve performance. Furthermore, it requires each agency which provides child welfare services to submit an improvement plan to DCFS that must cover a period of 2 years and include specific performance targets for improving the services provided to children in the care of the agency. Each year the agencies will be required to submit data to the Division demonstrating the progress made toward meeting the specific performance targets. DCFS will administer a program that will award incentive payments to an agency which provides child welfare services based on improved performance targets. Lastly, DCFS will be required to prepare and submit a report concerning the improvement plans and the program for incentive payments to the Governor and the Legislature on or before January 31 of each year.

Agency Level Quality Improvement Activities:

As part of the PII grant, WCDSS has conducted three major case reviews utilizing consultant staff, community partners (The Children's Cabinet, Inc.) and agency staff. The reviews were both qualitative and quantitative in nature and provided detailed information about case management services. The reviews were analyzed by three different review groups: Westat, the Ruth Young Center, and WCDSS. The reviews provided information regarding WCDSS practice that informed the intervention template for the PII grant specific to family characteristics regarding entry and exit into care, length of stay analysis, and services to families. Comprehensive reviews will continue throughout the life of the 5 year PII grant in compliance with research requirements. Also, WCDSS contracted with a programmer uniquely familiar with UNITY to help develop management reports to guide review of Agency practice. Management is more focused on weekly investigative reports demonstrating compliance with agency and federal guidelines regarding timeliness of investigations due to concerns noted in previous reports.

DCFS has requested technical assistance in auditing the fidelity of the Intake Assessment process in rural Nevada for use in developing further intake training and field guides for rural staff. The National Resource Center for Child Protective Service (NRCCPS) has conducted a review of report dispositions to ensure appropriateness of how reports are dispositioned by supervisors as well as identifying differences between the districts. Also, the Rural Region QA Unit has completed case reviews by reviewing each district on a quarterly basis using similar standards as the CFSR performance indicators. Additionally, targeted case reviews have been completed on offices as well as individual caseworkers in an effort to identify practice issues and to ensure compliance with agency policies and procedures. Furthermore, the Rural Region has participated in the PIP CFSR baseline review in February, 2011. A random sample of fourteen cases throughout the Rural Region was reviewed by DCFS-FPO staff, and the Rural Region QA staff. Furthermore, in an effort to ensure better and more accurate UNITY reporting, the Rural Region QA Unit has been conducting data clean up of organizational units and cases in the UNITY system. The Rural Region QA Unit has recently begun facilitating the monthly Supervisor Review Committee meeting; children in out-of-home care are discussed with a focus on the barriers to permanency for those children.

CCDFS reports completing In-Home service reviews on 20 Cases and CCDFS reports the development and implementation of performance management reports designed to assist supervisory and management staff improve the quality of child welfare services being provided by line staff. Implementation of this initiative began in the second quarter of 2009 and will continue as departmental policies and procedures are reviewed and revised and at the direction of DFS management. Specifically, CCDFS is working on implementing ChildStats which is a concept developed by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in New York City. ACS modeled it after a process used by the New York City Police Department. It includes the examination of recent cases and review of certain data elements.

Systemic Factor D: Staff and Provider Training

Item 32: Initial staff training

Goal: *The State will operate a staff development and training program that supports the goals and objectives in the CFSP, addresses services provided under titles IV-B and IV-E, and provides initial training for all staff who deliver these services.*

The PIP identifies that this systemic factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (4) of the PIP which focuses on “Strengthening Child welfare Supervision and Middle Management Skills.” The main objective under this item is to ensure that Nevada’s child welfare workforce has a strong training system. To meet this objective, the State, through the collaboration with the Training Management Team (TMT) and use of the Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT) Reports System, will ensure that all new staff receives the required Nevada New Worker Core Training within the required timeframes, and ensure that an appropriate remediation plan is in place with the Child Welfare Agencies. This objective is being met. The State has ongoing contracts with both of the two in-state Universities. One of the contracted activities was the collaborative development of a three year training plan with annual updates to address the needs of initial worker training in Nevada. The final plan was presented to the DMG in the latter part of 2010 and approved. Nevada’s Child Welfare Training Strategic Plan outlines the infrastructure for the Training Delivery System and includes protocols for curriculum development, staffing, training plans, annual training calendars, decision making, and evaluation. The development of this plan has increased the efficiency of the Nevada Partnership for Training, and agency members of the Training Management Team have voiced their satisfaction with the process.

Over the past several years, Nevada has been focused on developing a strong new worker core curriculum. The Nevada New Worker Core Training curriculum was first piloted in the fall of 2008, then was finalized and has been in continuous operation since January 2009. In the past year, two sessions of New Worker Core were offered by University of Nevada Reno (UNR) in the northern part of the state and three sessions were offered by University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) in the southern part of the State. The 10-week course consists of five weeks of in-class instruction and five weeks of pre-reading assignments and on-the-job training assignments (to be done in the weeks in-between the in-class training sessions). The training program is taught by trained University based instructors as part of the Nevada Partnership for Training. Table 35 shows the total number of individuals trained since January 2009. All participants provide feedback about trainings. One method of evaluation used is the satisfaction survey. The third quarter SFY 2011 NPT Report indicated that participant satisfaction ratings of workshop content and trainer competencies were high.

During this year, ongoing tribal collaboration and coordination efforts resulted in several tribal child welfare workers and contract providers participating in part or all of one cycle of New Worker Core.

Table 35: New Workers Completing Nevada New Worker Core Training since January 2009

New Worker Training	Clark	Washoe	Rural	FPO	Other	Statewide
SFY 2009	24	11	19	5		59
SFY 2010	12	15	14	2		43
SFY 2011	33	10	9	1	11	64
TOTAL	69	36	42	8	11	166

There are currently several components of the Nevada New Worker Core that are available online. The Nevada Partnership for Training website (www.nvpartnership4training.com) allows workers 24 hours per day, 7 days per week access to the Pre-Reading and On-the-Job Training (OJT) Activities components of Nevada New Worker Core. Each of the five modules has one of each of these components, including pre and post tests and other evaluation components to help the NPT trainers to determine student progress. All new workers attend the in-person portion and online portion of the Nevada New Worker Core upon hire. Staff in the DCFS Rural Region attend as travel funds are available. Table 36 shows the number of participants who completed the pre-reading and OJT activities in the current fiscal year. This

information reflects four offerings of New Worker Core and does not include participation by those enrolled in the May 2011 deployments. Please note that staff from the Family Programs Office at the State do not complete OJT activities as they do not carry caseloads.

Table 36: Ongoing Online Nevada New Worker Core Courses Offered in SFY 2011

Course Areas of Concentration	No of Trainings	Number of Participants					
		Clark	Washoe	Rural	FPO	Other	Statewide
Nevada New Worker Core Pre-Reading Modules 1-5	6	46	28	19	4	2	99
Nevada New Worker Core OJT Activities Modules 1-5	6	47	27	16	N/A	2	92

A final objective for this item focuses on quality assurance for training. Specifically, through the collaboration with the Training Management Team and use of the Nevada Partnership for Training Reports System, the State will ensure the ongoing review of the Nevada New Worker Core Training to ensure that the curriculum materials are current and reflect best practice where possible. This objective is currently being met. The Nevada New Worker Core Curriculum was updated in the fall of 2009 by UNLV staff to ensure up-to-date content and format. In addition, a new evaluation protocol was developed by UNLV to revise the pre and post test materials to reflect questions that more accurately fit the curriculum. Embedded skills activities and evaluation protocols were also reviewed and revised based on feedback from participants in the training and agency partners. In addition, when any statewide policy that is also a part of the Core curriculum is updated, either UNR or UNLV staff review the curriculum and make the appropriate adjustments to ensure that the material is always reflective of current practice. UNR updated the curriculum this year to reflect the updates in policies during this year.

The 2009 Nevada CFSR report gave this item a rating of area needing improvement. This was partially because the system being rated had just deployed and had not had an opportunity to be rated after several sessions had been completed. Based on the stakeholder feedback being received, if rated today, it is anticipated that this item would now be rated as a strength.

Item 33: On-going staff training

Goal: *The State will provide for ongoing training for staff that addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to the services included in the CFSP.*

The PIP identifies that this systemic factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (4) of the PIP which focuses on “Strengthening Child welfare Supervision and Middle Management Skills.” To reach this goal, the State, through collaboration with the TMT and the University Partners, were charged with developing a standard on-line introductory level curriculum series to meet the ongoing training needs of staff in the child welfare agencies at the rate of two – three courses per year (as funding allows). The 2009, Nevada CFSR rated this item as an area needing improvement because there was limited opportunity during the period under review for staff to receive ongoing training. This was due to the fact that the initial focus of the NPT was the development and implementation of the Nevada New Worker Core curriculum. This objective has been met, with ongoing evaluation and enhancement of the New Worker Core curriculum.

During the past year, the Indian Child Welfare Act Training (ICWA) and Ethics and Liability in Child Welfare online courses were updated to reflect current best practices and legal requirements. Currently these two courses and a course on Mandated Reporters are available online at the Nevada Partnership for Training (www.nvpartnership4training.com) website. Mandated Reporter Training was updated and expanded this year and the updated version will be available on the website in summer 2011. The courses are available to anyone in the community on a 24 hour, 7 day per week basis. Continuing education credits are available for these on-line classes. Table 37 shows the total participation in all online courses this fiscal year by agency.

Table 37: Ongoing Online Child Welfare Courses Offered in SFY 2011

Course Areas of Concentration	Clark	Washoe	DCFS	Other	Statewide
Mandatory Reporting	12	3	113	59	187
ICWA	2	6	7	6	21
Ethics	4	11	11	12	38
Total	18	20	131	77	246

The second objective for this goal was that the State, through collaboration with the Training Management Team and the University Partners, develop a standard (in-person) specialty core curriculum series to meet the ongoing training needs of staff in the child welfare agencies at the rate of two – three courses per year (as funding allows). Since July 1, 2009, four series of Specialty Core Courses were developed with three classes in each series (12 courses total). The following four Specialty Core Courses were developed, piloted and implemented between March and June 2010 and throughout this year:

- Recognizing and Evaluating the Impact of Substance Abuse on Child Welfare Practice and Families (101,201 and 202)
- Recognizing and Evaluating the Impact of Mental Health on Child Welfare Practice and Families (101, 201 and 202)
- Recognizing and Evaluating the Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Welfare Practice and Families (101, 201, and 202)
- Recognizing and Evaluating the Impact of Sexual Trauma on Child Welfare Practice and Families (101, 201, and 202)

An ongoing challenge for Nevada is a shortage of resources and the large rural areas of the state, making rural child welfare and stakeholder participation challenging. During this year, the University of Nevada, Reno was able to pilot the use of Wimba an online education system which allows for real time classroom participation over the internet. Through the use of both microphones and web cameras, participants are able to view and talk with the instructor as well as view and hear each other. All activities, such as breakout groups, are able to be accomplished with this technology. A total of ten (10) Specialty Core Classes were presented to rural child welfare staff utilizing this technology during SFY 2011. This technology has allowed the UNR training team to provide Specialty Core to the staff in the DCFS Rural Regions without requiring travel to a central location.

A third objective under this item was that the State, through the collaboration with the TMT and the use of the NPT Reports System, enhance reports to ensure that all staff receives the required On-Line or Specialty Core Training within the required timeframes. In an effort to address the need for more specialized training for existing workers and remediation needed for both new and existing workers, DCFS contracted with UNLV to develop an Intermediate Core series. One of the goals of this training series is to enhance the capacity of child welfare staff to effectively engage children, youth and families in case decision making. It is the NPT's position that the New Worker Core curriculum, specifically the first two modules, is a solid basis for this type of family engagement training, and therefore the competencies of New Worker Core will help create a framework for Intermediate Core. Moreover, the family engagement principles in Nevada's New Worker Core overlap with the core principles found in the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections Family Engagement Web-Based Practice Tool Kit.

UNLV started a process with the three child welfare agencies to develop competencies for training existing staff. As part of this process, UNLV surveyed lead caseworkers, supervisors and managers regarding the competencies found in the New Worker Core curriculum to determine their relevance in the development of Intermediate Core. An electronic survey was sent to specific contacts at the three child welfare agencies in spring 2010 for distribution within their respective

organizations. There were a total of 184 responses to the survey (131 CCDFS, 31 WCDSS, and 21 DCFS-Rural). The University partner(s) analyzed the data from the survey and presented recommendations based on the findings in May 2010 to the TMT partners. Upon approval of the competencies of Intermediate Core by the TMT and DMG, curriculum and evaluation instruments were developed. The training is competency based and is delivered in stages over a 10 day/5 week period. Each stage is two days of training. Delivery of the pilot for Intermediate Core began simultaneously in the north with Washoe County and DCFS Rural Region existing staff and in the south with Clark County existing staff in February, 2011. After each of the five (5) modules of the Core, focus groups were held with those participants who attended the Intermediate Core in order to obtain feedback about the curriculum. UNLV training staff, in collaboration with UNR training staff, are currently revising the curriculum based on the suggestions from the pilot groups. Subsequent deliveries of Intermediate Core will occur in both the north and south during SFY 2012.

Table 38 shows the total number of Specialty Core and Intermediate trainings offered and the number of participants by child welfare agency and statewide. The Specialty Core trainings will continue to be offered during the upcoming State Fiscal Year.

Table 38: Ongoing Specialty Core and Intermediate Core Courses Offered in SFY 2011

Course Title	Number of Participants						
	No of Trainings	Clark	Washoe	Rural	FPO	Other	Statewide
Intermediate Core Stage 1	2	8	5	4	1	1	19
Intermediate Core Stage2	2	8	5	4	2		19
Intermediate Core Stage 3	2	8	5	4	1		18
Intermediate Core Stage 4	2	10	5	4			19
Intermediate Core Stage 5	2	7	5	4	1		17
Addictions 101	7	25	19	7	2	52	105
Addictions 201	4	6	8	9	1	17	41
Addictions 202	5	5		10	1	14	30
Child Sexual Abuse 101	7	7	21	8	2	30	68
Child Sexual Abuse 201	4	10	3	14	1	28	56
Child Sexual Abuse 202	4	9	16	16	1	14	56
Domestic Violence 101	7	4	18	14	1	34	71
Domestic Violence 201	6	3	16	13	1	26	59
Domestic Violence 202	6	3	11	12	1	31	58
Mental Health 101	4	9	10	10	1	11	41
Mental Health 201	3		8	11	2	3	24
Mental Health 202	2	1	7	11	1	3	23
Transcultural / Transracial Placements	1	14				8	22
Total	70	137	162	155	20	272	746

Source: NPT Web Registration System Report July 1, 2010 – May 9, 2011

During the third and fourth quarters of SFY 2011 the two Universities developed and implemented a Child Welfare Training Needs Assessment Survey. Through this process, future training needs will be identified and prioritized for development of additional curricula.

Item 34: Foster and adoptive parent training

Goal: *The State will ensure that training for current or prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of State-licensed or State-approved facilities that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E is provided in accordance with statewide policy and federal standards.*

This item was rated as a strength in the 2009 Nevada CFSR. Unlike the Nevada Partnership for Training, foster and adoptive parent training is a child welfare agency run activity in Nevada. Since the first Nevada CFSR in 2004, the agencies have been responsible for their own foster, adoptive, and kinship parent training programs. Beginning in July 2005, each child welfare agency began using the Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) Pre-Service Curriculum for all initial Foster/Adoptive Parent training. However, in the 2009 CCDFS began the implementation of the PS-MAPP curriculum, while WCDSS and the DCFS-Rural Region still use the PRIDE curriculum. Both trainings are facilitated by agency workers and former foster/adoptive parents and both are provided in both English and Spanish. PRIDE training is covered over 29 hours, whereas PS-MAPP varies depending on the module. A total of 108 sessions of foster parent trainings were offered by all three child welfare agencies statewide to 1562 participants during this reporting period.(Table 39)

The agencies initiated several projects over the past year related to foster and adoptive parent training and collaboration with external agencies has improved training opportunities. This year WCDSS had solid initiatives which will be sustainable for the long term, including: Making a partnership with CASA to jointly pay for JOIN (Job Opportunities in Northern Nevada) trainings after an appropriate fee was negotiated with JOIN. WCDSS is developing a resource for cultural awareness training for foster parents for quarterly trainings. Make an agreement for training on shaken baby syndrome 3 times a year. WCDSS is currently working on developing an advanced training to specifically address post adoption issues to begin this summer. Video taped the mandatory training on relationships between birth parents and agency/foster parents to facilitate more effective training for all who require it. Foster Parents continue to be able to receive acknowledgement for receiving “best practice” training of Common Sense Parenting and P-CAN on their license.

DCFS contracted with Sierra Association of Foster Parents (SAFF) to provide foster parent training and recruitment activities in the Rural counties of Nevada. Recently completion of home studies was added to the scope of work. During this past reporting period, 144 Rural foster parents received training through this program. Also, to increase Rural foster parent training and recruitment, SAFF contracted with individuals who had extensive previous child welfare experience and were located in different Rural counties across the state. This approach has been successful in increasing access for Rural foster parents for training, and has also increased foster parent recruitment activities.

CCDFS has implemented a pre-service training for kinship/fictive kin providers, and this training will begin in July 2011. Also, CCDFS has implemented MOODLE which is an on-line information/training site for foster parents. CCDFS has added an additional course to their training program for foster parents “Everything you wanted to know”. This course is for new or current foster parents to discuss/highlight various CCDFS programs and community resources. Additionally, “Car Seats and Healthy Babies” training classes were implement in late 2010. The implementation of PS-MAPP in Spanish is in progress with full implementation in July 2011.

Table 39: Advanced Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

Clark County Foster Parent Trainings

Training offered by:	Title of Training	Number of Times Offered	Total Hours Offered	Total Participants
PS-MAPP Licensing Unit	PS-MAPP	21	630	503
PS-MAPP Licensing Unit	Caring For Your Own	14 (Starting 1/2011)	168	230
PS-MAPP Licensing Unit	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know....	3 (Starting 2/2011)	9	44
PS-MAPP Licensing Unit	Car Seat	6	18	63
Total Trainings Offered/Total participants		44	825	780

Washoe County Foster Parent Trainings

Training offered by:	Title of Training	Number of Times Offered	Total Hours Offered	Total Participants
WCDSS- Cindy Adams, Trainer	P-CAN, Part 2	1	6	12 (capped per curriculum)
WCDSS-Dena Negron, Trainer	The Role of The Child Welfare Worker	1	2	18
WCDSS- Tom Murtha, Trainer	Educating Children in Foster Care	1	2	16
WCDSS-Judy Shumway	Internet Safety	2	4	45
WCDSS- Dr. Piasecki, Trainer	A Look Inside the Adolescent Brain and Other Points of No Return	1	2	28
WCDSS- Panel Presentation	Mandatory Training: Working Together for Children, Enhancing Relationships to Improve Outcomes for Families	2	4	63
WCDSS- Theresa Anderson, Trainer	Are the Kids Alright? Enhancing the Well-being of Children in Foster Care	1	2	17
WCDSS- City of Reno Street Enforcement Team	Drugs in Our Community	1	2	29
WCDSS- Kevin Quint, Trainer	Co-Dependency: The Dynamics of Alcoholism and How it Relates to Families in Foster Care	2	4	38
WCDSS- Dee Klymman, Trainer	Michael's Story: A Victim and a Survivor of Shaken Baby Syndrome	2	3	22
WCDSS- Dr. Ireon Dupree, PhD, Trainer	Cultural Awareness	1	2	24
WCDSS- JOIN, Trainers	Drugs: What's Hot, What's Not: and How do We Keep Our Kids Away From Them?	1	2	26
WCDSS- Dr. Piasecki, Trainer	Long-term Effects of Drug Abuse	1	2	34
UNR Student Class (w/ Foster Parent in it)	Four Cs of Parenting	1	2	38
WCDSS- Mynor Estrada, Trainer	Common Sense Parenting in Spanish	1	12	12 (capped per curriculum)
SAFF- Anicia Beckwith and aged out foster child/teen parent	Working with Birth Parents	1	2	9
WCDSS- R&T staff, Trainers	PRIDE in English 7 Spanish	10 in English (1 is finishing and 1 is	351 (including the pending PRIDE	197 (excluding pending PRIDE series)

		pending in June) 3 in Spanish	series)	
WCDSS- JOIN staff, Trainers	Impact of Substance Abuse on Parenting	1	2	pending
WCDSS- Cindy Adams, Trainer	P-CAN, Part 1	1	6	pending
WCDSS- Judy Shumway, Trainer	Children, Computers, and Safety- Part 1	1	2	pending
Total Trainings offered/Total participants		36	415	618

Rural Region Foster Parent Trainings

Training offered by:	Title of Training	Number of Times Offered	Total Hours Offered	Total Participants
Contractors	PRIDE	21	Standard 27 each	110
Carson (Licensing)	Lying	1	4	10
Fallon (Licensing)	Positive Parenting	1 (3 sessions)	12	9
Fernley (Licensing)	Community Workshop	1	2 ½	5
Fallon (Licensing)	Separation and Loss	1	4	9
Fallon (Licensing)	Recognizing Drugs & Gangs	1	3	21
Total Trainings offered/Total participants		28	52.5	164

Foster Parent Trainings Statewide

		Number of Times Offered	Total Hours Offered	Total Participants
Total Trainings offered/Total participants		108	600.5	1562

Source: Agency Reports July 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011

Systemic Factor E: Service Array and Resource Development

Item 35: Array of services

Goal: *The State will ensure there is an array of services available that:*

- *Assess the strengths and meets the needs of children and families,*
- *Determine other service needs,*
- *Address the needs of families in addition to individual children to create a safe home environment,*
- *Enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and*
- *Help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.*

A primary objective under this item is that the State will seek out external sources of support (i.e. Technical Assistance) to improve the State's service array. In 2009, the Division sought and received TA from the National Resource Centers (NRC) regarding service array. The NRCOI assisted Nevada with completion of Washoe County's Service Array Assessment process. This assessment used the talents of nearly 40 members of the community, including the WCDSS Advisory Board Members. In 2010, Washoe County completed the process and the NRCOI indicated that this process was very effective. To quote Steve Preister, Associate Director of the NRCOI in his letter about the Washoe County service array assessment process, "...from the beginning and throughout, the participants made full use of this process to improve practices and services to children." Despite the success of this review process, implementation of the strategies developed continues to be challenging due to economic constraints such as budget cuts and their impact on local community services.

Family Preservation Services:

Family Preservation Services programs are characterized by high intensity, immediately accessible treatment and ancillary services for at-risk children and families. The goals of Family Preservation Services' programs are to reduce the risk of child abuse/neglect and thus eliminate unnecessary out-of-home placement of children and to strengthen the family to better care for the developmental needs of their children. Program staff provides crisis intervention, clinical assessment, and family preservation services to a protective services population in following counties and communities: Washoe County, Clark County, Elko County, Gardnerville, Hawthorne and Wells.

Clark County utilizes an array of prevention services to help children at risk of abuse and neglect to remain safely with their families. These services include flexible funding to support families in areas such as rent, utilities, apartment deposit, bus tokens, food vouchers and other basic needs, and contract services with community agencies. Intensive case management services provide parenting classes that incorporate family strengthening techniques to strengthen the family and home to prevent removal. Substance abuse in-home services are offered as well as mental health and substance abuse assessments and treatment in a variety of settings to meet the specific needs of the family. Medical training and rehabilitative support services allow medically fragile children to remain in their home and prevent removal.

Drug court, the Regional Partnership Grant program where mothers remain with their children during the course of their residential treatment, outpatient substance abuse services, and detoxification through several community providers are options for families where substance abuse is a contributing factor to child abuse or neglect. Clark County maintains collaboration with community agencies, such as Safe House and Safe Nest, to provide services to high-risk families of domestic violence.

Washoe County family preservation services include strength-based treatment utilizing pro-social adaptive behavior modification techniques to teach clients to change socially and personally maladaptive behavior; individual and group counseling to assist clients and their children to adopt strategies and behaviors that sustain recovery and maintain daily functioning including conflict resolution; couples and family therapy; supportive and instructive interventions to address life management needs. Case management is available to assist families who were involved with or at-risk of becoming involved with child welfare agencies. Assessments to identify strengths and service needs of clients related to life and home management skills are available in addition to mental health assessments and services.

Family Resource Centers and rural community providers receiving IV-B funds are a primary source for pre-placement services for the DCFS Rural Region Intensive Family Services staff, who provide both clinical assessments and home-based family preservation services. Parenting classes are available in-home as well as in group settings. Case

management, including home-maker skill building, are available through the rural Family Resource Centers. Mental health and substance abuse assessments are also available. Most of the funded rural providers cover large areas of rural Nevada and often travel to provide access to services for families to prevent removal.

State Rural Mental Health Clinics are responsible for providing children's mental health services in the Rural Region. The Rural Region also has four full-time Family Support Workers that are utilized similarly to the Human Services Specialist positions in Washoe County to provide additional needed support to families. Recruitment and retention of licensed social work positions is an ongoing challenge in rural Nevada. Other services utilized by the Rural Region include services available through community based non-profit agencies to provide substance abuse counseling, domestic violence interventions, truancy, tutoring, parenting and other prevention programs for children. County welfare programs and/or other community based resources are frequently accessed for temporary housing, vouchers for clothing, food, gas, utilities, transportation and other needed services. Community coalitions exist in many rural communities in an attempt to increase availability and accessibility through coordinated efforts between public and private agencies. The State has operated Family Preservation Services (FPS) existing in nine sites throughout the state for over 10 years – Las Vegas, Mesquite, Pahrump, Elko, Fallon, Carson City, Hawthorne, Wells and Reno. Services, like other FPS programs, are brief, intensive, home-based and family centered.

Family Support Services:

Family Support services promote the well-being of children and families that increase the ability of parenting to strengthen and stabilize the family unit. The goal of Family Support Services is to increase the parents' competence and confidence in parenting so children are in a safe and stable environment.

Family Support services in Clark County include an intensive in-home parenting program that addresses parenting and home-maker issues; programs which offered activities and supervision to school-aged children in a safe environment while their parents were at work, which enabled parents to achieve and maintain better job performance in knowing that their child was in a safe environment; case management; parenting classes; budgeting classes in both English and Spanish and computer skills classes and developmental screenings.

Title IV B funded Family Support services in Washoe County include in-home family and individual counseling; mental health and substance abuse assessments; case management and linkage with supportive services; home visits; budgeting classes and goal planning.

Funding for Family Support services to sub-grantees in the Rural Region include in-home parenting as well as parenting groups; specialized parenting classes for parents of infants; first time parenting classes, mental health and substance abuse assessments and treatment; and home-maker classes.

Time-Limited Reunification Services:

Funded programs that provide Time-Limited Reunification services in Clark County include comprehensive assessments for both mental health and substance abuse issues for individuals, and groups as well as individual and family treatment; Safety Team meetings facilitated within 48 hours of referral from the child welfare agency; and in-home parenting training and home maker skills training. Services are available in English and Spanish.

Time-Limited Reunification services in Washoe County include mental health and substance abuse assessments and treatment; psychiatric evaluations for adults; group counseling for drug and alcohol, sessions on depression, parenting, stress, family violence, sexual and physical abuse, loss and grief and marital and couple issues; and foster parent mentoring and relationship building with biological parents to facilitate timely reunification.

Time-Limited Reunification services in the Rural Region include in-home parenting training as well as group parenting classes; infant parenting classes; first time parenting classes; and mental health and substance abuse assessments and treatment.

Adoption Promotion and Support Services:

Adoption Promotion and Support services and activities are designed to support and facilitate permanency for children in Nevada's foster care system.

Funding for Adoption Promotion and Support Services allow sub-grantees in Clark County to educate the public, community leaders, policy makers and child welfare administrators by providing informative feedback on the foster parent perspective on adoption recruitment issues to better serve the foster parent community's needs and training for mental health professionals to help them understand why treatment strategies must be different for adoptive families. Funding also supports diligent search activities which focus on identifying and locating parents and relatives who might be

placement resources for children utilizing multiple resources such as Accurant, Internet sources, telephone books, Department of Motor Vehicles information and diligent search programs in other states.

Adoption Promotion and Support Services funding to sub-grantees in Washoe County and the Rural Region enhance their capability to collaborate with agencies to produce “child / family matching” events where children in foster care awaiting adoption were exposed to potential adoptive families; provision of series of training workshops for foster and adoptive parents; awareness promotion of special needs adoptive homes for children 12 years and older and sibling groups and increase interest in special needs adoption, ultimately impacting the number of finalized special needs adoptions.

Washoe’s Adoption Program and the Clark’s CAC continue to utilize trained clinical staff to support families’ adoption of children with emotional/behavioral needs. This service combined with the development of a “transition” case plan is a promising practice designed to better support and prepare both foster-adoption and stranger adoptions; and to increase the success of the child’s placement.

Table 40: Title IV-B Subpart 2 Grantees by Funding Category and Region for FFY 2011

Sub-Grantee Name and Region	Family Support	Family Preservation	Time-Limited Family Reunification	Adoption Promotion/Support
Clark				
Adoption Exchange, Las Vegas				✓
Boys Town, Las Vegas	✓	✓	✓	
Bridge Counseling, Las Vegas		✓	✓	
Clark County Department of Family Services, Las Vegas	✓		✓	✓
East Valley Family Services, Las Vegas		✓		
Olive Crest, Las Vegas				✓
Virgin Valley FRC, Mesquite	✓	✓		
Washoe				
Children’s Cabinet, Incline Village	✓			
Children’s Cabinet of Reno	✓	✓		
Family Counseling Services, Reno			✓	✓
Sierra Association of Foster Families, Reno			✓	✓
STEP 2, Reno	✓		✓	
Washoe County FRC Coalition, Reno	✓	✓		
DCFS Rural Region				
Community Chest	✓		✓	
Family Support Council, Gardnerville		✓		
FRC of Northeastern Nevada, Elko	✓	✓	✓	
FRIENDS FRC, Fallon	✓			
Hawthorne FRC, Hawthorne	✓	✓		
Little People’s Head Start, Ely	✓			
No to Abuse, Pahrump	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ron Wood FRC, Carson City	✓			
Sierra Association of Foster Families			✓	✓
Wells FRC, Wells	✓	✓		

Clark County: 3,217 families, 6,086 individuals, 4,811 children, 246 persons with a disability and 1,035 single heads of household were provided the services listed below through the agencies funded in Clark County in FFY 2010:

- Family Support – Mentoring Programs for Children and Parents, Individual and Group Parent Support Groups, In-Home Parenting Programs, Teen/Youth Support Groups, Tutoring, and Job Placement Assistance.
- Family Preservation – Parenting Classes, Home Maker Skills, Respite Care, In-Home Therapy, Family Strengthening and Modeling Techniques such as: Home Safety, Positive Discipline, Cleanliness, Child Development, Nutrition, Budgeting, School Advocacy.
 - *Basic Needs Services* – Transportation Assistance, Utility Assistance, Clothing, Housing, Food, Rental Assistance and other Basic Needs to prevent removal of children.

- Time-Limited Reunification – Safety Team Decision Making Program, Substance Abuse Assessments, Mental Health Assessments, Home-Based Treatment in English and Spanish, Group Therapy, Individual Therapy, Couples' Therapy, Family Therapy.
- Adoption Support and Services – Home Studies, Social Assessments, Post Placement Services, Home Study Updates, Social Study Updates.

Washoe County: 918 families, 3,073 individuals, 1,691 children, 187 persons with a disability and 408 single heads of households were provided the following services during FFY 2010 through the agencies funded in Washoe County:

- Family Support – Individual and Group Parent Support Groups, In-Home Parenting Programs, Mentoring, Tutoring, Youth/Teen Support Group,
- Family Preservation – Parenting Classes, Youth/Teen Support Group, Home Maker Skills, In-Home Therapy, Family Strengthening and Modeling Techniques such as: Home Safety, Positive Discipline, Cleanliness, Child Development, Nutrition, Budgeting, School Advocacy.
 - *Basic Needs Services* – Transportation Assistance, Utility Assistance, Clothing, Housing, Food, Rental Assistance and other Basic Needs.
- Time-Limited Reunification – Substance Abuse Assessments, Mental Health Assessments, Home-Based Treatment in English and Spanish, Group Therapy, Individual Therapy, Couples' Therapy, Family Therapy.
- Adoption Support and Services – Recruitment and Training, Home Studies, Social Assessment, Post Placement Services, Home Study Updates, Social Study Updates.

DCFS Rural Region: 328 families, 479 individuals, 591 children, 57 persons with a disability and 158 single heads of households were provided the following services during FFY 2010 by agencies funded to provide services in rural Nevada:

- Family Support – Individual and Group Parent Support Groups, Parenting Classes for Teen Moms and First Time Moms, In-Home Parenting Programs, Child Development Classes, Substance Abuse Screenings, Mental Health Services, Tutoring, Domestic Violence Services and Job Placement Assistance.
- Family Preservation – Parenting Classes, Youth/Teen Support Group, Home Maker Skills, In-Home Therapy, Family Strengthening and Modeling Techniques such as: Home Safety, Positive Discipline, Cleanliness, Child Development, Nutrition, Budgeting, School Advocacy.
 - *Basic Needs Services* – Transportation Assistance, Utility Assistance, Clothing, Housing, Food, Rental Assistance and other Basic Needs.
- Time-Limited Reunification - Substance Abuse Assessments, Mental Health Assessments, Home-Based Treatment in English and Spanish, Group Therapy, Individual Therapy, Couples' Therapy, Family Therapy.
- Adoption Support and Services – Recruitment and Training, Foster and Adoption Home Studies.

The Child Welfare Agencies have reported some initiatives to enhance local service arrays. WCDSS has entered into a contract for an FAS Clinic operated by two psychologists and a psychiatrist who identifies youth with FAS and makes service recommendations. New outpatient Counseling Clinic trained in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy which accepts Medicaid and three Equine Assisted Learning programs that accept Medicaid and have accompanying mental health services. Washoe County's only secure residential treatment center for children increased capacity, incorporated the use of a board certified behavior analyst and now uses an evidenced based approach known as Dialectical Behavior Therapy. School District devotes a staff member to the WCDSS two hours a week with access to school district information to assist social workers in obtaining needed school records or providing consultation on how to meet youth's educational needs. Under a federal neighborhood stabilization program, the County received a \$1.7 million dollar grant to buy housing for 10 families with children who would otherwise be in foster care. Deeds to the properties will eventually be turned over to a local non-profit to own and manage.

DCFS Rural Region reports the creation and development of the NYE County Child Advocacy Center (NCCAC). The NCCAC represents a coordinated countywide effort to reduce trauma child victims experience when multiple agencies investigate serious child abuse allegations and improve the handling of such cases. Also, DCFS Rural Regions reports the establishment of PIONEER TERRITORY CASA, Inc. in Pahrump: a court appointed special advocate program serving foster children in Nye County. Information gleaned from a countywide Needs Assessment indicated a rising population of foster children who are not achieving permanency within 18 months of removal. CASA volunteers will be instrumental in keeping the focus in court cases on Permanency and Child Well-being.

Item 36: Service accessibility

Goal: *The State will ensure that the services in the State's Service Array are accessible to families and children in all political jurisdictions covered in the State's CFSP.*

In the 2009 Nevada CFSR, this item was rated as an area needing improvement. The PIP identifies that this systemic factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on "Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families." The state's main objective under this item is to enhance service accessibility. As identified in the 2009 Nevada Statewide Assessment, funding constraints and provider retention/availability present continue to present two of the most serious barriers across the state. However, despite these challenges ongoing efforts continue to increase the accessibility of services through new initiatives statewide. During the 2010 release of the most recent Title IV B, Subpart 2, Request for Proposals (RFP), each child welfare agency developed a list of priority service needs. Priority service needs, by agency, included:

- Clark County: Family preservation services, homemaker services, substance abuse assessment and treatment, mental health assessments, medical case management, domestic violence response, and home studies and social summaries;
- Washoe County: In-home family crisis stabilization services and support services, facilitators to conduct safety team meetings to facilitate timely reunification, updating home studies and social summaries, comprehensive substance abuse and mental health assessments, family counseling and substance abuse treatment, parenting groups: and
- Rural Region: In-home family crisis stabilization services, in-home mental health assessments and treatment, community based and in and in-home substance abuse assessment and services, community based and in-home parenting training, community based and in-home homemaker classes, and training and classes for potential adoptive families.

Through Title IV B, service providers across the state are funded to provide family preservation, family support, timely reunification and/or adoption support services. Representatives from the state, Washoe, Clark and Rural child welfare continued to participate during 2010 in the Title IV B advisory/workgroup established to monitor and address issues related to service provision and access. Lower client utilization numbers for 2010 reflect the implementation of a new process for developing and tracking outcomes which delayed reporting during the first quarter of fiscal year 2010.

Several initiatives have seen ongoing progress over the last fiscal year. These focus on the Independent Living for Youth program in the DCFS Rural Region, Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Caseworker Visitation, Differential Response and more. These programs help to ensure that services are accessible to families, despite funding constraints. These programs are described briefly below.

- In late 2008, the Independent Living Program transferred funding for rural service provision to rural Family Resource Centers (FRC's). Each FRC agreed to provide services to youth residing in the surrounding areas to increase access to services. Since the previous CFSP Family Resource Centers, especially those in the rural counties, have built infrastructure and are also receiving additional funding and have expanded the array of available services. The FRC's continued to provide these services during SFY2010.
- Since the previous CFSP, Washoe County embedded a domestic violence advocate into the Child Protection Unit (CPS), through federal funding, to address domestic violence issues identified during the investigation process. The Advocate can facilitate and link victims of domestic violence who are involved with the child welfare system to appropriate services and support them through their involvement with the legal system related to the domestic

violence. This project was so successful that a second advocate was added in a subsequent year. This project continued in fiscal year 2010.

- The Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) provides treatment options for mothers, and their children, involved with child welfare and who are abusing methamphetamines in Clark County. The program allows the mothers to access intensive in-patient substance abuse treatment while remaining with their children. To date, the program has served 38 families with a total of 59 children. An additional component of the program has been an extensive cross training program with child welfare staff related to substance abuse. Multiple modules were developed and implemented to include opportunities to staff cases with substance abuse treatment staff to facilitate appropriate referrals and treatment expectations. The program is in Year four of a five year grant. Currently, other funding is being sought to continue this valuable program.
- During 2010, Caseworker Visitation funding was utilized to increase the frequency of monthly visitation through enhanced technology and/or additional hours for caseworker visitation. In addition, Adoption Incentive Funding was utilized to increase the number of social summaries and home studies completed to facilitate timely permanency for children.
- Differential Response in Nevada was first implemented as a pilot program in two Las Vegas Family Resource Centers beginning in February 2007. In 2008, the program was expanded to include Elko (1 location) and Washoe (2 locations) Counties and two additional centers/service areas in Clark County (total of 4 locations). The program was further expanded in 2009 to include: Carson City, Lyon County, Storey County, Churchill County and Nye County. This structure continued for Differential Response during fiscal year 2010.
- During 2010, Casey Family Programs has provided funding for a number of projects designed to address foster care related issues with the goal of safely reducing the number of children in foster care. Projects have included several key trainings and the expansion of the Differential Response Program.
- The Division's Grants Management Unit (GMU) has implemented an online reporting system that is used by providers and the Division to track performance indicators, client utilization and demographics.

Despite continued efforts on this item, Nevada still has challenges with accessibility to services. As previously mentioned this is primarily due to funding and Nevada's devastating economy. However, distance and other resources also play a big factor in the success of this item. The DCFS Rural Region child welfare program is challenged by a lack of available providers in the small communities across the state and significant distances to the urban and metropolitan areas that may be able to provide these services. Clark and Washoe Counties have the challenge of lack of resources and in some cases significant waiting lists for services. This item continues to be an area needing improvement for Nevada.

Item 37: Individualizing services

Goal: *The State will ensure that the services in the State's Service Array are individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families served by the agency.*

The PIP identifies that this systemic factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on "Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families." One objective in this area is that the State, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Agencies and service array providers, will develop an ongoing process for assessing and addressing the needs of children and families within the system and providing a continuous quality improvement process for ensuring that the identified needs of these individuals are met. Several efforts have been made in this area.

Collaborative relationships/initiatives such as Differential Response and the Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) project enhance the provision of individualized services. In addition, the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was formed to assist foster and former foster youth to make the transition to adulthood. The purpose of the group is to provide exemplary leadership and empowerment opportunities for youth who have or will experience out of home care. The YAB started meeting in January 2007 and continued to meet throughout 2010.

During 2009, DCFS developed several new UNITY screens related to service array that will provide additional information on services that children and families are referred to, including information about access/barriers such as waiting lists. These screens became operational in 2010 and some preliminary data is now available.

Several other groups are available that help Nevada to individualize services for families. For Foster and Adoptive families there are two groups, these are the Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF) and the Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (CCFAPA). SAFF is a non-profit organization in Washoe County comprised of caregivers whose purpose is to ensure licensed foster/adoptive families have the information, tools and support they need to provide safe, quality care to abused, neglected and otherwise dependent children for Washoe County and 15 rural counties. CCFAPA has over 200 members who actively participate in Clark County activities and receive consultation and financial support from the National Foster Parent Association.

For out-of-state placements, there are several groups that individualize services such as the Out-of-State Placement Workgroup and the Indian Child Welfare Steering Committee. The Out-of-State Placement Workgroup was formed to provide oversight to the out-of-state onsite facility reviews and to review and approve policy and procedures. Members include Children's Mental Health, DCFS-FPO, DCFS Rural Region, WCDSS, CCDFS, Juvenile Justice, and legal and fiscal representatives. The Indian Child Welfare Steering Committee provides tribal consultation on the Indian Child Welfare Act and child welfare concerns regarding Indian children. There are four federally recognized tribes (Northern and Southern Paiute, Washoe, Shoshone) and 23 tribal entities and organizations in Nevada, including Urban Indians. The members include a wide representative of tribes, federal and state child welfare agencies. In addition, Clark County also has an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) specialist dedicated to assisting with the provision of ICWA related services and a partnership with the Moapa Tribe that ensures that there is a sound process in place for working collaboratively. These groups remained active during 2010.

There are several entities that work with the agencies to assist in meeting direct service needs. To address the need for bi-lingual services, an Interpreter's Office for translation services is used by Clark County to enable workers to communicate effectively with the children and families that they serve; and a Language Line used by the DCFS Rural Region to provide translation services for the children and families in the rural counties throughout the state. Other examples include Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in place with agencies to ensure that the needs of families and children are met in a timely manner. One such MOU is with Bridge Counseling, who provides outpatient substance abuse and mental health services and who is funded to provide immediate response to referrals from this agency.

DCFS and the three child welfare agencies have several strategies to assess the effectiveness of services and programs. DCFS evaluates services in several different ways. First and foremost, the Division's quality improvement process provides for review of the services provided at each child welfare agency using the federal outcome measures. The information gained during quality improvement reviews is critical in identifying gaps and needs as well as the effectiveness of services.

The Division's Grants Management Unit (GMU) evaluates services and service needs through required annual On-Site Reviews of funded providers. At a minimum, each funded provider is reviewed annually utilizing a tool that has both a programmatic and fiscal component. These reviews identify areas needing improvement, strengths of the program, best practices and subsequent corrective action plans (if needed). Special circumstances or concerns trigger additional reviews.

The Division also maintains an online data collection system which allows sub-grantees to track client utilization and outcome measures, to include data required by federal funding sources. This system is used with most federal grants by the funded providers and allows for online data entry as well as real time report generation. This system also tracks waiting lists for services at funded providers.

Systemic Factor F: Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Item 38: State engagement in consultation with stakeholders

Goal: *In implementing the provisions of the CFSP, the State will engage in ongoing consultation with tribal representatives, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, and other public and private child- and family-serving agencies, and ensure that the major concerns of these representatives are included in the goals and objectives of the CFSP.*

To reach this goal, the State has several objectives. The first is that the State will provide ongoing review opportunities for key stakeholders to provide input (including the incorporation of their feedback) on the child welfare system and the components within this plan through a variety of methods (as described in Section III of this document).

DCFS continues to actively engage and collaborate with external stakeholders through partnering and participation in workgroups, focus groups, meetings, public presentations, and surveys for purposes related to achieving State Plan goals

and objectives. External stakeholders provide information about program functioning, policy and practice, protocol development, share resources and information that are used in program development and planning. Each program area identifies activities and stakeholders as part of its plan and provides reports and data about how the objectives are achieved relative to the overarching State Plan and federal child welfare outcome indicators.

In the past year there has been significant stakeholder involvement in the CFSR process. During the 2009 Statewide Assessment (SWA) and Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) stakeholders, including internal stakeholders (state staff, administration and members of the child welfare agencies), and external stakeholders (CASA, law enforcement, District Attorneys, courts, etc.) were identified to participate in group presentations, focus groups, surveys and state and community level interviews. A variety of existing stakeholder groups were presented with information on the process and were given the opportunity to provide feedback and participate in the ongoing process. Table 41 shows the variety of stakeholders who were involved in since early 2009.

Table 41: Stakeholders involved in the 2009 CFSR process

Stakeholders
Administrative Team to Review the Death of Children
CIP - Court Improvement Project
CJA - Children's Justice Act Task Force
Clark County Department of Family Services
Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
CRP - Citizens Review Panels
Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children
ICWA Steering Committee
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Nevada Division of Child and Family Services – Rural Region
Nevada Partnership for Training
SAPTA (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act)
Sierra Association of Foster Families
Washoe County Department of Social Services
Youth Advisory Board
Caregivers & Youth
Child Welfare Agency Caseworkers and Supervisors
Nevada Judicial & Child Advocates

During the 2009 Nevada CFSR stakeholder focus groups from all agencies were held in Washoe, Clark and Carson counties including a state level focus group. These stakeholders were local administrators, foster and adoptive parents, juvenile court judges, representatives from law enforcement, Supervisors and Caseworkers from the agencies, CASA representatives, tribal representatives and youth. After the 2009 CFSR the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) kick-off meeting occurred on December 2, 2009 with a host of Stakeholders from the agencies and communities. The Statewide PIP Committee included members from DCFS Administration, each of the three child welfare agencies, the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, the Division of Health, Children's Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, the Judiciary, the Court Improvement Project, educational representatives, foster parent associations, tribal members, CASA, Nevada Pep and more. Approximately 50 key individuals participated statewide on the Statewide Committee. Overall, nearly 100 individuals took part in this planning process across the state. These meetings continued through February 2010.

The 2009 Nevada CFSR report rated this item as a strength. Stakeholders across Nevada are committed to children and the child welfare system. This item continues to be a strength for Nevada.

Item 39: Agency annual reports pursuant to CFSP

Goal: *The State will ensure that the Annual Progress and Services Report will include feedback from the ongoing consultation with the key stakeholders on services delivered pursuant to the CFSP.*

To meet this goal the State must provide ongoing review opportunities for key stakeholders to provide input (including the incorporation of their feedback) on the child welfare system and the components within this plan through a variety of methods. To meet this objective, the State engages in a variety of activities to ensure that stakeholders are more involved

in the annual reporting of the CFSP. This includes consultation, collection of data or other reports from various entities and regular committees to facilitate open collaboration. Examples of our collaboration include:

1. Use of the DCFS website www.dcf.state.nv.us to facilitate the dissemination of CFSP plans, reports, policies and other documents for use to stakeholders and the general public. This contributes to the transparency of program administration and allows for public examination and input.
2. Use of the Grants Management Unit in DCFS to maximize funding for service delivery. This is accomplished through a more effective service needs assessment process and data collection. After the 2004 CFSR, the GMU replaced the single Title IV-B Coordinator position and has consolidated all child welfare grants, domestic violence, and fee based programs into one fiscal unit that oversees and monitors programs and completes fiscal reports. The GMU has an established an online web-based reporting system managed by the University of Nevada, Reno. Information about programs and services, public comments and surveys are available to the public on www.odesinc.org.
3. DCFS continues to collaborate with and include stakeholders from the community as well as other agencies at every level of the child welfare service delivery continuum, ranging from planning for allocation of funding to case level decision making to changes in policy, practice and reporting requirements. This collaboration and consultation with other agencies and entities expands partnerships and the sharing of available resources. It also allows for the provision of constructive feedback to the agency about programs, policies, procedures and practice that may be incorporated into the State Plan. DCFS representation includes, but is not limited to, educational/research institutions and agencies related to drug and alcohol, health, mental health, education, domestic violence, and juvenile courts, representing various counties. Examples of statewide consultation and coordination with stakeholders in implementing the provisions of the CFSP include (but are not limited to) the following committees or organizations (committee functions are outlined in Appendix C of this document):
 - Administrative Team to Review the Death of Children
 - CIP - Court Improvement Project
 - CJA - Children's Justice Act Task Force
 - Clark County Department of Family Services
 - Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
 - CRP - Citizens Review Panels
 - Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children
 - ICWA Steering Committee
 - Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
 - Nevada Division of Child and Family Services – Rural Region
 - Nevada Partnership for Training
 - SAPTA (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act)
 - Sierra Association of Foster Families
 - Washoe County Department of Social Services
 - Youth Advisory Board

In addition to those activities listed in a similar objective in Item 38, DCFS also engages in several stakeholder groups as outlined in the Decision Making Process narrative in Section 1 of this document. These groups include:

1. Decision Making Group made up of the DCFS Administrator and Rural Region Manager and the Directors of WCDSS and CCDFS. This group meets on the third Friday of each month.
2. Training Management Team made up of the DCFS Social Services Chief III (Training Manager); Training managers from each child welfare agency, a member from Differential Response and the Training Coordinators from each of the State's two University Departments of Social Work. This group meets on the second Monday of each month with additional subcommittee workgroups meeting as often as weekly. Recommendations from this group that require DMG approval are submitted to the DMG meeting in the month following the meeting where the recommendation is made.
3. Policy Approval Review Team made up of upper management from DCFS's Family Programs Office, Information Management Systems, Rural Region and Juvenile Justice Offices and upper management from CCDFS and WCDSS. Individual workgroups that develop policy include additional stakeholders as required by the subject matter. The workgroups meet as often as required to complete the necessary policy development or revision. PART meets on the first Wednesday of each month to review policy. When a policy is recommended for approval by DMG, it is placed on the DMG agenda in the month following the PART meeting where the recommendation was made to ensure that the

policy is polished before it reaches the final approval process.

These teams use a variety of methods to ensure that statewide policies, training and activities related to Safety, Permanency, Well-Being, and Systemic Performance Indicators are reviewed and up-to-date. In the 2009 Nevada CFSR report, this item was rated as a strength. This continues to be a strength for Nevada.

Item 40: Coordination of CFSP services with other federal programs

Goal: *The State will ensure that the services identified under the CFSP are coordinated with the services or benefits of other Federal or federally assisted programs serving the same populations.*

The PIP identifies that this systemic factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on “Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families.” To meet this goal, the State must provide ongoing opportunities for stakeholders to provide input and report on the activities engaged in by a variety of stakeholder groups to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders and other key federal programs are involved in the development of regulation, policy, training and proposed changes in practice. To do this, the State must coordinate with key Federal programs. The following is a list of advisory boards/committees/workgroups and or projects the Division utilizes when gathering information needed for the CFSP/ASPR:

- Administrative Team to Review the Death of Children
- CIP - Court Improvement Project
- CJA - Children's Justice Act Task Force
- Clark County Department of Family Services
- Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
- CRP - Citizens Review Panels
- Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children
- ICWA Steering Committee
- Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
- Nevada Division of Child and Family Services – Rural Region
- Nevada Partnership for Training
- SAPTA (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act)
- Sierra Association of Foster Families
- Washoe County Department of Social Services
- Youth Advisory Board

In addition to external stakeholder collaboration, the tribes, courts, youth and advisory committees, the findings of the quality improvement reviews and UNITY data are incorporated into the report to measure effectiveness, projected annual outcomes and targeted goals identified for the next year. The State also communicates with the child welfare agency Directors/Designees to receive child welfare agency updates for inclusion in the APSR. The Decision Making Group (DMG) is another form of communication between the state and the local child welfare agencies where CFSP discussion/activities occur. Many activities the CFSP requires are placed on the agenda throughout the year and are addressed in the monthly DMG meeting including the presentation and sharing of data reports, policy revisions, tools, checklists, instruments and any new federal requirements requiring actions the State may be required to take in order to comply with federal law. The State utilizes the Regional Office Representative to ensure that the information provided in the APSR adequately addresses the requirements and activities identified and a final draft is submitted to the Regional Office Representative for review and comment prior to June 30, 2010 to receive additional feedback or recommended changes. All CFSP and APSR submissions have been approved to this date.

While the State reported in the 2009 Statewide Assessment that this item was a strength for Nevada, the 2009 Nevada

CFSR report indicated that this item was an area needing improvement. While more work needs to be done, the State collaborates with a variety of entities to achieve this goal. While there is much collaboration to report on; included in this report are examples from the Court Improvement Program, the Children's Trust Fund, Juvenile Justice, and the Nevada Tribal Community to demonstrate progress in this area.

Court Improvement Program: The Nevada Court Improvement Program (CIP) is a multidisciplinary project that seeks improvement of interrelated systems that serve children and families who enter the child welfare system. The program operates through team-oriented court and agency initiatives. The goal of CIP is to make the systems more effective." Court Improvement Program funds programs and initiatives, which correspond and support efforts related to the three CIP Strategic Plans including: Administration and planning (Basic); Education and Training (Training); and Data Collection, Analysis, and Sharing (Data

Collaborating on Program Improvement Plan Initiatives

The Nevada court system has been a critical partner the last year focusing most of our efforts towards our PIP activities. As reported previously, the courts assisted in the creation of the action steps, specifically Strategy #3 *Improve the Timeliness and Appropriateness of Permanency Planning across the Life of the Case* located in our PIP. Within Strategy #3, the courts were asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states and because the Judiciary is a key component to the system, they would know best what the local issues are and how best to resolve them. Justice Nancy Saitta asked each district court judge involved in child welfare cases in each of Nevada's nine judicial districts to convene a Community Improvement Council (CIC) composed of key local stakeholders and other systems partners such as district attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties. Such a team as this can create the opportunity to gain substantial amounts of information from different vantage points, review how the system operates, better understand root causes or issues, identify possible areas of change or improvement, and develop and implement solutions that are acceptable to the entire community. Judges are essential to the establishment and operation of these teams or CIC's.

The goal of the CIC's was to consider the current functioning and efficiency of the permanency timeframes by identifying and assessing the challenges and possible solutions in each jurisdiction. Because such systemic issue often have long and complicated histories, involving the actions and resources of numerous agencies, they are unlikely to lend themselves to easy solutions.

Our judges have a unique perspective regarding court operations, the work of system partners, and the overall impact of the system on individuals and the broader community. By sharing their perspectives and concerns with members of their CICs, the judges are able to create the necessary foundation for the work of the CIC. Participation of our judges in the CICs has the general effect of encouraging critical participation by other stakeholders. The importance of these issues is improved in the eyes of others. The process created within an atmosphere of trust.

To inform the work of the nine CICs, the Court Improvement Program (CIP) staff provided each judicial district with baseline data on the safety, permanency, and well-being of their children. These data elements illustrated local trends and their relation to state and national standards. A suggested action plan format was provided on which the CIC could report its barriers and solutions. Additionally, each district was asked to share the positive steps being taken in their jurisdiction. CIP offered to provide a facilitator to guide the CIC discussions. The Eighth and the Fifth Judicial Districts requested and received facilitation help from Judge Stephen Rubin, Pima County, Arizona via technical assistance from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Once the right team members were involved and there was sufficient trust to speak openly the true nature of the problems were scrutinized, and the importance of developing a better understanding of these issues emerged and a comprehensive effort was made to arrive at mutually agreeable, long-term solutions. All nine of our judicial districts formed Community Improvement Councils. We have received action plans from all nine of our judicial districts.

Each of our nine judicial district's CICs has submitted an action plan outlining how they intend to resolve the barriers they have found to be impediments to the smooth and timely functioning of their system. The majority of the strategies outlined in these action plans from across the entire state are within the control of the agencies involved, and for the most part do not require additional resources. Many of the jurisdictions have identified similar barriers, but each has put a creative twist

to the solutions. Some, of course, have recognized that timeliness has been negatively impacted by reduced staffing. Three courts, an urban, rural and tribal court, all identified the need for peer mentoring to support and guide the family through the process. The 7th Judicial District found that upset parents, themselves, could be barriers to moving through the process in a timely manner. The Duckwater Shoshone Tribal Court suggested that parents who had successfully navigated the system could guide other parents through the process. The 8th Judicial District determined that such mentoring parents may actually be able to shorten the average number of days an assessment takes to complete. Both an urban (the 8th) and a rural county (the 5th) found that court continuances were overused in their courts and decided to implement a no continuance policy. Several other courts found that an insufficient number of appropriate foster families within the area were a barrier. The 1st Judicial District suggested that the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) increase recruitment efforts. The 6th suggested that DCFS partner with the court to allow the district court to locate, license, and support foster families while DCFS provides support to the court. Timely identification of relatives was determined in both rural and urban areas to delay permanency planning in some instances. The 2nd Judicial District recommended a system-wide effort and the 7th suggested that the court order the parents to provide all names of relatives both in and out of state to DCFS immediately. Travel time is a barrier for the rural counties. The 3rd Judicial District's CIC in Yerington suggested that document reader and Polycom capabilities between DCFS and the district court would allow the caseworkers to appear at district court hearings remotely. Lack of sufficient resources were identified as obstacles in several jurisdictions. The 3rd Judicial District in Fallon plans to work with county leaders and the legislature to create incentives to encourage psychologists to locate in rural areas. Lack of adequate housing bars reunification efforts in the 7th Judicial District, but may soon be resolved when the DCFS applies for housing assistance via a HUD grant. Nearly every rural court identified the length of time between the termination of parental rights (TPR) and when the case is processed by the adoption unit as an impediment. The adoption unit supervisor had already begun modifications of the unit's processes. The DCFS is moving forward with the adoption process prior to the determination of SSI subsidy. The contract will simply be modified after the determination is received. Most courts plan to incorporate appropriate language into the court order. The once per month HART meetings were slowing down the process, as well. HART meetings will now be scheduled as needed. Additionally, the adoption unit is identifying TPR cases prior to the actual termination, and scheduling pre-transfer meetings and assigning an adoption worker to expedite the process.

Under the strong leadership of our judiciary, the Community Improvement Councils statewide have diligently and comprehensively reviewed the child welfare and dependency court processes, and built bridges among the system partners to achieve change. Each CIC recognized that in order to move forward they had to stop doing what was not working. Each worked to determine what was not working, why it was not working and what to do about it. This investment of time and energy by our community leaders throughout the state was essential to achieving the results. For more information please see PIP Quarter 2 report for detailed plans from each Judicial District.

Training and Conferences

For the last few months, the Court Improvement Program's select Committee has been collaborating with various members to design and launch a "Focus on Kids" Conference scheduled to occur in July 2011. This conference will feature innovations in programming and practice and provide new opportunities for courts, agencies and the legal community to improve the outcomes for children, youth and families who enter the children welfare system. Diverse and thought-provoking educational sessions will focus on how to collaboratively address challenges when serving children and families involved in the child welfare system. Participants will include Judges, Masters, Attorneys, Public Defenders, Children's Attorneys, Social Workers, Guardian Ad Litem, CASA's, Tribal Members, and youth. Some of the topics that will be addressed include:

- **BALANCING THE RIGHTS OF THE NON-OFFENDING PARENT, THE CHILD, AND THE PARENT FOUND TO BE ABUSIVE OR NEGLECTFUL**
- **ENGAGING FATHERS AND PATERNAL FAMILIES IN DEPENDENCY CASES**
- **THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT**
- **RECRUITMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**
- **THE COMPLEX WEB OF DIFFERENTIAL REACTIONS TO PARTNERS BEING FAMILY VIOLENCE & REASONABLE EFFORTS**
- **REASONABLE CAUSE VERSUS PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE – WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?"**
- **NAVIGATING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN: TIPS FOR CHILD DEPENDENCY JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, AND CASEWORKERS**

- **PERMANENCY FOR OLDER YOUTH –TALKING AND LISTENING WITH HEART**
- **CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS**
- **ENGAGING CHILDREN IN THE PROCESS**
- **SAFETY PLANNING IN NEVADA: REASONABLE EFFORTS TO PREVENT REMOVAL**
- **EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH: A PANEL OF YOUTH DISCUSSING IMPACTS OF FOSTER CARE ON YOUTH**

A full report out will be provided in next year's APSR submission.

The Grants Management Unit (GMU): The Grants Management Unit (GMU) is an administrative unit within the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office that manages grants to local, regional, and statewide programs serving Nevadans. The GMU ensures accountability and provides technical assistance for the following programs: Children's Trust Fund, Community Services Block Grant, Family to Family Connection, Family Resource Centers, Differential Response, Fund for a Healthy Nevada, Social Services Block Grant (Title XX of the Social Security Act), and Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment. The GMU was created in July 2003 to streamline and standardize administrative procedures and reduce administrative costs, by bringing together multiple grant programs and advisory committees.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the lead agency for the community based child abuse prevention programs in Nevada and is leading the child maltreatment prevention activities in Nevada. The Department of Health and Human Services promotes the health and well-being of Nevadans through the delivery and facilitation of essential services to ensure families are strengthened, public health is protected, and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency. Among the Divisions, Units, and programs that are part of DHHS and that contribute to the leadership of child maltreatment prevention activities are the Division of Child and Family Services, the Health Division, the Welfare and Supportive Services Division, the Head Start Collaboration office, the Early Childhood Systems office, the Division for Aging and Disability Services (Early Intervention, Part C) the Office of Suicide Prevention, and the Grants Management Unit.

The Grants Management Unit (GMU) is an administrative unit within the Department of Health and Human Services Director's Office that manages grants to local, regional, and statewide programs serving Nevadans. The GMU is responsible for the following state and federal initiatives:

The Children's Trust Fund (CTF): The fund contains state and federal monies (CBCAP funds) that are reserved for primary and secondary child maltreatment programs. Most of the CTF funds are awarded through competitive applications.

Family Resource Centers (FRC): There are 22 FRCs in Nevada that provide information, referrals, and case management to at-risk families. FRCs collaborate with local and state agencies and organizations to help individuals and families access needed services and support.

Differential Response (DR): The DR program is a partnership between FRCs and the three child welfare agencies in Nevada: Clark County Department of Family Services, Washoe County Department of Social Services, and the Division of Child and Family Services. Dedicated DR staff in 11 FRCs in north, south, and rural communities are first responders to Child Protective Services' reports of child neglect.

Family to Family Connection (F2F): Provided support, parenting classes, and health and safety information to all Nevada families with children birth to 4 years old. The program also assisted families in developing parent support networks and provided a link with other community support agencies when there were additional needs in the family. Funding for the Family to Family Connection program for SFY12 was eliminated in the 2011 Legislature.

Social Services Block Grant, Title XX programs: Assists persons in achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency and/or prevents or remedies neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults

Community Services Block Grant: Promotes economic self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization

Fund for a Healthy Nevada – Master Tobacco Settlement funds: Grants improve health services for children and improve the health and well being of persons with disabilities.

Revolving Account for Problem Gambling Treatment and Prevention: Provides funding for problem gambling treatment, prevention, and related services

The GMU works with two separate external policy groups. The Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling (ACPG) oversees the Revolving Account for Problem Gambling, and the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) provides input to the Director for the five other grant funds mentioned above, including the Children's Trust Fund. The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services appoints the following 15 members to the GMAC

- A superintendent of a county school district
- A director of a local agency providing services for abused or neglected children
- A representative of a community organization involved with children
- A representative of the Department of Juvenile Justice
- A member who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in providing services to senior citizens
- Two members with knowledge, skill, and experience in finance or business
- A representative of the Nevada Association of Counties
- A representative of a broad-based nonprofit with knowledge, skill, and experience in community partnerships
- Two members with knowledge of services to persons or families who are disadvantaged or at risk
- A representative who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the provision of services relating to the cessation of the use of tobacco
- A representative who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the provision of services to persons with disabilities
- A representative who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the provision of health services to children
- A representative who is a member of the Nevada Commission on Aging

The Director will ensure that, insofar as practicable, the members whom he appoints reflect the ethnic and geographic diversity of Nevada.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the GMAC release a Request for Applications (RFA) every two years. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to community-based public and private, nonprofit organizations throughout the state. Successful applicants who propose to provide programs that prevent child abuse and serve to strengthen and support families are required to participate in quarterly statewide networking meetings that are conducted via videoconferencing and when scheduled, statewide training opportunities. The assigned Program Specialist and the GMAC provide statewide direction to the network by promoting collaborative efforts and soliciting input from the community, including agencies, service providers, parents, and other interested individuals

All programs receiving money for services from the Children's Trust Fund reported collaborating, coordinating, and cooperating with other agencies and organizations in their community. These include in-kind exchanges such as staff services and facility space, referral and recruitment, and shared planning such as participating in community needs assessments and sharing program evaluation tools. All of the agencies receiving CTF funds use multiple grants and fundraising to support the services they offer. Following are examples of interagency collaboration and coordination:

Grantees providing parenting education classes collaborated with other community agencies sharing staff, space to hold classes, referrals, and class materials. The collaborative partners included Family Resource Centers, Family to Family Connection programs, county/state Child Welfare agencies, and school districts, services for the homeless, Indian tribes, family counseling services, domestic violence programs, Juvenile Probation, and drug and alcohol treatment centers.

The skills-based curriculum programs conducted by Family and Child Treatment and Nevada Child Seekers

collaborated with the Clark County and Washoe County School Districts allowing access to elementary, middle, and high school classrooms to deliver workshops.

Children's Trust Fund grantees were required to attend quarterly statewide network meetings. The meetings were sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse Nevada and were video conferenced to eight sites throughout the state. The videoconference sites were associated with the University of Nevada Cooperative Education system. Other community-based agencies and organizations that provide resources and support to families also attended these networking meetings.

Nevada Tribal Community: The State of Nevada has 27 tribal entities which include federally recognized tribes as well as tribal bands, colonies and communities. These include Battle Mountain Band Council, Carson Colony Community Council, Dresslerville Community Council, Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Elko Band Council, Ely Shoshone Tribe, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Goshute Business Council, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, South Fork Band Council, Stewart Community Council, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California Wells Band Council, Winnemucca Colony Council, Woodfords Community Council, Yerington Paiute Tribe, and the Yomba Shoshone Tribe. Opportunities for consultation and collaboration have expanded to include bimonthly meetings with the Indian Child Welfare Committee; quarterly meetings with the Inter Tribal Counsel of Nevada; quarterly meetings with the DHHS Tribal Liaison Committee, provision of a child welfare ICWA specialist, and various training opportunities, conventions, summits and conferences in which these groups sponsor and/or participate. The following consultations, trainings and collaborations occurred during this reporting period and have the following goals and outcomes:

Indian Child Welfare Committee:

This statewide committee serves as the mechanism for discussion of cross-jurisdictional issues, planning for joint training and conferences, ICWA implementation, and related child welfare as identified by the membership. The committee includes representatives from each of the federally recognized tribes, bands and colonies, as designated by Tribal Chairmen. Additionally, representatives from the Inter-tribal Council of Nevada, Bureau of Indian Affairs – Western and Eastern Regional Offices, Nevada Urban Indians, Inc., Las Vegas Indian Center, Nevada Indian Commission, and each of the child welfare agencies are included. The Committee continues to collaborate to improve the provision of child welfare services and protections under Section 422(b)(10) of the Act to Native American children under both state and tribal jurisdiction.

- During this reporting period, the committee formalized the structure by the adoption of a charter to guide the work toward the goal to reduce trauma to Native American children during child abuse investigations. Workgroups or ad hoc subcommittees can be formed to address and mitigate case specific child welfare issues involving the State, Tribe, and County agencies. The bi-monthly meetings provide the venue for State, Tribal, and County child welfare agencies to:
 - Confer with the DCFS regarding compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, including: cross-jurisdictional issues, child abuse investigation, placement preference, active efforts and the tribal right to intervene in State court proceedings or transfer of proceedings;
 - Work with DCFS regarding jurisdictional issues, and joint investigations; expand interagency collaboration: sharing of resources intended for culturally appropriate service provision to Indian children and families; and,
 - Enhance interagency communication as support from other state agencies is essential to the success of an integrated system of care.

Inter Jurisdictional List Serve:

The Division of Child and Family Services through a partnership with the Nevada Indian Commission continues to provide a list serve. The intent is to serve as the means to facilitate information sharing and collaboration between the State, Tribes and Counties. The email address is: NVICWA@listserv.state.nv.us. Currently there are 127 subscribers to the list serve including administrators, tribal leaders, mental health professionals, CASA, attorneys, social workers, substance abuse counselors, victim's advocates, juvenile justice, and other interested parties.

Indian Child Welfare Specialist:

The State Indian Child Welfare Specialist continues to provide technical assistance to State/Tribal/County Social Workers, coordinate and provide training on ICWA; foster State/Tribal relationships; facilitate ICW Committee; and disseminate current information regarding regulations, and federal laws that may impact American Indian children and families in Nevada. The specialist has also been called upon to serve as a technical expert in certain judicial proceedings.

Training/Information Sharing:

- On September 14-15, 2010; the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in collaboration with the Mental Health and Developmental Services, the Substance Abuse and Treatment Agency, the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies, the Nevada Indian Commission and the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada held the 2010 State/Tribal/County Social Services Summit entitled, *Embracing the Past and Planning for the Future* in Carson City. The summit gathered over 110 participants from diverse disciplines including: juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse, marriage and family therapists, tribal leaders, social workers, ICWA Specialists, attorneys, and victims advocates. Speakers included noted tribal dignitaries and state leadership with the conclusion involving an exercise which brought tribal and public social workers together in case discussions.
- On October 25, 2010; DCFS attended the Executive Board of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada to present a report of the 2010 State/Tribal Indian Child Welfare Initiatives and to present plans to hold the 2011 State/Tribal/County Regional Round Table meetings.
- During this reporting period, the *Multi-Disciplinary Response to Child Abuse in Indian Country*, Indian Child Welfare Track was held in Reno, Nevada, on November 7 – 18, 2009. The Indian Child Welfare Track was part of the 45th Annual Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITC-N) Convention. There were 39 participants in the intense two-day Indian Child Welfare Track. The training was attended by tribal chairs, tribal council members, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Washoe County Department of Social Services, DCFS Rural Region Social Workers, Tribal Social Services agencies, ICWA Specialists, Headstart Teachers, attorneys, and court appointed special advocates. The track held the following training sessions: MDT Response to Child Abuse, which emphasized the formation of a Children's Advocacy Center to provide a coordinated response among the agencies involved in the investigation of child abuse of a serious or criminal nature; Understanding Child Sexual Abuse; Identifying Corroborative Evidence from the Forensic Interview; Navigating the Civil and Criminal Court Process; and, MDT members as Expert Witnesses. Participants expanded their expertise to better coordinate their responses considering multi-disciplinary protocols of the State, Tribes, and County child welfare agencies, providers, and other interested parties.
- On February 3, 2011; DCFS attended the Executive Board meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada to provide an update of state activities and to engage in any follow-up discussion.
- ICWA training continues through several venues including online, new social worker training and through several inter-jurisdictional group trainings offered each year. An ICWA jurisdictional matrix will be updated and training to implement the new matrix is proposed for the child welfare track at the 2011 ITCN Convention.

Workgroups:

On March 8, 2011 the Indian Child Welfare Committee established a workgroup to plan the 2011 Regional Round Table meetings. The purpose of the round tables is to continue to build partnerships and increase collaboration between State, Tribes, and Counties. Topics that may be discussed are cross jurisdictional foster care placements, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, Title IV-E and the establishment of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Tribes. The MOU's will enable the placement of children across jurisdictions through state recognition of Tribal licenses of foster homes on Tribal land.

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between State and Tribes in Nevada:

MOUs are being discussed to enable the cross-jurisdictional placement of AI/AN children through state recognition of licensed foster homes on Tribal land. Currently, no MOUs are in place for this specific purpose, however the State is working on (3) proposed agreements from three different tribes in the State.

Title IV-E:

Only one tribe in Nevada (Washoe) has applied for a Tribal/Federal IV-E agreement. The State meets regularly with this tribe to offer technical assistance where applicable and as appropriate.

Juvenile Justice: Another example of collaboration in the Nevada child welfare system is with juvenile justice. Following a federal compliance review in July 2006, it was found by the Children's Bureau of the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) that the Division failed to include in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (also known as AFCARS) report, youth that receive juvenile justice services while under the agency's responsibility for care and placement. All children in foster care under the responsibility of the State agency administering or supervising the administration of the Title IV-B Child and Family Services State plan and the Title IV-E State plan; that is, all children who are required to be provided the assurances of section 422(b)(10) of the Social Security Act (the Act) (Appendix A – SECTION II). In Nevada, the juvenile correctional facilities and youth parole fall under these requirements. Because the youth served in this population are a part of the IV-E agency, the Division has made efforts to ensure that youth in out of home unlocked facilities are afforded the same IV-E assurances as youth in the custody of the child welfare agency. During this year, the Division hired a Program Specialist specifically to focus on developing policy, procedure and training for staff on how to work with these youth. The program specialist has developed training guides related to SACWIS system requirements, developed procedures on required casework activities, and is assisting the Youth Parole Bureau with ensuring that engagement and casework strategies are effectively implemented. This position continues to focus on training staff and ensuring Fostering Connections mandates for older and aging out youth are met.

In addition, as noted in Appendix A, the NRCYD returned to Nevada and trained staff in both the Northern and Southern regions of the state. In this round of training juvenile justice staffs were also trained. Once the ACLSA is consistently implemented in both the child welfare and juvenile justice settings as the assessment tool, Nevada will be the first state to implement this system consistency across programs.

Systemic Factor G: Foster and Adoptive Home Licensing, Approval and Recruitment

Item 41: Standards for foster homes and institutions

Goal: *The State will ensure that implemented standards for foster family homes and child care institutions are reasonably in accord with recommended national standards.*

For foster and adoptive homes, Nevada statutes in Chapter 424 – Foster Homes for Children provide a framework for the licensing, license renewal, inspections, investigations of foster homes and background investigations for foster care providers. Under NRS 424, the child welfare agencies have the responsibility for licensing foster homes, therefore the DCFS – Rural Region, CCDFS and WCDSS have the responsibility for licensing foster homes. This responsibility also includes monitoring and providing technical assistance to family foster and group foster homes. The purpose of licensing is to reduce the risk of harm to children in care. The licensing process determines whether the applicant can provide suitable care for children. To ensure that an acceptable level of care is maintained, licenses are renewed annually per NRS 424 with a minimum of one visit made to each licensed home. FBI checks are conducted on all applicants and household residents 18 years of age and older.

Family foster homes fall under NAC 424 regulations. The regulations incorporate definitions, general provisions, licensing and organizational requirements, requirements for qualifications and training of personnel and adult residents, requirements for initial training and ongoing annual training, specifications for facilities, ground and furnishings, and operation of foster homes, including requirements for care, treatment and discipline of foster children. NAC 424 regulations pertaining to licensing also specify standards for accessibility, facility space, immunization records, health and sanitation, menus, food preparation, nutrition, fire safety and fire drill records, staff/child ratios, safety factors including pools and outdoor equipment, and transportation of children.

For addressing standards related to child care institutions, the Bureau of Services for Child Care created workgroups and amended proposed regulations to ensure Nevada's children were in a safe and nurturing environment when placed in out-of-home care. Child care institutions (educational, shelter care and residential) fall under NAC 432A regulations. The regulations incorporate definitions, training requirements, general requirements, social workers, maintaining records and ratios. Licensing Surveyors complete quarterly, semi-annual and annual inspections (surveys) of facilities, such as facility files, indoor and outdoor deficiencies based on NRS 432A regulations. The regulations are based on fire, health, facility space, advertising, immunization of records, staff qualifications and training records, menu, food preparation, nutrition, fire

drill records, staff/child ratios, safety factors including toys and outdoor equipment, transportation and discipline. Once deficiencies are noted, licensing surveyors will work with providers to come into compliance with the NRS 432A regulations. The proposed regulatory process is still in the progress working toward bringing the State of Nevada standards closer to National Standards. During the last year's Statewide Assessment and CFSR Process, stakeholders commenting on this item were in general agreement that DCFS and the local counties have implemented appropriate standards for foster family homes and child care institutions. Stakeholders reported that re-licensing occurs annually and is done in a timely manner.

In the Nevada 2009 CFSR Report, this item was rated as a strength. The number of foster homes in Nevada is increasing and the length of time to license homes is decreasing. Figure 15 illustrates the upward trend in the total number of licensed foster homes in the previous four years, which is a 64% percent increase from the 2006 figures. Table 43 indicates that the average number of days required to license foster group homes has declined from the previous reporting period, and waivers have decreased. From April 30, 2010 to April 30, 2011 there has been a 10.8% increase in the number of foster care licenses, and the average number of days to license has decreased 9.8% form an average of 91 days in SFY 2010 to an average of 82 days in SFY 2011.

Figure 15: Foster Parent Licenses – Trend Report

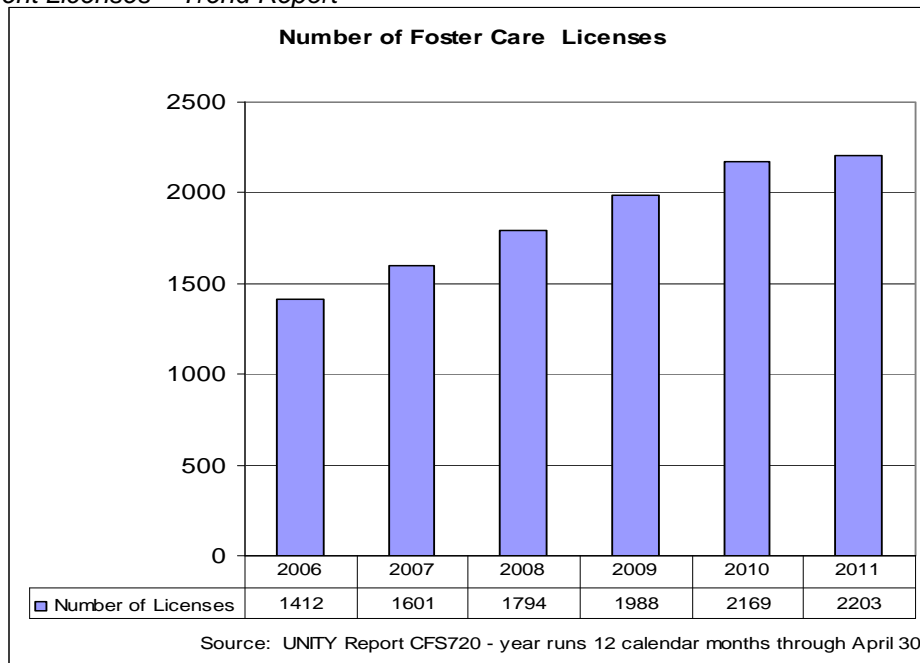


Table 42: Average Number of Days Required to License Foster Group Homes

Average Number of Days Required to License Foster Group Homes						
Year	Number of Facilities	% Increase/Decrease	Average Days to License	% Increase/Decrease	Waivers	% Increase/Decrease
2007	575		83		163	
2008	539	-6.26%	73	-12.05%	207	26.99%
2009	596	10.58%	89	21.92%	220	6.28%
2010	435	-27.01%	91	2.25%	148	-32.73%
2011	313	-28.05%	82	-9.89%	102	-31.08%
Unity Report CFS711 May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011						

Clark County reports that their agency opened a satellite criminal history/background check office at the new central

location. This site provides services solely to licensed foster parents decreasing wait times for clients at the main office. Also, other initiatives include a revision to renewal packets in both Relative and Regular Foster homes, and the packets are now sent out 90 days before expiration; bi-annual renewals began in January, which include running a full criminal history review, including completing a fingerprint based check, local SCOPE, and CANS. Clark County has added additional Spanish speaking staff to licensing, improving customer service to Spanish speaking applicants and licensees. Also Clark County has begun working with the Court Interpreter's Office to translate all licensing materials into Spanish. Furthermore, Clark County is currently developing accurate licensing reports in conjunction with QA/QI. Clark County reports they have implemented modified business processes to decrease the number of deficiencies found during license renewal case file review; ensure renewal applications are submitted to licensing 560 days to license; enhance case documentation in UNITY and case files; increase licensing home visits and lastly address deficiencies identified during a home inspection.

Item 42: Standards applied equally

Goal: *The State will ensure that the standards applied to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving Title IV-E or IV-B funds are applied equally.*

To achieve this goal, the State, in collaboration with the child welfare agencies, will provide a process for ensuring the effectiveness of applying standards to all licensed or approved foster family homes or child care institutions receiving Title IV-E or IV-B funds, including IV-E review findings and agency level compliance with State standards.

As the State is responsible for the receipt and distribution of all federal IV-E or IV-B funds in the State of Nevada, it is a statutory duty of State to administer any money granted by the Federal government under title IV-E or IV-B. NRS 432A regulates and licenses all Child Care Institutions before they can receive IV-E funds. Child Care Institutions follow NRS 432A child care regulations which protect the health and safety of the children. NRS 432A regulations require every employee to receive criminal background checks and a Child Abuse and Neglect check (CANS). Institutions also have to follow the ratio between caregiver and children in order to ensure supervision is adequately being met. Institution staff is required to take 15 hours of annual training plus 90 day initial training. The State also licenses and regulates all foster homes according to NRS 424 and NAC 424 requirements. All family foster homes must meet the same licensure requirements. No distinction is made between relative and non-relative applicants.

In the 2009 Nevada CFSR, this item was reported to be a strength. The State monitors compliance with foster care licensing regulations and requirements and verifies compliance by family foster homes on an annual basis. Compliance is verified by a process of annual visits as part of the license renewal process, and the prompt investigation of any complaints or concerns relating to the operation of family foster homes. Complaints that involve the health or safety of a child are investigated immediately. All other complaints must be investigated within 10 working days. Family foster homes that do not comply with initial licensing requirements and maintain compliance as verified by annual inspections and license renewals will not receive IV-E or IV-B funds. In March 2011, Nevada underwent a IV-E review. The state is currently waiting for the final report to be issued and respond to any necessary changes required to be in compliance with licensing and eligibility findings from the review.

Item 43: Requirements for criminal background checks

Goal: The State will comply with Federal requirements, including Adam Walsh, for criminal background clearances related to licensing or approving foster care and adoptive placements and the State will ensure that a background check process is in place that includes provisions for addressing the safety of foster care and adoptive placements of children.

Similar to the 2010 APSR, legislation related to this item usually requires regulation and/or policy development either in response to federal regulations (Adam Walsh) or newly enacted legislation (child care crimes from 2009 legislative session). In the 2011 legislative session AB 536 was enacted. This legislation revises provisions relating to background checks of certain persons who work with children in all three areas of the Division, to include Juvenile Justice and Children's Mental Health. Nevada's child welfare agencies and impacted agencies will be collaborating in response to these new requirements and will report out on the progress in the 2012 APSR submission.

This item continues to be a strength for Nevada.

Item 44: Diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive homes

Goal: *The State will ensure that the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed in the State is occurring.*

The PIP identifies that this systemic factor will be addressed during the PIP implementation specifically under Primary Strategy (5) of the PIP which focuses on “Expanding Service options and creating flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families.” To meet this goal, one objective was that the State would develop a quality improvement process to monitor child welfare agency adherence to statute, regulation and statewide policy related to the recruitment and training of foster and adoptive families, including a process to ensure ongoing agency progress toward correcting identified areas of needed improvement and that stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input on the process. Currently, the State addresses this through a reporting process from each child welfare agency which documents what efforts have been made to recruit potential foster and adoptive families, as well as identifying strengths and challenges with the recruitment process. Diligent efforts are being made to ensure that there are enough homes to meet the needs of children coming into care. The child welfare agencies have reported a variety of initiatives in relation to this goal and the above objective. These examples are outlined below.

WCDSS uses a demographically based method of assessing the cultural backgrounds of children in foster care and the cultural background of prospective foster parents. Efforts are then made to focus recruitment efforts on achieving a balance in which the culture of foster parents closely reflects the culture of foster children. In addition, they provide recruitment through the school district (primarily through distribution of flyers promoting foster care and adoption information fairs) in an effort to target location and licensure of homes in schools that children are frequently removed from in order to possibly have the child not lose their school of attendance with they come into care. Efforts are made to locate homes that reflect special needs, such as medical issues, sibling groups and adolescent placement; however, this continues to be a challenging area. In support of relative placements, WCDSS reports that by having a specialist who works on relative licensing, this expedites the process and helps relative caretakers maneuver the necessary steps and regulations. This specialized worker is able to respond quickly to relative caretakers and quickly guide them through the licensure process. WCDSS offers individual orientation and screening to interested applicants so people can move from the initial contact through licensure if appropriate, rather than having to attend a group orientation at another time. Finally, WCDSS uses a broad based media campaign, based on the “Have a Heart” theme. This includes billboards, placement of the theme at recruitment events, promotional items, and awareness events at local malls for Foster Care Month. During this reporting period WCDSS focused on school-based recruitment to develop foster home resources in zip code areas that have a higher occurrence of removals or out-of-home placements. WCDSS currently has 367 licensed foster homes including foster and relative homes. WCDSS has made significant efforts to license relatives and place children in those homes when feasible and has streamlined the licensing process for relatives including prioritizing home study completion. There were 52 ICPC referrals this fiscal year: 14 were denied, 20 approved, and 5 withdrew voluntarily. 13 assessments are pending. WCDSS is currently supervising 26 ICPC children from 19 families in addition to 3 intrastate placements.

Clark County awarded the Federal Diligent Recruitment grant. The award of this grant will allow DFS to review and improve existing processes. The focus of the grant will be on Child Specific Recruitment, Targeted Recruitment, General Recruitment, Family Finding, and Foster/Adoptive Family and DFS Staff Training.

Recruitment efforts remain focused yet flexible in order to leverage opportunities that present themselves. The DCFS – rural Region participated in several community events throughout their region to promote recruitment throughout the year depending on what opportunities are available in the rural areas.

As indicated in Figure 17 under Item 41, there has been a steady increase in the number of licenses given between 2006 and 2011. The Nevada 2009 CFSR report indicated that this is an area needing improvement for Nevada.

Item 45: State use of cross-jurisdictional resources for permanent placements

Goal: *The State will ensure a process is in place for the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children.*

This year, the State has continued to work towards the objectives that encourage stakeholders and partners to participate in providing input to enhance and improve processes that ensure the placement and retention of children into safe and permanent homes. The State has engaged in those activities which have proven successful in the safe, timely and

permanent placement of children including national and local media campaigns, local foster care and adoption awareness activities, adoption exchanges, photo listings, and the safe and timely placement of children out of state utilizing the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Unit. Through collaborative efforts with other public and private agencies, the State has been able to offer participation to stakeholders in several trainings, conferences and summits including:

In April 2011, the Nevada Deputy Compact Administrator (DCA) attended the annual convention of the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC). Nevada's DCA was nominated to serve as a board member and also invited to participate as a trainer in the convention, which included an introduction and review of the ICPC administrative process and the application of articles and regulations; utilization of forms; recognition of ICPC and Non-ICPC cases; managing timeframes for timely placements; and, ensuring ICWA compliance in interstate placements. Participants also reviewed and discussed duties and responsibilities of ICPC staff and how to negotiate and facilitate the courts, families and locals throughout the ICPC process. In addition, the training offered complex case analysis, systems and administrative review, and provided tools and techniques for managing an efficient ICPC office with limited staff and resources. The annual business meeting was also convened, where member states participated in review and discussion of federal legislative updates, promising practices nationwide and also the review and discussion of new and revised ICPC Regulations. Based on the current national economic situation, many states, including Nevada, have delayed implementation and adoption of the new ICPC compact. Discussion and planning towards this goal will continue in anticipation of including it in our next legislative session.

The Nevada ICPC Unit continues to meet with other child welfare agencies and partners on a monthly basis with the purpose of promoting collaboration, staffing complex cases, providing training on new regulations and/or processes and providing open dialogue on any matters of mutual interest regarding ICPC process and policy. Included in these meetings are not only ICPC staff and statewide partners, but Adoption Unit staff as well as those who work with Indian Child Welfare. This continues to ensure the state operates on a consistent and uniform basis when dealing with other States and also contributes towards the rapid resolution of internal concerns and issues.

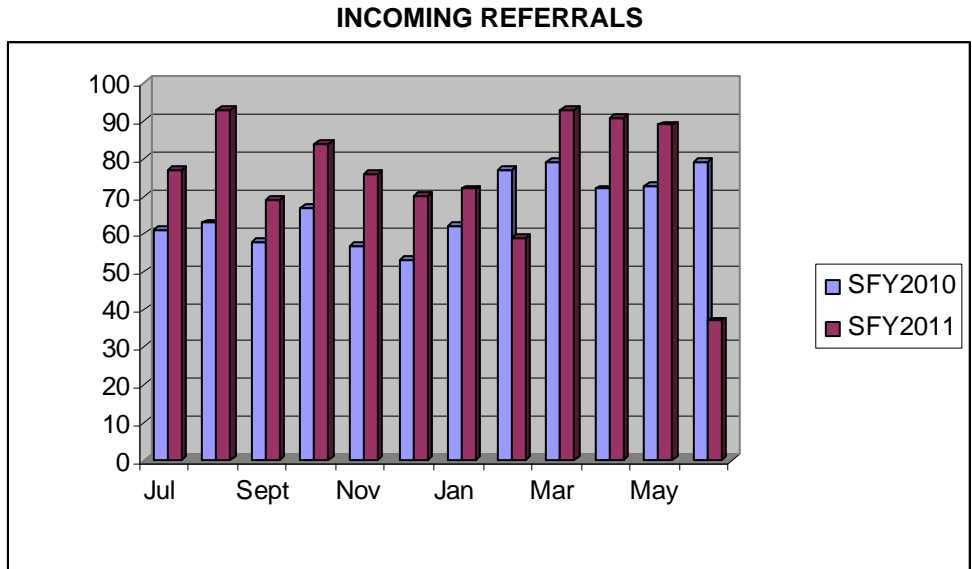
Currently, Nevada is one of the few states that have made use of their SACWIS system (UNITY) to not only process ICPC cases (including new referrals, approvals and denials) but to provide tracking for a variety of reports for trends, recognition of training and staffing needs, compliance and other data collection purposes. New reports this year include the home study report which tracks numbers and status of home studies, both incoming and outgoing as well as providing the addition of a new Quarterly Supervision report. This report allows the ICPC Unit to review timeliness of required supervision reports and provides a qualitative component as staff can ensure any potential problems with a placement are mitigated before a disruption or other placement issue might occur. Continual enhancements to the UNITY system have improved the accuracy and reliability of report data.

The State ICPC Unit continues to maintain a 24 hour internal processing time for incoming and outgoing referrals. This internal policy, plus the enhanced ICPC UNITY screens has helped Nevada work toward compliance with the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006 which requires a state to complete and report on foster and adoptive homes studies requested by another state within 60 days. The State ICPC Unit continues to utilize an email box developed for ICPC inquiries, status checks, and/or requests for additional information. This has allowed a quicker turn around time for caseworkers requiring immediate information on new referrals, home study completions, approvals, denials, and status updates, placement dates for case planning purposes and/or court proceedings, as well as providing a mechanism to expedite communication to other states while making better and more efficient use of staff time.

Figure 18 reflects the number of incoming and Figure 19 reflects the number of outgoing referrals that have been accepted as complete and for processing of a home study to determine if placement of a child or children is approved or denied. **Incoming referrals** are complete and accepted packets that are requesting a home study for placement of an out of state child into Nevada. **Outgoing referrals** are complete and accepted packets that are requesting a home study from another state for placement of a Nevada Child. Nevada consistently receives more requests for outgoing referrals (a child being placed into another state from Nevada) than for incoming referrals (a child being placed into Nevada from another state). In SFY 2011 (through June 22, 2011), Nevada received a monthly average of 76 incoming referrals which reflects an increase of 11% from monthly incoming referral totals (average of 67 per month) of SFY2010. Of greater significance is

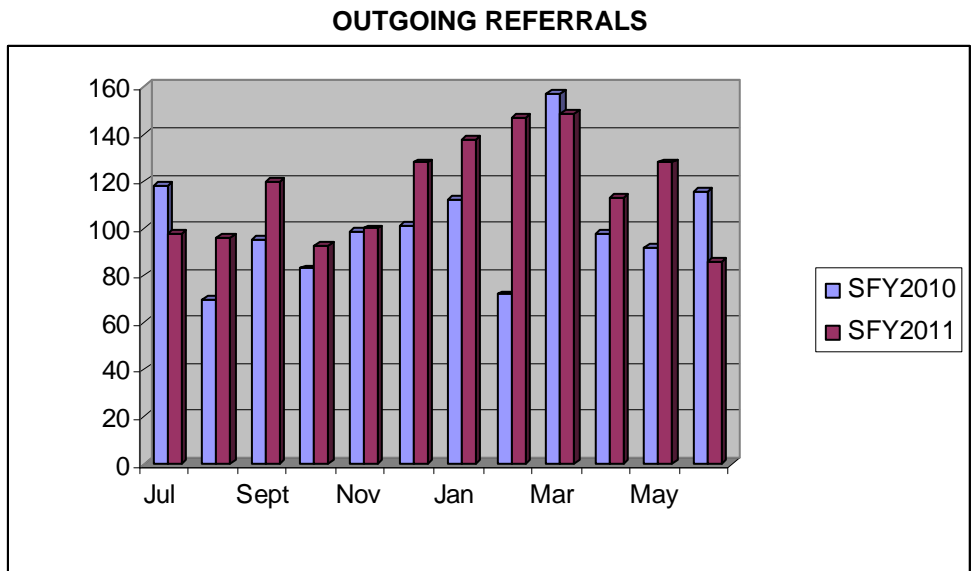
the difference between outgoing and incoming referrals. In 2010, Nevada received 801 incoming referrals and 1213 outgoing referrals, a difference of 412. In 2011 (as of June 22, 2011), Nevada received 910 incoming referrals as compared to 1396 outgoing. This reflects a difference of 486. Nevada sends and receives the most number of referrals from California, followed by Oregon and Utah.

Figure 18 Incoming Referrals



Source: UNITY Report CFS320

Figure 19 Outgoing Referrals



Source: UNITY Report CFS320

Table 43 reflects the number of incoming ICPC home studies. Federal law requires states to have in effect a procedure for the orderly and timely interstate placement of children. Under section 471(a) (26), of the Act, a State is required to complete and report on foster and adoptive home studies requested by another State **within 60 days**.

Table 43 Incoming Home Studies

INCOMING HOME STUDIES	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
SFY 2010	78	78	80	85	74	63	36	34	79	72	73	28	780
SFY 2011	74	93	69	84	76	70	66	42	94	89	79	37	873
OUTGOING	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
SFY 2010	104	86	107	87	142	117	103	88	116	104	100	123	1277
SFY2011	92	83	103	79	85	115	148	114	158	115	136	86	1314

Source: UNITY Report CFS733

Figure 20 reflects the total number of incoming home studies that were processed in Nevada for SFY 2010 and SFY 2011. In SFY2010, Nevada averaged 65 incoming home studies each month and increased this by 11% to 73 for SFY2011 (through June 22, 2011). States requesting home studies most often are California, Arizona and Utah. Figure 21 reflects the total number of out-going home studies. There were 39% more outgoing home studies in SFY 2010 than incoming home studies and for SFY2011, that difference decreased to 34%.

Figure 20 Incoming Home Studies

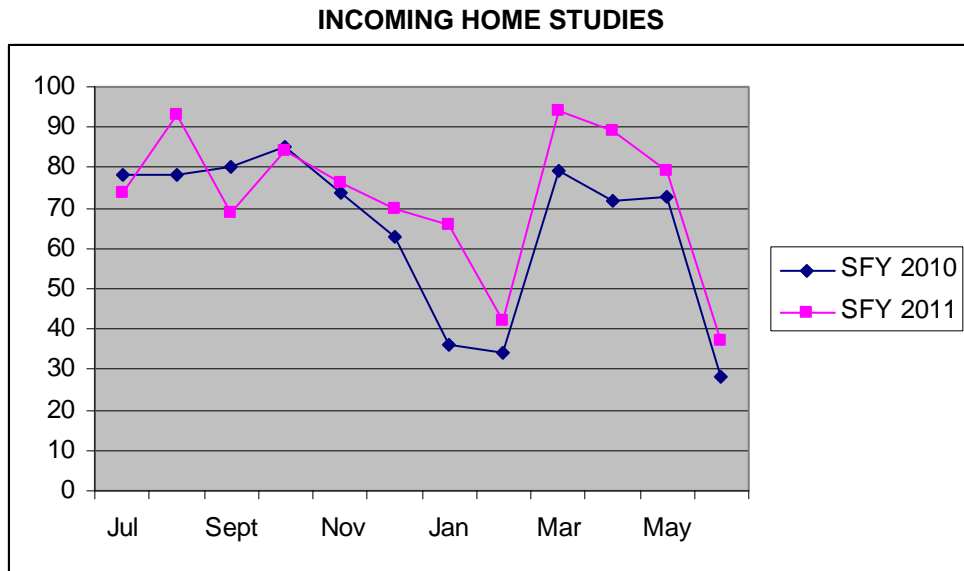
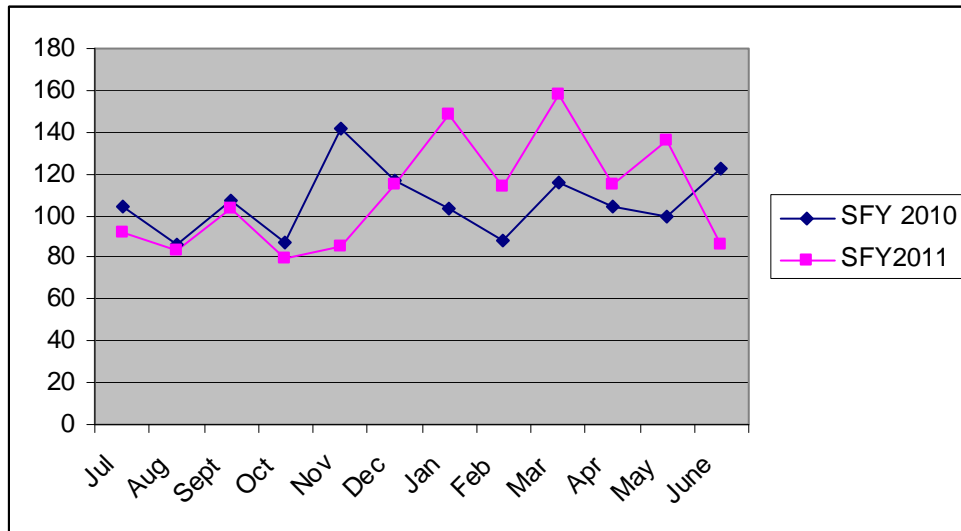


Figure 21 Outgoing Home Studies

OUTGOING HOME STUDIES



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: CFCIP & ETV

Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program (CFCIP) & Education Training Voucher Program (ETV)

Goals and Eligibility

The goal of Nevada's Independent Living Program for Youth (IL) is to provide youth making the transition into adulthood with the skills and resources necessary to be independent and productive members of society. The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services are responsible for the oversight of IL Programs in Nevada. The oversight responsibility is assigned to the statewide IL Specialist. Nevada is a state-supervised and county-administered program in the two major metropolitan counties, Clark and Washoe. Nevada continues to supervise and administer all child welfare programs in the remaining 15 rural counties, which are managed by the DCFS - Rural Region. Nevada plans to continue the implementation of its IL Program by allocating both federal and state funds to the two county-administered programs, the State administered DCFS - Rural Region, and tribal entities. The State will continue to retain a portion of the federal funds to develop statewide systems and materials to support county and rural implementation efforts, to monitor program development and implementation, to provide technical assistance, and to continue to assess program impact. Nevada and its IL partners will cooperate with the national evaluations of the effects of IL programs in achieving the purposes of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

Nevada's IL Program is a set of services available to all foster youth between the ages of 15 until the age of 21. The DCFS considers all eligible foster youth to include those youth who are in the care and custody of the DCFS, WCDSS, CCDFS, or tribal youth. IL services may continue with the child after permanency has been achieved, depending on the needs of the child. Nevada will also extend IL services to eligible youth who have relocated to Nevada from another state. The requirements for Chafee and the Fund to Assist Former Foster Youth (previously known as AB94 and now recognized as NAC 432 FAFFY or Transition from Foster Care) requires each region and the tribal representative (currently Stepping Stones) to identify its local plan for providing services. Each year, Chafee and FAFFY monies are calculated and distributed to each region based upon the total number of youth in care, the number of 17 year olds in care, and the total number of youth receiving IL Services. It is anticipated that Clark County will receive approximately 70% of the funds; Washoe County will receive approximately 19%; the Rural Region will receive approximately 9%; and the tribal representative will receive approximately 2%.

Federal IL funding is provided to all county and state programs to provide IL services, expand existing services, and to establish new services to eligible children. Federal funds are combined with existing state funds to provide IL services to eligible foster youth and former foster youth transitioning to independence. State funds through the Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth Program (FAFFY) are funds dedicated to Nevada foster youth who are transitioning from care and for Nevada youth who have aged out of the Nevada foster care system.

Scope of Services

Funds for the IL Program are distributed from the state to the counties, the DCFS - Rural Region, and designated tribal program to support IL program development and activities. In Clark County, Chafee funds are distributed through the Department of Family Services (CCDFS) to Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY), a non-profit organization. Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessments and life skills classes are provided by CCDFS and SAFY staff for youth currently in care and by Child Focus, a private non-profit agency, and their Step-Up Program for youth who have aged out of care who partners within the private non-profit and profit sector to compliment their array of IL services. In addition, state resources from the Assistance to Former Foster Youth Fund (FAFFY) are combined with Chafee funds for youth who have left placement. CCDFS changed their FAFFY and Step-Up program provider this year, and consolidated services within the agency. This change was made to streamline the service providers involved with the youth and to centralize services to youth.

In Washoe County, all Chafee and state funds are routed through Washoe County Department of Social Services (WCDSS) to the Children's Cabinet, a private, non-profit organization, to provide IL services to eligible youth who are in custody and to those youth who have left placement. The Rural Region routes both federal and state funds through Family Resource Centers (FRC) for all IL program activities for youth in care, and to those youth who have left placement. The Children's Cabinet also has limited Chafee funds to assist the Rural Region in special IL related activities. The Request for Proposals for the rural provides of Chafee and FAFFY funds for the time period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013

went out and three of the four rural providers remained the same, while the Fallon district funds were awarded to Lyon County Social Services.

Nevada distributes IL funds, both federal and state funds, to tribal youth through the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Stepping Stones Shelter enabling the tribes to develop programming specific to tribal youths needs. Stepping Stones was designated to be the Chafee recipient by the Nevada tribal entities after lengthy consultation and deliberation.

In the previous APSR reporting period for FY 2010, Nevada's IL sub-grantees and service providers in the southern region were provided with additional technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Youth Development (NRCYD) with a Train the Trainer training in the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment Plus (ACLSA Plus) curriculum. In FY 2011 the NRCYD returned to Nevada and trained staff in both the Northern and Southern regions of the state. In this round of training juvenile justice staffs were also trained. Once the ACLSA is consistently implemented in both the child welfare and juvenile justice settings as the assessment tool, Nevada will be the first state to implement this system consistency across programs.

The state received technical assistance funds from Casey Family Programs to allow the state to sub-grant to an organization to establish a statewide workgroup made up of all child welfare agencies and the private, non-profit providers working with the agencies, as well as youth representatives, foster parents, and DCFS Family Programs Office and Integrated Management System (IMS) staff in analyzing and standardizing the entire statewide IL program. Through this process led by Face 2 Face Technologies, a new statewide policy was developed and implemented. The revised statewide independent living policy addresses the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, and the Health Care Legislation's requirement of informing youth of the durable power of attorney option. Not only is Nevada implementing IL services consistently across the state, but one of the tools developed through this process, a brochure explaining the durable power of attorney for youth, has been posted on the National Resource for Permanency's website and recognized as a promising practice. This workgroup also resulted in the creation of a core group of IL staff from all regions of the state who meet monthly to strategize on program implementation issues, ensure consistency of practice among regions, staff difficult cases and is utilized for PIP activities related to independent living.

DCFS created a workgroup to establish Nevada's evaluation and data collection process to be in compliance with the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requirements. DCFS had initially contracted with Digital Matrix Software Solutions (DMSS) through the University of Nevada, Reno to facilitate online reporting for statewide grantees and sub-grantees of Chafee, FAFY and ETV. However, it has since been decided that the DCFS IMS unit will be responsible for online reporting of Chafee as well as NYTD. Foster Club is the contracted provider for NYTD outreach and survey requirements. The results of the surveys are being provided to IMS by Foster Club, and are being uploaded into the state's SACWIS system. Nevada submitted its NYTD file on time and appears to have two errors related to how youth answered the survey's rather than lack of information. The state is awaiting feedback from ACF on the impact those errors will have on federal funding and guidance on next steps.

Statewide public and private partnerships are developed to provide IL services throughout the state. Each region develops a service array unique to their community. Representatives from IL partners from all regions, including tribal representation and IL youth, contributed to the development of the statewide CFSP process. An IL oversight committee meets quarterly in Clark County to review IL programs within the region. The primary focus of the committee has been addressing the needs of foster youth transitioning from care, and the needs of former foster youth. The committee is chaired by the CCDFS Child Welfare Services Division Manager responsible for the Independent Living, Foster Care, and Adoption programs and is comprised of representatives from public and private stakeholders, including the private providers, court, youth, former foster youth, and foster parents.

Room and Board: DCFS certifies that no more than 30 percent of their allotment of Federal funds will be expended for room and board for youth who left foster care because they attained 18 years of age but have not yet attained 21 years of age. All regions utilize Chafee and FAFY monies to assist youth, ages 15-21, with transitional living needs. At age 16, depending on youth maturity and needs, youth statewide can live in an apartment under an IL Contract. Clark County will continue to partner with the Boys Town and St Jude's Ranch for Children which allow youth to select the type of support and assistance needed in achieving their independence. Both Boys Town and St. Jude's provides a more structured supportive environment. However, Nevada allows foster youth to reside in agency supervised apartments at age 16.

Medicaid Coverage: Nevada Revised Statute 422.2717 requires the Medicaid State Plan to include and serve foster youth who have aged out of the foster care system. This legislation established a new category of Medicaid eligibility allowing children in the state or county foster care who after reaching the age of 18 may continue to receive Medicaid assistance until the age of 21. The Aging-Out of Foster Care Medicaid Program has been in effect since 2005. Eligibility rules were

simplified to include the following: one page application for Medicaid assistance; provide verification of aging out in any U.S. state or territory; be a citizen or qualified alien; provide verification showing age; meet Nevada resident requirements; and, fully cooperate with the annual case eligibility re-determination.

Trust Funds: Nevada does not have a trust fund program for IL Youth.

IL Program Objectives:

1. DCFS will identify and support Legislative activities impacting youth in foster care and or youth leaving foster care. During the 2011 76th regular session several bills were enacted that impact youth. Work will begin in 2011 to analyze the impact of these new laws on both policy and practice. The following are those bills enacted during the 2011 Legislative session.
 - (a) SB 154 also known as the "Foster Care Bill of Rights" was enacted during this session. This act establishes provisions which set forth certain rights of children and youth who are placed in foster homes; requiring notice of those rights to children and youth placed in foster homes, and establishes a procedure for children and youth who are placed in foster homes to report alleged violations of those rights.
 - (b) SB 350 was enacted that requires a court that orders a child to be placed with someone other than a parent to retain jurisdiction over the child after the child reaches the age of 18 years in certain circumstances; requires an agency which provides child welfare services to continue to provide services and monetary payments to such a child while the child remains under the jurisdiction of the court; requires the agency which provides child welfare services and such a child to enter in to a voluntary written agreement; requires the agency which provides child welfare services to develop a plan for such a child to assist the child in transitioning to independent living, and revises various provisions relating to a child placed with someone other than a parent.
2. DCFS will continue the work begun with Casey Family Programs to implement the results of the IL Program Evaluation and Strategic Plan by July, 2010.
 - (a) The Casey Family Programs assisted the State in identifying service gaps and developing a strategic plan to address and overcome presenting challenges that limit comprehensive, consistent IL program services throughout the State. The Casey Family Programs assisted in the IL Program assessment and evaluation and the development of a standardized overall service program delivery system. The result of this work was a new statewide policy to support and clarify consistent practice statewide. Nevada is now using consistent assessment, independent living plans, and referral forms across the state. This consistency in practice will ideally eliminate service gaps and provide equal services to all youth.
3. DCFS will continue to elicit assistance from the NRCYD in order to support activities/practices to assist youth in developing the skills necessary for successful transition to adulthood.
 - (a) In addition, there will be an emphasis on how to create and sustain statewide and local advisory boards to assist youth with advocacy, self-advocacy, leadership development, and program improvement efforts.
4. DCFS recognizes the need for continuous training and technical assistance as follows:
 - (a) Continue to utilize training and technical assistance from the National Resource Centers for development and implementation of IL programs statewide and Casey Family Programs;
 - (b) Collaborate with foster care training, recruitment, and licensing to develop an IL training module for foster parents;
 - (c) Include IL foster youth (current and former) to assist in the training of foster parents;
 - (d) Provide statewide training to existing foster parents and care providers regarding IL services and resources;
 - (e) Develop training for staff and supervisors regarding the identification of significant connections for youth and how to perform diligent search;
 - (f) Train staff and supervisors to ensure that they are knowledgeable about the full array of housing options that best meet the individualized needs of youth.
 - (g) Collaborate to enhance the coordination between IDEA and IL planning; and

- (h) Continue to provide statewide training to all workers, supervisors, IL partners and stakeholders regarding IL, and access to services.
- 5. DCFS will build continue to work towards building collaborative relationships with other federal agencies serving at-risk and neediest youth.
 - (a) Collaborative Development will occur with the following:
 - i. Transitional Living Programs
 - ii. Workforce Investment/Employment Training
 - iii. Department of Education
 - iv. Department of Labor
 - v. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- 6. DCFS will continue with the progress to date of full Implementation of the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).

The Division of Child and Family Services began NYTD implementation planning during the previous APSR reporting period, and the Nevada NYTD was implemented effective 10/1/2010. The NYTD project began in the summer of 2009, with a workgroup created by DCFS. A statewide Independent Living workgroup continues to meet monthly to discuss not only statewide I.L issues but as a standing agenda item the continued progress of NYTD. To date, DCFS has completed the following:

- Completed and distributed NYTD brochures for Youth and Stakeholders. These brochures can be seen on the DCFS website under "What's New" via the web at: <http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/>
- The NYTD statewide policy was written and approved by administration on 2/18/2011, and can be seen at: http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_Policies_CW_Chapter0800.htm
- DCFS has submitted the first NYTD data transmission to the Administration on Children and Families for the reporting period 10/1/2010 to 3/31/2011.
- DCFS has continued to meet with the NYTD Workgroup to report issues, concerns and clarify any problems.
- DCFS continues our partnership with Foster Club for marketing and completion of the survey.
 - DCFS continues to encourage all youth to register with Foster Club and require all target population to register.
 - Marketing materials were provided by Foster Club regarding both information about their site and the importance of NYTD. Materials included, but are not limited to, training materials for child welfare staff members on the importance of NYTD.
 - Baseline youth are completing and continue to complete the NYTD Survey with their caseworker within 45 days after their 17th birthday. They will be able to list their UNITY (Nevada's SACWIS) Person ID in their Profile with Foster Club. This will enable "dump" of survey data from Foster Club site to UNITY.
 - Foster Club will maintain a system of contact with youth as they age out of care.
- DCFS' Independent Living Contract Providers statewide will be required to maintain contact with all youth who age out of care and participated in the Baseline Survey. Contract Providers currently provide all aftercare services for youth who have aged out of care and are the most appropriate means of contact.
- Contract Providers will assist in contacting all NYTD Follow-Up youth and facilitate their completion of the NYTD survey within the six month period of their 19th and 21st birthday. The survey will continue to be hosted on the Foster Club website.

PROGRAM GOALS

Planning for and assisting and preparing youth to achieve educational success for future self sufficiency remains a

consistent goal of the Independent Living Program.

1. Assist youth to make the transition to self-sufficiency.

Youth in foster care who reach the age of 15 must be assigned to the Independent Living (IL) program. Once a youth is referred for IL services the youth will complete the independent living skills assessment Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA). Assessment of life skills development, proficiency gaps, and educational progress are conducted with input from both the youth and any significant individual with whom they may be working. As required by Nevada statewide policy all youth will complete an IL plan within 30 days following completion of the ACLSA. The IL plan includes preparation for transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency in the areas of education, employment, health management, life skills development, family and community connections, leadership development, enrichment activities and obtainment of personal documents. The youth identify areas they feel are most important in achieving self-sufficiency, and the youth work with their caseworker to develop goals accordingly.

Furthermore, and as part of "Fostering Connections" the Independent Living policy includes the requirements for a youth "transition plan" within the 90 days of the youth's discharge from foster. Currently, and as part of the PIP a workgroup has been convened to assess UNITY capability to track transition plans and youth outcomes. The plan must include specific options for a youth's self-sufficiency regarding: Housing, Health Insurance, Education, Local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services, Work force supports, employment services and a health care power of attorney.

Currently and on-going established community-based IL contractors provide outreach and educational goal planning for foster and former foster youth. Improved tracking and reporting requirements, as well as specific outcome-based procedures have been developed and DCFS continues to work towards improved reporting. The DCFS contractors, community partners, state and county social workers continue to coordinate and collaborate to provide youth services, and ensure they are delivered to the highest number of eligible foster youth.

Referral and outreach efforts link youth to developmental appropriate community agencies and resources to assist with job seeking, training and financial assistance.

2. Assist youth receive education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment

Statewide, the Chafee funds support IL programs, which provide individualized life skills trainings and workshops for foster youth to prepare them for self-sufficiency in the community. IL Advisors assist youth to determine job interests, necessary education or vocational training, job workshops, budgets, practicing informed decision making and other skills necessary for employment. The ETV Program fund removes barriers for foster youth to attend vocational school or trainings to further their employment opportunities.

IL caseworkers and established community-based IL contractors ensure that youth receive training and experiential learning that consists of employment related activities; and assist youth with procuring necessary documents, completing applications, educational planning, contacting colleges and employers, learning interview skills, job searching, on-the-job social skills training, conflict management/resolution, transportation and gaining volunteer and other work related experience.

Clark County has developed partnerships with workforce connections and other non-profits agencies to provide additional employment services to youth.

3. Assist youth prepare for and enter postsecondary training and educational institutions.

Caseworkers and established community-based IL contractors encourage youth to follow through with postsecondary school application requirements and funding requests. IL contractors are focused on postsecondary education for youth and provide assistance in planning educational or vocational training, applying for financial aid and additional supports. This supportive environment helps more youth remain motivated to reach their educational and vocational goals. Additionally the IL provide financial assistance with services, transportation and other incidentals for obtain post-secondary education/or employment and job placement assistance.

To qualify for the ETV program, foster youth must be planning to graduate from an accredited high school, must have graduated from an accredited high school, or must have a GED or certification of high school completion for students who completed the mandatory hours required for high school instruction, but did not pass the high school proficiency exams.

The youth's postsecondary school or vocational/training program must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be accredited or pre-accredited and is authorized to operate in that state.

2. Admits only students with a high school diploma or equivalent and/or students beyond the age of compulsory school attendance.
3. May be a public or nonprofit school or training program that awards a Bachelor's Degree.
4. May be a public or nonprofit school or training program that offers not less than a two-year program and that provides credit toward a degree, or provides training towards gainful employment.
5. May be a vocational program that provides training for gainful employment and has been in existence for at least two years.

Although youth are encouraged to participate in full-time educational programs, the ETV program does not exclude youth who attend less than full-time, as this would limit the number of youth who would benefit from this program. The program provides personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and to encourage and promote interactions with dedicated adults.

IL Services are provided by contracted community partners and focus upon services for foster youth in care, the transitioning youth, and the youth who has aged-out of care. Specialized case management is developed for the youth and allows tracking and outreach. Each program coordinates information and referral for the youth. In addition, state and/or county social workers are available to youth and refer former foster youth to services. The ETV Program builds upon services available with existing programs and youth and their IL Advisors/Social Workers may contact the State IL Specialist by telephone, mail, or electronic mail for continued ongoing information and support. ETV provides financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster youth between 18 and 21 years of age.

ETV funds may be applied for in conjunction with other funding sources, including the State Fund for Former Foster Youth. The amount of a voucher shall be disregarded for the purposes of determining the recipient's eligibility for, or the amount of, any other federal or federally-supported assistance. Current programs created especially for the former foster youth provide referrals, goods, and services for this population. The ETV Program is an added component of these services. The total amount of educational assistance to a youth under the ETV Program and under other Federal and Federally supported programs shall not exceed the total cost of attendance or \$5000 per year, as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965. DCFS shall take appropriate steps to prevent duplication of benefits under this and other federal and federally supported programs. ETV Funds can be used for, but not limited to:

- Tuition and Fees
- Tutoring and Required Tests
- Transportation
- Books and Supplies
- Uniforms, Tools of the Trade
- Computer, Printer, Supplies
- Childcare
- Utilities and Deposits
- Meal Plan, Glasses, Adaptive Software, etc.

Vouchers are available for education and training, including postsecondary education to youth who have aged out of foster care. The youth's state or county ILP Social Worker/IL Advisor shall inform youth of the ETV program and how to apply. The State IL Specialist will inform community service providers and other state agencies, which maybe serving former foster youth of the resources available for the youth. In addition, queries by social service agencies, the foster and adoption community, high schools, vocational schools, colleges and universities concerning the ETV program shall be supplied with information and/or referrals. Youth may also access applications by contacting contracted aftercare service providers, by on-line applications, or contacting the State IL Specialist.

Outreach in development includes coordination with the admission and financial aid staff of Nevada's community colleges and universities and vocational/technical schools. All foster youth exiting care are informed of resources and services available and are encouraged to develop a support network within their community. Foster youth participating in the ETV program on their 21st birthday shall remain eligible, until they turn 23 years old, as long as they are enrolled in a

postsecondary education or training program and are making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program.

Nevada Matching Funds

Nevada provides additional funding to eligible youth who have aged-out of the State foster care system. Funds may be used in conjunction to ETV funds to provide additional financial supports for the foster youth while a student. A portion of the state fund for the Assistance to Former Foster Youth Program (20%) is the match for the ETV program grant.

4. Provide personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults

The IL program specialist is the adult advisor to the statewide Youth Advisory Board. The board meets 4 times a year via video/teleconference and twice in person. This year the YAB held elections and selected 4 new officers at the spring face to face meeting. The four offices held are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasure/Historian. The spring face to face meeting was held on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. All of the youth were very excited; they toured the facility, made lunch with the first family's personal chef, stayed in the cottage and apartment, and has the opportunity to meet Governor Sandoval and the First Lady. It was a great experience for all who attended.

The Court Improvement Project is working with DCFS on including a former foster youth, one of Nevada's most involved YAB members to be on the CIP Committee. This youth will be a great addition and will provide valuable feedback to the Judiciary and related stakeholders.

The I.L Specialist attended the 2011 National Pathways to Adulthood Conference which was held in Denver Colorado this year. The conference goals were to present the most innovative practices across systems promoting positive transitions to adulthood, highlight successful public and private collaborations assisting youth in transitioning to adulthood, to showcase strategies involving youth and family members/caring adults in the development and delivery of transition services and to provide cross-system networking opportunities for those who work with youth who are transitioning to adulthood. Nevada had IL specialists from Reno, Las Vegas and Carson City attend the conference. There were youth from Reno and Carson City who also attended. Two youth from Carson City were also invited as presenters, and their presentation was titled, "Foster Youth Success Utilizing the Work Experience Model." They spoke about how the work experience model through the Ron Wood Family Resource Center (IL Contractor) has helped them to find work in fields that they are interested in pursuing.

In July 2011 Clark County will host the Statewide Youth Conference, and approximately 75 youth from around Nevada will spend 2 ½ days participating in the conference.

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

Statewide public and private partnerships are developed to provide IL services throughout the state. Each region develops a service array unique to their community. Representatives from IL partners from all regions, including tribal representation and IL youth, contributed to the development of the statewide CFSP process.

An IL oversight committee meets monthly in Clark County to review IL programs within the region. The primary focus of the committee has been addressing the needs of foster youth transitioning from care, and the needs of former foster youth. The committee is chaired by the Director of the CCDFS and is comprised of representatives from public and private stakeholders, including the court, youth, former foster youth, and foster parents.

In Clark County the Housing Coalition meets monthly to discuss housing needs for youth ages 15 and older. The housing Coalition has created 42 licensed and unlicensed beds to support a housing continuum for youth

6. Make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary education, to youth who have aged out of foster care.

EDUCATION TRAINING VOUCHER PROGRAM (ETV)

The State was recently awarded \$507,757 for 2011 which will serve youth during the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

DCFS supervises the ETV program and distributes ETV funds to eligible youth through a sub-grant to a community non-profit organization. The Children’s Cabinet, has been successful in improving the provision of ETV services to our youth. The Children’s Cabinet has designated one staff person to administer the funding allowing youth statewide to have one point of contact. A toll-free number is provided and the application along with program rules is provided on the Children’s Cabinet website. Brochures have been distributed statewide to all IL providers and child welfare agencies.

Information on the Educational Training Vouchers can also be found on the DCFS website and link to the IL Program.

Table 44 depicts the number of youth receiving ETV awards.

Table 44: Education and Training Voucher funds Data

FFY	Number of youth Receiving ETV Awards
2009-2010	362
2010-2011	556

7. Provide services to youth who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption.

During the 2011 Legislative Session AB 110 the “Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program” was enacted. Nevada is currently working on an analysis of the necessary amendments to policy and practice as well as a necessary amendment to the State’s IV-E Plan for approval to implement the program in FFY 2012.

In addition, services planned for youth who have obtained 16 years of age and have been adopted includes individual counseling, family counseling and referrals to community-based agencies.

APPENDIX B: Disaster Response Plan

This plan was submitted with the June 30, 2008 APSR report. While there have been no updates to the language in this policy and plan, the policy format has been updated and the policy has been renumbered. It is now policy number 1501. This policy and its attachments may be accessed on the Nevada DCFS website at: http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_Policies_CW_Chapter1500.htm.

Another law passed during the 2011 legislative session is in relation to Disaster Response Planning (SB 113) which further ensures the safety of children in foster care placements during disasters, clarifies the responsibilities of the Division and other agencies providing child welfare services during a disaster and ensures that a plan for the care of children during a disaster is developed and implemented further is requires:

- Enhances the potential for the success of the plan by requiring the Division of Child and Family Services to provide training to ensure staff understand their roles and responsibilities during a disaster.
- Requires the Division of Child and Family Services to:
 - Adopt regulations in consultation with other agencies which provide child welfare services to establish minimum requirements and procedures for plans regarding the care of children in their custody during a disaster.
 - Ensure that regulations include the provision for the development and implementation of a plan for the care of any children in the custody of an agency that provides child welfare services who have been placed in a facility for the detention of children.
 - Develop a plan for the care of children in the custody of other agencies that provide child welfare services during a disaster if such an agency is unable to meet the needs of children during a disaster.
 - Provide training and exercises as deemed necessary to ensure staff is aware of the plan, and understand their roles and responsibilities during a disaster.
 - Submit the plan to the Legislative Committee of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice and post a summary of the plan including changes as necessary, to the Division Internet website.
- Allows the Division of Child and Family Services to implement the plan at any time it deems necessary regardless of whether the agency that provides child welfare services has requested assistance.

Based upon this most recent legislation, the Division will be reviewing the Disaster Response Plan with the assistance of the State's Emergency Management Department and will make any necessary revisions and include the new provisions set forth in SB 113

APPENDIX C: Health Care Services Plan

Health Care Services Plan

A Healthcare Oversight and Care Coordination (HOCCP) workgroup was formed in early 2011. This workgroup is comprised of statewide representation; Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Clark County Dept of Family Services (CCDFS), Washoe County Dept of Social Services (WCDSS) child welfare experts, clinicians, Medicaid representation, along with pediatricians, psychiatrist and other representatives. DCFS sent out a request for workgroup membership to the various entities; Nevada Division of Health Care, Finance and Policy (Medicaid), state child welfare agencies, health care organizations, and substitute caregivers/providers organizations. These organizations then identified participants for inclusion on the HOCCP workgroup.

Nevada's unique demographic makeup and state administered and state/county run child welfare organizational structure creates unique challenges in coordinating practice statewide. The rural and frontier areas of Nevada (DCFS) have few service resources and long distances between cities, towns and communities. Clark County/Las Vegas (CCDFS) has a very large population with many service resources and Washoe County/ Reno (WCDSS) has a large population with fairly adequate service resources. The differences between the three child welfare agencies and their capabilities are significant. Add in the current economic crisis in Nevada, with diminished funds, and reductions in statewide human services, the current overall situation in Nevada is dire.

The HOCCP workgroup's mission is currently based upon the Fostering Connections Act – *Health Care Oversight and Care Coordination* section. The workgroup's focus has been to identify current practice, identify gaps in current practice and to develop strategies to improve service delivery around needed health services for children in the custody of Nevada's child welfare agencies.

Strategies	Identified Action	Required Steps
<p>Develop a schedule for initial and follow up health screenings that meet reasonable standards of medical practice.</p>	<p>Consensus by HOCCP workgroup to adopt AAP/Bright Futures periodicity schedule for EPSDT screening exams.</p>	<p>DCFS is in process of updating the CW Policy 0207 <i>Health Services</i> to include EPSDT intake screening timeframe requirements, the AAP/Bright Futures periodicity schedule and other child health services.</p> <p>Each child welfare agency will be responsible to update their workers on the newly revised 0207 policy and then ensure ongoing compliance with the policy</p>
	<p>Children entering into Nevada child welfare custody will have an EPSDT screening within 30 days of entry. The EPSDT appointment will be scheduled within 7 days of entry.</p>	<p>NV Medicaid EPSDT screening, and referral, currently includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Health and Development/ Behavioral History • Developmental/Behavioral Assessment • Comprehensive Unclothed Physical Exam (to include age appropriate sexual health screening) • Immunizations • Laboratory Procedures • Health Education • Vision Screening • Hearing screening

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Screening Develop informational handouts and/or brochures for workers and substitute caregivers on EPSDT, Medicaid, other children's health issues/treatment and prescription medications (to include psychotropics). <p>Identify service resources in each jurisdiction (physicians, mental health providers, clinics, etc.)</p> <p>Identify communication resources (Medical Associations, professional newsletters, etc.) to provide physicians information on the use, referral and billing of EPSDT & separately billable components.</p> <p>Research Evidence-Based MH screening tools for children ages 1-5 and an additional tool for use at intake for children ages 6 and up.</p>
	<p>All children entering the custody of a child welfare agency will be screened for mental health or behavioral issues. Children, ages 6 and up, entering into Nevada child welfare custody will have an initial MH Screening conducted at intake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible concerns are noted, a need for a comprehensive mental health evaluation can be further assessed, and a referral made, during the initial EPSDT screening. <p>Children, ages 1-5, entering Nevada child welfare custody will have a MH screening completed within 30-60 days of entry. MH screening for younger children requires an adult to provide the information regarding a child's needs, behaviors and symptomology since younger children have limited or no ability to verbalize their needs. The 30-60 day delay potentially provides the caseworker and caregiver the time to gain this knowledge through the caregiver's observation and daily care of the child. If possible concerns are noted early on, further assessment can occur during the initial EPSDT screening, and a referral can be made for a complete mental health evaluation.</p>	<p>Work with HOCCP Workgroup health professionals to identify and/or develop a curriculum to train workers and caregivers in identifying mental health concerns in children, to include identifying the mental health needs of young children (0-6). Child welfare agencies will collaborate to determine best process for implementing this training.</p>

	Children will have follow up EPSDT screening exams as determined by the AAP periodicity schedule as outlined in DCFS Policy: 0207.	
How health needs identified through screenings will be monitored and treated	Referrals resulting from EPSDT screenings are to be initiated within 30 days.	This practice area is covered within the revised 0207 Policy . Each child welfare agency will be responsible to update their workers on the newly revised 0207 policy and then ensure ongoing compliance with the policy revisions.
	After a child's initial referral to a dentist, dental check ups need to occur ongoing at six month intervals.	
How medical information will be updated and appropriately shared.	<p>Children's health information will be updated per 0207 Health Services Policy timeframes in the UNITY (SACWIS) Health Information window (CFS070).</p> <p>UNITY Child Medical Passport Report (Health Info) can be printed out from the CFS070 screen as needed and provided to new caregivers, health professionals or other required persons.</p>	<p>Nevada's UNITY system currently has the capacity to capture all child health information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated 0207 Health Services policy includes a requirement for entering health information into the SACWIS. • Ensure compliance with data entry requirement through DCFS quality assurance reviews. • Inform substitute caregivers of the necessity of providing medical documents and health information directly to the child welfare agency through the development and distribution of informational handouts and/or brochures regarding child's health information and the caregiver's role. • Work toward replicating Washoe County Dept of Social Services web-based health reporting system for substitute caregivers to the DCFS Rural Region child welfare agency. This system provides ease in reporting and recording of child's health information to the CW agency by the substitute caregiver.
Steps to ensure the continuity of health care services.	<p>In Clark County, CCDFS nursing staff has the capacity to do initial health assessments on all children at intake, 24/7. Additionally, every effort is made to obtain all previous health records for each child after entering CCDFS custody.</p> <p>Furthermore, CCDFS recently opened a medical clinic near their reception/intake center. This clinic provides medical and</p>	<p>Children in child welfare custody are Medicaid fee-for-service eligible. Currently, Medicaid does not pay health care providers for care coordination, health care management or other service aspects of a medical home concept. Therefore, there are no current incentives for Nevada physicians to establish "Medical Home" practices.</p>

	<p>dental services to all children served by CCDFS. This clinic utilizes a “medical home” model. This clinic offers continuing medical services to children after discharge from CCDFS. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of these continuing medical services.</p> <p>WCDSS makes great efforts to identify a child's current or previous health provider in the community and then strongly encourages the substitute caregiver to keep the child with their health provider, since they would have the most information regarding the child's health history and will hopefully be willing to continue treating the child after they leave care.</p> <p>In rural Nevada, maintaining a child with their current health provider can be difficult due to the proximity of available foster homes, which may require the child to be placed a significant distance from their health provider. In this case, every effort would be made to have the child's health records transferred expeditiously to the new health provider.</p>	<p>To best ensure continuity of children's health care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child welfare agency to inform caseworkers and caregivers ,through informational handouts and/or brochures, on the importance of health care continuity; and when possible, a child having one established primary physician throughout their length of time in custody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ When not possible for a child to stay with one physician, the child's prior health records must be requested for transfer to the new health provider to ensure they can properly treat the child and address their health needs. ◦ Each child welfare agency determines their specific process for requesting health records.
<p>Oversight of prescription medication.</p>	<p>Substitute caregivers are required per NAC 424 to keep a record of prescription medication on each child.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child welfare agencies to inform caregivers, through informational handouts and/or brochures, regarding the need to use only one pharmacy to better assist in monitoring for potential drug interactions. • Child welfare agencies to require caregivers to provide timely information to the CW agency regarding potential changes to a child's medication(s).
	<p>CW agencies are required to input medications into the child's Health Information screen in UNITY.</p>	
	<p>The 2011 NV Legislature passed SB 371; SB 371 requires the appointment of a person to be legally responsible for the psychiatric care of a child. This person is required to make all decisions concerning services, treatment and psychotropic medications. When a parent is willing and able they must be the person appointed to carry out these responsibilities. This person is required to maintain current information concerning the medical history and emotional, behavioral and educational needs of the child. This bill</p>	

	<p>ensures that all necessary decisions and written consents can be obtained prior to a child receiving psychiatric services, treatment or psychotropic medications.</p> <p>The 2009 NV Legislature enacted law surrounding the use of psychotropic medication in foster children age 4 and younger, the use of polypharmacy or off label use of medication for foster children.</p>	
	<p>DCFS, through a statewide stakeholder workgroup, developed and implemented a policy regarding the use of psychotropic medications that both supported and expanded on the 2009 NV law. (Policy 0209 <i>Use of Psychotropic Medication in Child Welfare Custody Children</i>).</p> <p>The new law, SB 371, ensures that legal written consent can be quickly obtained prior to administration of psychotropic medication to a child.</p>	<p>Update UNITY capability to track specific psychotropic medication use in foster children and to flag CW personnel regarding certain circumstances identified by policy/law.</p> <p>Update psychotropic medication list every six months from the NIMH website.</p>
<p>How agency actively consults and involves physicians and other professional in assessing the health and wellbeing of children in foster care and in determining appropriate medical treatment for the children.</p>	<p>HOCCP workgroup will act as an ongoing committee to review the health care service plans, strategize on healthcare related issues, and provide feedback to child welfare agencies through recommendations to the DMG.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCFS will develop a quality assurance process to review child welfare agency compliance with 0207 Health Services Policy. This review will occur annually, the resulting report will be provided to the HOCCP Workgroup for their review and input. This report and HOCCP recommendations will be submitted to the DMG. • HOCCP workgroup members will continue to meet quarterly. • The HOCCP workgroup will provide ongoing planning, make plan revisions, oversee the implementation of the plan and assist in the identification of other needed health services for foster children. • Interface with the Health Division's Maternal Child Health Advisory Board. This Board identifies priority health areas each year, and then addresses them through various activities to improve services.
<p>Steps to ensure that the components of the I.L. 90-Day Transition Plan development process relating to the health care</p>	<p>Effective July 1, 2005, young adults who have "aged out" of foster care may receive Medicaid as an "Independent Foster Care Adolescent". This includes children who were in the custody/in foster</p>	<p>Per the Health Care Reform Act, NV Medicaid (DHCFP) will revise their policy to allow "aged out" youth to stay on Medicaid until age 26. This will take effect on 01/01/2014.</p>

<p>needs of children aging out of foster care, including the new requirement to include options for health insurance, information about a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document recognized under State law, and to provide the child with the option to execute such a document, are met.</p>	<p>care through the Division of Child and Family services (DCFS), DCFS-Youth Parole, Clark County DFS, Washoe County DSS, tribal Social Service agencies, or in foster care in another state.</p> <p>To qualify for Medicaid in this category, an individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be under 21 years of age; • have been in foster care under the responsibility of the state at the time they turned 18 years of age; and • meet citizenship and residency requirements. <p>Young adults, who age out of foster care in Nevada, will be given the opportunity to apply through their state or county caseworker when they are exiting foster care. If they choose not to apply at that time, but later decide they need assistance, they can apply at any time prior to their 21st birthday.</p> <p>Application for this type of Medicaid occurs through the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS).</p> <p>The current DCFS Independent Living Policy requires that during the 90-Day Transition plan that the youth is educated regarding the importance of designating an "Agent" to make healthcare decisions, through a healthcare power of attorney, in case the youth should become incapacitated and unable to make their own health decisions. State and county child welfare agencies are obligated to provide the youth the opportunity to execute a healthcare power of attorney upon attaining age 18 when they can legally sign such a document.</p>	
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ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Glossary of Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
AFCARS	Adoption Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System
APSR	Annual Progress & Service Report
ASFA	Adoption and Safe Families Act
CANS	Child Abuse and Neglect System
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CBCAP	Community Based Child Abuse Prevention
CCDFS	Clark County Department of Family Services
CCFAPA	Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
CFCIP	Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
CFSP	Child and Family Service Plan
CFSR	Child and Family Services Review
CFT	Child and Family Team
CIP	Court Improvement Project
CJA – TALCIT	Children’s Justice Act Technical Assistance to Local Communities and Indian Tribes
CJA	Children’s Justice Act
CPS	Child Protective Services
CRP	Citizen Review Panel
CTF	Children’s Trust Fund
DCFS	Division of Child and Family Services
DCFS-RURAL	Division of Child and Family Services Rural Region
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DMG	Decision Making Group
DR	Differential Response
ETV	Educational Training Voucher
FPO	Family Programs Office
FRC	Family Resource Center
GMU	Grants Management Unit
ICAMA	Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
ICJ	Interstate Compact for Juveniles
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
ILP	Independent Living Plan
IMS	Information Management System
IV-E	Title IV-E
MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team
NAC	Nevada Administrative Code
NCANDS	National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
NCFAS	North Carolina Family Assessment Survey
NPT	Nevada Partnership for Training
NRC	National Resource Center
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes
NYTD	National Youth in Transition Database
ODES	Online Data Entry System
OPPLA	Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
PART	Policy Approval and Review Team
PIP	Program Improvement Plan
PRIDE	Parent Resources for Information Development and Education
QA	Quality Assurance
QI	Quality Improvement
QICR	Quality Improvement Case Review
SACWIS	Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
SAFE	Structured Analysis Family Evaluation

SAFF	Sierra Association of Foster Families
SB	Senate Bill
SWA	Statewide Assessment
TALCIT	Technical Assistance to Local Communities and Indian Tribes
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
UNITY	Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth
UNLV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
UNR	University of Nevada, Reno
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act
WCDSS	Washoe County Department of Social Services

ATTACHMENT B: Stakeholders and Groups

A. Child Death Review (CDR): The child death review account was established to support statewide child death review activities of the mandated Administrative Team and the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children. The activities of the committees include the following outcomes:

- Development of statewide policies, procedures, strategies, and initiatives undertaken by public child welfare;
- Issuance of public awareness messages surrounding relevant topic areas;
- Report on the number of training held each year;
- Conduct annual evaluations completed of combined statewide prevention efforts; and, monitor and report the number of contacts with statewide boards and commissions.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee to review the death of children, formed in 2003 is composed of representatives from local multidisciplinary child death review teams whose statutory purpose (NRS 432B.403) is to:

- Review the records of selected cases of deaths of children under 18 years of age in this State;
- Review the records of selected cases of deaths of children under 18 years of age who are residents of Nevada and who die in another state;
- Assess and analyze such cases;
- Make recommendations for improvements to laws, policies and practice;
- Support the safety of children; and
- Prevent future deaths of children.

Local teams members must include (a) a representative of any law enforcement agency that is involved with the case under review; (b) medical personnel; (c) a representative of the district attorney's office in the county where the case is under review; (d) a representative of any school that is involved with the case under review; (e) a representative of any agency which provides child welfare services that is involved with the case under review; and (f) a representative of the coroner's office; or other representatives of other organizations concerned with the death of the child as the agency which provides child welfare services deems appropriate for the review per NRS 432B.406. Local teams review child deaths and make recommendations regarding various agency laws, regulations, policies and practice, training and public education to the Administrative Team.

The Executive Committee makes decisions about funding initiatives to prevent child maltreatment and death, which may be based on recommendations from the Administrative Team. Additionally, the Executive Committee adopts statewide protocols for the review of the death of children; designates the members of the Administrative Team; oversees training and development for the regional CDR teams; and compiles and distributes a statewide annual report. Funding for the work of the Committee was also established as a result of AB 381, and is derived from a \$1 fee collected from death certificates issued by the State. The funds are intended to be used for prevention efforts and training of the local CDR teams.

The Administrative Team: The Administrative Team is comprised of Administrators of agencies which provide child welfare services, and agencies responsible for vital statistics, public health, mental health and public safety per NRS 432B.408. The purpose of the Administrative Team is to provide oversight for local teams and to receive the reports and recommendations from local multidisciplinary teams for review and make appropriate responses back within 90 days after receiving the report. These recommendations are made by Administrators who are able to affect agency policy or may make other recommendations to other entities regarding policy, laws, regulation or practice, and public education. The Administrative Team members may be able to resolve issues that local child death review teams have identified. The Administrative Team works with the Executive Committee in developing the annual budget, public education campaigns and public policy. Both teams work together to prevent child fatalities. The Administrative team reviews reports and recommendations from the regional CDR teams and makes decisions regarding the recommendations for improvements to laws, policies, and practices and also makes recommendations about funding for improvements, initiatives, and public education requiring expenditures.

B. Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA): The CJA task force is composed of professionals with knowledge and experience related to the criminal justice system and issues of child physical abuse, child neglect, and child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child maltreatment related fatalities. The purpose and function of the CJA is to comprehensively:

- Support, promote and initiate systematic change that will improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect.
- Review and evaluate Nevada's investigative, administrative, and both civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly of child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, federal-state, and state-tribal;
- Make policy and training recommendations in each of the following categories:
- Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and,
- Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.

C. Citizen Review Panels (CRP): Nevada's CRP's have been a great asset to the State and the field of child protection due to their ongoing commitment and continued involvement in Quality Improvement (QI) and training activities that benefit the child welfare system. The Statewide CRP was established in 1999 per NRS 432B.396 and has federally mandated responsibilities under Title I, Section 106, of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The Statewide CRP consists of representation from community-based organizations and professionals with backgrounds related to child protective services (CPS), child advocacy, children's mental health, and foster parents. In essence, the CRP's work consists of the review of internal policies and procedures within the CPS system, accomplished mainly through individual CPS case reviews. In response to meeting the federal requirement for three CRP's based on the Basic State Grant funding increase for Nevada, both the Northern and Southern Citizens Advisory Committees (CACs) were invited into the CRP process in 2006. Approval to join as a CRP was given by the Northern CAC in late 2006 and by the Southern CAC in early 2007. During 2007 and 2008, the Statewide CRP members continued to serve as regular, external stakeholders in quarterly case reviews implemented as part of the DCFS Quality Improvement Framework. Statewide CRP recommendations for 2007 focus on CPS staff training and practices, improving the DCFS QI case review process and expansion into other areas of review such as differential response and differential response training. Northern CAC/CRP recommendations for 2008 focus on CPS caseworker unit restructuring, family involvement in the child welfare system, and differential response. Southern CAC/CRP recommendations for 2008 focus on increased funding for child welfare services, policy and procedure redesign, and CPS caseworker training.

D. Court Improvement Project (CIP): Nevada's CIP was formed to address changing roles of court oversight in child abuse and neglect cases brought on by federal guidelines and Nevada statutes and is supported with federal funding. CIP continues to work closely with DCFS and other stakeholders to plan and develop changes statewide that will significantly improve the handling of child welfare cases throughout the state. The monthly schedule of meetings between the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)/CIP and DCFS is ongoing. Issues requiring a collaborative approach are discussed and items of mutual concern are identified for strategic planning. In the last year, extensive child welfare training was made available and delivered to Judges and Attorneys statewide. In addition to trainings, a final draft of the bench book, a guide for the judiciary on child welfare proceedings has been completed and is currently under review by the judiciary, the Office of the Attorney General and the DCFS Eligibility Unit. DCFS and CIP have had monthly meetings regarding a variety of child welfare topics and children assigned to youth parole and have been exploring UNITY data reports that could be useful for judges during court proceedings. CIP also received a presentation by the Eligibility Unit and were provided with recommendations for language in court orders to maximize IVE funding opportunities.

E. Mental Health Consortia: The 2001 Legislature, per NRS 433B.333 established a Mental Health Consortium in three jurisdictions: Clark County, Washoe County the Rural Counties, to encourage cross system referral, ongoing collaboration and accessibility to services. The functions of the Mental Health Consortia are to assess the need for behavioral health, mental health and substance abuse services for children and families in each jurisdiction; to determine how well the current system is meeting those needs, and to develop an annual plan on how the need can

be better met. This information is reported to the Legislative Committee on Children and Youth regularly. This group serves as an integral part of the service array process and facilitates the linkages between child welfare and children's mental health.

- F. Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT):** The Nevada Partnership for Training is a partnership, in collaboration with the Family Programs Office, the Rural Region, Clark County Department of Family Services, Washoe County Department of Social Services, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Individuals from these entities work collaboratively together to improve the child welfare training delivery system. The goal of the NPT is to assess Nevada's training delivery needs and develop and implement a comprehensive training delivery system.
- G. Foster Parent Associations:** The Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF) a non-profit organization in Washoe County and the Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (CCFAPA) a non-profit organization in Clark County are comprised of caregivers whose purpose is to ensure licensed foster/adoptive families have the information, tools and support they need to provide safe, quality care to abused, neglected and otherwise dependent children. These organizations also provide support for the 15 rural counties. SAFF primarily serves the counties in the Northern part of the State, and CCFAPA primarily services Clark County and the community of Pahrump in Southern Nye County.
- H. Out-of-State Placement Workgroup:** Members of the Out of State Placement Workgroup consist of representatives each with a specialization unique to the diagnosis and placement of Nevada youth in out of state facilities. These members include staff from Children's Mental Health, DCFS FPO, DCFS Rural Region, WCDSS, CCDFS and Juvenile Justice as well as support from management, legal and fiscal representatives as needed. Children are placed in out-of-state placements when in-state services are not available to meet their needs. The Ensuring that these out of state resources are adequate and meet the standards set by the State requires inspection, review and, sometimes, revision of State policy. This workgroup makes itself available to participate in meetings and assignments that meet these objectives and tasks. The Out of State Placement Workgroup will continue to meet periodically with the goal of developing a schedule of inspections and an equitable and fiscally responsible way to divide the travel among all participants. The workgroup recognizes that, in most cases, it is preferable to keep children in their home state and to facilitate permanency in a healthy environment. The workgroup remains committed to ensuring that when out of state placement is the only alternative for a Nevada youth that the facility meets all of the requirements set forth by State and Federal requirements.
- I. Youth Advisory Board (YAB):** The YAB assists foster and former foster youth to make the transition to adulthood. The YAB exists to provide exemplary leadership and empowerment opportunities for youth who have or will experience out of home care.

ATTACHMENT C: Assurances and Certification

Per the APSR Instructions, Nevada is not required to submit these again, as they have not changed since the submission of the CFSP in June 2010.

ATTACHMENT D: Financial Information