Children’s Services and Foster Care Overview

Legislative Analyst’s Office

Presented To:
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
On Health and Human Services
How Do Children Enter the Child Welfare Services System?

☑ Statewide, over one-half million allegations/hotline calls are received.

- About 22 percent are investigated and substantiated.
- Based on 2002 data, 25 percent to 33 percent of those substantiated eventually result in removal and out-of-home placement.
- In some cases, Emergency Response or Family Maintenance Services are used as alternatives to removal.
What Happens When There Is A Report of Child Abuse/Neglect?

1. Hotline Call Report of Abuse/Neglect
   - Case closed

2. Emergency Response Assessment (Child Welfare Service component)
   - Emergency Response child moved?
     - No
       - Child stays in home
       - Voluntary Family Maintenance offered (up to 6 months, Child Welfare Service component)
       - Service successful?
         - Yes
           - Child reunified or placed in other care (Kin-Gap program)
         - No
           - Child placed in out of home placement
             - Group Home
             - Foster Family Agency (FFA) placement
             - Foster Family Homestead (FFH) placement
           - Service successful?
             - Yes
               - Child reunited or placed in other care (Kin-Gap program)
             - No
               - Child remains in Fostercare

3. Emergency Response child not moved?
   - Continued Emergency Response offered (up to 30 days, Child Welfare Service component)
   - Service successful?
     - Yes
       - Child reunified or placed in other care (Kin-Gap program)
     - No
       - Child remains in Fostercare

4. Dependency Petition filed
   - Child removed from home
   - Child placed out of home

   - Group Home
   - Foster Family Agency (FFA) placement
   - Foster Family Homestead (FFH) placement

5. Service successful?
   - Yes
     - Child reunited or placed in other care (Kin-Gap program)
   - No
     - Child remains in Fostercare
What Are the Foster Care Placement Options?

- If child is removed from home, placement may be in one of the following: Group Home (GH), Foster Family Agency (FFA) placement, or Foster Family Home (FFH).

- **Foster Family Homes** are licensed residences that provide care for no more than six children.

- **Foster Family Agency Placements** are private, nonprofit corporations that provide treatment and certify placements for children with higher level treatment needs and are designed to be an alternative to Group Homes.

- **Group Home Placements** provide 24 hour supervision in a structured environment. Facilities range from small (up to six foster children) to large homes that house many children. This is the most intensive and costly form of care designed to support children with the most significant treatment needs.

- **Kinship Care (Kin-Gap) as a Placement Alternative.** Kin-Gap is a voluntary program for relatives caring for foster children who will not be reunified with their parents. This is considered a permanency option as the child leaves the Child Welfare System. The relatives receive a monthly grant equal to that of an FFH provider.
What Are the Costs and Caseloads For Foster Care?

(2005-06)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Out of Home Placement Type</th>
<th>Average Monthly Caseload</th>
<th>Monthly Cost Per Case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Home care</td>
<td>12,207</td>
<td>$5,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Family Agency (FFA)</td>
<td>19,736</td>
<td>1,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Family Home (FFH)</td>
<td>42,547</td>
<td>726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinship care (Kin-Gap)</td>
<td>16,089</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>90,579</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Group Home placement represents the most intensive service level and highest cost placement option. This type of placement represents 13 percent of cases.

- Foster Family Home placements are the most common, representing 47 percent of total out-of-home placements.

- Entry into Kin-Gap program is considered a permanent placement option; the child is no longer within dependency court jurisdiction.
What Are the Costs and Caseloads for Child Welfare Services Components?

(2005-06)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Total Proposed Funding (In Thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Assessment</td>
<td>17,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response</td>
<td>44,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Maintenance</td>
<td>24,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Reunification</td>
<td>22,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Placement</td>
<td>58,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>167,388</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detail may not total due to rounding.

- While in a Foster Care placement, a child will also be provided Child Welfare Services. This service component is usually either Family Reunification services or Permanent Placement services.

- Family Reunification provides intervention and services to enable the child in foster care to return to the home. The reunification plan must be completed before the child may be returned to the home.

- Family Maintenance provides services to families while keeping the child in the home.

- Services provided under both Family Maintenance and Family Reunification include:
  - Counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting education, and domestic violence intervention.
## Overall Funding for Children’s Services

(2005-06, In Thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>$999,290</td>
<td>$458,793</td>
<td>$357,736</td>
<td>$134,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care</td>
<td>1,629,452</td>
<td>477,744</td>
<td>460,683</td>
<td>691,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kin-Gap</td>
<td>97,889</td>
<td>58,961</td>
<td>19,464</td>
<td>19,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,726,631</strong></td>
<td><strong>$995,498</strong></td>
<td><strong>$837,883</strong></td>
<td><strong>$844,690</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>