

# District of Columbia Government Child and Family Services Agency



## Annual Public Report FY 2010



## **MISSION**

The mission of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) is to promote the safety, permanence, and well-being of children and families in the District of Columbia.

## **PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT ON PERMANENCY**

In 2009, CFSA adopted the following philosophical statement on permanency to guide the practice of establishing the lifelong connections that are essential to a child's overall well-being:

Permanency is reunification, adoption, guardianship or legal custody. When these options are exhausted, CFSA will assure the establishment of an enduring connection with at least one committed adult who is safe, stable and able to provide the following components of a supportive relationship: 1) physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and spiritual well-being; 2) respect for racial and ethnic heritage and traditions; 3) respect for maintaining natural bonds with the birth family; and 4) lifelong support, guidance and supervision to the youth as the youth transitions from foster care to self-sufficiency.

# Table of Contents

- Introduction .....4
- 1. Methods of Assessment and Evaluation.....5
- 2. Review of CFSA Accomplishments in FY 2010 .....8
- 3. Additional Practice Improvements .....15
- 4. Preview of Priority Areas in FY 2011 .....16
- 5. Statistical Analyses of Foster Care Cases and Permanency  
Outcomes .....19
- 6. Recommendations for Additional Legislation or Services to Overcome  
Challenges .....30
  
- Appendices
- Appendix A: Excerpt from the CFSA Establishment Act of  
    April 2001 .....31

# Introduction

## Requirements of DC ASFA

1. Abused and neglected children shall have case plans reviewed periodically to determine safety and progress toward achieving permanence.
2. Reasonable efforts are made to reunify children with their families, unless contrary to the child's safety.
3. Reports of abuse and neglect are expeditiously investigated and appropriate action is taken.
4. Families of abused and neglected children are provided necessary services to ameliorate problems and, when possible, to reunify.
5. Quick action is taken to implement a permanency plan of adoption or another appropriate alternative planned permanent placement if family preservation or reunification services are unsuccessful.
6. Criminal record checks are performed as part of the licensing process for all prospective kinship caregivers, foster or adoptive parents, or legal guardians.
7. Administrative reviews and permanency hearings are held in a timely manner for all children adjudicated as neglected.
8. Notice and Opportunity to be Heard in neglect and parental termination cases is provided to a child's placement resource, foster or preadoptive parent, kinship caregiver, legal guardian, as well as the child's therapist.
9. Procedures related to interstate adoptions and medical assistance are established.

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) became a cabinet-level agency after passage of the District of Columbia's *Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Establishment Act of April 2001*. Since its inception, the driving force of the Agency has been to protect children and youth from abuse and neglect. CFSA's team of licensed and professionally-trained social workers, as well as its administration, support staff, and community partners, are collectively dedicated to ensuring family stability so that all children have safe "forever" homes preferably with their birth parents. If this is not possible, then CFSA actively pursues child permanency through adoption or guardianship. The CFSA team also supports older District youth on the path towards healthy, competent and independent adulthood, including maintaining a youth's strong connection to his or her community of origin.

CFSA's *2010 Annual Public Report (APR)* chronicles the Agency's teamed efforts to fulfill the permanency and child safety requirements promulgated in the *District of Columbia Adoption and Safe Families Amendment Act of 2000 (DC ASFA)*. The DC ASFA, which was enacted by DC Council in March of 2000, mirrors the same service delivery and best practices requirements that were initially set forth in 1997 by the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), Public Law 105-89.

At the time of its passage, the federal ASFA was the first substantive change in child welfare law since the *Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980*, Public Law 96-272. Stipulating the importance of mindful and focused permanency planning while protecting children's safety and well-being, ASFA's ultimate intent is to ensure that children and youth in foster care reach permanency as safely and efficiently as possible. Ideally, permanency is maintained by family stability or, if out-of-home placement is necessary, through reunification with a parent. If reunification is not possible, a range of viable planned alternatives are concurrently explored.

While reinforcing the principles and guidelines of the federal ASFA, the DC ASFA simultaneously requires the Child and Family Services Agency to implement and maintain system-wide operational improvements for the District's child welfare system. To this end, CFSA's 2010 APR details the Agency's current efforts and successful accomplishments regarding our DC ASFA's directives. Divided into six sections, the APR presents the following information:

- A description of the methods for the evaluation and assessment of the Agency's functioning, including findings from internal and external sources that determine areas of focus for improving CFSA case practice and outcomes.
- A review of the Agency's DC ASFA-related accomplishments during FY 2010 (October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010).
- Additional Agency accomplishments that are currently ensuring quality service to children and families.
- A preview of areas of focus and future strategies for FY 2011.
- Statistical analyses of FY 2010 data that relates to CFSA's foster care population, including data on placements and exit data.
- Recommendations for possible future legislation and/or service developments that will further the mission of the Agency.

## 1: Methods of Assessment and Evaluation

Annually, CFSA uses findings from internal and external evaluations of services and processes in order to help us develop (or amend) policy and to improve Agency operations and practice for providing continued quality service to children and families. During FY 2010, CFSA examined the quality and appropriateness of services from both a qualitative and quantitative perspective.<sup>1</sup> The following evaluative processes are the most useful for providing Agency management with insight into the needs of CFSA's service population as well as insight into the accomplishments, strengths and challenges of the Agency's system-wide case practice:

- Structured Progress Review
- DC ChildStat
- Quality Service Review
- Child Fatality Review
- Bi-annual Needs Assessment
- Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Findings and recommendations from these evaluative processes also enable the Agency to efficiently and effectively allocate and plan resources according to the needs and priorities that are cited in CFSA's Resource Development Plan (RDP) - *please see the end of this section for a brief overview of the RDP.*

### Structured Progress Review

DC ASFA originally identified the Administrative Review (AR) function as a requirement for all children adjudicated in the District's child welfare system. During the spring of 2010, the AR function was successfully redesigned and reorganized into the current Structured Progress Review (SPR) process. For youth ages 17 to 21 years, the AR process was integrated into ongoing periodic meetings administered by the Office of Youth Empowerment. For children with a goal of adoption who are in a pre-adoptive home for less than nine months, referrals are made for periodic barrier staffings through the 'Permanency Opportunities Project (POP)', which focuses on removing barriers to permanency.

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the ongoing quality-monitoring activities can be found in the CFSA Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan (March 2010). An addendum to the plan is anticipated in early 2011 and will provide updates on monitoring activities for continuous quality improvement throughout the Agency.

All other children in out-of-home care receive a Structured Progress Review (SPR) every six months for the duration of their placement in foster care. Utilizing greater expertise to support permanency for traditionally challenging populations, the SPR process begins with a preliminary review of the relevant client case record a few weeks in advance of the scheduled review. Elements of case practice such as provision of services, progress towards permanency, corrective actions, and compliance with federal and local requirements are identified at that time for discussion during the review.

Caregivers, family members, service providers and youth have an active role during SPR discussions. Topics include case goals, permanency options, programmatic and financial supports, as well as concerns or questions about case progress and challenges. In addition to discussions, SPR specialists evaluate the progress of the case and provide recommendations to the case management team to help guide the casework toward the best outcomes possible for ensuring safety, well-being and permanency. The SPR recommendations are documented and communicated to the assigned case-managing social workers as well as the senior management connected with each case. Ongoing follow-up occurs between scheduled reviews.

### **DC ChildStat**

Since 1997, the federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has published [forty key indicators of child well-being](#). Following the federal guidelines, the DC ChildStat provides a regular monthly forum for the thorough review of randomly selected cases that have been opened with CFSA, including cases referred to private agencies. DC ChildStat also serves as an ongoing needs assessment of case practice, allowing reviewers and evaluators to identify both positive and negative trends. Further, DC ChildStat measures progress along various case practice indicators. During DC ChildStat sessions, direct service social workers present verbal and written details on case histories, including successes and barriers, from both a case-specific and systemic perspective. Agency leadership participates by providing support and guidance on how to overcome barriers; likewise, the session provides an opportunity to inform administrators and senior management on daily issues affecting quality practice. DC ChildStat procedures also include a review of data from the Agency's statewide automated child welfare information system (known as FACES.net) in addition to relevant data stemming from the Agency's internal Quality Service Reviews.

### **Quality Service Review (QSR)**

The QSR is a detailed case review and standardized analytical process for in- and out-of-home cases that also incorporates interviews with as many members of the family and case management team as possible. The review team rates the case and conducts a debriefing and information-sharing session with both the social worker and the supervisory social worker. These sessions provide constructive appraisal and support for the worker and, following the discussion, a clear plan is formulated for continuing progress. Two months after the review, QSR specialists return to evaluate the extent to which the case management team implemented practice improvement recommendations from the QSR review.

In FY 2010, the QSR Unit continued to develop and expand the ways that it promotes best practices at the Agency. Of particular note are the following accomplishments:

- Throughout FY 2010, the QSR Unit continued to infuse QSR data into the monthly DC ChildStat meetings.
- The Agency's Office of Training Services (OTS) now includes a training module

developed by the QSR Unit to be incorporated into the pre-service training curriculum for new staff.

- Three training events were provided for new QSR reviewers over the course of FY 2010.
- For reviewers who had already completed QSR training, a “refresher” QSR training was provided to reinforce training skills and reinvigorate the QSR reviewer’s appreciation for the fundamental benefit of the QSR process to improve Agency practice.
- QSR reviewer certification was established with criteria set for completion of training.
- By the end of the 2010 calendar year, the QSR Unit had completed 69 reviews.

### **Child Fatality Review**

In the tragic event of a death of a child known<sup>2</sup> to CFSA, a multidisciplinary team comprised of CFSA and external stakeholders completes a Child Fatality Review. This review examines the circumstances and events surrounding the fatality, regardless of the cause. The review team then critically evaluates the extent of previous engagement with the child and family, and identifies pertinent practice issues that might suggest immediate and/or long-term strategies for reducing preventable deaths. The Child Fatality Review Unit also assumes responsibility for distributing specific recommendations to CFSA management and program staff. Annual Child Fatality Reports are available to the general public via the CFSA website.

### **Bi-Annual Needs Assessment**

CFSA completes a comprehensive, Agency-wide *Needs Assessment* that bi-annually evaluates current and projected out-of-home placements and support services within the context of helping children and youth to achieve their permanency goals. Functioning as a self-evaluation tool, the *Needs Assessment* includes insights into the experience of out-of-home care from the multiple perspectives of children and youth, families, providers, and social workers. These insights, combined with statistical analyses of additional data, identify needs that presently exist or may exist in the future if appropriate interventions are not put in place. The *Needs Assessment* also examines services and resources needed to prevent entry or re-entry into foster care. Most importantly, it seeks to identify placement-related factors that support or hinder achievement of permanency goals for children and youth in care.

### **Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)**

The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) is a comprehensive federal assessment of the District’s child welfare system and the various areas of CFSA’s practice that support safety, permanence and well-being. Developed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the CFSR incorporates three key phases, including a self-assessment, an on-site assessment, and lastly, development of a program improvement plan (PIP). In January 2007, the District submitted its self-assessment to ACF and in June of that same year, District child welfare stakeholders participated in the CFSR on-site review. The review team included both federal and local reviewers who conducted an intensive review of a sample of CFSA foster care and in-home cases to evaluate several practice and systemic functions. Lastly, the process concluded with the development of CFSA’s PIP to address any programmatic areas in need of improvement highlighted by ACF during the first two phases of the CFSR process. In January 2009, ACF approved the District’s PIP,

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<sup>2</sup> For purposes of these reviews, the definition of a child who is “known” to CFSA includes families that were involved in at least one CPS investigation or had an open CFSA case within the four years preceding the child’s death.

launching a two-year PIP implementation period (January 2009 through December 2010) during which the enumerated improvement items must be achieved to avoid fiscal penalties.

The District's PIP includes the following five (5) central themes:

- Ensuring Safety
- Improving In-Home Services
- Engaging Families and Kin in Case Planning
- Achieving Permanency
- Improving Educational Outcomes

Within these PIP themes, CFSA identified a number of benchmarks and action steps to be achieved within the two-year PIP period. Throughout the PIP implementation period, the Agency has submitted quarterly progress reports to ACF to demonstrate its progress on each action step, benchmark, and theme.

### **Resource Development Plan**

The *Resource Development Plan* (RDP) is designed to organize and establish the agenda for service development priorities that most closely reflect the results and client needs identified through the previously mentioned data assessments. In addition, the RDP tracks the continued implementation of action steps that address critical areas highlighted in the *Needs Assessment*. On a yearly basis, the RDP updates are completed in the context of the significant tasks the Agency has committed to achieving, including the following priority areas for 2010/2011:

- Development of the Agency's Strategic Plan
- Continuing to implement the provisions of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.
- Completing the federally-approved CFSR Performance Improvement Plan
- Continued implementation of the Partnership for Community-Based Services
- Implementation of contract reform
- Implementation of the Nurse Care Management Model
- Completion of the *2011 Needs Assessment*

## **2: Review of Accomplishments in FY 2010**

The following accomplishments are organized according to the nine DC ASFA requirements cited in the *Introduction* to this year's APR:

**1. Periodic Review of Case Plans** - *abused and neglected children shall have case plans that are reviewed periodically to determine safety and progress toward achieving permanence.*

*CFSA continued to hold various family-involved team meetings and periodic reviews to assess case plans, engaging youth and family members as full partners in case planning and team decision-making, whenever possible.*

Throughout FY 2010, CFSA continued to bolster its protocols for effective family engagement in order to further client involvement in case planning. CFSA's efforts have centered on bringing as many family members as possible into the case planning process. To that extent, the

Agency's accomplishments toward youth and family engagement in case planning include:

- Family contact processes within the Family Team Meeting (FTM) model have been enhanced to maximize family attendance.
- New innovative family-involved team meeting models have been introduced at various life stages of a case. Examples of these models include the Family Group Conferences and LYFE Conferences (as described below).
- Diligent Search procedures have been revised to optimize efforts for locating and contacting biological and extended family members for case participation.
- Social worker protocols have been developed for engaging incarcerated family members to minimize barriers to parental involvement in case planning during their incarceration.
- A family engagement protocol addresses considerations for clients who are victims or perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Formal processes require the Agency director's approval for a goal of APPLA, in addition to protocols that require continuing family engagement in cases where a goal change to APPLA is appropriate.

CFSA remains committed to improving family engagement throughout the case-planning process. Toward that end, the Agency continues to assess the quality of its array of family-involved meeting models in its case management approach. While the models vary according to the needs specific to the case circumstances and timeline, CFSA's maintains a standard philosophical approach throughout:

- Meetings are facilitated in a safe environment by respectful and culturally competent staff.
- Clients are partners in planning and decision-making.
- Social workers and meeting facilitators employ a strength-based approach.
- Families utilize their expertise and knowledge of their own situation to determine their needs and services.
- The primary focus remains on child safety and permanency.

The Agency's quality assurance processes also supports and improves the periodic case plan reviews. During FY 2010, Agency Program staff initiated a supervisory checklist to ensure accuracy in reviewing case plans. Program Managers within the In-Home and Out-of-Home Administrations meet with their individual supervisors to complete the tool, which focuses on safety, permanency and well-being, in a case review format. Of the tools completed, the quality assurance team randomly selects and requests three to six completed tools for a more intensive qualitative review. In addition, when a case is scheduled for review by the Structured Progress Review team, the Structured Progress Review Specialists review each case plan three weeks prior to the scheduled SPR date to review critical quality assurance indicators and data measures, many of them required by the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) or the Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

**2. Reasonable Efforts to Reunify** - *Reasonable efforts are made to reunify children with their families, unless contrary to the child's safety.*

#### *Instituted Family Group Conferences*

*Family Group Conference* – In cases where a child's permanency goal is reunification, CFSA and the Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Strengthening Collaborative will jointly facilitate a Family Group Conference (FGC), which incorporates the highest level of family involvement and self-determination among the various family-involved meeting models. While these team

meetings may be held at regular intervals as CFSA social workers and the child and family work toward the goal of reunification, it is in the days preceding reunification that are most critical. The CFSA social worker, Collaborative Family Support Worker, and the child, family, and extended family utilize the FGC to address any lingering risk factors, which potentially remain as barriers to reunification. The FGC is also an opportunity for the family team to develop strength-based solutions or remedies to risk factors and to participate in strategizing for a timely and lasting reunification.

*Listening to Youth and Families as Experts (LYFE) Conference* – LYFE conferences bring together the youth, family and kin, social workers and supervisors, and a trained facilitator at a critical juncture in the youth’s case to explore permanency options. The youth personally identifies key family members who are invited to the meeting. During the conference, facilitation is designed to let the youth have an active role in decision-making by identifying his/her strengths, communicating his/her needs, discussing his/her family’s strengths and needs, framing permanency options, and determining action steps to achieve desired outcomes.

**3. Expedient Investigation of Reports** - *Reports of abuse and neglect are expeditiously investigated, and appropriate action is taken.*

*Instituted improvements to investigations procedures through the development and implementation of the Investigations Practice Guide*

In FY 2010, CFSA completed a draft of the comprehensive Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigations Practice Guide (IPG), an easy-to-use reference tool for investigating child abuse and/or neglect allegations received by the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Hotline. Designed specifically for the CPS social worker, the Guide will provide hands-on, step-by-step procedures for implementing decisive and expedient remedies under urgent circumstances, giving children the immediate attention they need for their safety and protection, followed by long-range planning for their permanency and well being. The IPG will serve as a vehicle for implementing new evidence-informed child welfare practices while simultaneously incorporating current policy and procedures, and relevant federal and District CPS requirements.

**4. Provision of Services to Children and Families** - *Families of abused and neglected children are provided the necessary services to ameliorate problems and, when possible, to reunify children with their families.*

*Provided crucial housing assistance through the Rapid Housing Program*

In FY 2010 necessary funding was restored for the Rapid Housing Program (RHP) following a period of fiscal restraint during the previous year that focused solely on the stabilization of existing client supports. In FY 2010, RHP served a total of 54 families and 41 youth.

The RHP provides time-limited aftercare housing assistance to youth transitioning from foster care into adulthood, and additionally serves as a vital resource for all families where inadequate housing is a primary barrier to preservation or reunification. The Program remains a successful partnership between CFSA that funds the program, the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) that administers the assistance payments, and the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives (HFTCC) that provide case management and support services. Families and youth referred to the program must be employed with an income that allows them to support their housing arrangement once RHP financial assistance has ended. However, in order to ensure program utilization by accounting for the needs of families and youth whose job prospects were affected by the persistently bleak economic climate and

the poor employment outlook in the District, CFSA temporarily relaxed these eligibility criteria and its per client assistance limits for the RHP throughout FY 2010.

### *Cultural, Educational and Social Development*

In July 2010, a local non-profit organization, Extraordinary Life, partnered with CFSA and chaperoned eight young women in foster care to South Africa to participate in a cultural, educational, social and service-oriented adventure. The trip, made whilst the country hosted the 2010 World Cup Tournament, was a wonderful and rewarding experience for these youth, and was captured for television by BET International. The journey was documented from the US to South Africa and was later broadcast in over 50 countries during the fall of 2010 as a two-part documentary.

The trip to South Africa supported the development of personal relationships among the youth who participated. Not only did the young women develop relationships with each other, but they developed relationships with South African females in foster care as well. The youth developed cultural competency skills through their exposure to the culture of South Africa through the arts, cuisine, and way of life. Finally, the young women developed risk prevention and health awareness through the various workshops they attended and participated in related to HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual health.

**5. Expedited Permanency Planning** - *If family preservation or reunification services are unsuccessful, quick action is taken to implement a permanency plan of adoption or another appropriate alternative planned permanent placement.*

### *Expedited permanency for children placed in pre-adoptive homes*

During FY 2010, the Permanency Opportunities Project (POP) continued to be CFSA's most promising initiative to expedite permanency in pre-adoptive homes. From its inception two years ago, the POP has focused on "high-impact" cases of youth encountering barriers to permanency that are particularly difficult to overcome. Subsequently the project broadened its focus to provide intensive permanency support for all children in foster care. The team typically consists of the child's ongoing social worker, permanency specialist, and supervisors, whose combined methods include case mining for family, extended family members and other significant persons involved in the child's life, as well as case staffing and child-centered recruitment.

### *Strengthened and expanded post-permanency services for children and families*

CFSA ensures that support services are available to children and families post-adoption through its partnership with the Post Permanency Family Center (PPFC), administered by Adoptions Together, a private child welfare advocacy and service organization. The Agency's adoptive and guardianship families receive notification of the availability of post-permanency referral and supportive services at the time the adoption or guardianship becomes final. When necessary, the adoptive parents may negotiate with CFSA during the development of the subsidy agreement to have the Agency cover costs for support services that are not included in the conventional subsidy formula. The Center also serves individuals through web outreach and information and referral services, trains professionals, provides intake services to individuals/families, and provides outreach to individuals. During FY 2010, the PPFC offered continuous trainings for both post-permanency caregivers as well as CFSA social workers. The trainings, which are flexibly scheduled for working parents and often available online, range across the entire continuum of child welfare.

CFSA services are also available to children, youth and families following achievement of permanency. CFSA has implemented an internal post-permanency unit, which includes Master level social workers, to address the service needs of children, youth and families post-adoption and guardianship finalization.

*Continued to develop excellence in service delivery for older youth in foster care with the redesign and launch of the new Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE)*

In FY 2010, CFSA's Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) was formally launched. Formally the Office of Youth Development, OYE's array of services are now expanded to reach other CFSA administrations and private partners, serve an increased number of youth and promote the Agency's goal of reducing the number of youth with the goal of APPLA and the number of youth aging out of foster care. Under the redesign, the major areas of focus include training, implementation and roll-out of the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA)<sup>3</sup>, and the restructure of the current youth transition planning process, now beginning for all youth at age 17 ½ as opposed to age 20.

*Drafted a comprehensive Permanency Planning Policy*

As one of the outcomes of the CFSR PIP, CFSA program and policy staff collaborated to draft an all-inclusive policy which includes guidance on case planning and review, establishing and changing permanency goals, concurrent planning and terminating parental rights, among other permanency practice principles. In addition, CFSA has developed and rolled out a revised investigation training curriculum and accompanying materials to support revamped investigation training.

*Implemented provisions of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008*

In FY 2010, the District took legislative steps to remove barriers to permanency. In April 2010, the DC Council passed the *Adoption & Guardianship Subsidy Emergency Amendment Act of 2010*, which extends the duration of subsidy payments until age 21 years for youth who achieve permanency in the District through adoption or guardianship. Prior to the legislation, adoption and guardianship subsidies ceased when the youth reached 18 years of age, but foster care payments for youth who remained District wards could continue until the child reached the age of 21 years. This major local legislation aligns the respective durations of foster care payments and subsidy payments and removes a long-standing subsidy disparity viewed by many local child welfare stakeholders as a barrier to permanency.

*Expanded the existing range of placement options that best meet the needs of all children in foster care*

Initiated the use of Human Care Agreements (HCA)

In FY 2010, CFSA shifted from traditional contracting methods and initiated the use of Human Care Agreements (HCAs) to procure placement resources. CFSA now has the flexibility and capacity to intensify or scale down various placement types within the continuum, based on the variable and changing needs of the population being served. Providers must demonstrate

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<sup>3</sup> The ACLSA is a comprehensive collection of online assessments, learning plans, and learning resources designed to help engage young people in foster care to identify and gain the life skills they need to exit care. The assessments consist of statements about life skills domains deemed critical by youth and caregivers for successful adult living.

capacity to meet all requirements under specialized scopes of work for each placement setting, including performance requirements tied to the achievement of positive outcomes for children and youth in foster care.

Every prospective provider must demonstrate capacity to ensure that children are provided services consistent with a family-centered approach to care. In addition, the provider must ensure culturally competent services that build upon ethnic, socio-cultural and linguistic strengths, as well as utilizing community-based services to assist youth in maintaining connections with schools, churches, friends and family members. Lastly, HCAs require that providers develop a community-based network of services and affiliations that will facilitate supportive services for youth and their families in their community of origin as well as their community of placement.

#### Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) Project

Among the most notable triumphs of the review period was the expanded implementation of the Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) Project. The model utilizes an “extended family” support network for all CFSA resource parents. It is designed to increase the quality of supports by providing short term respite services for resource parents and children alike to promote the goals of permanency, well-being and safety of children in care. Under this model, a “constellation” is formed out of a cluster of five to ten resource homes or “satellites”, each of which may house one or two children or youth in foster care. In each constellation, there are parents in one central resource home, or “Hub”, each responsible for providing various support services to the satellite parents and the children in their care. Ultimately, stronger network for resource parents means increased stability for children and youth.

#### Stabilization and Respite (ST\*A\*R) Homes

ST\*A\*R homes provide an around-the-clock emergency placement capability for any child or youth who is medically cleared for placement and not in need of acute psychiatric services. The program is designed to serve children and youth of any age, but most children in ST\*A\*R beds are teenagers. ST\*A\*R homes provide placement following initial home removals, placement disruptions, returns from abscondence, and/or other circumstances where a child or youth may require emergency assistance. The ST\*A\*R Program also provides 5- to 10-day emergency placements in a family setting for children who come into placement after regular work hours. During this time, services and resources are put into place to facilitate a smooth transition into an appropriate foster home. At the end of FY 2010, CFSA has 12 ST\*A\*R beds throughout the District.

#### Placements for Medically Fragile and Developmentally Delayed

To address the particular needs of medically fragile (MF) and/or developmentally delayed (DD) children in need of placement, the Agency has 35 available MF/DD beds. These family-based caretakers are specially trained and equipped to deal with the sensitive and complex needs of medically fragile children. CFSA also provides 51 congregate care slots for those children whose needs are too acute for family-based care, five of these slots are designated for children who are medically fragile while the remaining 46 are for children with developmental disabilities.

#### Teen Bridge Program

The *Teen Bridge Program* is designed to serve teens in need of support and assistance to prepare for greater independence. Its workers are trained to engage and become familiar with the particular needs and challenges of each teen. Typically, residents have had behavioral

issues in previous placements, and most have been in foster care for many years. The program has proven highly effective at stabilizing volatile placement situations. Program capacity increased in FY 2010 to 38 beds, with increases for girls and for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning community, including a specialized unit for Gay, Bisexual and Questioning males.

#### Placements for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth

In FY 2010, CFSA expanded capacity within the family-based foster care model to address the particular needs of the LGBTQ population by adding a foster home that will accept up to 3 cross-dressing males. CFSA has also actively recruited potential foster and adoptive parents through a strong relationship with the Human Rights Campaign. In addition, CFSA continues to specify among its existing network of providers its need for placements that can accommodate this population. As mentioned above, the Agency introduced 6 GBQ slots for males in the Teen Bridge Program this past year.

**6. Criminal Records Checks** - *Criminal records checks are performed for all individuals seeking approval or licensure as kinship caregivers, foster or adoptive parents, or legal guardians.*

CFSA continues to strictly enforce this requirement both at the initial licensing stage and during license renewal for homes licensed in the District. The Agency does not issue a license without the results of local and federal FBI criminal background history checks. Prospective foster and adoptive homes in other states must also complete criminal background checks, although the process for renewal may differ from District practice due to state regulations.

The Agency uses 'LiveScan' technology to collect fingerprints and sends them to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). Verification from the local law enforcement database is received within minutes. MPD then transmits the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which responds with results within seven to ten days. This technology naturally expedites the licensing process and maximizes the availability of valuable resources for children and youth requiring placement at any given time.

**7. Administrative Reviews and Permanency Hearings** - *Administrative reviews and permanency hearings are held in a timely manner for all children adjudicated as neglected.*

The overarching goal of D.C. ASFA is to move foster children out of substitute care and into "safe and loving permanent homes" as quickly as possible. CFSA and the Family Court of the DC Superior Court work collaboratively to meet the federal mandate that when a child enters foster care a "permanency hearing" occurs no later than 14 months after the child's removal from home and at least once every 12 months thereafter for as long as the child remains in care. Family Court rules go beyond the federal requirements in terms of timeliness of ongoing permanency hearings, which must occur every 6 months following the initial permanency hearing. In addition, D.C. ASFA requires the court to rule that CFSA has made "reasonable efforts" to implement the child's permanency plan. As a result, Family Court updated permanency hearing court orders to prompt judges to clearly articulate the reasonable efforts CFSA made to implement children's permanency plans.

Over and above the Family Court permanency hearing process, CFSA also engages in a Structured Progress Review (SPR), which is highlighted in the 'CFSA Methods of Assessment and Evaluation' section of this document.

**8. Notice and Opportunity to Be Heard** - *Notice and Opportunity to be Heard in neglect and parental termination cases is provided to certain individuals.*

The District has remained in compliance with notice requirements under the local ASFA law through compliance with District statutes and rules governing judicial proceedings in abuse and neglect cases. Specifically, Rule 10 under the Superior Court Rules for Neglect and Abuse Proceedings mandates that parties to a case be provided notice and opportunity to be heard and defines which other parties and/or persons shall also be entitled to such notice and opportunity.<sup>[1]</sup> Rule 11 requires that a copy of petition along with a summons to appear in court be served on any parent, guardian or custodian named in the case.<sup>[2]</sup>

DC Code Section 16-2357 mandates that notice be provided to all parties to the case once a motion to terminate parental rights is filed. The same provision requires the presiding judge to direct issuance of a summons and copy of the motion to the affected parent, or other appropriate persons, either directly or constructively. As general practice, proceedings to terminate parental rights do not advance unless proper notice has been issued.

To further support notification of interested individuals in ongoing hearings, the Office of Planning, Policy and Program Support (OPPPS) within CFSA sends notification of upcoming permanency hearings to caregivers to ensure their attendance and participation in the hearings.

**9. Interstate Adoptions and Medical Assistance** - *Procedures related to interstate adoptions and medical assistance are established.*

CFSA has consistently addressed the DC ASFA requirements pertaining to interstate adoptions and medical assistance procedures since the law was passed in 2000. DC ASFA requires that any child who was eligible for adoption assistance payments during an initial adoption (which occurred on or after October 1, 1997) is to maintain that eligibility in a subsequent adoption if the initial adoption was disrupted either because the adoptive parents died or their parental rights were terminated. Additionally, the Act requires CFSA to have procedures related to interstate adoptions and medical assistance.

### 3: Additional Practice Improvements during FY 2010

CFSA is encouraged by the following additional accomplishments that were achieved during FY 2010 as a result of teaming amongst frontline social workers, administrative staff, senior leadership, and community partners. These accomplishments indicate the improvement or increased availability of services and resources to children and families, further supporting the successful outcomes expected of CFSA under DC ASFA and other legislation.

*Continued enhancement of services that support the health & well-being of children placed in out-of-home care*

As a result of the 2007 *Department of Mental Health (DMH) and CFSA Mental Health Needs Assessment*, CFSA and DMH have continued their teaming efforts to build the District's capacity for effectively meeting the mental health needs of children and youth in foster care. The multi-year plan integrates action steps to expand the repertoire of available services, targets increasing reimbursement rates to ensure appropriate service compensation, and expands the number of potential service providers through provider requirements, training, and incentives.

*Reinforcement of professional best practices through the launching of the Child Welfare Training Academy (CWTA)*

In FY 2010, CFSA introduced a new training model to ensure best practice standards are met for the District's entire child welfare system and particularly for out-of-home care. The new CFSA Child Welfare Training Academy (CWTA) specifically provides social workers, supervisors, and foster parents with the knowledge base to develop core competencies that ensure safety, well-being, and permanency for children and youth. The curricular content is also designed to be readily changed and/or modified according to new developments in best practice requirements and/or strategic priorities. This training process is further supported for success by new attendance tracking and monitoring processes that advance the Agency's commitment to professional development accountability.

*Institution of the Nurse Care Manager Model*

The CFSA Healthy Horizons Assessment Center (HHAC) is a 24-hr, seven-days a week clinic that provides onsite pre-placement medical and behavioral health screenings for all children entering foster care as well as children currently in foster care who may require a placement change. HHAC also provides comprehensive medical assessments for youth in foster following their placement or re-placement. The Nurse Care Management (NCM) Program was launched in July 2010. NCM is a Targeted Case Management model that provides case management and support, as well as functioning to facilitate access to medically necessary health care and health-related social, educational, and other service aspects for the holistic health of children within the District's foster care population.

## 4: Preview of Priority Areas in FY 2011

CFSA's priority areas for FY 2011 are carefully selected to respond to DC ASFA requirements as well as needs identified by evaluative processes.

### **1. To Support Periodic Review of Case Plans:**

*Ensure the most appropriate case planning through the development and optimization of efficient information-gathering tools and systems*

In FY 2011 CFSA will convene a work group dedicated to the comprehensive review and reconfiguration of key case-planning documents for purposes of creating an information tool that best-suited to meet the Agency's needs. The work group is charged with ensuring that the tool is the most convenient and resource-efficient it can be for gathering essential information on investigations and casework planning. In addition, the tool must maximize the validity of the information provided, including reliable and accessible storage and utility. The current forms scheduled for review as part of the creation of this improved format include case plans and service plans utilized by CFSA and the private agencies.

## **2. To Support Expedited Permanency Planning:**

### *Implementation of Fostering Connections Legislation*

The *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008* provides the District with significant new opportunities to access federal funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. For the first time since the inception of Title IV-E entitlements, the federal reimbursement monies will now be available for Agency maintenance expenditures made on behalf of some older youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years who are in foster care, or who are recipients of adoption or guardianship subsidies. This FY 2011 change will expand the pool of available financial resources for serving the District's children and families.

### *Continued expansion of the dedicated Permanency Opportunities Project (POP) as a solution-focused resource for achieving timely permanency for all children and youth*

Over the course of FY 2011, CFSA will continue to utilize the successful POP approach to fast-track permanency for all cases in pre-adoptive homes. The POP Teaming unit, which includes the child's ongoing social worker, permanency specialist, and supervisors, work together for the express purpose of removing barriers to permanency and to identify potential permanency opportunities for youth in foster care. The POP team's methods include child-centered recruitment, case staffing, and case mining (i.e., intensive case reviews for the purpose of identifying and connecting with the child's family, extended family members, and/or other significant persons involved in the child's life).

### *Dedicated pursuit of practice and policy excellence to achieve best permanent care solutions through concerted action to meet the needs and wants of older youth in out-of-home care.*

### *FY 2011 Permanency Forums*

At the start of the new fiscal year, CFSA held a three-part series of permanency forums to gain greater insights into the challenges impacting permanency for older youth and legacy cases. The forums provided host key stakeholders with an opportunity to engage in dialogue for the purposes of identifying, prioritizing, and resolving key barriers to permanency. The permanency forum participants have developed four workgroups to address the following priority issues:

1. Communication among youth, families, and social workers
2. Education of all stakeholders that older/all children can be adopted and permanency can be achieved for all children and youth
3. Flexibility when licensing kinship and foster parents
4. Engagement of birth, kinship, foster, and adoptive families

The workgroups will continue to address these priority areas throughout FY 2011.

*Dedicated pursuit of practice and policy excellence to achieve best permanent care solutions through the development of greater depth of understanding about our long term 'legacy' out-of-home population.*

CFSA has adopted an evidence-based research approach to understanding permanency barriers for youth in care. Of particular interest to the Agency have been youth who remain in care for 36 months or more, and whose cases are referred to as "legacy cases". CFSA's research has resulted in a *Legacy Care Report*<sup>4</sup> that looks at the profile of this population by age, gender, goal and placement type. The outcomes of the report have enabled the Agency to achieve a better understanding of the patterns and characteristics seen in legacy cases, and have contribute to CFSA's ability to develop strategies for mitigating challenges to achieving positive permanency outcomes.

In keeping with its firm commitment to make substantial progress in meeting its targets for all children and families, CFSA will focus its attention on the population of these 'legacy' older youth for whom permanency has not been achieved. The ongoing reviews of legacy cases in FY 2011 will also assist in assessing successes and challenges emerging from the CFSA Practice Model. The Model supports comprehensive case planning and includes a multi-disciplinary approach that requires engagement of families, children, and service providers in the case planning process. The purpose of case planning is to first determine which permanency goal is most appropriate and then ensure the best service availability and delivery to support the timely and successful achievement of that goal.

### **3. To Support Provision of Services to Children and Families:**

*Expansion and development of the CFSA Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) Project to provide local sustainable support networks and short breaks for resource families*

Continuing the excellent work of the MFM project, a specialized kinship constellation was launched in early FY 2011 that will establish a supportive network solely for kinship resource parents. This initiative will strengthen peer and Agency relationships, and ensure placement stability prior to guardianship finalization. Throughout FY 2011, CFSA will continue promotion of the MFM project to its network of private child placing agencies, reinforcing MFM as a viable and effective means of providing foster care services to the geographic wards in the District that have a high concentration of children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Additionally in this coming fiscal year, CFSA will be providing technical assistance to its private agency partners to develop foster parent support units within their own organizations. Information related to the costs and benefits of forming these organizational units, as well as an overview of daily operations of the persons who will staff it, will be provided. CFSA hopes that promotion of such a formalized foster parent support function within the private agencies will provide a continuity of service across the service delivery continuum and will serve to generally increase foster parent retention and placement stability.

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<sup>4</sup> "Legacy care" is an internal CFSA term that represents children who have been in care for thirty six months or longer.

## 5: Statistical Analysis of Foster Care Cases and Permanency Outcomes

CFSA makes active use of statistical analyses of child welfare data in the District in order to improve daily practice and to inform long-term strategies for adapting to changes in population and needs. The following are highlights of FY 2010 findings about children and youth in the District child welfare system.

Table 1

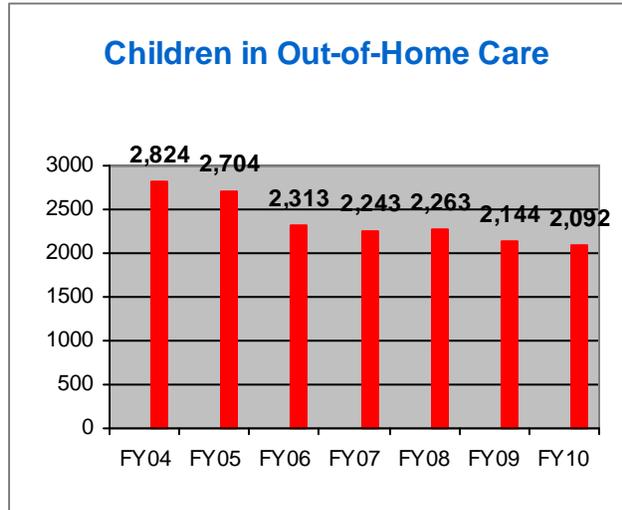
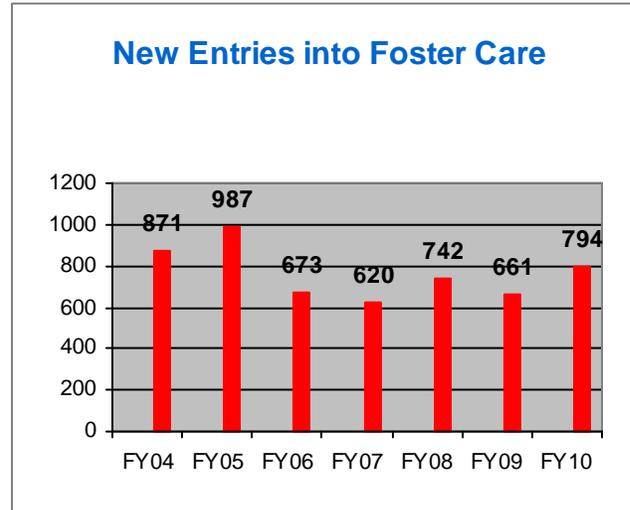


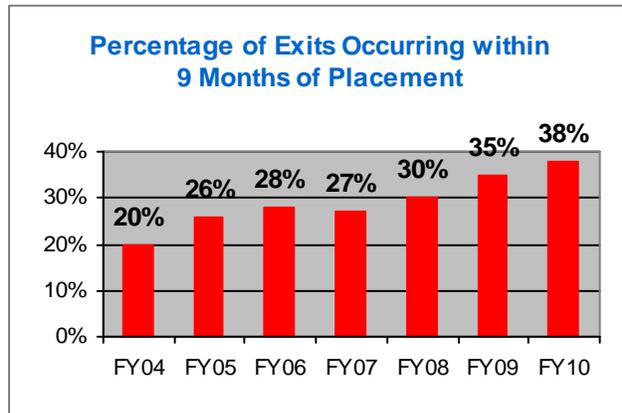
Table 2



**In FY 2010, the number of children in out-of-home placement continued its downward trend.**

Since FY 2004, CFSA has experienced a 26% reduction in the size of its foster care population (see Tables 1 & 2 above). As of the end of FY 2010, the number of youth in foster care hovered just below 2,100 youth compared to 2,824 in FY 2004, and despite a significant rise in the number of entries into the foster care system compared to FY 2009. Additionally, for the second year in a row, the Agency experienced a slight reduction in the percentage of youth age 13-21 years who make up total foster care population. Currently, youth of this age group make up 53% of the foster care population, whereas in FY 2009 they made up 56%.

Table 3



**The upward trend in the percentage of exits occurring within 9 months continued in FY 2010.**

The longer a child remains in out-of-home care, the less likely s/he is to reunify with family. The vast majority of children who leave care within nine months of entry reunify with their primary caretaker. In FY 2010, of the 865 foster care exits, 327 (38%) left within nine months of entry, and 244 of those youth left for family reunification.

## The percentage of youth in foster care for greater than 24 months remained unchanged.

The percentage of all children in foster care who have been in care for 24 months or more remained at 58% of the total foster care population.<sup>5</sup> However, the number of youth who entered into this category (307) during FY 2010 rose significantly from the prior fiscal year (252).

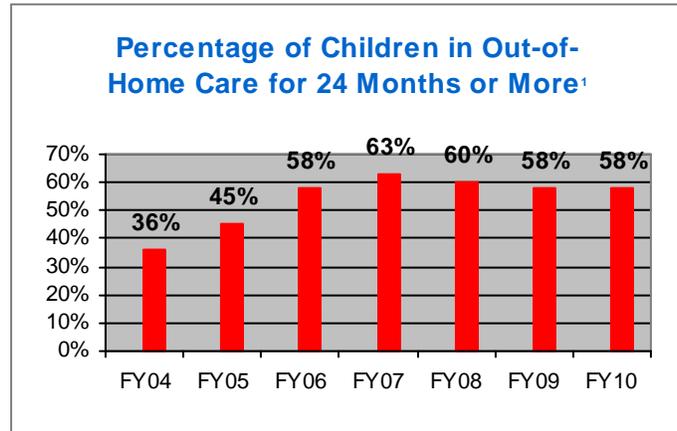
CFSA continues to strive toward the ASFA goal of reducing the number of children languishing in out-of-home care.

### Statistical Analyses

The following tables are based on management information reports from FACES.net as of November 10, 2010, which reflected the status of children on the last day of FY 2010 (September 30, 2010). Groups of tables address information requirements for this report as listed in the Child and Family Services Agency Establishment Act of April 2001 (Appendix A).

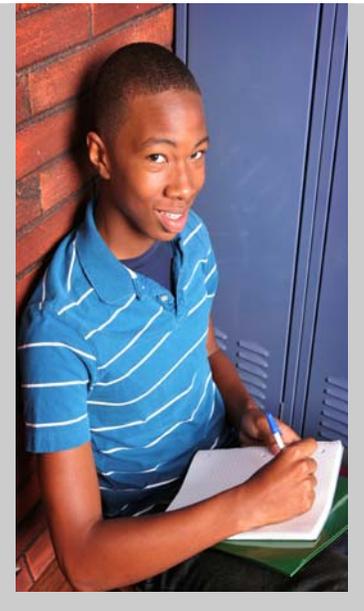
**Information requirement** - Total number of children in care, their ages, legal status, and permanency goals

Table 4



#### At the end of FY10 . . .

- A total of 2,092 children and teens were in out-of-home care, which is the lowest count in the seven years that CFSA has been compiling the Annual Public Report.
- The percentage of older children in foster care dropped for the second consecutive year - 53% of all children in out-of-home care were ages 13-21 (compared to 56% in FY 09 and 58% in FY08).
- The permanency goal of Alternative Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA), applies only to children or youth whose other permanency options have been explored and exhausted. In FY09, 33% of all children in out-of-home care had a goal of APPLA, but by the end of FY10, CFSA reduced that percentage to 28%.



<sup>5</sup> Please note that in the FY 2008 Annual Public Report, CFSA erroneously reported that its percentage of children in foster care for greater than 24 months in FY 2004 and FY 2005 was 68% and 63% respectively. Those figures were corrected to 36% and 45% respectively in the FY 2009 report and have carried over into the FY 2010 report.

<b>District Foster Children by Legal Status</b>	
<i>Point in Time: End of FY10</i>	
<i>Status</i>	<i># of Children</i>
Committed	1,638
Shelter Care	311
Administrative Hold	139
No Status#	3
Relinquished	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,092</b>
#Data entry errors prevent actual statuses from being reflected. Clients with No Status should be evenly distributed among the other status categories.	

<b>District Foster Children by Age</b>	
<i>Point in Time: End of FY10</i>	
<i>Age (in years)</i>	<i># of Children</i>
<1	59
1	74
2	100
3	88
4	89
5	71
6	88
7	68
8	68
9	71
10	71
11	68
12	73
13	84
14	91
15	112
16	136
17	167
18	172
19	184
20	157
21	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,092</b>

<b>District Foster Children by Permanency Goal</b>	
<i>Point in Time: End of FY10</i>	
<i>Goal</i>	<i># of Children</i>
Reunification	675
Alternative Planned, Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)*	587
Adoption	415
Guardianship	336
<b>Legal Custody**</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>No Goal/Data Unavailable#</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,092</b>
*APPLA includes goals of Independent Living, Long-Term Foster Care, and Long-Term Residential Treatment.	
** For these seven children, the goal is custody with the non-custodial parent.	
# Data entry errors prevent actual goals from being reflected. These 72 Children should be evenly distributed among all Permanency Goals.	

**Information requirement - Number of children who entered care during the year (by month), their ages, legal status, and primary reasons for entering care**

**In FY10 . . .**

- A total of 794 children and teens entered out-of-home care, an increase of 20% from last year's figure.
- In FY 2010, there were increases in the prevalence of physical abuse as well as inadequate housing as precipitating factors of entries into foster care.



Foster Care Entries by Child Age and by Month, FY10													
Age	2009			2010									Total by age
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<1	5	9	12	6	8	11	7	8	14	12	8	6	106
1	6	1	2	4	6	3	6	4	5	4	6	4	51
2	6	1	5	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	7	3	48
3	3	5	4	7	1	3	4	1	4	7	2	4	45
4	5	4	3	7	2	3	9	5	3	3	8	0	52
5	4	3	2	5	6	5	7	2	4	5	6	3	52
6	0	1	4	5	0	4	5	6	5	1	2	5	38
7	1	1	0	7	2	5	5	2	3	4	2	4	36
8	2	2	2	5	2	1	9	2	0	5	6	3	39
9	2	3	1	7	2	3	8	8	6	2	11	0	53
10	3	4	1	3	2	1	1	3	2	2	4	3	29
11	4	2	5	2	3	7	2	4	5	1	5	4	44
12	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	6	1	2	3	2	29
13	4	8	3	5	1	3	6	4	2	3	3	1	43
14	1	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	1	4	8	1	38
15	0	4	4	3	1	9	5	3	3	2	3	1	38
16	1	1	1	7	2	2	2	2	3	5	3	7	36
17	5	0	1	1	4	3	3	2	4	1	3	1	28
18**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
20**	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
<b>Total by mo.</b>	55	55	55	83	50	73	89	69	69	68	91	52	809*

\* CFSA actually placed 794 unique children in FY10, but 14 of these children entered, exited, and re-entered out-of-home placement during the year, one of whom entered three times within the year.  
 \*\* These young people were in care before the start of FY10 but are included in this data because they entered into foster care following a third-party placement, abscondence, or lengthy non-paid/non-CFSA placement.

Foster Care Entries by Legal Status and by Month, FY10													
Status	2009			2010									Total by status
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	
Administrative Hold	33	39	44	70	33	44	74	57	58	56	64	45	617
Data Not Available#	11	10	0	6	6	19	5	10	4	7	3	4	85
Shelter Care	5	3	7	4	5	5	2	0	7	1	11	3	53
Protective Supervision	0	0	3	1	2	1	4	0	0	3	11	0	25
Committed	6	3	1	2	4	4	4	2	0	1	0	0	27
Private/Third-Party Placement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
<b>Total by month</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>809*</b>

\* CFSA actually placed 794 unique children in FY10, but 14 of these children entered, exited, and re-entered out-of-home placement during the year, one of whom entered three times within the year.  
# Data entry errors prevent actual legal status from being reflected. These 85 children should be evenly distributed among all legal status types.

Reason for Entry into Foster Care	Number of Placements in which Primary Reason was a Factor*
Neglect (alleged/reported)	531
Physical Abuse (alleged/reported)	187
Drug Abuse (parent)	102
Incarceration of Parent(s)	96
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	35
Inadequate Housing	35
Caretaker Ill or Unable to Cope	32
Child's Behavior Problem	20
Abandonment	19
Sexual Abuse (alleged/reported)	15
Voluntary**	11
Child's Disability	9
Death of Parent(s)	7
Relinquishment	3
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	2
Drug Abuse (Child)	2

\*Children may have multiple Primary Reasons for entering care. CFSA actually placed 794 unique children in FY10.

\*\* CFSA obtained court custody of all children in this category. "Voluntary" describes the mindset and attitude of the parent/caretaker but is not a descriptor of the legal custody status of the child. These were not voluntary placement agreements.

**Information requirement** - Number of children in care for 24 months or longer by length of stay in care including: length of stay by permanency goal, number of children who became part of this class during the year, and ages and legal status of these children

**In FY10 . . .**

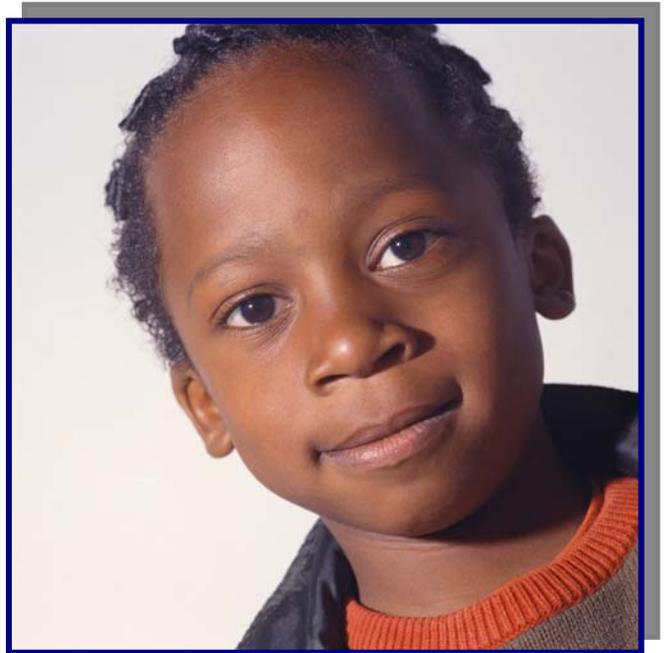
- 1,216 children and youth were in care for 24 months or more, which is a 58% of all youth in foster care. This statistic remains unchanged since FY 2009.
- For the first time in five years, fewer than 50% of these youth had permanency goals of Alternative Planned, Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA), while the percentage of youth with a goal of guardianship increased 7% since FY 2009.
- A total of 307 children and youth reached or passed the 24-month mark in care, which is an increase of 22% from the number of children who reached that threshold last year.

<b>District Children in Care for 24 Months or Longer by Permanency Goal and Length of Stay</b>					
<i>Point in Time: End of FY10</i>					
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Length of Stay in Months (FY10)</i>				<i>Total Children</i>
	<i>24-35</i>	<i>36-47</i>	<i>48-59</i>	<i>60+</i>	
APPLA*	66	67	67	360	560
Adoption	79	56	49	161	345
Guardianship	117	35	31	38	221
Reunification	39	9	5	21	74
Legal Custody	5	0	0	1	6
Data Unavailable	1	3	5	1	10
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>1216</b>
* Alternative Planned, Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) includes goals of Independent Living, Long-Term Foster Care, and Long-Term Residential Treatment.					

**District Children Who Became Part of This Class in FY10 by Age and Length of Stay**

Key: ■ Children who entered class in FY10

Age (in years)	Length of Stay in Months (FY10)				Total Children
	24-35	36-47	48-59	60+	
2	36	0	0	0	36
3	25	10	0	0	35
4	18	8	10	0	36
5	12	4	5	5	26
6	13	7	4	6	30
7	14	3	3	4	24
8	10	5	4	8	27
9	10	7	5	6	28
10	14	8	6	7	35
11	10	7	3	13	33
12	9	7	7	14	37
13	13	5	5	26	49
14	12	4	9	28	53
15	16	11	8	41	76
16	13	8	10	51	82
17	23	15	19	81	138
18	35	21	22	66	144
19	20	20	14	119	173
20+	4	20	23	107	154
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>1216</b>



**District Children Who Became Part of This Class in FY10**

**by Legal Status and Length of Stay**

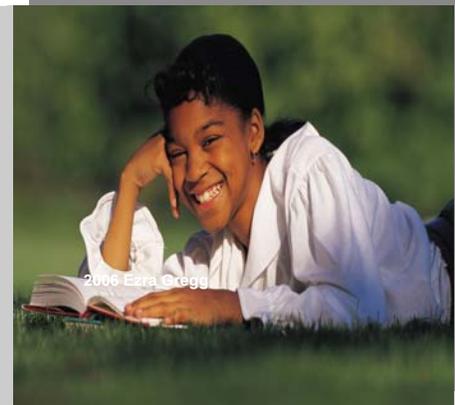
Key: ■ Children who entered class in FY10

Goal	Length of Stay in Months (FY10)				Total Children
	24-35	36-47	48-59	60+	
Commitment	307	170	157	580	1214
Relinquishment	0	0	0	1	1
Data Unavailable	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>1216</b>

**Information requirement** - Number of children who exited care by month, number of children in this class who had been in care for 24 months or longer, ages and legal status of these children, and reasons for their exit from care

**In FY10 . . .**

- There were a total of 865 exits from foster care, 38% of which occurred within 9 months of the child's entry into foster care.
- 23% of exits occurred within one month of entry into foster care.
- 48% of the exits were for youth who had been in care for 24 months or more, which is a reduction of 1% since last year.



**Exits from Foster Care by Length of Stay and by Month, FY10**

Stay (in months)	2009			2010									Total by stay
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<1	13	21	15	17	5	19	22	25	11	18	22	9	197
1-4	4	3	7	9	5	16	7	4	10	8	9	7	89
5-8	4	5	6	5	1	3	3	4	3	2	3	2	41
9-12	2	6	3	4	2	3	2	0	7	1	10	5	45
13-23	12	8	8	10	2	8	9	4	4	5	6	5	81
24+	27	49	28	38	38	21	22	26	42	44	40	37	412
<i>Total exits by mo.</i>	62	92	67	83	53	70	65	63	77	78	90	65	865*

\* During FY 2010, 860 unique youngsters exited foster care. Five (5) of these youth exited, re-entered, and exited again within the fiscal year.

**Exits from Foster Care by Age and by Month, FY10**

Age (in years)	2009			2010									Total by age
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	
<1	2	3	5	4	1	2	1	3	3	4	5	2	35
1-5	21	27	16	22	10	14	24	14	22	18	25	17	230
6-12	16	25	19	27	5	25	17	15	16	20	25	18	228
13-15	2	13	11	9	5	11	5	12	7	5	14	4	98
16-18	5	13	4	5	11	9	7	8	8	5	6	6	87
19+	16	11	12	16	21	9	11	11	21	26	15	18	187
<i>Total exits by mo.</i>	62	92	67	83	53	70	65	63	77	78	90	65	865*

\* During FY 2010, 860 unique youngsters exited foster care. Five (5) of these youth exited, re-entered, and exited again within the fiscal year.

### Exits from Foster Care by Legal Status and by Month, FY010

Status	2009			2010									Total by status
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	
Committed	43	65	45	56	41	38	32	29	58	47	47	46	547
Administrative Hold	15	21	19	21	6	28	24	28	15	20	25	11	233
Shelter Care	4	6	3	6	6	4	9	5	4	11	16	8	82
Data Unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
<b>Total by month</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>865*</b>

\* During FY 2010, 860 unique youngsters exited foster care. Five (5) of these youth exited, re-entered, and exited again within the fiscal year.

### Exits from Foster Care by Primary Reason and by Month, FY10

Reason	2009			2010									Total by reason
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	
Reunification	25	38	31	37	13	37	34	22	36	30	44	27	374
Emancipation	18	11	12	16	24	9	11	13	23	37	13	17	194
Adoption	7	29	12	15	7	6	5	9	11	4	13	12	130
Guardianship	4	10	6	7	1	7	7	6	3	13	8	1	73
Placement/Custody with Other District Agency#	4	1	2	6	3	3	6	8	3	1	6	3	46
Living with Other Relatives	4	2	4	2	5	7	2	5	0	3	6	5	45
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party/Non-Relative	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Death of Youth	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total exits by month</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>865*</b>

# Examples of Other District Agencies to which these children exit include (but are not limited to): Department of Mental Health, Department of Disability Services, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, and Department of Corrections.

\* \* During FY 2010, 860 unique youngsters exited foster care. Five (5) of these youth exited, re-entered, and exited again within the fiscal year.



**Information requirement** - Number of children who left care by permanency goal, their length of stay in care by permanency goal, number of children whose placements disrupted by placement type, and number of children who re-entered care

**In FY10 . . .**

- Children living in Traditional Foster Care are nearly three times more likely to experience a placement disruption than children living in Kinship Care.
- One hundred and twenty-one children re-entered out-of-home care during the year.

<b>Exits from Foster Care by Permanency Goal and by Month, FY10</b>													
Goal	2009			2010									Total by goal
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	
Reunification	21	18	20	29	13	27	20	11	29	20	31	25	264
APPLA†	18	11	13	16	25	9	12	13	23	26	15	18	199
Data Unavailable††	12	22	14	16	7	20	20	24	9	15	23	9	191
Adoption	6	31	13	15	6	6	5	9	10	4	13	12	130
Guardianship	5	10	7	7	2	8	7	6	6	13	8	1	80
Legal Custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total by month</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>865*</b>

† Alternative Planned, Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) includes goals of Independent Living, Long-Term Foster Care, and Long-Term Residential Treatment.  
 †† 174 of the 191 children for whom data was unavailable in the FACES.net system exited care within a month of entry, before a permanency goal is required to be established.  
 \* During FY 2010, 860 unique youngsters exited foster care. Five (5) of these youth exited, re-entered, and exited again within the fiscal year

<b>Exits from Foster Care by Permanency Goal and Length of Stay, FY10</b>							
Goal	Length of Stay in Months (FY10)						Total Children
	<1	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-23	24+	
Reunification	21	71	38	44	48	42	264
APPLA†	0	1	1	0	7	190	199
Adoption	0	0	1	0	6	123	130
Guardianship	1	2	0	1	20	56	80
Data Unavailable	174††	15*	1	0	0	1	191
Other#	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>865</b>

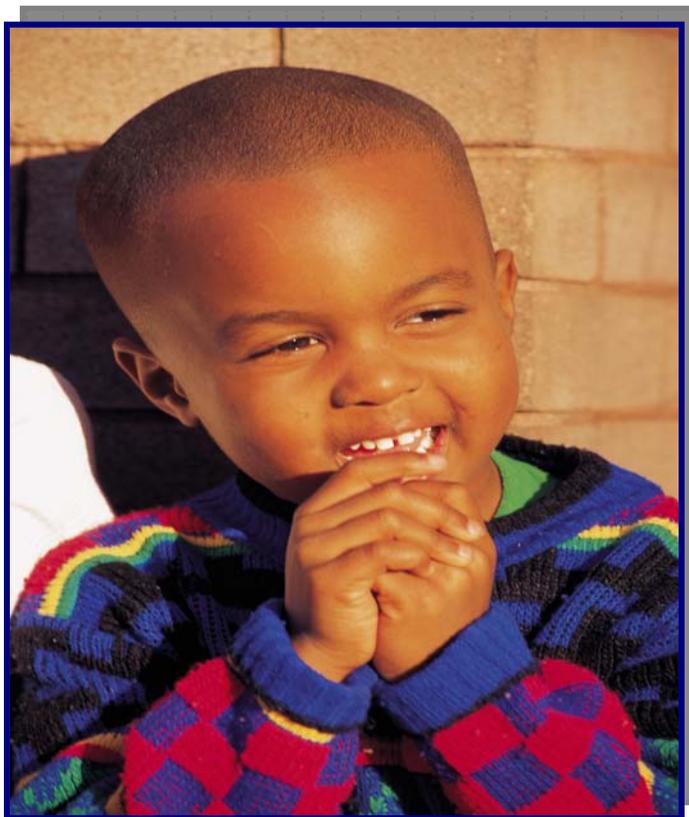
† Alternative Planned, Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) includes goals of Independent Living, Long-Term Foster Care, and Long-Term Residential Treatment.  
 †† 174 of the 191 children for whom data was unavailable in the FACES.net system exited care within a month of entry, before a permanency goal is required to be established.  
 \* Of these 15 youth who left care without a permanency goal entered into the FACES.net system, 11 were reunified, 2 exited to the care or other relatives, and 2 left to the care of another District agency.  
 # "Other" includes legacy goals of Family Stabilization, Relative Placement, and Legal Custody.

Placement Disruption Data, FY 2010		
<i>Total # of Children in Foster Care at Some Point During FY 2010</i>	<i># Who Experienced at Least One Placement Change</i>	<i># of Actual Placement Changes</i>
2,840	1,163	2,093

Placement Change* Report, by Placement Type, FY 2010	
<i>Placement Type</i>	<i>Ratio of Placement Changes to Total Placements</i>
Kinship	.21 to 1
Independent Living	.42 to 1
Non-Kinship/Traditional Foster Care	.60 to 1
Residential Treatment Facility	.53 to 1
Group Homes	.81 to 1

\*IMPORTANT NOTE: While CFSA attempts to maintain the placement stability of all foster children, in many cases, placement changes are planned with the intent of furthering the child's progress to permanency. In other cases, unforeseen circumstances or crises arise that require CFSA to make an unplanned placement change to a more stable living environment for the child.

CFSA's FACES information system does not track unplanned placement changes (or "disruptions") specifically. Rather, the system tracks only placement changes in general, be they planned or unplanned. Therefore, statistics in this table reflect the total number of placement changes that occurred for all children during FY 2010.



## 6: Recommendations for Additional Legislation or Services to Overcome Challenges

CFSA's focus for FY 2011 is to create and amend administrative rules and regulations in accordance with laws passed in the District of Columbia that impact child welfare practice.

The following laws and regulations under consideration are in various stages of the rulemaking process:

Law/Regulation	Action	Purpose/Justification
29 DCMR, Chapter 60 (Foster Homes); Section 6027 (Licensing Process)	Amend Rule	To address the issue of lead-based paint certification for foster homes.
29 DCMR, Chapter 60 (Foster Homes); Section 6026 (Foster Parent Training)	Amend Rule	To comply with the latest <i>LaShawn</i> Order which requires the Agency to align the foster parent training requirements to the licensing period.
29 DCMR, Chapter 63 (Licensing of Independent Living Programs for Adolescents and Young Adults); Section 6312 (Penalties)	Amend Rule	To clarify penalties for non-compliance with licensure, to ensure greater accountability.
Newborn Safe Haven Act of 2010 (DC Law 18-158)	Create Rule	To establish procedures through which parents may surrender their newborn infant to authorized receiving facilities without being charged with abuse, neglect, or abandonment of the newborn where there is no actual or suspected abuse or neglect.
Families Together Amendment Act of 2010 (DC Law 18-228)	Create Rule	To authorize the Agency to refer a family for family assessment in lieu of an investigation in response to certain reports of abuse and neglect, and to provide for a re-referral for investigation when warranted.
Foster Care Youth Identity Protection Amendment Act of 2010 (DC Law 18-162)	Create Rule	To define a consumer reporting agency, to provide that the Agency Director has the authority to request a file disclosure report on behalf of a youth in care to determine whether identity theft may have occurred, and to authorize the Agency to refer a youth to an approved organization that provides credit counseling services to victims of identity theft.

## Appendix A: Excerpt from the CFSA Establishment Act of April 2001

The Director must:

(10) Prepare and submit to the Mayor, the Council, and the public a report to be submitted no later than February 1 of each year; which shall include:

- (A) A description of the specific actions taken to implement the Adoption and Safe Families Amendment Act of 2000, effective June 27, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-136; 47 DCR 2850);
- (B) A full statistical analysis of cases including:
  - (i) The total number of children in care, their ages, legal statuses, and permanency goals;
  - (ii) The number of children who entered care during the previous year (by month), their ages, legal statuses, and the primary reasons they entered care;
  - (iii) The number of children who have been in care for 24 months or longer, their length of stay in care, including:
    - (I) A breakdown in length of stay by permanency goal;
    - (II) The number of children who became part of this class during the previous year; and
    - (III) The ages and legal statuses of these children;
  - (iv) The number of children who left care during the previous year (by month), the number of children in this class who had been in care for 24 months or longer, the ages and legal statuses of these children, and the reasons for their removal from care; and
  - (v) The number of children who left care during the previous year, by permanency goal; their length of stay in care, by permanency goal; the number of children whose placements were disrupted during the previous year, by placement type; and the number of children who re-entered care during the previous year;
- (C) An analysis of any difficulties encountered in reaching the goal for the number of children in care established by the District;
- (D) An evaluation of services offered, including specific descriptions of the family preservation services, community-based family support services, time-limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services including:
  - (i) The service programs which will be made available under the plan in the succeeding fiscal year;
  - (ii) The populations which the program will serve; and
  - (iii) The geographic areas in which the services will be available;
- (E) An evaluation of the Agency's performance;
- (F) Recommendations for additional legislation or services needed to fulfill the purpose of the Adoption and Safe Families Amendment Act of 2000, effective June 27, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-136; 47 DCR 2850); and
- (G) The comments submitted by a multidisciplinary committee that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and which the Mayor designates to receive and comment on the report.

**District of Columbia Government  
Child and Family Services Agency**

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