Report on Outcome Measures and Oversight Activities of the Independent Living Transition Services Program

Overview

The requirement to submit this legislatively mandated report is found in section 409.1451(6), F. S.

This report provides information as statutorily required in the following major content areas:
A. Outcome Measures (pages 3-5)
B. Departmental Oversight (pages 6-14) and
C. Rule Promulgation (page 15).

The majority of activities described in this report occurred during the period January through December 2009 except as otherwise noted.

Authority

Subsection 409.1451(6), F. S.
“The Department shall prepare a report on the outcome measures and the Department's oversight activities and submit the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the committees with jurisdiction over issues relating to children and families in the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than January 31 of each year. The report must include:

(a) An analysis of performance on the outcome measures developed under this section reported for each Community Based Care lead agency and compared with the performance of the Department on the same measures.

(b) A description of the Department’s oversight of the program, including, by lead agency, any programmatic or fiscal deficiencies found, corrective actions required, and included in statute current status of compliance.

(c) Any rules adopted or proposed under this section since the last report. For the purposes of the first report, any rules adopted or proposed under this section must be included.”
A. Outcome Measures for Community Based Care Lead Agencies

This section of the report addresses the four (4) primary ways that the Department measures performance to obtain outcomes for youth and young adults formerly in foster care. The four subsections are:

- Indicators and Outcome Measures,
- Independent Living Transitional Services Critical Checklist,
- Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN), and
- National Youth in Transition Database.

Indicators and Outcome Measures

During 2009, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in coordination with representatives of the Community Based Care (CBC) lead agencies formed the Performance Measures Workgroup to address measurement and quality assurance activities. The Workgroup reviewed the various approaches to implementing a system of outcome measures for youth receiving Independent Living services. This included the Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Report 2004-78 entitled “Independent Living Minimum Standards Recommended for Children in Foster Care,” the 2006 Annual Report of the Independent Living Services Advisory Council (ILSAC), and the February 2008 Federal Rule for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). Each of these reports contains recommended youth outcome measures and they were cross-walked to determine similarities and differences. The Department in collaboration with the Performance Measures Workgroup selected 19 indicators that were common to the recommendations made by OPPAGA, ILSAC, and NYTD.

In July 2009, the Department incorporated these nineteen (19) Independent Living Indicators into the CBC lead agency contract template. These Indicators supplement the Standards incorporated into the template in 2007. The Standards in the template are the same as those set forth in the 2004 OPPAGA report mentioned in the above paragraph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Independent Living Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of youth performing at grade level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Number of youth performing above grade level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Number of youth with improved test scores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Number of youth graduating from high school</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Number of youth completing GED</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Number of youth completing an apprenticeship, internship, or technical certification program</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Number of youth completing a two-year post secondary education or vocational training program</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Number of youth completing a four-year post secondary education or vocational training program</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
During 2009, the Department, in collaboration with the Independent Living Services Advisory Council (ILSAC), continued the use of the Independent Living Services Transitional Checklist. Beginning in July 2007 and in partnership with the CBC lead agencies, the Department collected and compiled data on youth in foster care, ages 13 through 17, and young adults formerly in foster care, ages 18 through 22, in the areas of: life skills; housing; education; employment; Departments of Corrections or Juvenile Justice involvement; and Case Plan, Aftercare, and Transitional Services. A summary of the data compiled as of January 2008 is located at the following web site: 

As of December 31, 2009, a total of 7,083 checklists has been received. The compilation and analysis of the results from the 2009 Independent Living Transitional Services Critical Checklist is underway by Family Safety Program Office staff. The results are anticipated to be available by mid February 2009, and posted on the Department’s website at: http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/indliving/.

Florida Safe Families Network

A new phase of the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (Florida Safe Families Network – FSFN Release 2b) was released in August of 2009. Users of Release 2b have a new module in FSFN for the documentation and tracking of Independent Living (IL) Services. This module captures services provided to youth in the custody of the department that are 13 to 17 years of age or youth 18 through 23 who have exited foster care at age 18.

The new IL features in FSFN were designed to document key case management activities surrounding the preparation and transition of youth as they move toward adulthood and ultimately exit care. The IL functionality provides a historical record of
academic and life skills progress, including Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) information, and normalcy plans, Subsidized Independent Living (SIL) evaluations and participation of children in foster care between the ages of 13 and 17. FSFN also allows the user to document a history of academic and life skills progress, including FCAT information, and the Road to Independence Program, Transitional/Aftercare Support Services, and appeal information for youth between the ages of 18 and 23. Within FSFN, the user is able to capture information for a child or young adult receiving IL services, both financial and support, through the IL services record.

**National Youth in Transition Database**

In February 2008, the final federal rule for the Chafee National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) was promulgated. Similar to the Independent Living Transitional Services Critical Checklist, NYTD requires states to provide for youth to report their own perceptions of the services provided to them. Additionally, each state must report on all services provided to youth in foster care and young adults formerly in foster care every six months in the following areas: academic support; post-secondary educational support; career preparation; employment programs or vocational trainings; budget and financial management; housing education and home management training; health education and risk prevention; family support and health marriage education; mentoring; and supervised IL.

The first data report is due to the federal Administration for Children and Families in the spring of 2011. Florida will begin collecting the additional federally required data in October 2010. Over the next months, the Department is utilizing lessons learned from implementation of the checklist/survey in 2008/2009 and will work with the ILSAC, CBC lead agencies, and stakeholders to implement this federally required database on youth outcomes.

The Deputy Secretary of the DCF is chairing the American Public Human Services Association’s (APHSA) Workgroup on the implementation of NYTD. This group has three main goals: 1) to determine the benefits of states working together to develop a uniform template for a survey instrument; 2) to identify additional elements that should be collected in addition to the federal requirements; and 3) to develop best practices for locating and collecting this information from youth. As part of this project, Florida has agreed to be a pilot state for collecting and implementing methods to collect data on youth and young adult outcomes. Participation in this Workgroup of multiple states and national child welfare groups provides Florida with opportunities to learn from the experts across the country and the opportunity to influence the direction of this important work.
B. Departmental Oversight

This section of the report addresses the five (5) primary methods for oversight of the Community Based Care Independent Living programs including:

- Contract Oversight of Community Based Care Lead Agencies,
- Chapin Hall Monitoring of Broward and Miami-Dade/Monroe Counties,
- Quality Assurance,
- Federal Child and Family Services Review – Quality Improvement Plan, and
- Fiscal Monitoring.

**Contract Oversight of Community Based Care Lead Agencies**

The Department’s Contract Oversight Unit (COU) is responsible for monitoring the compliance of CBC lead agencies with section 409.1451, F.S., and Florida Administrative Code, 65C-31, Services to Young Adults Formerly in the Custody of the Department.

With the exception of Our Kids of Miami-Dade/ Monroe, Inc. (Circuits 11 and 16) and ChildNet, Inc. (Circuit 17), the COU conducted annual monitoring of the Independent Living services delivered in Florida. Our Kids and ChildNet were monitored by an independent contractor as mandated by Chapter 2006-30, Laws of Florida until July 2009.

The COU randomly selected cases of youth eligible to receive Independent Living services and young adults formerly in foster care and conducted a file review to determine if the requirements of Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code were met. This included a review of eligibility requirements for these services. Deficiencies in cases or areas of concern with the delivery of Independent Living services were noted in reports prepared and submitted to the Department’s contract managers and Department leadership. The contract managers determined if the area of deficiency warranted a corrective action plan (CAP). If a CAP was necessary to address concerns, the CBC lead agency was required to develop steps and processes to bring services into compliance with federal regulations, Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, and the contract.

Table 2 summarizes the monitoring of the CBC lead agencies for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and the action taken by the Department to address deficiencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
<th>CBC</th>
<th>Contract</th>
<th>Identified Areas of Deficiency (Specific to IL Services)</th>
<th>DCF Response (Specific to IL Services)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Families First Network</td>
<td>AJ481</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 14</td>
<td>Big Bend CBC</td>
<td>BJS01 and BJU01</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Correction Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organization Name</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Status Description</td>
<td>Action Plan Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 8</td>
<td>Partnership for Strong Families</td>
<td>CJ409</td>
<td>Independent Living services were not provided as required</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (Clay and Baker)</td>
<td>Clay &amp; Baker Kids Net, Inc.</td>
<td>DJ994</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (St. Johns)</td>
<td>Family Integrity Program</td>
<td>DJ933</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Family Support Services of North Florida</td>
<td>DJ977/ DJ028</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kids Central, Inc.</td>
<td>PJH04</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.</td>
<td>QD78R</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Community Partnership for Children</td>
<td>NJ195</td>
<td>Independent Living Files lacked required documentation.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Family Services of Metro-Orlando</td>
<td>GJ160</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>No Corrective Action Plan is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Heartland for Children</td>
<td>TJE01</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 12</td>
<td>Sarasota YMCA</td>
<td>QJ4B5 and QJ6B6</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hillsborough Kids</td>
<td>QJ7A0</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Child and Family Connections</td>
<td>IJ698</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>CBC of Seminole</td>
<td>GJ245</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>No Corrective Action Plan is required</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>CBC of Brevard</td>
<td>GJ246</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>United for Families</td>
<td>ZJG84</td>
<td>Some Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Children's Network of SW Florida</td>
<td>HJM46</td>
<td>Independent Living requirements were not met.</td>
<td>Corrective Action Plan is in place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chapin Hall Monitoring of ChildNet and Our Kids**

Chapter 2006-30, Laws of Florida, created a three-year pilot project for two CBC lead agencies (ChildNet, Inc. in Broward County and Our Kids, Inc. in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) transferring fiscal, administrative, and program monitoring responsibilities from the DCF to independent, non-governmental third-party oversight entities. As mandated by law, programmatic monitoring of Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc. (Circuits 11 and 16) and ChildNet, Inc. (Circuit 17), was conducted by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago for the fiscal year 2008-2009. Chapin Hall Center for Children, a research and development center of the University of Chicago, was under contract through June 2009, to provide programmatic monitoring.

Chapin Hall’s work addressed elements similar to the Department’s COU and Quality Assurance System. Chapin Hall’s responsibilities were to analyze and recommend new outcome measures, to develop monitoring tools to determine the quality of performance of lead agencies, to compare pilot performance to that of other lead agencies, and to report to state leaders and community alliances.
In February 2009, the OPPAGA issued a report recommending the Legislature not continue or expand outsourced lead agency program oversight. The Chapin Hall pilot project ended June 30, 2009.

The final report submitted by Chapin Hall for the period ending in June 2009, for both ChildNet and Our Kids was reviewed for this report. There were no recommendations specific to independent living.

Beginning with contract year July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010, ChildNet and Our Kids joined the state in the DCF Quality Management Program. The elements of the DCF program are discussed in the following section.

Quality Assurance

As described above, ChildNet, Inc. and Our Kids, Inc. implemented the state’s Regional Quality Management System in July 2009, after the contract with Chapin Hall ended.

The Regional Quality Management System was first implemented in July 2008 and continued to be the quality assurance monitoring system used during calendar year 2009. The system requires semi-annual, comprehensive reviews of all circuits conducting child protective investigations (CPI) and two additional reviews of CPI that are focused on topics chosen by local administrations.

The Regional Quality Management System continues to require quarterly case management reviews of all CBC lead agencies. However, a change was made in July 2009, in how cases are identified for review. Instead of basing the selection on the child’s age either at the time of admission into the child welfare system or as of the sample date, 25 cases are now randomly selected by choosing from the five permanency goals:

- Reunification,
- Adoption,
- Permanent guardianship of a dependent child,
- Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative, or
- Placement in another planned permanent living arrangement.

The overall process remains basically the same as the previous calendar year in that the CBC lead agencies are required to review 17 of the 25 cases each quarter internally, and the remaining eight (8) cases are reviewed in teams. This team approach, known as Side-by-Side reviews, involves a regional quality assurance specialist and a CBC quality assurance specialist reviewing the same case at the same time, using the same standards and reaching consensus on findings with a monitor on site to resolve any differences. This approach continues to help assure and build inter-rater reliability.
A new process was added to the CBC’s internal review in July 2009. CBCs are now required to choose two of the 17 cases for a more in-depth review that involves interviews with case participants, including providers and community stakeholders, as deemed appropriate. Regions have been conducting these in-depth reviews since the system was implemented.

The review standards were augmented in July 2009 to include more review of IL services. There are now four very specific, fact-finding standards that are measured during every quarterly review of a case that involves a youth in foster care. The standards are:

- If the case involves a youth who has reached 13, but not 15 years of age, and he/she is living in a licensed, out-of-home care placement, a pre-Independent Living assessment was completed that identified service needs and services were provided.

- If the child is 13 years of age or older and in licensed foster care, the case management agency provided guidance and assistance in developing an educational and career path that is based on the child’s individual abilities and interests.

- The teen-aged focus child is afforded opportunities to participate in normal life skills activities in the foster home and community that are reasonable and appropriate for his/her respective age or special needs.

- For youth 15 years of age but not yet 18, the agency appropriately monitored his/her progress towards successfully transitioning from foster care to independence through regular informative staffings.

Although these four standards are in the quarterly review tool, the Office of Family Safety also developed and made available a comprehensive IL review tool that local agencies can use whenever they choose.

In addition to the CPI and CBC reviews, the Regional Quality Management System continues to include Executive Management Discretionary Reviews each year. Subject matter for these reviews is determined by the Secretary of the Department or other Leadership staff. During calendar year 2009 special reviews were conducted in the areas of:

- Placement Stability,
- Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care, and
- Foster Children Prescribed Psychotropic Medications.

The Regional Quality Management System also continues to require qualitative discussions between the CPI supervisor and the investigator, as well as the case management supervisor and the services counselor. These qualitative discussions are
currently required on a quarterly basis for all open case management cases and for three (3) investigations per CPI on a monthly basis. The discussion guide is intended to promote analytical, critical thinking skills. Specific to IL, the discussion guide provides the following thought producing questions:

If the foster youth is 13 to 14 years of age, have you thoroughly completed the pre-Independent Living assessment and identified services needed? Are those services being delivered, and are they effective?

If the foster youth is 14 to 17 years of age, have you thoroughly completed the Independent Living assessment and identified services needed? Are those services being delivered and are they effective?

Does the case plan contain a written description of programs and individualized services that will help the youth prepare for the transition from foster care to Independent Living? Is it anticipated that those services will enable the youth to have adequate clothing, a safe place to live, sufficient income, educational opportunities and health care, and the anchoring of a reliable adult mentor at the point they leave the system? If not, what steps must be taken to achieve these goals?

Quality Assurance Special Review of Independent Living

In January 2009, Florida’s Youth SHINE, an advocacy group for children, youth, and young adults within the foster care system, requested Secretary George Sheldon review their concerns over inequities and inconsistencies in service delivery systems throughout the state. In response, Secretary Sheldon directed the Office of Family Safety to conduct a statewide review of the IL Program to assess how well the program is currently operating and how it can be improved.

Because the IL Program is expansive and program components focus on services within age groups, the Office of Family Safety, who led the review, broke it into three separate phases. The first phase was completed in July 2009. It focused on process management of Aftercare Services, Transitional Support Services and Road to Independence Services for young adults formerly in foster care, i.e., young adults 18 and over. The final report was issued December 21, 2009.

The second phase is planned to begin in January 2010, and will include a review of youth living in licensed out-of-home care who have reached their 17th birthday, focusing on their preparedness and planning for exiting care. The third phase is scheduled to begin in April 2010. It will include children 13 through 16 years of age and will focus on the quality of pre-IL assessments and service provision. Both will involve interviews with the youth and children.

Three data gathering activities were conducted in Phase One for review of Aftercare Services, Transitional Support Services, and Road to Independence Services.
1) “System of Care” surveys of each CBC lead agency were generated to obtain information about how each agency implements Independent Living services and to gather data regarding the general structure of the agencies’ IL provider network.

2) Interviews were conducted with a sample of young adults receiving Road to Independence Scholarships, Transitional Support Services and Aftercare Services payments, and of young adults who responded to the Independent Living Checklist.

3) Focus group discussions were held with the CBC lead agencies in each region to gather information about the challenges lead agencies face in implementing IL services, and to solicit suggestions about any needed changes to Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, policy, or procedure.

Context

Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code require services be provided to young adults formerly in foster care who have reached 18 years of age to ensure their successful transition into adulthood.

These services include: Aftercare Services meant to help young adults continue development of skills and abilities; Road to Independence Services intended to help students who are former foster children to receive education and vocational training; and Transitional Support Services intended to provide short-term funds or other services, which may include financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, mental health, disability, and other services that may be critical to the young adult becoming self-sufficient.

In FY 2008/2009, 1,475 youth aged out of out-of-home care. In June 2009, there were 2,045 youth receiving Road to Independence services.

Review Findings

1. There are wide variations statewide in processes for providing IL services to youth and young adults.

2. Although Skills Training for Youth is being reliably offered, this training does not meet all youths’ needs and does not consistently promote positive outcomes for young adults.

3. While staff and provider training is available in all agencies and areas, training curriculum vary from area to area and there is a gap in training for foster parents and for staff providing services to the young adult population.

4. There are concerns about staff communication and coordination between and among case managers and IL staff in “shared” cases, in some areas, to include
5. Interviews with young adults and focus groups revealed there were considerable issues with regard to the transition of youth to adulthood and independence. Focus groups indicated there was a “mad dash” for youth to obtain all their skills and training in the year prior to their 18th birthday (during the critical transition year) and felt that if mandatory trainings were required at all ages, transition to adulthood would be a smoother process.

6. There were variations in young adult’s understanding of, and satisfaction with, Road to Independence, Transitional Support, and Aftercare services and payments. Most young adults interviewed reported being satisfied with the assistance Case Managers or IL Coordinators had provided them since aging out of the foster care system. However, many were not knowledgeable about some of the processes. Less than three-fourths of young adults reported they currently had a Transition Plan that was developed with their case manager and included specific tasks for them to complete in order to achieve independence.

Recommendations

1. The Department should set core contract requirements for structure and service delivery of the IL Program (to include services for young adults formerly in foster care) and ensure these requirements are being met through contract oversight and continued quality assurance reviews.

2. The Department should lead the development of standardized training for youth, staff and foster parents that allows some flexibility based on area need, but includes core lessons with activities. Training should represent a more balanced approach to include not only practical skills, such as budgeting, etc., but also “softer” skills that promote self esteem and relationship building.

3. The Department should amend Florida Administrative Code 65C-30 to address and clarify responsibility for provision of IL services and support to youth and young adults who reside outside their area of jurisdiction.

4. The Department should provide additional clarification of the determination of “residency” requirements, and subsequent provision of Road to Independence and Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) funds, for young adults attending school out of state.

5. The Department should evaluate the current Road to Independence requirements to allow for more flexibility for use of the funds; to include making these Road to Independence funds available for informal apprenticeships, internships, and “on-the-
job training” for youth who are not ready for a structured academic or vocational program.

6. The Department should revise and streamline existing IL forms, such as combining the Transitional Support Services Application and Transition Plan to include goal tracking activities.

**Federal Child and Family Services Review – Quality Improvement Plan**

In June 2009, the Department submitted an amended Quality Improvement Plan to the Administration for Children and Families. This plan will be implemented over a two year period. The delivery of IL Services is a key element of this plan. Of the five goals in the plan, the most directly applicable goal is “Goal 3. Improve Service Array.” To achieve this goal, the Department developed a strategy to individualize services for family members to meet their specific needs and enable families to nurture their children. All regions, circuits, and CBC lead agencies, submitted tasks to align with the standard template including this third goal.

**Fiscal Oversight**

As required by subsection 409.1451(5), F. S., each CBC lead agency submitted a plan to the Department in August 2009 addressing the following major components for the population of young adults formerly in foster care.

- The number of young adults to be served each month of the fiscal year;
- The number of young adults who will reach 18 years of age who will be eligible for the plan;
- The number of young adults who will reach 23 years of age and will be ineligible for the plan or who are otherwise ineligible during each month of the fiscal year;
- Staffing requirements and all related costs to administer the services and program;
- Payment to, or expenditures on behalf of, the eligible recipients;
- Costs of services provided to young adults through an approved plan for housing, transportation, and employment; reconciliation of these expenses and any additional related costs with the funds allocated for these services; and
- An explanation of and a plan to resolve any shortages or surpluses in order to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget.

These plans were reviewed at the state office to address any areas of concern regarding fiscal management of IL services. The plans help to project budget issues and help to identify trends or concerns specific to budget management for service delivery to young adults formerly in foster care.

In addition, the Department has established a CBC unit that reports to the Assistant Secretary for Administration. This unit focuses on oversight of the fiscal components of the outsourced child welfare system. Department Administrative Services staff have
conducted site visits to CBC lead agencies to develop tools for monitoring and providing technical assistance to CBC lead agencies and the Department’s contract managers. This fiscal monitoring model leverages financial information required by contract and coordination of monitoring activities among the Department’s contract managers, the Office of Financial Management and the COU. This model has been successful in identifying areas of concern before any major findings occur. It has also been well received by the CBC lead agencies as being less intrusive but still very helpful to them as well.

Until December 31, 2009, fiscal oversight of ChildNet, Inc. and Our Kids, Inc. was provided by contract with Abel & Associates, P.A., in accordance with Chapter 2006-30, Laws of Florida. Abel & Associates conducts monthly audits of the financial records of ChildNet and Our Kids and in certain months they focus on programmatic areas, such as IL payments. Monthly reports have been provided to the Department. A review of the reports January through November 2009 indicates no substantive problems with fiscal management of the IL Program. Strong controls were in place and/or issues that were noted were satisfactorily resolved. Financial and contract oversight are now provided by Department of Children and Families staff.

C. Rules Promulgation

Provisions relating to the delivery of Independent Living transitional services are included in multiple chapters, including:

- Chapter 65C-28, Out-of-Home Care, providing direction for delivery of services to youth in foster care. Specifically, 65C-28.009, Adolescent Services, implements s. 409.1451(3), F.S.

- Chapter 65C-30, General Child Welfare Provisions, providing direction on delivery of services to youth under supervision of the Department.

- Chapter 65C-31, Services to Young Adults Formerly in the Custody of the Department, providing direction on the delivery of services to young adults, specifically those provided by s. 409.1451(5), F.S.

In December 2008 the Department published a Notice of Rule Development for Chapters 65C-28, 30, and 31, Florida Administrative Code. In January 2009 public workshops were conducted in Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and Tallahassee. CBC lead agencies, contracted services providers, and community stakeholders had the opportunity to provide comments on the draft proposed revisions. The Department is working to incorporate the comments, as well as, new legislation passed during the 2009 Legislative Session.
NOTICE OF FILING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Agency:</th>
<th>Department of Children and Families</th>
</tr>
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<td>Recipient Agency:</td>
<td>Substantive Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Department of Children and Families Independent Living Services Outcomes and Oversight Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report Due Date:</td>
<td>January 31, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Requirement:</td>
<td>s.409.1451(6), F.S.</td>
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Abstract:

As required by s. 409.1451(6), F.S., effective July 1, 2006 the Department of Children and Families is directed to prepare a report on outcome measures and the Department’s oversight activities of the services outlined in s. 409.1451, F.S.

Subsection 409.1451(6), F.S., provides:

ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Department shall develop outcome measures for the program and other performance measures in order to maintain oversight of the program. The Department shall prepare a report on the outcome measures and the Department’s oversight activities and submit the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the committees with jurisdiction over issues relating to children and families in the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than January 31 of each year. The report must include:

(a) An analysis of performance on the outcome measures developed under this section reported for each community-based care lead agency and compared with the performance of the Department on the same measures.

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(c) Any rules adopted or proposed under this section since the last report. For the purposes of the first report, any rules adopted or proposed under this section must be included.

Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting: Julie Mayo at 850-922-0375.

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HRS Form 1610, Oct 96
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORT TITLE</th>
<th>STATUTORY REFERENCE</th>
<th>SPECIFICATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report on Outcome Measures and Oversight Activities of the Independent Living Transition Service Program</td>
<td>s. 409.1451(6), F.S.</td>
<td>• An analysis of performance on outcome measures.</td>
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<td>• A description of the Department's oversight of the program.</td>
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<td>• Any rules adopted or proposed under this section since the last report.</td>
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