

**Idaho Child and Family Services Plan and Progress Report  
FY 2008-2009**

**INTRODUCTION**

**STATE AGENCY**

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) is the state agency responsible for over 30 health, welfare and human services programs throughout Idaho. The Department's mission is to actively promote and protect the health and safety of Idahoans.

**PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES CONTINUUM**

The Division of Family and Community Services (FACS) is responsible for child protection, adoptions and foster care, Interstate Compact, Indian child welfare, services to persons with developmental disabilities, and early intervention/ screening for infants and toddlers. The FACS Child and Family Services (CFS) program provides child protection, adoptions and foster care and Indian child welfare in close collaboration with other FACS division programs. CFS services are integrated to reflect the Department's family-centered philosophy which affirms the belief that families are the best place for children to grow and develop. The Child and Family Services program focuses on the entire family unit and builds on family strengths while supporting and empowering families to be self-reliant.

The Division of Family and Community Services is responsible for administering state Title IV-E programs. As part of its Title IV-E responsibility, FACS administers funds and services of the Independent Living (IL) Program under Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169) and ETV Program. IDHW, FACS Division, also administers the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Title IV-B, and Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Basic Grant programs. The FACS Child and Family Services Program is responsible for the plan.

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)**

Idaho submitted its final Self Assessment to DHHS in January of 2008, in preparation for Idaho's second CFSR. The review was conducted the week of April 7-11, 2008 in three separate locations: Kootenai County which includes the town of Coeur d'Alene in far northern Idaho; Jerome County which includes the town of Jerome in south central Idaho; and Ada County which includes the capital city of Boise in southwestern Idaho. Results are still preliminary and a final report is not expected until July 2008 at the earliest. The state's Self Assessment accurately predicted most of the state's strengths and areas needing improvement. Areas of strength included: quality assurance, staff training and information systems. Areas needing improvement included: placement stability; timely adoptions and family engagement (visits, needs assessment, involvement in case planning).

While we are yet to achieve the criteria of the previous CFSR (90%) on many items, we have met and surpassed our negotiated goals on every item identified in CFSR-1 as an area needing improvement.

Capitalizing on the information in our Self Assessment, preliminary CFSR results and momentum developed before and during the review, we will kick off our Program Improvement Plan (PIP) process on June 5, 2008. This will include a meeting of key stakeholders, a number of whom were involved in the development of the Self Assessment.

There are a number of items in this plan which we have continued to monitor since the closing of our first PIP. That PIP closed in February 2006. These PIP-1 goals are indicated as such in the text. This APSR will report on progress over the past year, however, many of the new strategies will need to come from our PIP-2. We will submit a revised APSR when our PIP-2 has been approved. That revised APSR will incorporate our PIP-2 strategies. For the current report we will include additional strategies which will not likely be required by our PIP such as ICWA.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

This annual plan incorporates the input of individuals who represent a wide range of agencies and community partners throughout the state. The plan was shared and input on the progress made, including updates for the coming year, was sought from the following groups:

- Central Office Deputy Administrators, Program Managers, and Program Specialists;
- Regional Child Welfare Program Managers, Chiefs Of Social Work, and Supervisors;
- Supreme Court Child Protection Committee (CIP);
- Idaho State and Tribal Indian Child Welfare Committee;
- Casey Family Programs;
- University partners;
- Keeping Children Safe Panel Members (citizen review panels); and
- Governor's Children at Risk Task Force.

Because of the diversity and strength of these groups, Idaho's APSR has depth and perspective beyond what could have been developed by IDHW in isolation. The annual plan is also placed on IDHW's website for review by the public at large.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THIS APSR**

Idaho's Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) for FFY 2007 includes information regarding child welfare services provided through Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, Title IV-E, Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), and CAPTA as required.

Using a combination of funding streams including IV-B subparts 1 and 2, CAPTA, CFCIP and ETV, Idaho is able to provide a wide continuum of services and training that fulfill the program purposes of each funding source including: protection and promotion

of the welfare of all children; prevention of neglect, abuse or exploitation of children; support of at-risk families through services which allow children to remain with their families or return to their families in a timely manner; promote the safety, permanency and well being of children in foster care and adoptive families and provide training, professional development and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce; intervention and treatment services; foster care; services for kinship care; independent living, and services for youth in other permanent living arrangements. Strategic planning across all programs is ongoing and coordinated to assure that services to increase family safety, permanency, and well-being are integrated and comprehensive. The services and training that IDHW provides is family-centered. Therefore this plan also incorporates healthy marriages, responsible fatherhood, and faith-based and community initiatives in its future strategies.

Funding streams are identified by the following acronyms:

CAPTA	Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act
CFCIP	Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
CIP	Court Improvement Project
CJA	Children’s Justice Act
CWS	Child Welfare Services, Title IV-B subpart 1
ETV	Education and Training Voucher Program
GF	State General Funds
PSSF	Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Title IV-B, subpart 2
SANCA	Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TAFI	Temporary Assistance to Families in Idaho
IV-E	Title IV-E

This APSR is organized by goals and strategies. Under each strategy the funding source used to finance the strategy is recorded. The overall organization of the APSR mirrors the child welfare goals of the CFSR. For example:

- Goal I -- "Safety" includes services and training involving prevention and child safety.
- Goal II -- "Permanency" includes services and programs regarding reunification, kinship, adoptions, concurrent planning, child stability, and services for youth in other permanent living arrangements. Activities involving ICWA and a child's connectivity to his/her tribe also appear in this section as does information on Inter Country Adoption disruptions.
- Goal III -- "Well-Being" includes services and training regarding the needs and services of children, parents, and foster parents.
- Goal IV – Continuously improve the organization’s capacity to achieve its goals of helping families and children.

- Systemic Factor -- "Staff and Provider Training" includes Children and Family Service's comprehensive training plan.
- Systemic Factor -- "Service Array and Resource Development" includes most services involving IV-B subparts 1 and 2. Rural resource development is also reported in this section.
- Systemic Factor -- "Responsiveness to Community" includes a report on Idaho's Citizen Review Panels, activities involving the six tribes located in Idaho, the agency's involvement with Idaho's Court Improvement Project, as well as other community partners.
- Systemic Factors -- "Statewide Information System," "Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention," "Case Review System," and "Quality Assurance" are also included.

All of the goals and strategies have been developed with input from community partners through a sustained series of collaborative contacts throughout the year.

Under the strategies for each item, an abbreviated description of previously completed items is retained. This gives the reader information on what has been done in the immediate past, what is being worked on currently and also outlines future strategies.

As mentioned above, an amended APSR will be provided upon approval of Idaho's PIP-2 as this will mean deletion of some items and addition of other items found to be Areas Needing Improvement in the CFSR-2.

**GOAL I. CHILDREN WILL BE SAFE**

**Outcome 1. Children are, First and Foremost, Protected from Abuse and Neglect**

**STRATEGIES**

**Item 1. Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment**

- 1.1 Revise FOCUS report to calculate the percentage of cases that meet timeframes of IDHW Priority Response Guidelines (PIP-1 item)  
Status: Completed - 2005
- 1.2 Implement consistent methods to monitor timeliness of investigations. (PIP-1 item)  
Status: Completed - 2004

**1.3 Review results of monitoring timeliness of initial investigation and implement recommended changes (PIP-1 item).**

**Funding Source:** CAPTA  
**Target Date for Completion:** Ongoing  
**Status:** Ongoing

Below are the statewide quarterly CQI results for timeliness of investigation gathered in Quarters 14 -17. Idaho’s goal is to have face-to-face contact with the child of concern within the required timeframes 90% of the time. Idaho has consistently exceeded this goal in all quarters to date. We continue to monitor timeliness of all cases on a monthly basis at the regional level and quarterly at the state level. The monthly reports are consistent with what we find in the CQI case review - percentages in the 90’s. When trouble spots are detected, the region makes an assessment by examining a detailed report and a regional improvement plan is developed.

Statewide	Qtr 14			Qtr 15			Qtr 16			Qtr 17		
month	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Sept 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08
% met guidelines	98	95	92	97	98	94	93	97	96	97	98	96

**CFSR-2 case review results** confirmed that this was an area of strength. Preliminary CFSR-2 data shows a 20 percentage point increase between CFSR-1 (74%) and CFSR-2 (94%). Regional Chiefs of Social Work have sought assistance from Central Office on monitoring this item to help maintain a high level of performance on the part of workers.

- 1.4 Develop standards to determine priorities for intake/screening. (PIP-1 item)  
Status: Completed - 2004
- 1.5 Develop and provide training to risk assessment supervisors regarding prioritizing referrals. (PIP-1 item)  
Status: Completed - 2005
- 1.6 Develop and provide training regarding timeliness and the agency’s priority response guidelines. (PIP-1 item)  
Status: Completed - 2004
- 1.7 Amend priority response guidelines according to best practice or new mandates.  
Status: Completed – 2005

**STRATEGIES**

**Item 2. Repeat Maltreatment**

- 2.1 Establish and implement standards for immediate safety and assessment and reassessment. (PIP-1 item)  
Status: Completed - 2004
- 2.2 Develop training to assist workers to conduct a thorough family centered safety/risk assessment using the existing CFS Risk Assessment tool as part of a decision making process. (PIP-1 Item)  
Status: Completed - 2004
- 2.3 Deliver training to assist workers to conduct a thorough family centered safety/risk assessment using the existing CFS Risk Assessment tool. (PIP-1 Item)  
Status: Completed - 2004
- 2.4 Develop worker skills in interviewing families to assist the worker in conducting a thorough family centered safety/risk assessment. (PIP-1 item)  
Status: Completed - 2004
- 2.5 Develop supervisory skills in monitoring the safety/risk assessment process to reduce likelihood of recurrence.  
Status: Completed - 2004
- 2.6 Monitor regional and state recurrence of maltreatment rates (PIP-1 item).**

**Funding Source:** CAPTA  
**Target Date for Completion:** 2005  
**Status:** Ongoing

Below are quarterly statewide CQI results for recurrence of maltreatment gathered in quarters 14-17. Our PIP-1 goal was 90% of cases reviewed may not have a substantiated report of re-maltreatment. We have consistently exceeded our goal in all previous quarters until the Sixteenth Quarter. At the same time our re-maltreatment data indicator continues to drop.

Fourteenth Quarter	Fifteenth Quarter	Sixteenth Quarter			Seventeenth Quarter		
		January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	June 2008
5/07-7-07 Adoption Special CQI	8/07 - 10/07 Regions 2,3,4,6	Region 7	Region 2	Region 3	CFSR	Region 6	data not available
	100%	75%	91%	71%		100%	
quarter overall: 82%				quarter overall: 100%			
↑ Point at which we shifted quarters to run on the calendar year to synch up with other reporting requirements. Also began reviewing one region per month.							

**Recurrence of Maltreatment National Standard:** 6.1% or less

Idaho Baseline 5/03: 9.3% PIP-1 Goal: 8.4%

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report that gathers data from FOCUS shows the following results in quarters 14-17. Outcome data continues to be well below the national standard.

Fourteenth Quarter	Fifteenth Quarter	Sixteenth Quarter	Seventeenth Quarter
* //01/06 – 6/30/07	*10/1/06 – 9/30/07	*12/01/06- 11/30/07	*4/01/07- 3/31/08
<b>4.1%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

**\*denotes the period under review for the Child Welfare Outcomes Report**

2.7 Develop FOCUS reports to enable staff to access and analyze recurrence data on a statewide and regional basis. (PIP-1 item)

Status: Completed - 2006

2.8 Evaluate the use of substantiated disposition in connection with repeat maltreatment.

Status: Discontinued 2006

2.9 Seek consultation regarding use of central registry to encourage social workers to accurately disposition cases.

Status: Completed - 2006

**2.10 Revise process for entering names on the central registry including finalization of administrative rules related to the central registry.**

**Funding Source:** CAPTA

**Target Date for Completion:** 2007

**Status:** Completed - 2008

Revised rules to amend the Central Registry were developed in close collaboration with Family and Children’s Services, the Offices of the Attorney General, the Director of Health and Welfare, and the Governor. These rules were presented to the Board of Health and Welfare in March 2007 for approval. No changes were recommended by the Board. The rules became effective September 1, 2007 as temporary rules, pending legislative approval. During the 2008, legislative session, the temporary rules were presented to both the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees and approved.

**See Attachment 1.**

Prior to this rule change, beyond the initial appeal process available to an individual newly-placed on the Central Registry, there was no provision in rule for an individual to have his name removed from the registry. This issue resulted in numerous complaints

from the public. The revised rules now include a process for an individual on the Central Registry to request that the Department remove his name from the registry when the time period assigned to the individual's risk level has elapsed. Following an assessment of a report of abuse or neglect, all individuals with a substantiated deposition are now assigned a level of risk. These levels are based on the severity of maltreatment, the history of prior substantiations, and the degree of future risk the individual poses. Each risk level is assigned a minimum period of time that the individual's name will remain on the Central Registry. For example:

- An individual with a Level One designation has been determined to pose a high to severe risk to children. Names of individuals for whom an incident of abuse abandonment or neglect has been substantiated as a level one will remain permanently on the Child Protection Central Registry.
- An individual with a Level Two designation has been determined to pose a medium to high risk to children and will remain on the Child Protection Central Registry for a minimum of ten years.
- An individual with a Level Three designation has been determined to pose a mild to medium risk to children and will remain on the Child Protection Central Registry for a minimum of five years.

After the minimum time on the registry has elapsed, an individual may petition the Department to have his name removed. The petition will be granted if there are no additional substantiated reports on the Child Protection Central Registry or that of other states in which the petitioner has resided since the last substantiated report of abuse in Idaho, and there are no convictions, adjudications, or withheld judgments for crimes on the state's central repository of criminal history reports as established and maintained by the Idaho State Police.

## **2.11 Develop Central Registry Guidelines and training plan for implementation of the newly revised Central Registry Rules.**

<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>CAPTA</b>
<b>Target Date for Completion:</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed - 2008</b>

In partnership with Boise State University Child Welfare Center, a training curriculum was developed for a train-the-trainer session in September, 2007. The curriculum includes a section on the purpose of the central registry, a history of the registry, an overview of the rule changes, dispositioning and leveling cases activities, and instructions for entering dispositions into FOCUS. All regional Chiefs of Social Work and supervisors of safety and risk assessment staff were trained as trainers.

**2.12 Train one hundred percent of CFS social workers and clinicians on dispositioning referrals of child abuse and neglect and the new central registry levels and processes.**

<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>CAPTA</b>
<b>Target Date for Completion:</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Completed - 2008</b>

In October, 2007, regional supervisors and Chiefs of Social Work trained social workers and clinicians on dispositioning referrals of child abuse and neglect, using the newly developed curriculum. Additionally, curriculum for the Child Welfare New Worker Academy was revised to include the new rule process. Currently, during session two of academy, all new social workers are trained on the central registry levels and central registry rules.