

Issue Brief – Domestic Violence

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

NUMBER DHS-07-20

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is requesting an appropriation of \$635,700 with \$524,700 from General Funds and \$111,200 from federal funds to expand the Domestic Violence Pilot Program and hire 10 additional full time equivalent (FTE) caseworkers.

OBJECTIVE

The goal of DCFS is to provide services to children at risk of abuse and neglect, and adults experiencing domestic violence. The objective of this program is to assist community partners to reduce domestic violence.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Guidelines of the federal Program Improvement Plan which requires repeat offenses for domestic violence to be below 7.5 percent. During FY 2004, DCFS investigated 2,530 victims of domestic violence related to child abuse. In FY 2004 there were 27 deaths associated with domestic violence. Approximately 10 percent of the domestic violence related cases had repeat offenses within 6 months.

Because of this high incidence of repeat domestic violence, DCFS started a pilot program in December of 2004 for domestic violence in high risk sections of Salt Lake City (Rose Park Office). This project requires caseworkers to tailor their case loads to work with families experiencing domestic violence; i.e., investigate, assess risk, develop a safety plan for family members, provide education for family member, refer family members to community services and coordinate with community partners. Implementation of the pilot program last year lowered the percent of repeat offenses to 3 percent in the first half of FY 2005 as shown in the following table:

Domestic Violence Pilot	
Number of Pilot Cases	59
Repeat Offenses within 6 Months	2
% of Recidivism	3%

RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee may want to consider including this request for \$635,700 with \$524,500 from General Funds and \$111,200 from federal funds for FY 2007.