

## Issue Brief – Child and Family Treatment Services

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DHS-09-17

### CHILD AND FAMILY TREATMENT SERVICES

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) requests \$626,200 with \$338,000 from the General Fund, \$72,300 in federal funds, \$31,900 in dedicated credits, \$4,600 in transfers, and \$179,400 in federal Medicaid funds to provide treatment services for families and children in foster care. The Analyst recommends that \$215,200 from the General Fund be placed on the priority list for child and family treatment services for FY 2009. The Analyst further recommends that \$95,500 be transferred from the Inter-country Adoption program in the Office of Licensing in the Executive Director Operations line item.

### OBJECTIVE

DCFS' primary purpose is to provide child welfare services and to protect children from abuse and neglect. Utah Code Section 62A-4a-105 states DCFS is to provide substitute care for dependent, abused, neglected, and delinquent children.

### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The number of children in foster care has increased as well as their length of time in state custody. DCFS is seeing more difficult children requiring more services and an increase in parents involved in substance abuse resulting in children having to remain in custody longer. The following table shows a history of the costs, clients served and length of stay in foster care:

<b>DCFS History of Expenditures, Clients Served and Length of stay for Foster Care</b>						
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008 Estimate	FY 2009 Estimate
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Placement Cost (1)	\$24,572,597	\$25,588,373	\$24,160,438	\$28,182,689	\$31,668,566	\$34,051,958
Wrap Around Services (2)	\$5,837,481	\$7,412,286	\$9,769,016	\$9,431,913	\$10,563,743	\$11,356,023
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$30,410,078</b>	<b>\$33,000,659</b>	<b>\$33,929,454</b>	<b>\$37,614,602</b>	<b>\$42,232,309</b>	<b>\$45,407,981</b>
% Change		8.5%	2.8%	10.9%	12.3%	7.5%
<b>Clients Served:</b>						
Total Number Receiving Treatment Services	3,758	3,860	4,040	4,263	4,350	4,515
% Change		2.7%	4.7%	5.5%	2.0%	3.8%
<b>Length of Stay:</b>						
Average Number of Days Served per Client	200	203	205	207	217	225
% Change		1.6%	0.7%	1.4%	4.6%	3.6%
(1) Placement Cost includes room and board, treatment, education, etc.						
(2) Wrap Around Services includes treatment and other costs not included in Placement Costs which are specific to individual needs.						

### *Internal Savings in DCFS*

Because the expenditures for the Out-of-home Services and Adoption Assistance programs in DCFS fluctuate, the Legislature has given DCFS non-lapsing authority the past several years. DCFS is projecting a savings at the close of FY 2008 in the Out-of-Home Services and Adoption Assistance programs of \$3,620,404. DCFS plans to use these internal savings to partially offset the request for child and family treatment services for FY 2009. The following table shows the history of DCFS using internal savings to offset these costs:

<b>DCFS History of Funding Requirements for Child and Family Treatment Services</b>				
	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2009 Estimate</b>
General Fund	\$19,389,092	\$20,642,606	\$22,215,000	\$22,215,000
SSBG (1)	\$0	\$239,500	\$0	\$0
ORS Collections	\$1,848,988	\$2,035,794	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
Federal Title IVE	\$3,772,385	\$3,961,099	\$4,419,046	\$4,750,474
Transfers	\$0	\$298,361	\$300,000	\$300,000
Medicaid Title XIX	\$11,708,589	\$11,367,402	\$11,888,506	\$11,795,939
Carryover	\$1,210,400	\$4,000,000	\$4,930,160	\$3,620,404
Total Available	\$37,929,454	\$42,544,762	\$45,852,712	\$44,781,817
Expenditures	(\$33,929,454)	(\$37,614,602)	(\$42,232,309)	(\$45,407,981)
Projected Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,000,000	\$4,930,160	\$3,620,403	<b>(\$626,164)</b>

(1) SSBG is Social Services Block Grant

**The amount highlighted in blue represents the funding request for FY 2009.**

### *Internal Reallocation of Funding*

During the 2005 General Session, the Legislature passed H.B 22, "Inter-country Adoption Accreditation," which appropriated \$150,000 in General Fund to the Office of Licensing in the Department of Human Services. This legislation was dependent upon the federal government executing an agreement with the Office of Licensing to be the accrediting agency for inter-country adoptions for the State of Utah. The Office of Licensing was not selected as the accrediting agency for inter-country adoptions by the State Department; therefore, there is \$150,000 in General Fund available for reallocation by this subcommittee.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Analyst recommends that \$215,200 from the General Fund be placed on the priority list for child and family treatment services for FY 2009. The Analyst further recommends that \$95,500 be transferred from the Inter-country Adoption program in the Office of Licensing in the Executive Director Operations line item.