

ENHANCEMENT OF THE UTAH IN-HOME SERVICES MODEL
QUARTERLY REPORT

The State of Utah Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is in the process of enhancing its In-Home Services Model. We believe that these enhancements will be made through a collaborative, strength/needs-based approach designed to decrease threats of harm, decrease child vulnerability, increase protective capacity, and ultimately facilitate child safety all while providing coordinated services to parents or caretakers that are having difficulties with parenting and are at-risk of having their child or children removed from the home and placed in an alternate setting.

DCFS will use this Model to:

- Enhance partnerships with agencies and coordinate in-home services delivered to families.
- Provide intensive culturally responsive in-home case management and wrap-around services that will enable parents or caregivers maintain their children in their homes.
- Develop and implement new training to be delivered to DCFS and employees of partner agencies that will use this Model to assess the need for and provide in-home services.
- Enhance data collection and quality improvement systems as necessary to support changes to practice resulting from implementation of this Model.
- Revise policies and procedures as well as identify and recommend modifications to state rules and statutes that will support the Model.



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Statement of Need

In-home services delivered to children and families by DCFS and its many partners include a host of child abuse and neglect prevention services, counseling, education, respite care services, parenting classes, support groups, information and referral services, advocacy services, legal and financial support services, and services provided to children with mental illness or other special needs.

In addition to these “traditional” support services, DCFS is keenly aware that there are many other fraternal, faith-based, ad hoc, or other organizations with which the family interacts to meet their child welfare related needs. The current system has not been effective at involving these “non-traditional” partners as it provides assistance to families. The lack of coordination of services is compounded by the fact that there are few formal agreements or written procedures that guide the coordination of service delivery.

During the planning process that led to publication of the 2010-2014 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)¹, representatives from DCFS, non-profit, community-based agencies, state and local government entities, and the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, discussed ways in which services provided through the in-home service delivery system could help reduce the need for placement of children at-risk of child abuse or neglect in out-of home care. That group recommended that DCFS and its partners enhance existing in-home programs and services and seek out and include “non-traditional” resources that have the capacity to offer additional support. In an effort to enhance collaboration, that group also suggested that DCFS

¹ Resulting in DCFSs goal to “Develop new and enhance existing in-home services and community partnerships that will decrease threats of harm, decrease child vulnerability, increase protective capacity, and ultimately facilitate child safety.”



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QUARTERLY REPORT

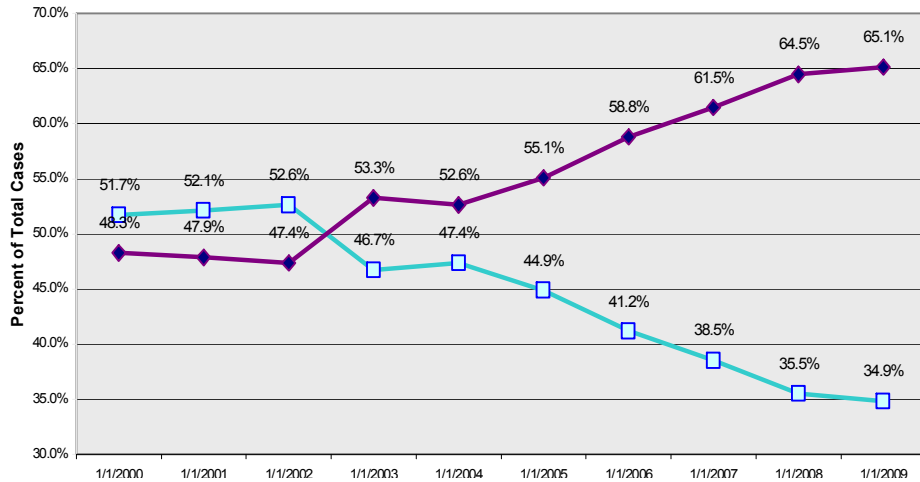
assess the applicability of, and its ability to implement statewide, the Utah In-Home Services System of Care Model, which utilizes a “Creative Intervention” strategy to help identify and coordinate resources available to help meet the needs of vulnerable populations which include:

- Children experiencing or at-risk of experiencing abuse or neglect
- Children that may require placement in an out-of-home setting such as a shelter or foster care placement including youth that will potentially age out of foster care
- Parents that require in-home agency services to either maintain the family as a family unit or reunify the family
- Individuals requiring information about the prevention of abuse or neglect.

DCFS believes children are best served, and permanency outcomes are better, when a child at risk of abuse and neglect can remain safely in their own home with their family. While DCFS has pledged to reduce its dependence on foster care and residential placements to care for children who are victims of abuse or neglect, in 2008 the division was required to place more than 4,400 children in foster and relative family homes or in group or institutional settings.



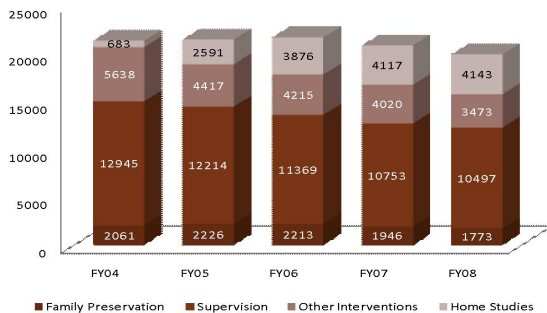
ENHANCEMENT OF THE UTAH IN-HOME SERVICES MODEL
 Proportion of Home Based and Foster Care Cases
 2000 through 2009
 QUARTERLY REPORT



Unfortunately, since 2002 the ratio of in-home cases to foster care cases has decreased dramatically. Currently, when adding together all in-home and foster care cases, only 34.9% received in-home services; that compared to as many as 52.6% receiving those services in 2002.

Further evidence shows that between 2004 and 2008, the total number of in-home services across all service types decreased by 6.8%. Even more dramatic, between 2005 and 2009 there was an 18.5% drop in the number of children receiving in-home services across all service types.

NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED THROUGH IN-HOME SERVICES BY SERVICE TYPE



Number of children who received in-home services (includes PSC, PSS, PFP, PFR, PAT, PSI, CCS, CIS)	
Fiscal Year	Number of Children
FY '05	8,764
FY '06	8,041
FY '07	7,622
FY '08	7,318
FY '09	7,146



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QUARTERLY REPORT

To begin the enhancement process, DCFS administrators with the assistance of Casey Family Programs developed seven subcommittees. Each subcommittee is chartered to address a specific need. The seven subcommittees include; Research, Stakeholder Input, Population Served, Resources and Capacity, Practice Guidelines and Legislative Analysis, Evaluation, and Implementation and Development.

The Research Subcommittee is chaired by Mike Scholl of Casey Family Programs. Other members include; Patti VanWagoner, Brent Platt, Paul Smith, Aude Hamlet, Reba Nissen, Boni Seals, James Loveless and Angela Robins. This subcommittee has met on three occasions and explored two service models that have shown promise. One model is the Homebuilders Model. ***HOMEBUILDERS*** is a home and community-based intensive family preservation services treatment program designed to avoid unnecessary placement of children and youth into foster care, group care, psychiatric hospitals, or juvenile justice facilities. The second model is one that has been prototyped by the Division of Child and Family Services in the Eastern Region. The System of Care Model is based on five principles; Interagency Collaboration, Individualized Care, Cultural Competence, Child and Family Involvement, Community-Based Services, and Accountability. In addition to the System of Care, the Eastern Region has added a Creative Interventions Program. This program supports those families that are at risk of being separated by an out of home placement through intensive case management that can require a worker to be in the home up to three times per week. The outcomes for families involved in these programs are quite promising.



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The six remaining subcommittees have identified members and are awaiting a decision from the Executive Committee as to which direction the State of Utah will be going on the In-Home Program. Once the go ahead is given, the subcommittees will be working feverishly to prepare for statewide implementation.

