



WorkFirst One Table

TITLE: WORKING WITH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
PREPARED: COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION\ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
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Economic Services Administration (ESA) and Children's Administration (CA) representatives work closely together to maximize access to services provided by each administration. Our ongoing relationship allows us to develop policy, process and procedures to ensure families are able to access services they need such as:

- **WorkFirst Sanction Case Staffing Policy:** The Non-Compliance Sanction Case Staffing policy was revised to include the importance of inviting a Children's Administration (CA) Social Worker to the case staffing whenever possible especially if CA is working with the individual. CA involvement provides the opportunity to make sure that WorkFirst requirements don't interfere with the actions families take to resolve families' issues and emergencies.
- **Medicaid Treatment Child Care (MTCC)¹:** July 1, 2006 ESA implemented a process to make referrals to MTCC for identified children that are at risk of abuse or neglect. ESA and CA continue to have ongoing conversations on process improvements and budget impacts.
- **Child Safety Plans and Individual Responsibility Plans:** December 1, 2006, ESA and CA put into action a consolidated effort to take into consideration parents' involvement with both agencies as part of the program requirements. ESA staff incorporates any CA activities as appropriate into the parent's Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP) if there is an indication of the family involvement with CA. It is also helpful to involve CA in case staffing, assessments, and any intense work with the family to ensure joint plans that will meet the family's needs.
- **Family Reunification²:** August 1, 2008 DSHS implemented the Temporary Absence and Concurrent Benefits changes. ESA and CA continue to have ongoing process improvements meetings, review data and to increase access to services.
- **FAMLINK Access:** ESA and CA are currently collaborating to improve access to data across Administrations. This will allow case managers to better coordinate family services and supports.
- **Improving Kinship Caregivers services:** ESA works with CA staff to improve services for kinship caregivers through:
 - DSHS Kinship Care Workgroup (which ESA chairs); and
 - Kinship Care Oversight Committee, mandated by the Legislature (which CA chairs)
- **Regional Efforts:** Each region has procedures in place to ensure that mutual clients meet each administration's program requirements at the same time the families are accessing the services they need.
 - Some CSOs have CA staff co-located, or a designated liaison, that work together on shared cases. In some local areas, a list of CSO contacts is sent to CA to support communication and ensure services coordination.
 - Some ESA Case Managers attend Child Protective Team (CPT) meetings, Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) meetings and aging out of foster care case staffing with CA. These meeting are held in ongoing basis an members of the teams give input and recommendations about placement. This allows for cross-agency planning for interventions and often lead towards effective utilization of service providers and community resources.
 - CSO and CA staff participate in LPA meetings on a monthly basis.

¹ MTCC is a day treatment program authorized by Children's Administration and is a contracted service that provides medically necessary psycho-social services to children ages 0-5 years old with mental and/or behavioral issues and who are at risk of child abuse and neglect.

² ESA made the following TANF changes to support family reunification and temporary relative placements:

- Extending the time that a parent can continue to receive TANF when a child is temporarily absent from 90 to 180 days.
- Providing concurrent TANF benefits for up to 180 days to the parent and to a relative (or other adult acting *in loco parentis*) when a TANF child has been temporarily placed by Child Protective Services (CPS) in the care of the relative or other adult. In these cases, the parent's TANF grant amount will be the same as it was when the child was living with the parent. The relative/caregiver may receive a child-only TANF grant, or they could qualify for a family grant if needy themselves.