



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

*Charlie Crist
Governor*

**Robert Butterworth
Secretary**

DATE: September 14, 2007

TO: Robert A. Butterworth
Secretary

FROM: Sheryl G. Steckler
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Six-Month Status Report for OPPAGA Report No. 07-03

In accordance with Section 20.055(5)(g), Florida Statutes, enclosed is our six-month status report on OPPAGA Report No. 07-03, "*CBC Pilot Project Implementation Delayed But Proceeding; Other Initiatives Implemented.*" The report shows OPPAGA's original recommendations and the Department's status and comments, taken from representations made by management.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Enclosure

cc: Terry Shoffstall, Staff Director, Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

**SIX-MONTH STATUS REPORT:
OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS &
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT #07-03
"CBC PILOT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DELAYED
BUT PROCEEDING; OTHER INITIATIVES
IMPLEMENTED"**



Sheryl G. Steckler, Inspector General
Jerry Chesnutt, Director of Auditing

Enhancing Public Trust in Government

Report #E-05-0506-112

September 14, 2007

PURPOSE

This report provides a written response to the Secretary on the status of corrective actions taken six months after the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability published Report #07-03, *CBC Pilot Project Implementation Delayed But Proceeding; Other Initiatives Implemented.*

REPORT FINDINGS, COMMENTS & STATUS

Presented below are summarized up-to-date corrective action comments and status for the audit findings, taken from representations made by the Assistant Secretary for Programs (OSPD) staff. The full text of the update, as reported by OSPD staff, is attached.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1: *To address challenges posed by the delay in signing the Chapin Hall contract, we recommend that the department direct Chapin Hall to adhere to the department's annual monitoring schedule and conduct programmatic and quality assurance monitoring of the pilot sites no later than April 2007.*

Status (per OSPD staff): Completed

The Department implemented an oversight committee to increase the awareness and continuity of contracting action with regard to Chapin Hall oversight of the piloted child welfare outsourced projects. Chapin Hall is in compliance with the monitoring schedule as established in the contract and agreed to by the oversight committee. Monthly meetings continue to press contract compliance and deliverable schedules.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: *To address challenges arising from the recent changes in permanency planning requirements, we recommend that the department offer ongoing training from the department's attorneys to all lead agencies so that new staff become familiar with the changes in permanency planning requirements.*

Status (per OSPD staff): Ongoing

To address training or technical assistance for lead agency and subcontract staff, the Department:

- Established the Center for Advancement of Child Welfare Practice which provides a searchable knowledge base and access to expert consultation on issues to include permanency;
- Sponsored the Dependency Summit in which workshops focused on permanency achievement and 2006 and 2007 legislative changes;
- Featured permanency related training articles in its monthly electronic training bulletin;
- Conducts technical assistance conference calls for administrative and specialist staff at the CBCs;
- Established a Child Welfare Legal Services Workgroup.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3: *To address challenges arising from the recent changes in permanency planning requirements, we recommend that the department and lead agencies periodically assess the availability of placement options throughout the state to ensure that appropriate placements are available so that lead agencies can help children move more quickly to permanent living arrangements.*

Status (per OSPD staff): Ongoing

Regarding assessment of placement options and related actions, the Department:

- Developed and disseminated a recruitment/retention model plan and required each CBC to submit a local plan by August 1, 2007;
- Provides individualized technical assistance to lead agencies or subcontract providers implementing the placement stability project;
- Engaged the services of consultant Peter Digre in concert with the California Youth Law Center;
- Delivered (with a CBC) a workshop at the Dependency Summit, September 5-7, 2007 on the issue of placement stability and best practices.

This follow-up audit was conducted as required by 20.055(3)(g), Florida Statutes and section 2500.A1 of the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing as published by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Elton Jones compiled this follow-up audit from representations provided by program management. Please address inquiries regarding this report to Jerry Chesnutt, Director of Auditing, at (850) 488-8722.

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