

**BRAAM SETTLEMENT  
MONTHLY/ QUARTERLY INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**





## ***Braam Oversight Panel***

The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a Settlement regarding Washington State's foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation. The named Plaintiff, Jessica Braam, is an adult who lived in 34 foster homes by the time the suit was filed in 1998. The Settlement is intended to improve the conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the state's Division of Children and Family Services. According to Children's Administration, as of June 30, 2010, there were 10,126 children in the Braam class.

The Panel was created to monitor improvements in selected services and ensure quality standards are met during the seven year duration of the settlement. This independent Panel was mutually selected by the parties (the Plaintiffs who filed the lawsuit and the state of Washington). The Panel, working in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and with substantial input from the Plaintiffs and other stakeholders, issued an Implementation Plan for the six areas specified in the Settlement in February 2006. In July 2008, a Revised Braam Implementation Plan was published to reflect clarifications and modifications based on developments in the Braam process and discussions with DSHS, the plaintiffs and stakeholders.

In August 2010, the Panel and the parties agreed that the Department will submit monthly or quarterly data updates regarding selected outcomes in order to provide more timely and frequent information about progress and to allow for a better understanding of whether strategies set forth in compliance plans are leading to improved performance. Informational reports are provided voluntarily by the Department, are not required under the settlement agreement, and are not used to determine compliance with the requirements of the agreement.

This document provides the Department's monthly informational reports for August 2011 and quarterly informational reports for July 2011.

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Attachment A: Children’s Administration Monthly Informational Performance Report (August 2011)

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## OVERVIEW OF MONTHLY/ QUARTERLY INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

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In order to obtain a more comprehensive view of issues related to Braam goals and outcomes and to better understand progress toward Braam benchmarks, the Braam Panel has asked the Department to provide a number of informational reports. Informational reports are provided voluntarily by the Department, are not required under the settlement agreement, and are not used to determine compliance with the requirements of the agreement.

As stated in the Revised Implementation Plan, “in areas identified for informational reports, the Panel will require annual submission of data by the Department (including performance by region and by racial/ ethnic subcategories), but will not set forth or assess compliance with annual benchmarks. Informational reports will provide the Panel, parties, and stakeholders with extensive data to better understand progress toward Braam goals and outcomes. Upon review of informational reports, the Panel reserves the right to reinstate or develop new outcomes and benchmarks.”

Consistent with the Revised Implementation Plan, informational reports are for informational purposes only. There are no benchmarks related to informational reports at this time; therefore no assessment of compliance is included in this document.

The Department provides the Braam Panel with several different types of informational reports (see part III, Monitoring Report #10, available at [www.braampanel.org/reports.asp](http://www.braampanel.org/reports.asp)). This report includes monthly and quarterly informational reports provided by the Department.

### **Monthly/ Quarterly Informational Reports**

In August 2010, the Panel and the parties agreed that the Department will submit monthly or quarterly data updates regarding selected outcomes in order to provide more timely and frequent information about progress and to allow for a better understanding of whether strategies set forth in compliance plans are leading to improved performance.

Informational monthly and/or quarterly data are provided for the outcomes listed below. These outcomes were identified by the Braam Panel for more frequent submission of data because Braam benchmarks were not met in past years and/ or because of concerns about lack of progress toward the benchmarks.

The most recent data available as of September 2011 have been included in this report.

#### Monthly reports (data provided in August 2011 are included in Attachment A)

- *Placement Stability*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 3- Caseload size*
- *Mental Health*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 2- CHET screenings (including data for each of the five CHET domains)*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 3- Shared Planning Meetings focused on CHET within 60 days of entry*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 4- Referral to Early Support for Infant and Toddlers Program (early intervention)*
- *Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 6- Monthly health and safety visits (report on alternative measure)*
- *Services to Adolescents*
  - *Goal 2, Outcome 3- Youth transition (exit) staffings*

Quarterly reports (data provided in July 2011 are included in Attachment B)

- *Placement Stability*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 2*- Two or fewer placements
- *Mental Health*
  - *Goal 2, Outcome 2*- Health & education plans in ISSPs updated every six months
  - *Goal 3, Outcome 2*- Annual Mental Health Assessment (report on alternative measure)
- *Foster Parent Training and Information*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 2*- Adequate foster parent support
- *Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 3*- Sexually Aggressive Youth
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 4*- Physically Aggressive/ Assaultive Youth
  - *Goal 2, Outcome 2*- DLR/ CPS investigations (report on alternative measure)
- *Sibling Separation*
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 1*- Placement with all siblings
  - *Goal 1, Outcome 2*-Placement with some/ all siblings
  - *Goal 2, Outcome 1*- Sibling visits and contacts
- *Services to Adolescents*
  - *Goal 3, Outcome 1*- Frequency of runaways (report on alternative measure)