

Executive Summary (Revised October 2011)
Monitoring Report #10—March 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Braam Settlement Agreement was reached in 2004, and is intended to improve the conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the state's Division of Children and Family Services.

The Settlement established goals in six areas:

- **Placement Stability**
- **Mental Health**
- **Foster Parent Training and Information**
- **Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements**
- **Sibling Separation**
- **Services to Adolescents**

This document is the Braam Oversight Panel's tenth monitoring report on the Braam Settlement Agreement, and is based on the requirements of the Revised Braam Implementation Plan (July 3, 2008).

This monitoring report provides **outcomes data for fiscal year 2010 (July 2009- June 2010)**, as well as a report on **15 action steps through December 31, 2010**. In addition, an overview of numerous informational reports is presented.

Monitoring Report #10 includes three sections:

- *Part I: Monitoring report on action steps*
- *Part II: Monitoring report on outcomes*
- *Part III: Overview of informational reports*

Part I: Monitoring report on 15 action steps

The following matrix reports on the progress through December 31, 2010 of the 15 action steps subject to continued monitoring under the Revised Braam Implementation Plan, including action steps that are operating under compliance plans previously approved by the Panel. Each Braam action step is classified into one of the following status categories:

- Complete
- Complete through performance period
- Incomplete
- Actions under approved compliance plan not complete through performance period

Summary of Findings on the Action Steps by area of the Settlement Agreement

	Placement Stability	Mental Health	Foster Parent Training	Unsafe/ Inappropriate Placements	Sibling Separation	Services to Adolescents	<i>total</i>
Complete	1			2	1	3	7
Complete through performance period		2	1			2	5
Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step will be due in 30 days		1					1
Under Approved Compliance Plan							
Approved compliance plan NOT complete through performance period						2	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>

The chart below provides a list of each of the 15 action steps subject to continued monitoring categorized by implementation status.

Detailed Findings on the Action Steps

COMPLETE (7)
<i>Placement Stability Action Step 1</i> Develop a plan by June 30, 2005 for review and approval by the Braam Panel to reduce caseloads to COA standards
<i>Unsafe Placements Action Step 1</i> Increase contact between social worker and family, child and caregivers to at least every calendar month, with no visit being more than 40 days after the previous visit
<i>Unsafe Placements Action Step 2</i> Increase compliance with policy requiring workers to visit children in placement within the first week of out-of-home care
<i>Sibling Separation Action Step 1</i> Develop and implement policies and protocols to increase the quality and frequency of visits or contacts between children, parents, and siblings
<i>Adolescent Services Action Step 2</i> Establish educational outreach positions to assist children in out-of-home care in meeting K–12 educational objectives and preparing for higher education goals.

<p><i>Adolescent Services Action Step 3</i> Develop and implement tutoring and mentoring services, in conjunction with existing community resources, to improve educational outcomes for adolescents in out-of-home care.</p>
<p><i>Adolescent Services Action Step 5</i> Documentation of credit accumulation and GPA COMPLETE THROUGH PERFORMANCE PERIOD (5)</p>
<p><i>Mental Health Action Step 2</i> Develop a plan to ensure the quality of the CHET process</p>
<p><i>Mental Health Action Step 3</i> Annual review of mental health and substance abuse services</p>
<p><i>Foster Parent Training Action Step 1</i> Foster parent survey</p>
<p><i>Adolescent Services Action Step 1</i> Educational attainment study</p>
<p><i>Adolescent Services Action Step 6</i> ILP Contracts INCOMPLETE (1)</p>
<p><i>Mental Health Action Step 1</i> Initial (72 hour) health screening APPROVED COMPLIANCE PLAN NOT COMPLETE THROUGH PERFORMANCE PERIOD (2)</p>
<p><i>Adolescent Services Action Step 4</i> Attendance, truancies, suspensions and expulsions</p>
<p><i>Adolescent Services Action Step 7</i> Information on children in juvenile detention facilities</p>

Part I of this document begins on page 8.

Part II: Monitoring report on outcomes

The Revised Braam Implementation Plan specified outcomes to “identify specific, required results that will advance the child welfare system toward a stated goal” (Settlement, page 4) and established annual benchmarks through which the Panel monitors compliance with these outcomes.

This Monitoring Report assesses progress with respect to the 33 outcomes and benchmarks set forth in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan. In this Monitoring Report, progress toward the benchmarks was determined by using administrative, case review and foster parent survey data for fiscal year 2010.

Performance on each Braam outcome is classified into one of the following status categories:

- Reached annual benchmark
- Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance plan required

The following matrix summarizes findings for FY10 for each of the 33 Braam outcomes.

Summary- Status of Outcomes by area of the Settlement Agreement

	Placement Stability	Mental Health	Foster Parent Training	Unsafe/ Inappropriate Placements	Sibling Separation	Services to Adolescents	total
Reached annual benchmark	1	4		3		1	9
Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance plan required	2	7	3	5	3	4	24
<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>33</i>

The table below lists each of the 33 Braam outcomes categorized by implementation status. For each outcome, the chart shows the FY10 benchmark, as well as actual performance for FY10.

Detailed Findings on the Outcomes

Outcome	FY10 Benchmark	FY10 Performance
REACHED FY10 BENCHMARK (9)		
<u>Placement Stability, Goal 1, Outcome 1</u> : The average monthly ratio of licensed foster care beds to children in licensed foster care will be at least 2.0.	2.0	2.6
<u>Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 1</u> : Children in out-of-home care will receive a comprehensive mental health assessment within 30 days of a request for an assessment.	90%	91.5%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 3</u> : Eligible children will receive services from a qualified mental health and/or substance abuse provider within 30 days of the completion of an assessment.	95%	97.2%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 4</u> : Percentage of children denied or found ineligible for mental health services and the child's needs were found to have been met.	90%	100%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 4, Outcome 1</u> : Children will receive behavioral health treatment services from the same individual provider for each episode of mental health treatment and/or substance use treatment (from admission to discharge), except where necessary to maintain or improve the quality of care for the child.	85%	94.5%

Outcome	FY10 Benchmark	FY10 Performance
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 1:</u> Children will not be placed in institutions not designed for placement of foster children, such as adult mental hospitals or detoxification facilities, where children and adults are commingled.	0 Incidents	0 Incidents
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 2:</u> Children will not stay overnight at DSHS offices or in apartments or hotels <i>unless</i> : - An appropriate licensed foster family or relative caregiver is not available, administrative approval has been granted, and adequate supervision is provided for the child as required in the Department’s November 2004 memo to CA staff, or - The youth has an Independent Living Plan authorizing such placement.	0 Incidents	0 Incidents
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 2, Outcome 1:</u> The percentage of children who are not victims of a founded report of child abuse or neglect by a foster parent or facility staff member will meet or exceed the federal Child and Family Services Review (round 2) standard.	99.68%	99.80%
<u>Services to Adolescents, Goal 2, Outcome 1:</u> The number of children (<i>excluding youth placed with relatives and/or with siblings</i>) who experience a change in school placement when they enter out-of-home care or change placement during the school year will decrease.	20%	17.3%
FAILED TO REACH FY10 BENCHMARK: COMPLIANCE PLAN REQUIRED (24)		
<u>Placement Stability, Goal 1, Outcome 2:</u> The percentage of children who experience two or fewer placements during their current out-of-home episode of care will increase (<i>outcome measure based on percentage of youth entering care during the two previous fiscal years with 2 or fewer placements, with time-in-care specifications based on entry year</i>).	90%	89.3%
<u>Placement Stability, Goal 1, Outcome 3:</u> Social workers will have caseloads at or below Council on Accreditation (COA) standards (18 child cases per caseworker for all other children) (<i>outcome measure based on the percentage of caseworkers with caseloads at or below COA standards</i>).	90%	72.2%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 1, Outcome 1:</u> Children will be screened by an appropriate health professional for immediate and urgent physical and mental health needs, including assessment for infectious and communicable diseases, within 72 hours of entering out-of-home care.	90%	Acceptable data not available
<u>Mental Health, Goal 1, Outcome 2:</u> Children in out-of-home care 30 days or longer will have completed and documented Child Health and Education Track (CHET) screens within 30 days of entering care.	90%	78%

Outcome	FY10 Benchmark	FY10 Performance
<u>Mental Health, Goal 1, Outcome 3:</u> A shared planning meeting (SPM) focusing on the CHET screening results will be held within 60 days of each child’s entry into care.	90%	51.9%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 1, Outcome 4:</u> Children age 3 and under in out-of-home care will be referred to the Early Support for Infant and Toddlers Program (Early Intervention) within 2 workdays of identification of concerns about developmental delays from their CHET screens.	90%	86%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 2, Outcome 1:</u> Children in out-of-home care will have health and education plans (developed based on the findings from all physical health, developmental, educational, mental health and substance abuse health screenings and assessments) in their ISSPs within 60 days of placement.	90%	71%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 2, Outcome 2:</u> Children in out-of-home care will have health and education plans in their ISSPs updated every 6 months.	90%	59%
<u>Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 2:</u> Children in out-of-home care will be screened for mental health and substance abuse needs every 12 months.	95%	71.8%
<u>Foster Parent Training and Information, Goal 1, Outcome 1:</u> Licensed caregivers will report adequate training for their roles and responsibilities (including, but not limited to, management of emotional, behavioral, developmental and medical problems, educational advocacy, strategies for engagement with birth parents, and cultural competency skills).	90%	85.2%
<u>Foster Parent Training and Information, Goal 1, Outcome 3:</u> Licensed caregivers will report adequate support for their roles and responsibilities (including, but not limited to, crisis support, timely notification about case planning meetings, and cultural competency resources).	90%	76.6%
<u>Foster Parent Training and Information, Goal 1, Outcome 3:</u> Licensed caregivers will report adequate provision of information about the needs of children placed with them (including, but not limited to, behavioral, medical, developmental and educational needs).	90%	81.8%
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 3:</u> Children identified as sexually aggressive (SAY) pursuant to the statutory definition will be placed with caregivers who have received specialized training and have a plan developed to address safety and supervision issues.	95%	70.5%

Outcome	FY10 Benchmark	FY10 Performance
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 4:</u> Children identified as physically assaultive or physically aggressive (PAAY) pursuant to the statutory definition will be placed with caregivers who have received specialized training and have a plan developed to address safety and supervision issues.	95%	57.5%
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 5:</u> Medically fragile children will be connected to ongoing and appropriate medical care and placed with caregivers who have specialized skills or receive consultation and ongoing training regarding their caretaking responsibilities for the medical condition.	95%	86.3%
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 6:</u> Children will receive a private and individual face-to-face health and safety visit from an assigned caseworker at least once every calendar month, with no visit being more than 40 days after the previous visit.	95%	53.6%
<u>Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 2, Outcome 2:</u> All referrals alleging child abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home care will receive thorough investigation by the Division of Licensing Resources (DLR) pursuant to CA policy and timeline and with required documentation.	100%	90.3%
<u>Sibling Separation, Goal 1, Outcome 1:</u> Children in out-of-home care will be placed with all siblings who are also in out-of-home care whenever possible.	75%	64.5%
<u>Sibling Separation, Goal 1, Outcome 2:</u> Children in out-of-home care will be placed with at least one sibling who is also in out-of-home care whenever possible.	90%	81.2%
<u>Sibling Separation, Goal 2, Outcome 1:</u> Children placed apart from their siblings will have two or more monthly visits or contacts (not including staffing meetings or court events) with some or all of their siblings.	90%	51.6%
<u>Services to Adolescents, Goal 2, Outcome 2:</u> The percentage of youth in out-of-home placement in grade 9 who remained in placement continuously through grade 12 who graduate from high school on time with a regular or adult (IEP) diploma, including students with disabilities who graduated within the number of years designated in their IEP, will increase.	70%	48%
<u>Services to Adolescents, Goal 2, Outcome 3:</u> A multi-disciplinary staffing meeting will be held six months prior to a youth's exit from foster care to address issues related to transition to independence.	95%	27%

Outcome	FY10 Benchmark	FY10 Performance
<u>Services to Adolescents, Goal 3, Outcome 1:</u> The percentage of children who run from out-of-home care placements during the fiscal year will decrease.	2.0%	2.7%
<u>Services to Adolescents, Goal 3, Outcome 2:</u> The median number of days that children are on runaway status will decrease.	25 Days	24 Days ²

Part II of Monitoring Report #10 begins on page 20; detailed information on Braam outcomes can also be found in Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix G and Appendix H.

Part III: Overview of Informational Reports

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 requires the Department to provide a number of informational reports. Part III of Monitoring Report #10, beginning on page 84, provides an overview of these informational reports. These informational reports have been provided by the Department and are found in the appendices.

The informational reports accompanying this Monitoring Report are for informational purposes only. There are no benchmarks related to informational reports at this time; therefore no assessment of compliance is included related to these reports.

There are three types of informational reports discussed in Part III of Monitoring Report #10 and found in the appendices:

- A. **Overview of annual informational reports-** A number of annual informational reports are required under the Revised Implementation Plan. Annual informational reports provide data on a wide range of issues related to Braam goals and outcomes.

A listing of annual informational reports is provided in part III.A of Monitoring Report #10, beginning on page 86. Annual informational reports are included in Appendix C and Appendix D.

- B. **Overview of informational reports by race/ ethnicity-** As required by the Revised Implementation Plan, DSHS has submitted data by race/ ethnicity for the Braam outcomes for which the Panel has requested these data.

A listing of informational reports by race/ ethnicity, as well as additional background information related to race/ ethnicity reports, is provided in part III.B of Monitoring Report #10, beginning on page 88. Informational reports by race/ ethnicity are included in Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix G and Appendix H.

² Statewide benchmark was achieved, but regional requirements were not met. Performance in Region 5 was more than 5 days higher than the statewide benchmark. Therefore the overall benchmark has not been reached.

- C. ***Overview of 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.

Part III.C of Monitoring Report #10 begins on page 94 and provides a listing of the 17 outcomes for which monthly/ quarterly data is required. Monthly informational reports for February 2011 are included in Appendix E and quarterly informational reports for January 2011 are included in Appendix F.