

BRAAM SETTLEMENT MONITORING REPORT #5

OCTOBER 1, 2008

Covers the performance period ending June 30, 2008





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.

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.

This document is the fifth monitoring report on the Settlement and provides outcome data for fiscal year and calendar year 2007, as well as a report on action steps through June 30, 2008. This is the first monitoring report that is based on the requirements of the Revised Braam Implementation Plan (July 3, 2008).

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OVERVIEW

The Braam Oversight Panel was created in December 2004 to oversee a settlement agreement (Settlement) regarding Washington State's foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation.¹ The parties to the Settlement include the Plaintiffs,² who filed the lawsuit, and the State of Washington, respondents to the lawsuit.

The final Settlement created an independent oversight panel (the "Panel") that was mutually selected by the parties. The members include:

- A former child welfare administrator;
- A child welfare researcher;
- An expert in children's mental health; and
- Two additional members.

The Settlement directed the Panel to establish professional standards, outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps to improve the treatment of, and conditions for, children in the custody of DCFS, and to monitor the Department's performance under this Settlement (Settlement, page 1). The intent of the Settlement, and the Panel's work, is summarized on the first page of the Settlement:

"The parties enter into this Agreement with the recognition that both parties and their counsel have committed to enter into specific, measurable, and enforceable agreements with the goal of improving the conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the Division of Children and Family Services."

Over 50 provisions from Kids Come First II, the comprehensive reform plan for children's services in place at the Department at the time the agreement was reached, were incorporated directly into the Settlement. The Settlement also addressed numerous issues included in state law.

Settlement Definitions

The Settlement defines the Plaintiff class as follows:

- **"Child" or "Children" in foster care** means children in the custody of DCFS. For the outcomes, benchmarks, and actions steps, this term refers to children in the Plaintiff Class, defined as all children in the custody of DCFS who are now or in the future will be placed by DCFS in three or more placements and those children in the custody of DCFS who are at risk of three or more placements. The Panel interprets this definition to include all children in the custody of DCFS.
- **"Department"** means the Department of Social and Health Services. In terms of responsibilities related to the Settlement, the most relevant divisions are the Children's Administration and Health and Recovery Services (including the Division of Mental Health and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse).

The Settlement established goals in six areas:

- **Placement Stability:** Every child will have a safe and stable placement with a caregiver capable of meeting the child's needs.
- **Mental Health:** Children shall have initial physical and mental health screenings within 30 days of entry into care. The child's case plan will include plans to meet their special needs. Children shall

¹ The Final Settlement is available on the Braam Panel website: www.braampanel.org.

² The Plaintiffs' attorneys include Columbia Legal Services, the National Center for Youth Law, and Tim Farris, a Bellingham lawyer who initiated the case.

receive timely, accessible, individualized, and appropriate mental health assessments and treatment by qualified mental health providers. Continuity of treatment providers will be maintained.

- **Foster Parent Training and Information:** Caregivers shall be adequately trained, supported, and informed about children in their care. The Department shall provide accessible pre-service and in-service training to all caregivers sufficient to meet the caregiving needs of children in placement.
- **Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements:** All children shall be placed in safe placements. The state shall continue to meet or exceed the federal standard for out-of-home care.
- **Sibling Separation:** Placement of siblings together is presumed to be in the children's best interest unless there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the health, safety, or welfare of a child is put in jeopardy by the placement. Frequent and meaningful contact between siblings in foster care who are not placed together and those who remain at home should occur unless not in child's best interest.
- **Services to Adolescents:** Improve the quality and accessibility of services to adolescents. Improve the educational achievements of these adolescents and better prepare them to live independently. Reduce the number of adolescents on runaway status from foster care.

Collaboration and Consultation

The Settlement directs the Panel to conduct its work "in collaboration with the Department, and with substantial input from Plaintiffs, and other stakeholders as necessary" (Settlement, page 3). The Settlement also provides that "in carrying out all of its general and specific duties, the Panel shall make independent decisions based on professional judgment and guided by knowledge of effective practice and an understanding of the public child welfare system in the State of Washington" (Settlement, page 3). In the Panel's view, the statements regarding "in collaboration with...and with substantial input from" and "independent decisions" establish a creative tension to its work. The Panel submits its reports for review and comment by the parties and other stakeholders, while reserving its independent and final decision-making for the structure, content, and wording of its reports.

The original Settlement specifies that the Panel "will comply with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Public Disclosure Act and all applicable confidentiality statutes and regulations" (Settlement, page 5). In February 2008, attorneys representing the Department and the plaintiffs formally amended the Settlement Agreement to facilitate the Panel's efforts to carry out its duties between public meetings. Based on this amendment, the Panel may hold non-public work sessions or phone meetings with advance notification of the parties and maintenance of meeting minutes. The Panel continues to meet publicly at least four times per year.³

In carrying out its duties, the Panel continues to solicit comments from stakeholders and tribal representatives. While the Department is ultimately responsible for achieving the Settlement requirements, community providers play a significant role in service delivery for children and families and have an important voice and perspective to offer both the Department and the Panel. Collaboration with parents, relatives, and tribal representatives will help ensure quality decision-making for children; numerous provisions in both KCF II and the Settlement outcomes and action steps reinforce this value.

Panel Work Products

Under the Settlement, the Panel issues the following types of documents:⁴

- **Implementation Plan**, defining the specific and enforceable performances required by the Settlement. In February 2006, the Panel published the Braam Settlement Implementation Plan. This document was developed through extensive public meetings and collaboration with DSHS and input from plaintiffs'

³ Minutes of non-public Panel meetings and work sessions are available by request to the parties and the public. Information on public Panel meetings, including meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, are available on the Braam Panel website: www.braampanel.org.

⁴ All Panel work products are available on the Braam Panel website at www.braampanel.org. Individuals and organizations can sign up to receive email alerts when new material is posted.

counsel, and incorporated many recommendations and responses to previous draft documents from both parties and stakeholders.

The Revised Implementation Plan (July 3, 2008) includes clarifications and modifications based on developments in the Braam process and discussions with DSHS, the plaintiffs and stakeholders during 2006 and 2007.

- **Monitoring Reports**, measuring progress toward the Settlement goals, outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps for each six-month period. Under the agreement, the Panel is expected to “monitor the Department’s progress with the specific Outcomes, Benchmarks, and Action Steps identified in this Agreement or as part of its implementation.” (Settlement, page 4).

The Panel began publishing semi-annual progress reports in March 2006. Subsequent reports were released in September 2006, April 2007 and October 2007. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Panel will continue to publish monitoring reports every six months through the duration of the agreement.

As a result of ongoing discussions between the Panel, the parties and stakeholders regarding the revision of the Implementation Plan, the Panel and parties agreed to delay the publication of the semi-annual monitoring report that otherwise would have been published in early 2008. Subsequently, the Panel and the parties agreed that all Braam Panel monitoring activity for 2008 could be combined into this single report.

- **Decisions on Compliance Plans**, in which the Panel issues decisions on plans proposed by the Department to achieve compliance in areas in which the Panel has determined that adequate progress has not been made.
- **Professional Standards**, which “the parties agree will be the Professional Standards used in any enforcement proceeding” (Settlement, page 4). After significant input from the Department and the plaintiffs, the Panel published professional standards in March 2007.

APPROACH TO MONITORING REPORTS

The Settlement requires the Panel to “monitor compliance and make findings with respect to the outcomes, benchmarks and action steps;” and to “issue semi-annual public reports on the Department’s compliance with the provisions of this Agreement.”

This Monitoring Report is based on the requirements set forth in the **Revised** Braam Implementation Plan, which was published on July 3, 2008. All previous Braam Monitoring Reports were based on the requirements of the February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan. The Revised Implementation Plan was developed during the first half of 2008 by the Panel in collaboration with DSHS and with substantial input from the plaintiffs to reflect changes and clarifications since the publication of the original plan. The Revised Implementation Plan replaces the February 2006 Implementation Plan and provides a revised framework for monitoring efforts.

As a result of ongoing discussions between the Panel, the parties and stakeholders regarding the revision of the Implementation Plan, the Panel and parties agreed to delay the publication of the semi-annual monitoring report that otherwise would have been published in early 2008. Subsequently, the Panel and the parties agreed that all Braam Panel monitoring activity for 2008 could be combined into this single report. This document is the Panel’s fifth monitoring report and provides outcome data for fiscal and calendar year 2007 and assesses performance on action steps for the period ending June 30, 2008.

The Revised Braam Implementation Plan included changes in the definition of many Braam outcomes, the annual benchmarks to be used to assess compliance with these outcomes, and the action steps that will be subject to ongoing monitoring by the Panel. These changes are reflected in this Monitoring Report.

This Monitoring Report includes two major sections:

- **Monitoring report on action steps**- This report summarizes progress with respect to action steps that were expected to have been fully or partially implemented as of June 30, 2008. Only action steps that are subject to continued monitoring under the Revised Braam Implementation Plan are included in this report.⁵

Part I of this document, beginning on page 8, is the Panel’s assessment of progress on these action steps. The primary sources for this portion of the report are documents from the Department, including an update report summarizing progress and other written material (policies, plans, etc.). The Panel used the “comments” section of the matrix to provide further information on progress to date.

- **Monitoring report on outcomes**- The Panel’s Revised 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 will monitor compliance with these outcomes.

Previous Monitoring Reports have assessed compliance with Braam outcomes through fiscal year and calendar year 2006 based on the benchmarks set forth in the February 2006 Implementation Plan. This Monitoring Report assesses progress with respect to the outcomes and benchmarks set forth in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan.⁶ In this Monitoring Report, progress toward the benchmarks for each outcome was determined by using either calendar year 2007 or fiscal year 2007 data.

⁵ The Revised Braam Implementation Plan includes a section detailing the status of all action steps included in the Braam Settlement Agreement and the original February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan (see p.40 of Revised Braam Implementation Plan at <http://www.braampanel.org/ImpPlanREVJuly08.pdf>). Many of these action steps have been found to be complete by the Panel or will not be subject to ongoing monitoring because they are addressed through related outcomes or informational reports. Only the action steps classified as “retained” in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan will be included in this and future Braam Monitoring Reports.

⁶ The Revised Braam Implementation Plan included a number of changes from the February 2006 Implementation Plan with respect to how outcomes are defined and in the annual benchmarks to be achieved. This and future Braam Monitoring Reports will be based on the Revised Braam Implementation Plan.

Part II of this document, beginning on page 19, presents information on outcomes and benchmarks. For each goal area of the agreement, information for each outcome identified in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan is provided in two charts:

- Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks: For 23 outcomes, new outcome data based on FY2007 administrative data, the CY2007 foster parent survey, or the CY2007 adolescent survey are shown, and findings with respect to whether or not the annual benchmark was reached are presented.
- No Annual Benchmark for FY07/ CY07: For 10 outcomes, there is no annual benchmark for FY07 or CY07; therefore, no finding with respect to the achievement of benchmarks is shown in this report. For 5 of these 10 outcomes, a compliance plan for the provision of data at a future date has been approved by the Panel. For the remaining 5 outcomes, according to the Revised Braam Implementation Plan, there is no benchmark requirement during the monitoring period. Specific performance expectations begin in FY08 or later.

Next Report

The Panel's next monitoring report will be issued by April 2009. This report will cover progress on action steps through December 31, 2008 and will provide data and assess progress on Braam outcomes for fiscal year 2008.

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PART I: MONITORING REPORT ON ACTION STEPS

This Monitoring Report is based on the expectations set forth in the **Revised** Braam Implementation Plan, which was published on July 3, 2008. With respect to action steps, the Revised Braam Implementation Plan includes a section detailing the status of all action steps included in the Braam Settlement Agreement and the original February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan (see p.40 of Revised Braam Implementation Plan at <http://www.braampanel.org/ImpPlanREVJuly08.pdf>). Many of these action steps have been found to be complete by the Panel or will not be subject to ongoing monitoring because they are addressed through related outcomes or informational reports. *Only the 15 action steps classified as “retained” in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan will be included in this and future Braam Monitoring Reports.*

The following matrix reports on the progress through June 30, 2008 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.

Detailed Status of Action Steps

The Panel has categorized the status of the 15 action steps as follows (the numbers in parentheses indicate the number of action steps that fit each category—e.g. 4 action steps are complete):

- ✓ Complete (4)
- ✓ Complete through performance period⁷ (3)
- ✓ Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step will be due in 30 days⁸ (2)
- ✓ Under Approved Compliance Plan (4)
 - Actions under compliance plan not due this period (3)
 - Approved compliance plan complete through performance period (1)
- ✓ Pending (2)

⁷ Action steps with some items due before and others after June 30, 2008 were assessed as “complete through performance period.”

⁸ This category includes action steps found to be incomplete in this Monitoring Report. Pursuant to the Settlement, the Department has 30 days to submit proposed plans to achieve compliance with these steps. Action steps are categorized as incomplete whenever any substeps that were due have been determined not to have been implemented, even if some portions of the action step have been completed. The comments section in the matrix detailing the Panel’s decisions on action steps indicates which portions of the step have been completed.

Summary of the Panel's findings on the Action Steps by area of the settlement agreement

	Placement Stability	Mental Health	Foster Parent Training	Unsafe/ Inappropriate Placements	Sibling Separation	Adolescents	<i>total</i>
Complete					1	3	4
Complete through performance period		1	1			1	3
Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step will be due in 30 days		1				1	2
Pending		1				1	2
Under Approved Compliance Plan							4
• Actions under compliance plan not due this period	1			2			
• Approved compliance plan complete through performance period						1	
<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>

Format of the Report on Action Steps

Numbering System

Kids Come First II, the Braam Settlement Agreement, and the February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan used slightly different numbering systems to refer to Braam action steps. In the Revised Braam Implementation Plan, retained action steps were renumbered in sequential order. This and future Panel reports will identify action steps based on the numbering in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan.

Matrix

The Panel's assessment of progress on action steps is presented in a 3-column matrix format. The first column (Area/ Action Step) lists the action step. In the center column (Implementation Status), the status of the action step is noted, along with a parenthetical reference to the report in which the Panel made this finding. The last column of the matrix (Comments) provides clarifying comments from the Panel and expectations for future updates.

For action steps that are complete, all three columns are shaded.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Placement Stability		
<p>Develop a plan by June 30, 2005 for review and approval by the Braam Panel to reduce caseloads to COA standards <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Placement Stability Action Step 1]</i> <i>[KCF II 14.1.8 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II) , Action Step 1(c)(9) in Settlement]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish workgroup to develop plan and estimate costs/resources required (1/05) b. CA Management reviews and approves plan (5/05) c. Plan submitted to Braam Panel for review (6/05) 	<p>Under approved compliance plan (effective October 1, 2008)</p> <p>Actions under compliance plan not due this period</p>	<p>Panel approved compliance October 1, 2008 version of compliance plan.</p> <p>Compliance plan calls for the submission of a comprehensive, fully-detailed caseload reduction plan by December 31, 2008.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Mental Health		
<p>Initial (72 hour) health screening <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Mental Health Action Step 1]</i> <i>[Goal 1, Outcome 1, Action step 2-4 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan for achieving Goal 1, Outcome 1 will be submitted to the Panel for review and approval-- 3/30/07 The Department will begin to implement initial health screens-- 10/30/07 The Department will track implementation to ensure that each child who enters out-of-home care receives an initial health screen-- Begin 10/07—continuous tracking 	<p>Incomplete (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p> <p>Compliance plan required</p>	<p>In lieu of a status update on this action step, Department submitted a letter restating its position that this requirement is not within the Panel's area of authority, and providing information on other health services for children in foster care.</p> <p>Panel considers this action step to be critically important and has retained the step for continued monitoring. Panel finds action step to be incomplete.</p>
<p>Develop a plan to ensure the quality of the CHET process <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Mental Health Action Step 2]</i> <i>[Goal 1, Outcome 2, Action Step 1 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>The Department will develop, and submit to the Panel for approval, a plan to review and ensure the quality of the CHET process that will address issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> timeliness of completing CHET screens timely receipt of educational records well-child EPSDT exams completed within 30 days quality of information collected in each of the 5 domains effectiveness of the screening and assessment instruments used in CHET use of data/information on a child that is received after the Shared Planning Meeting occurs inclusion of parents, caregivers, youth (age 12 and over), tribal representatives (when applicable), and children's representatives in the CHET Shared Planning Meetings, and in developing Action Plans determining whether CHET recommendations are followed and services are received for children whose CHET recommendations are largely unrelated to services received, analyze reasons and suggest system improvements <p>The plan will be completed and submitted to the Panel for review by 12/30/06</p> <p>The Department will begin implementation of the plan by 9/30/07</p> <p>The Department will provide the Panel with annual reports on the results of the Quality Review beginning 9/30/08</p>	<p>Complete through performance period (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p> <p>Not yet due</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Mental Health		
<p>Annual review of mental health and substance abuse services <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Mental Health Action Step 3]</i> <i>[Goal 3, Additional Action Step 7 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>The Department will complete an annual review of the status of mental health and substance abuse services for children in foster care and use the findings from the review to address service gaps and system problems to develop services and to expand the use of evidence-based models of service, where applicable.</p> <p>The Department will publish the review and plan annually, beginning in November 2007. The annual review will identify by region both achievements in foster children receiving services and any deficiencies. The Department will establish plans to increase the achievements and reduce the deficiencies. The review and plans will be based in part on service data; direct feedback from children, parents, and caretakers; and reports generated through the action steps in the Settlement and the Braam Implementation Plan.</p>	<p>Pending (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p>	<p>The Panel notes significant efforts related to children's mental health regarding the implementation of HB 1088, the mental health transformation grant and the children's mental health initiative, and anticipates that these initiatives will have positive effects for all children, including those in foster care. However, the materials submitted do not respond to the components of the action step and do not demonstrate a review of mental health and substance abuse services <i>for children in foster care</i>. Lacking a review focused on <i>children in foster care</i>, there also is no plan to address gaps or system problems related to these children and youth that the review might discover.</p> <p>The Panel is available to provide additional clarification and guidance on this action step.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Foster Parent Training and Information		
<p>Foster parent survey <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Foster Parent Training Action Step 1]</i> <i>[Action Step 1 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>The Children’s Administration will contract with the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) at Washington State University to develop and conduct an independent, statistically valid, anonymous survey of foster parents (current and former) and relative caregivers (licensed and unlicensed) that is conducted annually concerning all areas of the Settlement related to caregiver’s work with foster children and associated outcomes and action steps.</p> <p>In developing the survey design, tool, and procedures, the SESRC shall consult with the Panel, the Washington State Foster Parent’s Association, Braam plaintiffs’ attorneys, the CA Youth Advisory Group, the foster parent liaison staff in CA, and a group of five DCFS staff selected by CA.</p> <p>Survey planning completed by 10/1/06</p> <p>Survey reviewed and approved by Panel by 12/1/06</p> <p>First survey results to Panel by 9/01/07</p> <p>Second survey results to Panel by 8/01/08</p> <p>Third survey results to Panel by 8/01/09</p> <p>Fourth survey results to Panel by 8/01/10</p> <p>Fifth survey results to Panel by 6/01/11</p>	<p>Complete through performance period</p>	<p>Second annual survey results were provided in September 2008.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements		
<p>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 visit⁹ <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Unsafe Placements Action Step 1]</i> <i>[KCF II 14.1.2 (originally 11.1.2), Action Step 4(c)(1) in Settlement]</i></p> <p>For children placed in out-of-home care, develop and implement a policy to require visits every calendar month, with no visit being more than 40 days after the previous visit) between social worker and parents, and social worker and child IN ALL CASES</p> <p>This action step and following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizing policy workgroup from 14.1.1, develop policy recommendations (3/05-5/05) Workgroup reports out recommendations (5/05) CA Management reviews and approves policy recommendations (6/05) Budget decisions (7/05) Provide orientation to staff, caregivers and community partners on new policy requirement (7/05-9/05) Revise new social worker academy training to support new policy and practice guidelines (9/05) Based on available funding, implement policy changes (10/05) Establish baseline for compliance with policy changes and set performance measure (3/06) Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (6/06) 	<p>Under approved compliance plan (effective September 2, 2008)</p> <p>Actions under compliance plan not due this period</p>	<p>Panel approved compliance plan and visit policy submitted on August 29, 2008.</p> <p>Implementation of policy requiring monthly visits and visits in the first week of placement occurred on September 1, 2008.</p>
<p>Increase compliance with policy requiring workers to visit children in placement within the first week of out-of-home care <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Unsafe Placements Action Step 2]</i> <i>[KCF II 14.1.6, Action Step 4(c)(2) in Settlement]</i></p> <p>Review and revise policy requiring social workers to visit all children in their placement within the first week in out-of-home care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish workgroup to review and revise policy (6/05) Orient staff to new policy requirement (8/05) Begin implementation of new policy (10/05) Establish regional baselines and set performance measure (6/06) Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (6/06) 	<p>Under approved compliance plan (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p> <p>Actions under compliance plan not due this period</p>	<p>Panel approves compliance plan submitted on July 21, 2008, along with visit policy submitted on August 29, 2008.</p> <p>Implementation of policy requiring monthly visits and visits in the first week of placement occurred on September 1, 2008.</p>

⁹ Language of original action step has been modified from visits “once every 30 days” to “every calendar month, with no visit being more than 40 days after the previous visit” to reflect policy changes approved by the Panel. In addition, after discussion with the parties, the Panel interprets references to “parents,” “family” and “caregivers” in the original action step language to apply to the individual(s) with whom a child in the Braam class is living: a foster parent, a relative caregiver, or a birth parent for a child placed in an in-home dependency.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Sibling Separation		
<p>Develop and implement policies and protocols to increase the quality and frequency of visits or contacts between children, parents, and siblings <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Sibling Separation Action Step 1]</i> <i>[KCF II 18.1.1, Action Step 5(c)(1) and Action Step 5(c)(5) in Settlement]</i></p> <p>Develop policies and protocols regarding visitations for children in foster care to include frequency of visitation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish a policy workgroup, including stakeholders and researchers, to develop a framework for visitations between parents and children and siblings that is utilized uniformly across regions. Framework to include guidelines for visitations which encompass: (9/04-12/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When visitations can be unsupervised, • When visitations can be outside of the DCFS office, • When visitations can be outside DCFS office hours, and • Who is able to supervise visits • How the visitation issues will be addressed during the Family Team Decision Making meeting which occurs within 72 hours of a child's placement in out-of-home care. • How the visitation issues will be addressed in other staffings and supervisory conferences • Guidelines for documentation of visits for social workers and contracted service providers b. Workgroup reports out recommendations (12/04) c. CA Management reviews and approves framework and policy recommendations (1/05) d. Provide training for staff and providers to support policy changes for visitations, quality of visitations and maintaining child's cultural connections (2/05-4/05) e. Implement policy changes upon training (2/05-4/05) f. Report out quarterly on progress (6/05-6/07) 	<p>Complete as of September 1, 2008 (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p>	<p>Requirement for quarterly reporting is replaced by monitoring of related outcome (sibling separation, goal 2, outcome 1).</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Services to Adolescents		
<p>Educational attainment study <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Adolescent Services Action Step 1]</i> <i>[Goal 2, Outcome 3, Action step 1 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>The CA will replicate the 2001 WSIPP study Educational Attainment of Foster Youth: Achievement of Graduation Outcomes for Children in State Care for school-age children in foster care three months or longer in FY2005, with inclusion of WASL performance for 4th, 7th and 10th grades and all other variables in the study. The study may be done by CA following the methods used in the 2001 study, or contracted to WSIPP or another research organization.¹⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to Panel regarding intent to perform work within DSHS or contract (6/1/06) • First study completed (11/1/08) • Follow-up studies (11/1/08, 12/1/10) 	<p>Approved compliance plan complete through performance period (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p>	<p>WSIPP report addressing WASL performance was completed in March 2008. Report addressing graduation outcomes is expected during fall 2008.</p>
<p>Establish educational outreach positions to assist children in out-of-home care in meeting K–12 educational objectives and preparing for higher education goals. <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Adolescent Services Action Step 2]</i> <i>[KCF II 15.3.4 (originally 15.1.3), Action Step 6(c)(7) in Settlement]</i></p> <p>Work with Washington Education Foundation to obtain funding and implement the Foster Care to College Partnership plan, which includes establishing six regional educational outreach positions, who will serve as liaisons to assist children (16-18 year olds) in out-of-home care in meeting higher education goals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In collaboration with Washington Education Foundation, complete Foster Care to College Partnership proposal (10/04) b. Seek 3-year grant funding (10/04-2/05) c. Based on funding, begin implementation of the Foster Care to College Partnership plan (4/05) d. Report on implementation (9/05) e. Annual evaluation report (completed each year of the 3-year grant funding) (6/06, 6/07, 6/08) 	<p>Complete (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p>	

¹⁰ A requirement to replicate the study every two years has been deleted from the original action step. Through related requirements for informational reports, the Panel will expect ongoing submission of these data. Data can be obtained through replicated WSIPP study, FamLink, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or other sources.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Services to Adolescents		
<p>Develop and implement tutoring and mentoring services, in conjunction with existing community resources, to improve educational outcomes for adolescents in out-of-home care. <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Adolescent Services Action Step 3]</i> <i>[KCF II 15.2.3 (originally 15.1.2), Action Step 6(c)(10) in Settlement]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop roles and responsibilities for educational coordinators (10/05) b) Hire regional educational coordinators to provide educational advocacy (12/05) c) Train regional educational coordinators (12/05) d) Regional coordinators work with community partners to develop regional plans, including existing community resources and tutoring/mentoring programs (9/05) e) Communicate program to staff, youth, caregivers and community partners (2/06) f) Implement regional plans (2/06) g) Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (5/06) 	<p>Complete (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p>	
<p>Attendance, truanancies, suspensions and expulsions <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Adolescent Services Action Step 4]</i> <i>[Goal 2, Outcome 3, Action step 5 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>The Department will collect information on school attendance, truanancies, suspensions, and expulsions about youth in foster care in Washington, and will use this information to design and implement practice and system improvements in DCFS and to advocate for system improvements related to this goal.</p> <p>June 1, 2008</p>	<p>Pending</p>	<p>CA requested guidance regarding this action step due to data limitations. Panel notes that some related data are now available through the adolescent survey, and requests that CA use these and any other relevant data to analyze this issue, and design and implement practice and system improvements related to this goal. In addition, Panel requests clarification as to whether any related data will be captured in FamLink.</p> <p>Panel requests materials on this action step within 30 days of this monitoring report (along with compliance plans in other areas).</p>
<p>Documentation of credit accumulation and GPA <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Adolescent Services Action Step 5]</i> <i>[Goal 2, Outcome 3, Action step 6 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>DCFS will document each child’s credit accumulation and Grade Point Average at each placement change and at the end of each school year in conjunction with the annual educational review in the ISSP. When placement changes disrupt credit acquisition, DCFS will work with the releasing and enrolling school districts to develop a plan for the child to complete credits.</p> <p>June 1, 2007</p>	<p>Complete (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Services to Adolescents		
<p>ILP Contracts <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Adolescent Services Action Step 6]</i> <i>[Goal 2, Outcome 6, Action step 5 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>The Department will propose strategies to the Panel to result in sufficient capacity of ILP contractors serving youth aged 15 and older so 100% of this population is served.</p> <p>CA proposes strategies: January 1, 2008</p> <p>Strategies implemented: July 1, 2009</p>	<p>Complete through performance period</p> <p>(Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p>	<p>Status update notes significant growth in participation in IL programs in recent years.</p> <p>Panel requires status update in advance of next monitoring report (February 2009) with updated data on participation in IL programs and outreach efforts.</p>
<p>Information on children in juvenile detention facilities <i>[Revised Implementation Plan Adolescent Services Action Step 7]</i> <i>[Goal 3, Outcome 3, Action step 3 of February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan]</i></p> <p>The Department will maintain information on children in foster care who spend time in juvenile detention facilities and will annually compile information on the number of these children, their lengths of stay in detention facilities, and the reason for the hold. The CA will use this information to design and implement practice and system improvements in DCFS and to advocate for system improvements.</p> <p>Report to Panel (June 1, 2008)</p> <p>Implement improvements (July 1, 2009)</p>	<p>Incomplete (Monitoring Report #5, October 1, 2008)</p> <p>Compliance plan required</p>	<p>Materials submitted provide useful background data and information. Compliance plan should address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The portion of the action step related to designing and implementing practice and system improvements. ○ Additional analysis of data on involvement in detention by age of youth, region, and length of stay in foster care prior to the hold. Plan should also explore options for obtaining basic information on reasons for detention. ○ Clarification of policy related to social worker reporting of detentions. Panel is concerned that there may be an undercount, as a result of the statement that “if there is no placement disruption social workers may not record in CAMIS a short stay in detention.” <p>The Panel is available to provide additional clarification and guidance on this action step.</p>

PART II: MONITORING REPORT ON OUTCOMES

Previous Braam Monitoring Reports were based on the outcomes and benchmarks set forth in the February 2006 Braam Implementation Plan. In the Revised Implementation Plan (July 3, 2008), many of the original outcomes included in the February 2006 Implementation Plan were modified, consolidated, or converted to informational reports.¹¹ This and future Braam Monitoring Reports will be based on the outcomes and benchmarks in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan.

In this Monitoring Report, progress toward the benchmarks for each outcome was determined by using either calendar year 2007 or fiscal year 2007 data. For outcomes for which data are obtained from the state's administrative databases, fiscal year data were used to assess progress. For outcomes for which the data source is the foster parent survey or youth survey, calendar year 2007 data were used to assess progress. For one outcome (unsafe and inappropriate placements, goal 2, outcome 1), the Panel used data obtained through a case review process.

Beginning on page 22, for each goal area of the agreement, information for each outcome identified in the Revised Braam Implementation Plan is provided in two separate charts:

- **Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks:** For 23 outcomes, new outcome data based on FY2007 administrative data, the CY2007 foster parent survey, or the CY2007 adolescent survey are presented.
 - In the first column of the table (Outcome), the outcome as stated in the Revised Implementation Plan is shown. The second column (Benchmarks) shows the benchmark for FY07 or CY07 from the Revised Implementation Plan. In the third column (Performance), performance data for FY07 or CY07 are provided. The fourth column (Current Status and Comments) indicates the Panel's findings with respect to whether or not the annual benchmark was reached, and any additional comments.
- **No Annual Benchmark for FY07/ CY07:** For 10 outcomes, there is no annual benchmark for FY07 or CY07; therefore, no finding with respect to the achievement of benchmarks is shown in this report. For 5 of these 10 outcomes, a compliance plan for the provision of data at a future date has been approved by the Panel. For the remaining 5 outcomes, according to the Revised Braam Implementation Plan, there is no benchmark requirement during the monitoring period. Specific performance expectations begin in FY08 or later.
 - In the first column of the table (Outcome), the outcome as stated in the Revised Implementation Plan is shown. The second column (Current Status and Comments) explains whether the outcome is under a compliance plan for the provision of data and the year in which the Panel will begin monitoring performance against the benchmarks set forth in the Revised Implementation Plan.

Detailed data reports can be found in the appendices. A separate appendix is provided for each data source (e.g. administrative data, foster parent survey, etc). The "guide to appendices" document available with this report identifies the appendix in which detailed data are located for each outcome.

Monitoring Approach and Findings

The Settlement Agreement calls on the Panel to "monitor the Department's compliance with the specific Outcomes, Benchmarks, and Action Steps identified" in the Agreement or as part of its implementation and "to publish a report to the public and to the parties every six months of the Department's progress and including specific findings on the Department's compliance with the provisions" of the Agreement (Settlement, page 4-5). In carrying out its monitoring responsibility in the area of outcomes and benchmarks, the Panel has sought to use language consistent with the compliance terminology used in settlement agreement. As such, consistent

¹¹ 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.

with the agreement's terminology in section V, part 1, the Panel has reviewed outcomes and benchmarks and made determinations regarding whether the Department has *reached* or *failed to reach the annual benchmarks*.

The Revised Implementation Plan establishes numeric benchmarks for each outcome, identifying specific levels of performance to be achieved in each fiscal year. In addition, the Revised Implementation Plan identifies requirements for compliance based on regional data. In order to achieve compliance with outcomes identified in the Revised Implementation Plan, the Department must meet the statewide benchmark for the outcome. In addition, no individual region's performance may be significantly less than that statewide benchmark.¹² Specific regional requirements are detailed for each individual outcome in the Revised Implementation Plan. Thus, in this Monitoring Report, the Panel has reviewed both statewide and regional data in order to make a determination regarding whether an annual benchmark has been reached.

Based on this approach, on the following pages, each outcome in the Revised Implementation Plan is classified into one of the following status categories:

- *Reached annual benchmark*- For 6 outcomes, data have been provided that show that the FY07 or CY07 benchmark (including statewide and regional rules) set forth in the Implementation Plan was reached.
- *Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance plan required*- For 14 outcomes, data have been provided that show that the level of performance failed to reach the FY07 or CY07 benchmark set forth in the Implementation Plan. Pursuant to the settlement agreement, a compliance plan is required.
- *Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance plan approved*- For one outcome, data have been provided that show that the level of performance failed to reach the CY07 benchmark set forth in the Implementation Plan. A compliance plan has already been submitted by the Department and approved by the Panel.
- *Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance planning in process*-For one outcome, acceptable FY07 data are not available. Compliance planning has already begun and a decision is pending.
- *Pending*- For one outcome, data are calculated at the federal level based on state submissions, but the report has not yet been received by the Department. Report will be provided to the Panel as soon as it is received by the Department.
- *No Annual Benchmark for FY07/ CY07*: For 10 outcomes, there is no annual benchmark for FY07 or CY07; therefore, no finding with respect to the achievement of benchmarks is shown in this report. For 5 of these 10 outcomes, a compliance plan for the provision of data at a future date has been approved by the Panel. For the remaining 5 outcomes, according to the Revised Braam Implementation Plan, there is no benchmark requirement during the monitoring period. Specific performance expectations begin in FY08 or later.

¹² For a small number of outcomes, the regional requirement for compliance will be that no individual region's performance is significantly *more* than the statewide benchmark. This applies to outcomes for which annual benchmarks *decrease* over the course of the settlement, such as the percentage of youth who run away from their placements.

Summary- Status of outcomes by area of the settlement agreement

	Placement Stability	Mental Health	Foster Parent Training	Unsafe/ Inappropriate Placements	Sibling Separation	Adolescents	<i>total</i>
Reached annual benchmark	1	3		2			<i>6</i>
Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance plan required	1	1	3	4	3	2	<i>14</i>
Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance plan approved				1			<i>1</i>
Failed to reach annual benchmark: compliance planning in process		1					<i>1</i>
Pending				1			<i>1</i>
No Annual Benchmark for FY07/ CY07	1	6				3	<i>10</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>33</i>

PLACEMENT STABILITY- STATUS REPORT ON OUTCOMES DATA

Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks (*see appendix for detailed data reports*)

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<p><u>Outcome 1</u> The average monthly ratio of licensed foster care beds to children in licensed foster care will be at least 2.0.</p>	<p>FY07: Ratio= 1.7 Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than .2 lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 2.22 Regional performance ranged from 1.95-2.48 <i>FY06= 2.27¹³</i></p>	<p>Reached FY07 benchmark Statewide and regional expectations were achieved.</p>
<p><u>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>).</p>	<p>FY07=87% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 85.5% Regional performance ranged from 83.4-89.5% <i>FY06=84.7%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>

No Annual Benchmark for FY07/ CY07

Outcome	Current Status and Comments
<p><u>Outcome 3</u> Social workers will have caseloads at or below Council on Accreditation (COA) standards (8 child cases per caseworker for children with special needs, 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; for measurement purposes, each child with special needs will be counted as 2.25 children</i>).</p>	<p>According to Revised Implementation Plan, FY07 represents a baseline. Measurement for this outcome remains under development; FY07 data not available. Benchmark for FY08 will be 80% (FY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2009 Monitoring Report).</p>

¹³ Where comparable data are available, the previous year's data are provided. These data are provided for contextual purposes only, and were not used to assess FY07/ CY07 compliance.

MENTAL HEALTH- STATUS REPORT ON OUTCOMES DATA

Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks (*see appendix for detailed data reports*)

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<p><u>Goal 1, Outcome 2</u></p> <p>Children in out-of-home care 30 days or longer will have completed and documented¹⁴ Child Health and Education Track (CHET) screens within 30 days of entering care.</p>	<p>FY07=60% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>Acceptable data not available¹⁵</p>	<p>Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance planning in process</u></p> <p>Compliance planning has already begun, pursuant to recent Court order. A decision is pending.</p>
<p><u>Goal 3, Outcome 1</u></p> <p>Children in out-of-home care will receive a comprehensive mental health assessment within 30 days of a request for an assessment.¹⁶</p>	<p>FY07=75% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 80.3%</p> <p>Regional performance ranged from 68.8-91.7%</p> <p><i>Comparable FY06 data not available</i></p>	<p>Reached FY07 benchmark</p> <p>Statewide and regional expectations were achieved.</p>
<p><u>Goal 3, Outcome 2</u></p> <p>Children in out-of-home care will be screened for mental health and substance abuse needs¹⁷ every 12 months.¹⁸</p>	<p>FY07=75% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 56.5%</p> <p>Regional performance ranged from 53.7-59.7%</p> <p><i>FY06= 43.9%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>
<p><u>Goal 3, Outcome 3</u></p> <p>Eligible children will receive services from a qualified mental health and/or substance abuse provider within 30 days of the completion of an assessment.</p>	<p>FY07=80% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 80.0%</p> <p>Regional performance ranged from 73.4-84.5%</p> <p><i>Comparable FY06 data not available</i></p>	<p>Reached FY07 benchmark</p> <p>Statewide and regional expectations were achieved.</p>

¹⁴ For Braam purposes, a completed and documented CHET is one in which age-appropriate screenings have been completed for all domains: Medical (EPSDT completed for all children); Developmental (developmental screening completed for children ages 0-60 months); Emotional-behavioral (Child Behavioral Checklist completed for children ages 6-18 years); Educational (educational records received for school-aged children); and Connections (for all children).

¹⁵ Data provided by the Department do not meet Panel's definition of a complete CHET. Panel has determined that benchmark has not been reached based on lack of availability of appropriate data. Panel also notes that related data suggest that performance continues to fall short of benchmark. The Department is in the process of re-building a data management tool to allow tracking based on the Panel's requirements. Data concerning this measure will be reported in the next monitoring report.

¹⁶ A request for an assessment may come from children who self identify or are identified by their caregiver, parent, social worker, medical provider, or through a valid screening mechanism, as needing one.

¹⁷ The CA guidelines for CHET indicate that substance abuse screening occur for persons 12 and older.

¹⁸ Screening may occur during annual EPSDT exams or by using another valid mental health screening instrument.

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<u>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.	CY07=80% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.	CY07= 88.8% Regional performance ranged from 83.7%- 90.9% <i>Comparable FY06 data not available</i>	Reached FY07 benchmark Statewide and regional expectations were achieved.

No Annual Benchmark for FY07/ CY07

Outcome	Current Status and Comments
<u>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.	According to Revised Implementation Plan, FY08 will be the baseline for this outcome. Therefore no data are due at this time.
<u>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.	Panel previously approved a compliance plan for the provision of data, under which data for this outcome are expected beginning with FY08. Benchmark for FY08 will be 80% (FY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2009 Monitoring Report).
<u>Goal 1, Outcome 4</u> Children age 3 and under in out-of-home care will be referred to the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) within 2 workdays of identification of concerns about developmental delays from their CHET screens.	Panel previously approved a compliance plan for the provision of data, under which data for this outcome are expected beginning with FY09. Benchmark for FY09 will be 85% (FY09 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2010 Monitoring Report).
<u>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.	Panel previously approved a compliance plan for the provision of data, under which data for this outcome are expected beginning with FY08. Benchmark for FY08 will be 70% (FY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2009 Monitoring Report).
<u>Goal 2, Outcome 2</u> Children in out-of-home care will have health and education plans in their ISSPs updated every 6 months.	Panel previously approved a compliance plan for the provision of data, under which data for this outcome are expected beginning with FY08. Benchmark for FY08 will be 70% (FY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2009 Monitoring Report).

Outcome	Current Status and Comments
<p data-bbox="185 264 396 294"><u>Goal 3, Outcome 4</u></p> <p data-bbox="185 323 781 466">A shared planning meeting will be held by DCFS to develop an appropriate alternative services plan when a child is found ineligible for or denied mental health treatment or substance abuse assessments or treatment services.</p>	<p data-bbox="844 264 1404 352">Panel previously approved a compliance plan for the provision of data, under which data for this outcome are expected beginning with FY08.</p> <p data-bbox="844 382 1390 466">Benchmark for FY08 will be 80% (FY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2009 Monitoring Report).</p>

FOSTER PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION- STATUS REPORT ON OUTCOMES DATA

Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks (*see appendix for detailed data reports*)

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<p><u>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).</p>	<p>CY07= 90% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>CY07= 86.4% Regional performance ranged from 83.1%-90.4% <i>CY06= 88.6%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>
<p><u>Outcome 2</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).</p>	<p>CY07= 80% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>CY07= 75.6% Regional performance ranged from 73.6%-77.3% <i>CY06= 76.3%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>
<p><u>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).</p>	<p>CY07= 80% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>CY07= 72.4% Regional performance ranged from 67.6%-79.3% <i>CY06= 72.8%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>

UNSAFE/ INAPPROPRIATE PLACEMENT- STATUS REPORT ON OUTCOMES DATA

Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks (see appendix for detailed data reports)

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<u>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.	FY07=0	FY07= 0 <i>FY06= 7</i>	Reached FY07 benchmark
<u>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.	FY07=0	FY07=0 Note: Department's data explains that 3 placements of this type were made and met appropriate exceptions. These exceptions have been deemed acceptable to the Panel. <i>Comparable FY06 data not available</i>	Reached FY07 benchmark
<u>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.	CY07= 95% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.	CY07= 55.0% Regional performance ranged from 40.0%--72.7% <i>Comparable FY06 data not available</i>	Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u>
<u>Goal 1, Outcome 4</u> Children identified as physically assaultive or physically aggressive (PAY) 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.	CY07= 95% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.	CY07= 44.7% Regional performance ranged from 30.0%--60.0% <i>Comparable FY06 data not available</i>	Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u>

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<u>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.	CY07= 85% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.	CY07= 75.1% Regional performance ranged from 70.4% - 78.8% <i>CY06= 74.9%</i>	Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u>
<u>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.	CY07= 85% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.	CY07= 43.2% Regional performance ranged from 37.1% - 48.3 <i>CY06= 37.9%</i>	Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan approved</u> ¹⁹
<u>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.	FY07= 99.68%	Pending	This measure is calculated at the federal level based on state data submissions, but the report has not yet been received by the Department. Report will be provided to the Panel as soon as it is received by the Department.
<u>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.	FY07= 100%	FY07= 87% Regional performance ranged from 81.8- 92.3% <i>Comparable FY06 data not available</i>	Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u> Data obtained through case review process.

¹⁹ Plan was developed pursuant to recent Court order. Plan was approved by Panel on September 12, 2008, with exception of one component. Panel will require an addendum to the plan in October 2008.

SIBLING SEPARATION- STATUS REPORT ON OUTCOMES DATA

Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks (see appendix for detailed data reports)

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<p><u>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.</p>	<p>FY07=60% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 58.3% Regional performance ranged from 46.0-68.2% <i>FY06=58.9%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>
<p><u>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.²⁰</p>	<p>FY07=85% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 79.3% Regional performance ranged from 66.4-90.5% <i>FY06=80.1%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>
<p><u>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. - If the CA or the court determines that visitation/contact poses a risk to either child's health, safety or welfare, this finding will be approved by the supervisor and documented in the child's file.</p>	<p>CY07= 70% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 10 percentage points lower than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>CY07= 52.4% Regional performance ranged from 43.6-56.1% <i>CY06= 48.4%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach CY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>

²⁰ Any placement that satisfies outcome 1 of this section (placement with all siblings) also satisfies outcome 2 (placement with at least one sibling).

SERVICES TO ADOLESCENTS- STATUS REPORT ON OUTCOMES DATA

Findings on Outcomes and Benchmarks (*see appendix for detailed data reports*)

Outcome	Benchmarks	Performance	Current Status and Comments
<p><u>Goal 3, Outcome 1</u></p> <p>The percentage of children who run from out-of-home care placements during the fiscal year will decrease.</p>	<p>FY07= 3.5% Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than .5 percentage points higher than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07=4.1% Regional performance ranged from 2.4-6.5%</p> <p><i>FY06=4.1%</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p>
<p><u>Goal 3, Outcome 2</u></p> <p>The median number of days that children are on runaway status will decrease.</p>	<p>FY07= 40 days Statewide benchmark must be met, and no region's performance may be more than 5 days higher than the statewide benchmark.</p>	<p>FY07= 39 days Regional performance ranged from 31 to 60 days</p> <p><i>FY06= 42 days</i></p>	<p>Failed to reach FY07 benchmark: <u>compliance plan required</u></p> <p>Statewide benchmark was achieved, but median number of days on runaway status was more than 5 days higher than the statewide benchmark in several regions.</p>

No Annual Benchmark for FY07/ CY07

Outcome	Current Status and Comments
<p><u>Goal 2, Outcome 1</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>According to Revised Implementation Plan, CY07 represents a baseline.</p> <p>FY07 data not yet available.</p> <p>Benchmark for FY08 will be 40% (FY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2009 Monitoring Report).</p>
<p><u>Goal 2, Outcome 2</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>According to Revised Implementation Plan, CY07 represents a baseline.</p> <p>FY07 data not yet available.</p> <p>Benchmark for FY08 will be 50% (FY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's April 2009 Monitoring Report).</p>
<p><u>Goal 2, Outcome 3</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>According to Revised Implementation Plan, CY07 represents a baseline.</p> <p>CY07 performance= 38%. Regional performance ranged from 33%-47%.</p> <p>Benchmark for CY08 will be 75% (CY08 performance will be addressed in the Panel's October 2009 Monitoring Report).</p>