

Division of Child Welfare Services

2008 Annual Report



cdhs

**Safety
Permanency
Well-Being**

2008

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Acknowledgments

Thanks to the generous contributions of all of the staff of the Division of Child Welfare Services for their efforts in documenting the progress and successes in each program area. We would like to acknowledge the hard work of all child welfare staff around the state in their efforts towards achieving better outcomes for children, youth, families and communities. It is through Colorado professionals, community participants, youth, and all stakeholders, giving their best every day, that we assure that the safety, permanency and well-being of our children, youth and families continue to be the highest priority.

Photography:

Cover - Tristan and David by Greg McBoat
Page 1 - Harry by Dana McGrath and Shelby by Olivia Navarro
Page 2 - Jaida by Paula Fortuna
Page 4 - Ashton, Sheldon, and Zeppelin by Kit Hedman
Page 8 - Tiffani and Justin by Seth Kleklamp
Page 9 - Francisco and Maria by Heidi Muller
Page 11 - Dontae by Kit Hedman and Jocelyn by Brian Kraft
Page 13 - Ilicia by Amy Johnson
Page 14 - Zachary by Heidi Muller and Colorado's Youth Leadership Team Members: Gabriel, Matin, Gabriele, Grabriel, Charlemagne, Mitchell, Alyssa, George, Zachariah**
Page 15 - Karla by Jennifer Sardinia
Page 16 - Isis by Kit Hedman and Joel by Tommy Han

The children in this report are featured in Colorado's 2008 Heart Gallery unless otherwise noted**

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For more information on the Division of Child Welfare Services or to download an electronic version of this report, please visit our website at:

www.cdhs.state.co.us/childwelfare

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The names of the children used in this document have been changed to protect them.

Next Steps for DCWS

Colorado's Child and Family Services Review March 16 – 20, 2009

The ACF will be conducting a Review of Colorado's practices in March of 2009. This is round 2 of the CFSR and Colorado is excited about the opportunity to see how well the State has improved our practices since the Round 1 Review that occurred in 2002.

Child Welfare Action Committee July 2008

On April 16, 2008, Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. issued an Executive Order creating the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee. The committee is expected to begin meeting in July 2008. The charge of the Executive Order is to provide recommendations on how to improve Colorado's child welfare system. The Action Committee will be focusing upon making recommendations for the October 2008 Interim Report that will improve the child welfare system in Colorado immediately and will infuse a sense of urgency in assuring the well-being of children.

SACWIS Review December 2008

The ACF will be conducting a review of our SACWIS in December of 2008. Colorado is hoping to move to the first tier of SACWIS compliance, joining just eight other States in achieving this success.

Federal IV-E Review June 22 – 26, 2009

Throughout SFY 08-09, the State will prepare for Colorado's Triennial Title IV-E Review by the ACF, June 22-26, 2009.

Caseworker Contacts June 2009

In June 2009, \$227,000 will be awarded to counties across Colorado that submitted valid applications to DCWS in response to an RFA released in April to implement digital pen technology with caseworkers who make client visits. In FFY 2008, Jefferson County implemented use of digital pens with 160 caseworkers. It is reported that each caseworker saves an average of four to six hours per week in reduced documentation time that is now available to make more client visits. The Caseworker Contact Report shows a statewide average of 69.1% of worker visits occurring monthly. Colorado has an objective that 90% of monthly worker visits with children will be face-to-face. To achieve the objective of face-to-face visits the following targets have been set.

2009 – 69.34%
2010 – 74.34%
2011 – 79.34%

Implementation of National Youth in Transition (NYTD) Database

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) will track the independent living services provided to youth, and outcomes that measure states' performance in preparing youth for their transition from foster care to independent living. DCWS is collaborating with the Governor's Office of Information Technology and county departments of human services to fully implement Colorado NYTD on October 1, 2010.

CDHS Organizational Assessment

The Governor's Executive Order B 006 08 issued on April 16, 2008, emphasized the need to "examine the State's child welfare system so that we can better protect children from abuse and neglect". In an effort to ensure DCWS has the capacity and organizational structure to perform efficiently and effectively, the Department of Human Services contracted with Policy Studies Inc. and American Humane to perform an organizational assessment of the Division. That Assessment is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2008 and the recommendations should be available early 2009.

Key Issues

This Annual Report reflects the performance, activities and accomplishments for the Division of Child Welfare Services (DCWS) in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

Child Maltreatment Fatality Review

In response to the increase in child maltreatment fatalities in which the victim and families were previously known to Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) ordered a review of all child maltreatment fatalities. The review focused on identifying any commonalities and making recommendations for improvements in the system based upon those findings. The review was published in April 2008 and is available on the CDHS website.

SB 08-64 Task Force Recommendations

The Foster Care and Permanency Task Force met from July 2007 through May 2008 and considered the strength of the current system, the quality work currently being done within the state and counties, and identified ways to improve the design, delivery, and outcomes for children in foster care and their families. On May 31, 2008 the Foster Care and Performance Task Force report was released with 16 recommendations and is available on DCWS website.

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Regional CFSR Kickoff Meetings were hosted beginning July 23-25, 2007 to provide information about the CFSR and to engage state, county and other stakeholder participation in the statewide assessment. A mock review was held December 17-19, 2007 in Denver County. Denver will be one of three counties which will be reviewed by the Administration of Children and Families (ACF). Staff interviewed parents, children, foster parents, GALs and other providers and conducted

reviews of 26 foster care and in-home cases.

Colorado's CFSR is scheduled for March 16-20, 2009. As the state and county departments are completing the Statewide Assessment, counties and their stakeholders are beginning their program improvement planning (PIP). Initial plans addressed re-entry of children in out of home placement and number of placement moves of children. Counties will continue to develop plans to address other ways to improve services to children and their families.



Positive Outcomes

"Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds."
Orison Swett Marden

1,036 children were adopted, an increase of 10% over the last few years.

31 children featured in the 2007 Heart Gallery were placed with their "forever families."

The total number of new child welfare cases has decreased by 5% over the last few years.

Children placed out of the home have decreased by 7% since SFY 2006.

Colorado Collaborative Management programs have achieved 77% of their identified outcomes.

A Cognos reporting tool was implemented and contains a number of new reports created for this environment including a CFSR dashboard for counties.

New web-based software specific to Title IV-E and eligibility was developed and implemented with our partners in the Governor's Office of Information Technology.

New functionality including an electronic interface with ACSES (Child Support) was implemented.

231 youth who graduated or obtained a GED were honored and recognized.

Colorado Numbers

Children and Adolescent Population ages 0-17:
1,244,134

Referrals:
74,807

Children in Open Assessments:
62,868

Children in Open Cases:
41,841

Children in Core Services Program:
17,793
Received 50,814 Services

Children in Out-of-Home Placement:
12,838

Children in Foster/Group Homes:
7,911

Children in Residential Care:
3,415

Adoptions:
1,036

Financial Services

DCWS Block

DCWS allocates funds to county departments in a block which the counties may then in turn spend without categorical restriction, such as a set dollar amount for out of home or for staffing. The following data represents the Child Welfare Block as allocated to various counties, broken out by the Ten Large Counties and the Balance of State.

Percentage of the Child Welfare Services Block Line*		
Adams County	\$ 31,818,888	9.75%
Arapahoe County	\$ 31,341,982	9.61%
Boulder County	\$ 14,683,027	4.50%
Denver County	\$ 61,239,345	18.78%
El Paso County	\$ 39,568,394	12.13%
Jefferson County	\$ 27,813,764	8.53%
Larimer County	\$ 15,936,661	4.89%
Mesa County	\$ 11,242,248	3.45%
Pueblo County	\$ 18,126,339	5.56%
Weld County	\$ 17,060,139	5.23%
Balance of State	\$ 57,274,540	17.56%
Total	\$ 326,105,326	

* Data reflects preliminary amounts allocated to counties for SFY 08 as reflected in Agency Letter ABA 07-03-1



Financial Services

Key Collaborative Efforts

DCWS Overall Budget

DCWS*	SFY 2008
Administration	\$ 2,450,900.00
Training	\$ 4,928,419.00
Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment, Training, and Support	\$ 330,685.00
Excess Federal Title IV-E, Distributions for County Administrative Functions	\$ 1,710,316.00
Excess Federal Title IV-E Reimbursements	\$ 5,929,152.00
Performance-Based Collaborative Management Incentives	\$ 3,188,750.00
Independent Living Programs	\$ 2,826,582.00
Promoting Safe and Stable families	\$ 4,449,912.00
Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Grant	\$ 908,201.00
Family and Children's Program	\$ 45,055,425.00
Child Welfare Services	\$ 339,701,308.00
Total	\$ 411,479,722.00

* Data reflects amounts taken from HB 08-1287 supplemental to SB 07-239

Each year CDHS is appropriated money by the legislative branch to fund DCWS. During 2008, the total amount of funding for the Division was \$411,479,722.00 and of that total over 97% was then allocated out to the county departments of which 91% of those funds were for the Child Welfare Services Block and Core Services line items alone.

Total Program Services Cost

The total cost for all program services was \$162,981,695.86, an increase of 15% over the last three years.

Title IV-E

Over \$63.6 million in Federal Title IV-E revenue was claimed for SFY 07-08 in foster care maintenance.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Grant

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act State Grant is a program that provides states with flexible funds to improve their child protective service systems. This is a five-year plan that ensures that the state is operating a statewide child

abuse and neglect program that includes specific provisions and procedures. Funding is allotted on a formula basis according to a State's ratio of children under the age of 18 to the national total. DCWS is the designated agency responsible to apply for CAPTA funding. For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 the CAPTA allocation was \$423,611 to this grant.

Parental Fees and Refunds

For SFY 2008 \$2,521,909 was collected in parental fees to offset the cost of out of home placement.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

In SFY 2008, \$29,575,304 MOE funds were claimed. This is an increase from \$26,358,209 in 2006, or an increase of 11% increase in MOE funds claimed over the last few years.



Heart Gallery

The 2008 Heart Gallery Opening was held on October 6th at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. This photographic essay contained twenty-seven of Colorado's children who have been waiting the longest for their forever families. The event was a huge success, with 237 in attendance, including twenty-two of the featured photographers. At this time, twelve of the twenty-seven Heart Gallery children have found their forever families.

Faith-based Initiatives

The collaboration between CDHS, several counties and many faith-based organizations has blossomed into a strong relationship between all these entities for the best interests of children who are in our system. Several churches sponsor adoption support groups and wrap around services to adoptive families. In Jefferson County, several churches have created a "mini" Heart Gallery that travels from church to church and when it appears at a particular church that pastor is to preach at least one sermon relating to adoption and foster care.

Project 1.27

Project 1.27 is an agency that provides an innovative new way to adopt children in



Colorado. The church becomes an active partner with the adopting families providing the following:

- All state required adoptive parent training on location
- Organized support during the process and long after child placement
- Parent and youth support groups and resources

Collaborative Management Program (CMP)

CMP is the voluntary development of collaborative management of multi-agency services provided to children and families by county departments of human services and other mandatory agencies including local judicial districts, local health department, local school districts, community mental health center and Behavioral Health Organizations. For SFY 2008, seventeen counties participated in the Collaborative Management

Program, providing services to 10,290 children. The counties received \$3,158,000 for meeting performance goals in juvenile justice, education, child welfare, and public health.

Court Improvement Program (CIP)

DCWS is developing strategies with the Court Improvement Program to address the needs of counties and courts that have less than optimal relationships and substandard practices that impact safety, permanency, and well-being issues for children and families. The objective is for children in foster care to have an appropriate permanency goal and children in foster care to have a permanency goal established in a timely manner. DCWS will continue to work closely with Colorado's CIP to provide training to judges and magistrates.

In Colorado, any report alleging abuse or neglect that comes to the attention of the county departments of human services is entered as a "Referral" into the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) known as Colorado Trails. For SFY 2008, county departments of human services received 74,807 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. If a Referral is accepted for investigation it becomes an "Assessment". A total of 62,868 Assessments were investigated during this same time period. Referral and Assessment numbers have increased by 9% over the last three years. An Assessment that stays open for ongoing services is called a "Case". For State Fiscal Year 2008, DCWS served 41,841 children that had open child welfare cases to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of Colorado's children. This is an increase of just 2% over the last three years. However, the total number of new child welfare cases opened in Trails decreased by 5% over the last few years, with a total number of new cases for SFY 2008 of 15,507. For more information on this, please visit the DCWS website.

24-Hour Monitoring

The 24-Hour Monitoring Unit is responsible for evaluating rule compliance, quality, treatment, and the provision of treatment services to children and families in over 240 state licensed residential child care facilities.

During SFY 2008, the unit conducted 75 monitoring visits, which resulted in over 190 days of on-site program reviews being completed. In addition, the unit provided over 50 days of technical assistance to the staff and the administrators of these facilities.

During SFY 2008, there was a 20% increase in Stage II investigations from the previous year. Stage II investigations address issues of administrative culpability (licensing violations) after a county department concludes their investigation of allegations of institutional abuse or neglect. Of the 506 Stage II investigations that were conducted, only 13%

were founded for licensing violations. The trend for the past three years has shown a steady increase in the number of Stage II investigations, but a reduction in the number of founded licensing violations.

97% of all licensing violations are resolved within 45 days from the on-site review date. Over 230 facilities were visited during the course of this year.

Institutional Abuse

The Institutional Abuse Review Team (IART) reviews reports of investigations of abuse or neglect including child fatalities or near fatalities in 24-hour out of home child care settings by county departments. The team reviews an average of 60-65 cases per month with a total of 761 reports for SFY 2008.

Fatalities

Regrettably and with sympathy for the families that have lost their loved ones, for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)

2008, Colorado faced 32 fatalities as a result of neglect. Colorado reports this data based on the Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 so the data is consistent with federal fatality data, which is published and tracked for all states.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

CAPTA provides states with flexible funds to improve their child protective service systems. For SFY 2008, CAPTA provided: 82 individual consultations, 24 secondary trauma training seminars, and 14 group stress debriefings. This grant also provided 85 traumatic stress educational support group sessions for CPS workers and other multi-disciplinary professionals involved in the investigation of child fatalities and serious child abuse. Consultations were provided on 205 difficult child abuse or neglect cases for multi-disciplinary staff in local communities.

Youth Leadership Team

The State Youth-Young Adult Leadership Team (YLT) is a positive youth development program that informs effective public policies, programming, and practices development. The YLT's Shaping Our System (S.O.S.) Survey documents two top concerns:

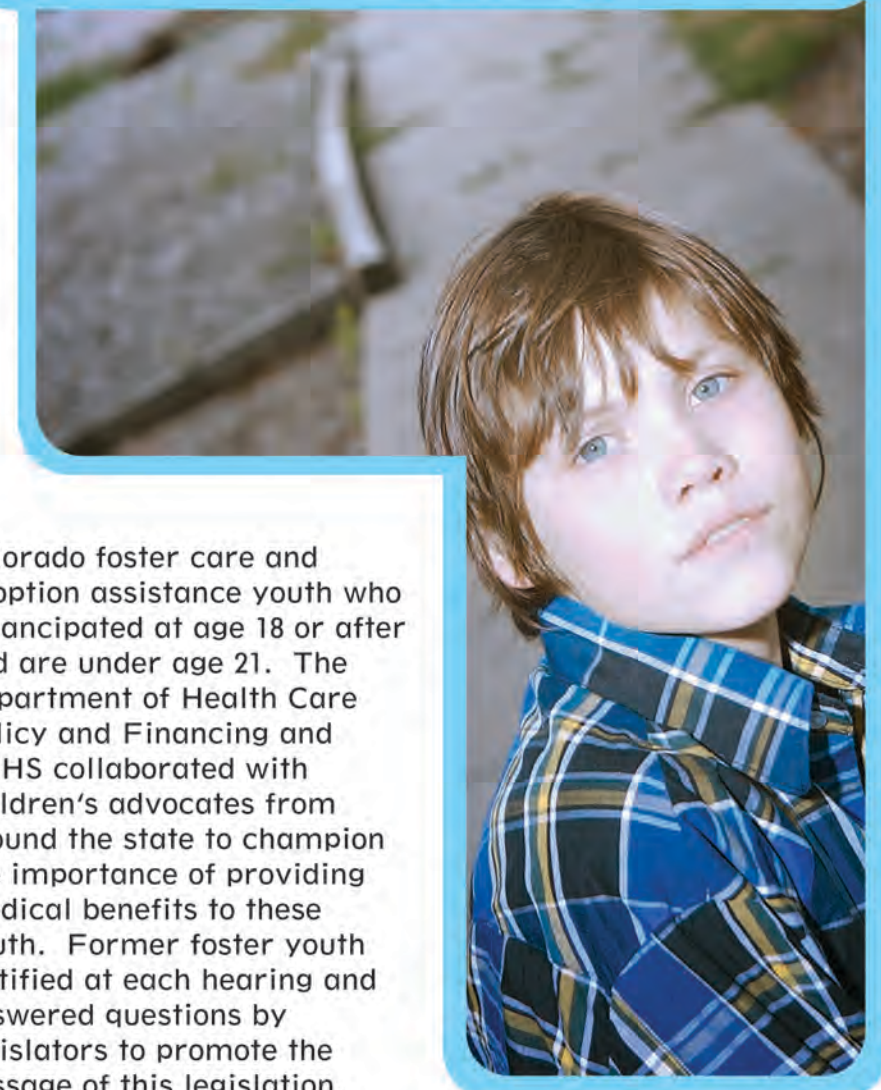
- 88% say they need their youth "voice and choice" to be heard in all decision-making about their safety, permanency connections, and well-being services.
- 12% say they need more information on what is available and how to access resources, transportation, and funding to support their transition to young adult self-sufficiency.

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

During FFY 2008 there were 182 students who benefited from participation in the ETV program, who received an average funding of \$3,994 to attend colleges or vocational schools. This year \$648,900 was provided in ETV funds to youth, with an additional \$144,200 match provided by the ETV contractor, Orphan Foundation of America.

Emancipation Medicaid

On May 28, 2008, Governor Ritter signed a bill that expanded medical coverage through Medicaid to all



Colorado foster care and adoption assistance youth who emancipated at age 18 or after and are under age 21. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and CDHS collaborated with children's advocates from around the state to champion the importance of providing medical benefits to these youth. Former foster youth testified at each hearing and answered questions by legislators to promote the passage of this legislation.

Youth Empowerment Systems (YES!) Academy

The YES! Academy's state-wide services safety net provides referrals and services to help transitioning youth avoid homelessness and human trafficking victimization. A total of 427 child welfare youth ran from placement and 2,243 Colorado youth were reported as runaways for the year. Culturally competent transitional services were provided by a statewide network of providers to assist the highest at-risk youth populations, Native American, rural, or urban youth maintain self-sufficiency. YES! collaborated with the Supportive Housing and Homelessness Program to provide Family Unification Program priority housing vouchers for 80 youth that otherwise would be homeless or living in unsafe circumstances.

Supportive Services for Runaway-Homeless Youth (SSRHY)

SSRHY is a federal demonstration grant (Colorado is one of the three sites awarded in the nation) addressing the needs of Colorado's rural youth, ages 16-21 years. Six rural Colorado community sites to include Craig, Rifle, Montrose, Cortez, Alamosa, and Walsenburg have formed the "Rural Collaborative for Homeless Youth (RCHY)" to

plan and develop survival, community attachment, and education-employment services networks in their individual communities and as collaborative.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides emancipation preparation services to youth who are in foster care and have an Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement goal, or youth who were in foster care at age 18 and haven't reached age 21. The FFY 2008 funds provided to county Chafee Programs, the Transitional Living Program, YES! Academy, and the two special events, the Colorado Teen Conference and the Celebration of Educational Excellence was a total of \$1,704,917. The county Chafee Programs serve youth in 44 counties.

Overall, 1,221 youth received Chafee-funded services in Federal Fiscal Year 2008. The Chafee Program focuses on the value of self-sufficiency through education and employment. As a result, 630 youth were attending high school or GED classes, 351 were attending college or vocational schools and 528 were employed, (at least part-time). 547 had jobs and 350 received a high school diploma or GED. The services provided included budgeting/finance, career planning/employment skills, secondary education supports, post-secondary preparation and supports, household management, and health, nutrition, and meal planning.

The Transitional Living Program provides services for youth who were in foster care on their 18th birthday and who haven't reached age 21. The services include budgeting, career planning, job readiness, and educational mentoring.



Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)

PSSF serves as a catalyst to help county departments of human services engage local communities to find innovative, collaborative ways to deliver services that promote safety, permanency and well-being for families. For SFY 2008, 16,052 families received a service that was funded in part from PSSF funding, aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect during the year. Currently in Colorado, forty counties or local programs receive funding through PSSF as well as one tribe, the Ute Mountain

Ute. These areas represent nearly 90% of the children under the age of 18 in the state of Colorado.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

There were 1,686 ICPC requests initiated for SFY 2008. Due to individualized county practice, this number may be less than actual requests.

Referral, Information and Complaints

For SFY 2008, DCWS staff sent 171 complaints to the

counties for follow-up and made 844 information and referral contacts.

County Program Reviews

The purpose of a program review is to identify how the county runs their certified foster care program and their out of home care practices and procedures related to referrals, case management, permanency, education, and mental health services. Five county foster care program reviews or desk audits were completed during this fiscal year.

PSSF Family Success Story

"John" is an adolescent male with Down Syndrome. John was referred to the Montrose/Delta PSSF program, Tandem Families, to help him and his mother overcome multiple challenges they faced living together. John was having outbursts, which escalated to physical violence towards his mother and was beginning to prepare to mainstream into society as an adult with Down Syndrome. The program made referrals for John and his family to service agencies such as Community Options, Partners Program, Special Olympics, and Easter Seals, which have resulted in broader services and social experiences for John.

John and his mother benefited from being involved in the Tandem Families PSSF program by receiving respite care for the mother that keeps John living in his home, increased social experiences for John, and support and encouragement to John's mother. Without the Tandem Families program, John and his mother would not have the support for his transition into the community. The Tandem Families Program will continue to be an ongoing resource for them.

Permanency

"Through the eye of the lens I see emotion; without a doubt, I see HOPE. Hope that someone will pause in front of a photo, imagine their life with this child and ask that first question." - Colleen Baz, Heart Gallery photographer

Children in Out of Home Placement

For SFY 2008, DCWS provided services to 12,838 children in open out of home placements (OOH) to ensure their safety, permanency and well-being. Children are placed out of the home when their family cannot assure their safety in the family's home. This is a decrease of 7% over the last three years. Out of home placements include family foster homes, group care providers, placement with kin, residential care and other types of care. The most commonly reported reasons for a child's removal from the home (in order of predominance) are: neglect, drug and/or alcohol abuse, child's behavior problem, and physical abuse.

Since 2006, Colorado's child and adolescent population increased by 3% with the current population estimate for children and adolescents ages 0 to 17 at 1,244,134 for SFY 2008.

Disproportionality in Foster Care: 5% of Colorado's child population are African American, yet they make up 13% of the out of home population. The distribution of 'Age of Children in Care' is highest for children under 18 months of

age and youth over 15 years of age.

- Annually, 13,000 children spend some time in out of home care.
- 85% of children in out of home care are placed by the ten most populated counties.
- In March 2008, there were 3,616 children living in 2,580 non-relative family foster care homes and in 258 kinship family foster care homes.

Total Out of Home Expenditures

For SFY 2008, the total cost for all out of home services was \$136,471,454 which is a decrease of 2% from SFY 2006. The statewide monthly average cost for out of home services was \$2,075.03. There were 2,000,602 total paid days for out of home services representing a decrease of 8% from SFY 2006. The average cost per day was \$68.22 for this reporting period, an increase of 5%.

Foster Care and Adoption Recruitment and Retention

State recruitment and retention focuses on public awareness regarding the needs of children in care throughout the state, and augments the work of

county and private agencies helping families help our children. Some of the activities of the state include providing technical assistance to the county and private agencies, advertising, holding events to celebrate foster care and adoption, and renewing each year's Heart Gallery exhibit of children waiting for forever families. Each year, Colorado's Heart Gallery assists 40% of those children featured in the Heart Gallery to find their forever families.

Family to Family (F2F)

DCWS, in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and multiple county department representatives, held Family to Family Convening (trainings) in five regions of the state. The purpose of the convenings is to expand the use of F2F principles across the state.

Residential Care

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) and Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facilities (TRCCF) provide residential care for Colorado's children. Six PRTF facilities served a total of 35 children with length of stays between 2 days to 15 1/2 months.

Federal Data

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

AFCARS collects case level information on all children in foster care for whom the State child welfare agency has responsibility for placement, care or supervision, as well as children who are adopted under the auspices of the State's public child welfare agency. In SFY 2008 Colorado was in compliance on all but two elements (periodic review and timeliness of removal data entry). Colorado is working to improve these elements through an AFCARS improvement plan.

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

NCANDS is a voluntary national data collection and analysis system created in response to the requirements of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93-247) as amended. For FFY 2008, there were 10,699 child victims.

- 69.3% involved neglect
- 1.1% involved medical neglect
- 14.8% involved physical abuse
- 8.1% involved sexual abuse
- 2.0% involved psychological maltreatment
- 4.7% were unknown or missing data

Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care: Out of the 14,815 children in foster care for FFY 08, 14,739 or 99.49% did not experience abuse or neglect while in care.

Absence of Recurrence of Maltreatment: Out of the 5,350 children that had a founded abuse or neglect allegation, 5,079 or 94.9% did not have a recurrence of abuse or neglect in 6 months.

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Colorado's performance for the CFSR is compared to a national standard that has been established for any state-wide aggregate data attached to that particular outcome.

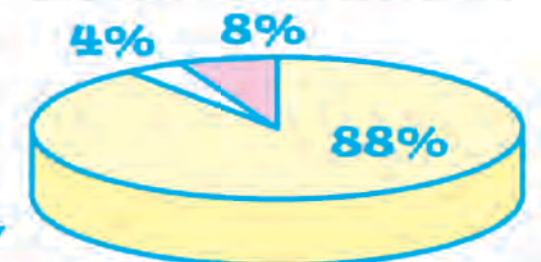
CFSR Permanency Outcomes: For FFY 08, Colorado is in compliance with Length of time to Achieve Adoption and Length of time to Achieve Reunification, and out of compliance with Foster Care Reentries and Stability of Foster Care Placements.

CFSR Safety Outcomes: For FFY 08, Colorado is in compliance with Recurrence of Maltreatment and out of compliance with Incidence of Abuse/Neglect in Foster Care.

Title IV-E Eligibility Determination Automation

In November 2007, the Title IV-E Eligibility Determination Module was piloted. Staff from Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Delta and Mesa counties, and the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) tested the first component of the Module, the Initial Eligibility Determination for foster care. Rollout of the new Title IV-E Module occurred on a regional basis between April 28, 2008 and June 23, 2008. This rollout was the culmination of three years of design and programming work by the Title IV-E Automation Project workgroup. The module is a SACWIS requirement necessary for the Colorado Trails system to meet full compliance with the federal government. Automating the eligibility process normalizes eligibility determinations and decision-making in all 64 counties and DYC, and will provide management tools for both State and Counties.

FFY 2008 CFSR Removal Reason



- Voluntary
- Court Ordered
- Not Yet Determined

Well-Being

"Hope lies in dreams in one's imagination and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality" - Jonas Falk

Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP)

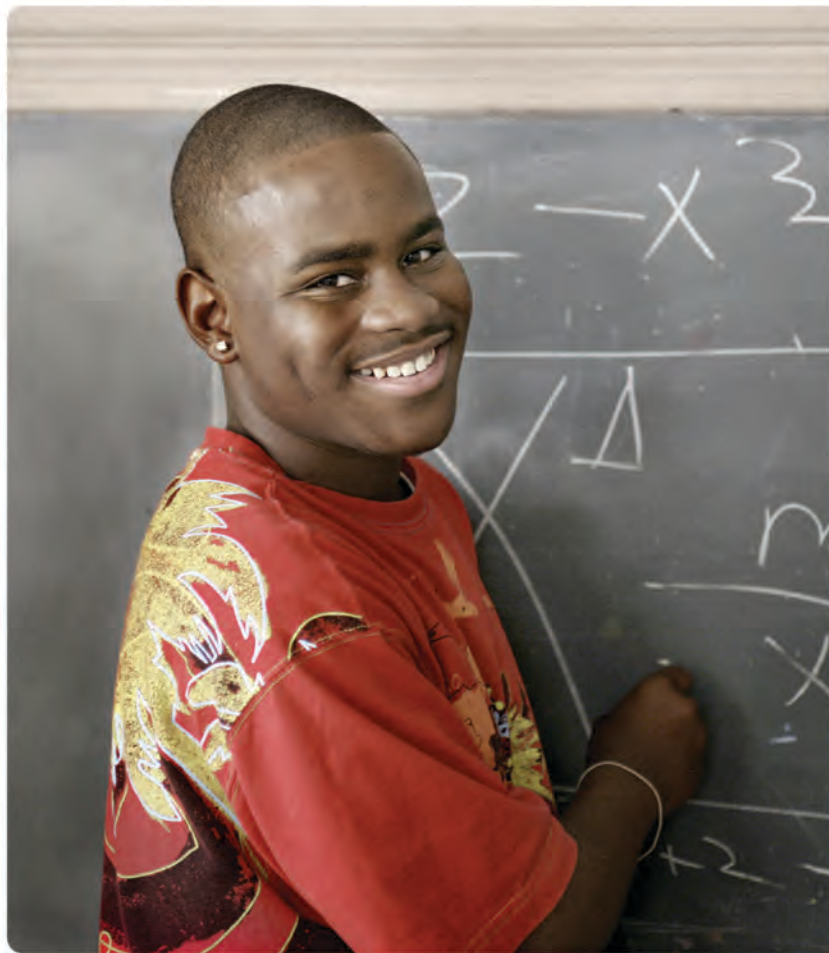
CHRP is designed to provide residential services to children and youth in foster care who have a developmental disability and extraordinary needs. CHRP serves children from birth to age 21 who are in the custody of county departments of human services in out of home placement. A total of 151 children between the ages of 10 and 21 were served for SFY 2008. Fifty-two percent

(52%) of the 151 children served had intensive needs and were able to remain in a community setting. The total waiver expenditure for the period was \$5,239,326.46.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

In SFY 2008 there was an ICWA convening in conjunction with the Casey Family Foundation, CDHS, county departments, and community representatives. This served

to bring Native American family and children needs to the attention of the broader community and to begin long range planning to develop statewide ICWA consultation, training, and to update the ICWA compliance tool. For this reporting period, there were 988 open involvements for Native American Clients. 122 were in Program Area 4 (Youth in Conflict), 417 were in Program Area 5 (Child Protection), and 382 were in Program Area 6 (Specialized Services).



Permanency

Core Services

For SFY 2008, 50,814 core services were delivered to 17,793 children and families. These children and families were found to have a child at imminent risk of out of home placement, and needing services to expedite reunification or other form of permanence, or in a placement and needing services to preserve the placement. A total of \$49,848,547.67 was expended on the Core Services Program. DCWS and the county and Tribal Family Preservation/ Core Services Commissions have undertaken

a comprehensive effort to improve services for children and families. These efforts have brought significant attention and improvements to the overall array of prevention intervention and reunification services across the state.

Total Statewide Annual Adoption Assistance Cost

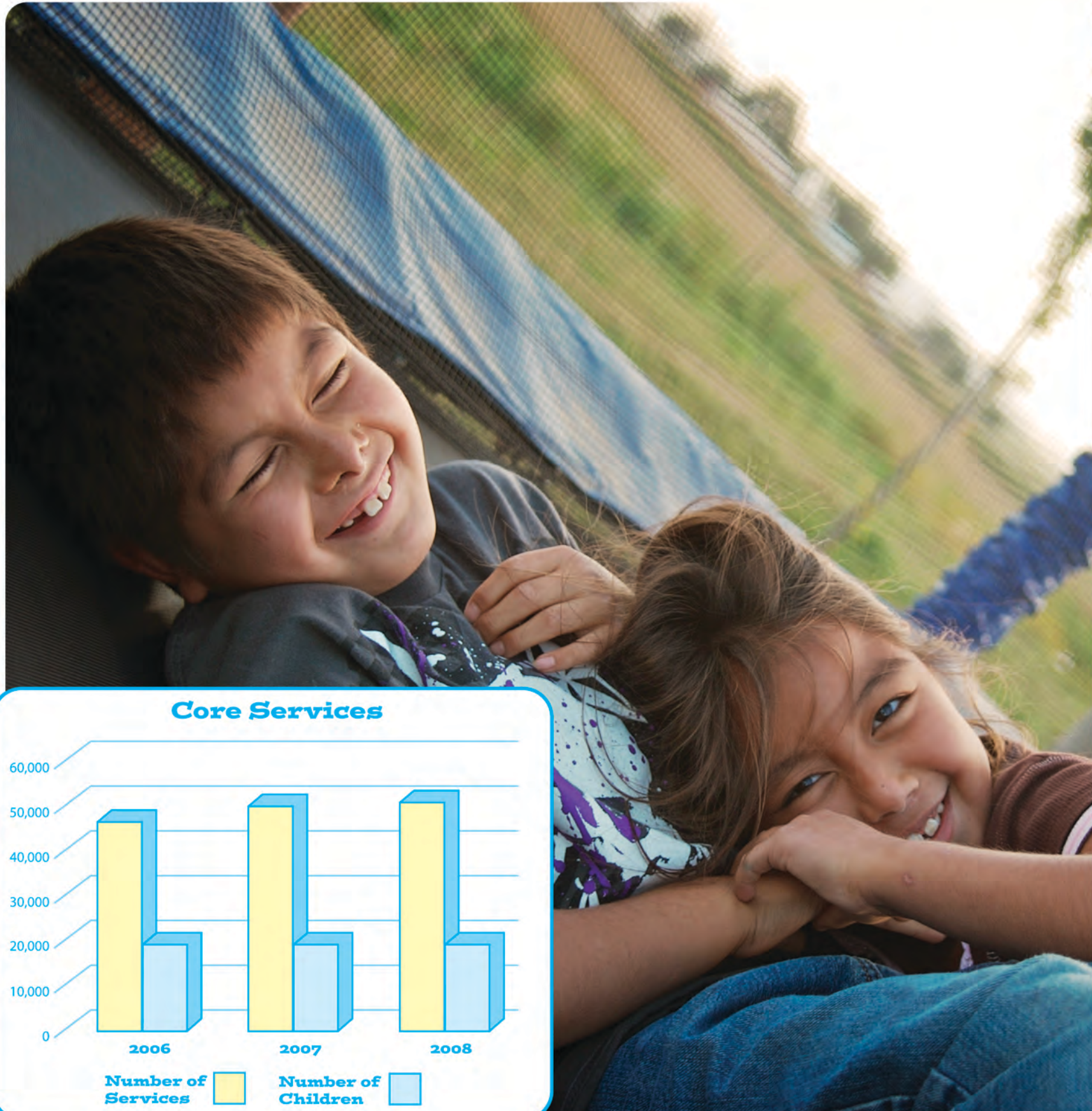
Adoption subsidies are funded by Federal, State and local dollars to assist families and reduce barriers that are created by the adoption of children with special needs. The number of children receiving adoption subsidies has increased by 9% over the last

three years. There were approximately 9,200 children receiving subsidies in 2006 and for SFY 2008 there were 10,132. The Total Annual Adoption Subsidy Cost for SFY 2008 was \$ 44,178,435.95, which is a 6% increase from SFY 2006. The average cost per day was \$15.35, which is down about 2% from the previous few years.

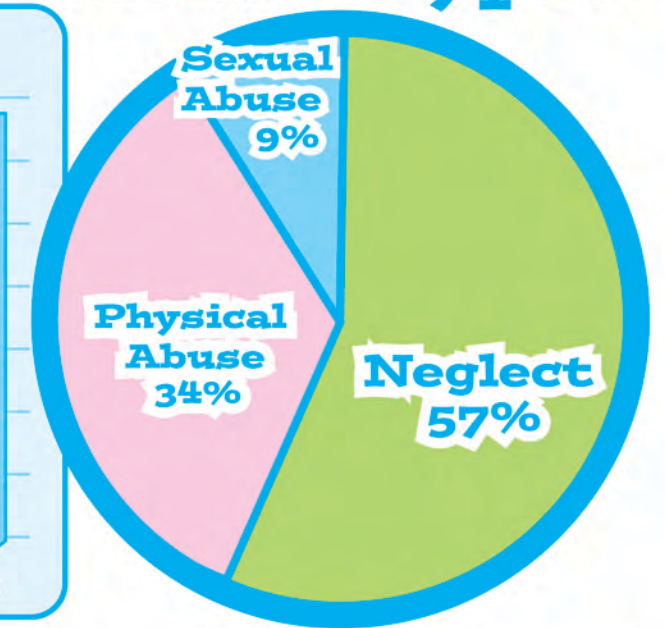
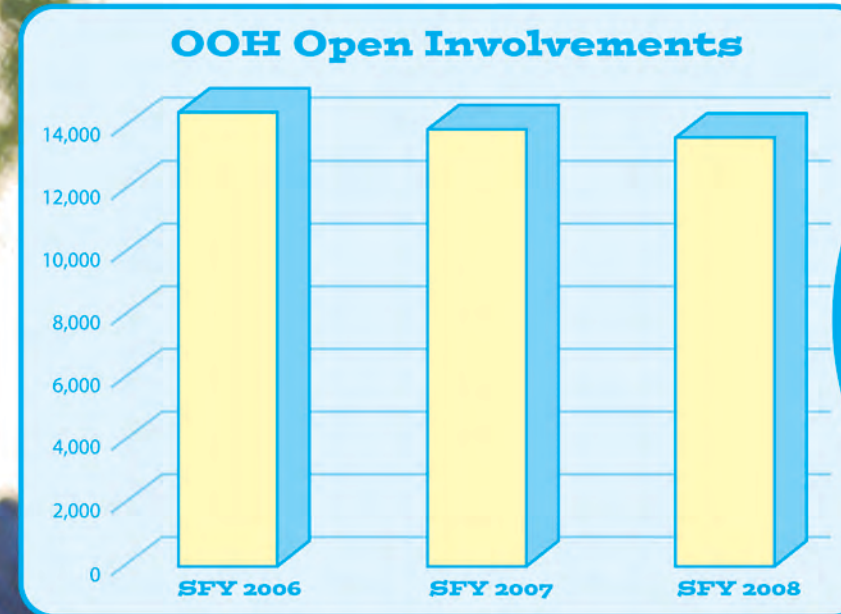
Adoption

The numbers of adoptions in Colorado and the U.S. have increased steadily over the past few years. In SFY 2008, there were 1036 finalized adoptions, which is an increase of 10% from 2006.

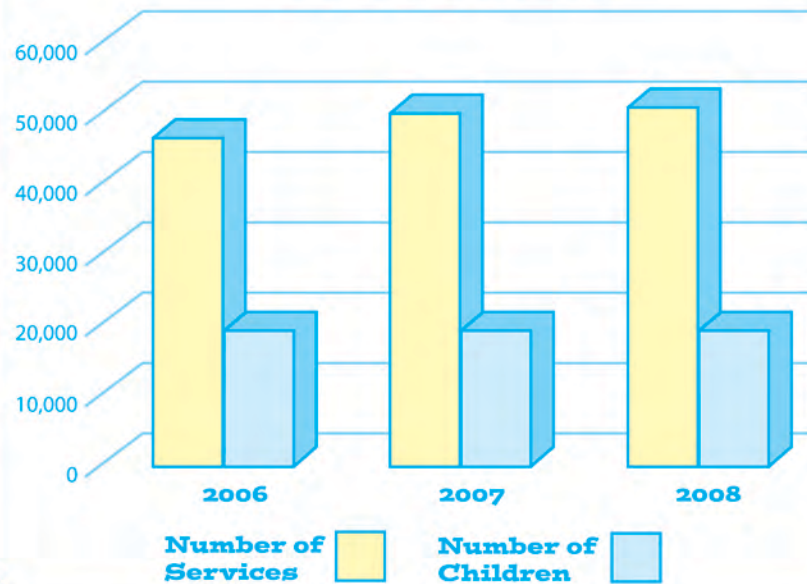




Institutional Abuse Types



Core Services



Referrals, Assessments and Cases

