

Los Angeles County
Department of Children and Family Services and Probation Department
Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Capped Allocation Demonstration Project
Progress/Activity Report
July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

Project Overview and Status

The Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Capped Allocation Demonstration Project (CADP) has been successful to date in providing Los Angeles County with the financial flexibility necessary to make strategic investments in structural and programmatic reforms needed to better serve children and families. These reforms continue to build upon and complement ongoing systemic improvements underway among County Departments and their community partners in Los Angeles County. This progress report provides an update on the status of the first sequence of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department (Probation) implementation priorities between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. Since the implementation of the CADP on July 1, 2007, the total DCFS AFDC-FC caseload has decreased by 12.0% through December 31, 2008 (from 18,304 to 16,099 and has decreased 2.8% since the last reporting period ending June 30, 2008 (from 16,561 to 16,099). The following table details AFDC-FC caseloads numbers by federal and non-federal and placement type:

DCFS AFDC-FC Caseloads

	Children in FFH			Children in FFA			Children in Group Home			Total		
	Non-Fed	Fed	Total	Non-Fed	Fed	Total	Non-Fed	Fed	Total	Non-Fed	Fed	Total
Jun-07	2,821	7,603	10,424	1,325	4,097	5,422	1,018	1,440	2,458	5,164	13,140	18,304
Dec-07	2,691	7,112	9,803	1,373	3,971	5,344	879	1,185	2,064	4,943	12,268	17,211
May-08	2,594	6,860	9,454	1,348	3,785	5,133	831	1,143	1,974	4,773	11,788	16,561
Dec-08	2,434	6,682	9,116	1,329	3,759	5,088	877	1,018	1,895	4,640	11,459	16,099
% of Change 6/07 to 12/08	-13.7%	-12.1%	-12.5%	0.3%	-8.2%	-6.2%	-13.9%	-29.3%	-22.9%	-10.1%	-12.8%	-12.0%
% of Change 5/08 to 12/08	-6.2%	-2.6%	-3.6%	-1.4%	-0.7%	-0.9%	5.5%	-10.9%	-4.0%	-2.8%	-2.8%	-2.8%

Probation Caseloads for Youth in Group Home Placements

Between the beginning of the reporting period on July 1, 2008 and end of the reporting period on December 31, 2008, the number of Probation youth in group home care decreased by 7.8%. This decrease has resulted in caseload reductions for supervision Deputy Probation Officers (DPO).

Department of Children and Family Services

After considering the target populations, ease and speed of implementation efforts, and breadth of impact on the desired CADP outcomes, DCFS identified three first sequence priorities which remained operational during the July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 reporting period: Expansion of Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) Conferences; Focused Family Finding and Engagement through Pilot Specialized Permanency Units at Three Regional Offices; and Up-front Assessments on High-Risk Cases for Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues.

Expansion of Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) Conferences - As outlined in the Waiver Implementation Plan, DCFS increased the number of FTDM facilitators so that regular multi-disciplinary team conferences could be held for children placed in group homes or in foster care for two years or longer with no identified permanency resource. FTDM facilitators were selected, hired and trained for fourteen specialized positions and became operational in DCFS regional offices between January and April 2008. The addition of the fourteen facilitators allows for regular Permanency Planning Conferences (PPCs) modeled on Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings to ensure that a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, family members and caregivers meet regularly to focus on the urgent permanency needs of these youth. TDM facilitators continue to receive ongoing training on facilitation, and DCFS receives technical assistance in this regard from the Annie E. Casey Foundation's California Family-to-Family consultants.

Outcomes from the TDM expansion are encouraging. By June 30, 2008, 222 youth in group home placements had a PPC held to focus on their permanency plan. These conferences resulted in identified plans for 61 children to move to the home of a parent or relative; and 59 children to move to a reduced level of placement, including foster family agencies, licensed foster homes, or specialized foster homes. Between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008, an additional 408 permanency planning conferences were held. Data are available for 11 of the 21 offices. Of the 243 conferences held at these offices, plans were identified for 39 children to move to the home of a parent or relative and 41 children to move to a reduced level of placement, including foster family agencies, licensed foster homes, or specialized foster homes. The specialized facilitators will continue to convene PPCs for these youth to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken. There are currently approximately 1,050 DCFS youth in group home placements in Los Angeles County, and the goal is to hold a PPC for each youth.

Focused Family Finding and Engagement through Pilot Specialized Permanency Units at Three Regional Offices - Specialized Youth Permanency (YP) Units were established to target DCFS' older high need youth most at risk of aging out of foster care with no permanent connections. CSWs in the YP Units carry reduced caseloads and utilize family finding and engagement strategies to identify and connect youth with extended family members. The YP Implementation Workgroup created formal written policy and protocols for the YP Units, and continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss ongoing policy issues, case criteria, training, and data collection. As of April 2008, two regional offices, Metro North and Pomona, were operational and fully staffed with Children's Social Workers (CSW) and Supervising Children's Social Workers (SCSW) at the reduced caseload of fifteen (which is flexible up to 24:1 including siblings and cases close to achieving permanency). The Santa Clarita Office, identified as the third regional office for this pilot, has gradually come on board since June 2008; the Unit is currently staffed by one SCSW, one half-time and three full-time CSWs with reduced caseloads.

YP Unit SCSWs are very enthusiastic about the outcomes for the youth they serve. They report that, due to reduced caseloads and expert training, YP Unit CSWs are better able to establish relationships with the youth and focus their energies on identifying and reconnecting the youth with family. During the Waiver period, the Metro North YP Unit has served 75 youth. Of these 75 youth, eleven returned home, four are under legal guardianship, 13 were placed with relatives, 17 were placed in lower levels of care, 22 have plans of adoption, and four have plans of guardianship. Fifty-three of the youth currently being served who were previously identified as having no or limited connections with family now have ongoing visits with siblings or other family members.

During the Waiver period, the Pomona YP Unit has served 72 youth. Six successfully exited the system--two through adoption, one through legal guardianship, and three through emancipation with lifelong connections. In addition, 16 moved into lower levels of care, including seven placed with relatives; one reunified with parents; 23 have a plan of adoption; and 13 have a plan of guardianship. Sixty youth are currently served by the Pomona YP Unit; 55 of these youth who were previously identified as having no or limited connections with family now have ongoing visits with siblings and other family members. The Santa Clarita YP Unit currently serves 58 youth. Six have adoption plans, two have legal guardianship plans, one has reunified with parents, five have moved to lower levels of care, five have achieved "permanent and meaningful connections," and one youth has passed her GED due to the ongoing support and guidance of her CSW.

Up-Front Assessments on High-Risk Cases for Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues - This priority initiative seeks to prevent unnecessary foster care placements through more thorough investigation and assessment of Child Protection Hotline (Hotline) referrals of alleged child abuse and neglect that require special expertise involving substance abuse, domestic violence and/or mental health issues. Assessments are conducted on the target population of families with high-risk Hotline referrals; experts in substance abuse, domestic violence and mental health services provide immediate, comprehensive assessments, and connect families to treatment and ancillary services in the community. These services allow Emergency Response (ER) CSWs to make more informed case decisions, and in many cases, allow children to remain safely in their homes.

Since October 1, 2007, DCFS has contracted with SHIELDS for Families to provide up-front assessments for the Compton Office. In May 2008, two additional regional offices, Metro North and Wateridge, and the Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP), which handles referrals of child abuse and neglect at night, on weekends and holidays, began implementing and utilizing up-front assessments in a limited fashion, with a number of additional contracted agencies in their Service Planning Areas (SPA). Approximately 400 assessments were completed as of June 30, 2008. In the subsequent five months (July – November) 392 additional assessments were completed, serving 307 families with 688 children.

Probation Department

After review and analysis of data regarding the impact of Waiver services on outcomes, Probation has committed to the continuation of its first sequence priorities; Cross-Systems Case Assessment and Case Planning, and Expansion of Functional Family Therapy (FFT). Additionally, Probation has identified a third program priority that will be implemented in the second year of the Waiver, establishment of a Prospective Authorization and Utilization Review Unit.

Cross-Systems Case Assessment and Case Planning - Probation and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) continued to utilize the Cross-Systems Case Assessment and Planning Initiative implemented in the first year of the Waiver. This initiative will promote appropriate placement decisions and collaboration; enhanced case planning efforts; increased placement stability and decreased delays in critical treatment during the transition from detention to out-of-home care. Probation and DMH made enhancements to the existing assessment-reporting tool to ensure

that all critical information is provided to both the supervision DPO and the out-of-home care provider.

During the January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008 period, 110 Probation youth in suitable placement were administered the Cross-Systems Case Assessment. Findings indicated that, of the 110 youth sample: the average age was 15 years; 33.6% recidivated (were re-arrested and returned to Juvenile Hall); 16.4% recidivated in 30 days or less; 14.5% had minimal to no mental health histories and were not taking psychotropic medication; 12.7% had serious mental health histories and chronic psychiatric issues; 10.9% had serious mental health problems in combination with serious behavior problems; and, 10.9% had solely serious behavior problems.

Expansion of Functional Family Therapy (FFT) - Probation's Placement Community Transition Services (PCTS) utilizes FFT services as one of its core community based supportive "after-care" services. Two Community Based Organizations, SHIELDS for Families, and Starview Community Services, provide these services to Probation youth and their families. In order to qualify for FFT services, youth must have previously resided in congregate care and been released to their parents with FFT services.

As of December 2008, Probation enrolled 274 Placement youth and their families in FFT. Of this number, 58 youth have successfully graduated FFT and 145 still receive services. Additionally, in an effort to support FFT activities, Probation trained 14 Placement Community Transition Services (PCTS) DPOs in the use of FFT to serve youth and families that reside outside the service areas of the two contracted vendors. On December 1, 2008, PCTS Supervising Deputy Probation Officers (SDPO) were trained in Functional Family Probation (FFP). On January 26, 2009, 14 supervision PCTS DPOs will receive FFP training. The DPOs will use the new model of supervision once they have completed the training, as required by the National FFP program. Training, coordinated by the California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH), will continue until all 40 PCTS DPOs are trained in FFP.

Between July 2007 and August 2008, 129 Probation youth and their families have received FFT services. Nineteen youth continued to receive FFT treatment, and 110 youth have been discharged from treatment, 52 (47%) of which completed FFT treatment. The average length of treatment for all completed cases was 147 days. The youth who participated in FFT were predominately male and were, on average, 15.5 years of age. Fifty-three percent were Hispanic, 42% African-American, 2.3% Caucasian, and 2.3% Asian.

In order to evaluate program effectiveness, two sets of analyses were performed. The first set of outcome analyses compared all youth who were discharged from FFT to the comparison group (youth that closely resemble the FFT youth) on re-arrest and subsequent sustained petitions outcomes. The second set of analyses compared all youth who successfully completed FFT to comparison group youth on re-arrest and subsequent sustained petitions outcomes. For purposes of program evaluation, a comparison group of 140 Probation youth that closely resembled/matched the FFT group on demographics and Suitable Placement involvement were evaluated (See Attachment I).

Project Administration/Fiscal Management/Implementation Activities

Planning/Oversight Efforts – DCFS and Probation Waiver Teams continue to work in concert and participate in regular Waiver Management Team meetings to provide project coordination and updates and discuss next steps. Both Departments attend bi-monthly implementation

meetings with Casey Family Programs and monthly County Steering Committee meetings with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and have made numerous presentations to the Board of Supervisors, Justice and Children's Deputies, Children's Commission and CEO. The Departments jointly sponsored a community stakeholder meeting on July 14, 2008, providing staff, other County participants, community partners and stakeholders with a CADP update. CDSS Director John Wagner provided the State Perspective, and State Waiver Evaluator, Dr. Charlie Ferguson, presented on the Statewide Evaluation (See Attachment II). In addition to these joint efforts, **DCFS** continues to be involved in the following planning/oversight efforts specific to its project priorities:

- **Monthly Waiver Coordinator Check-In Call with CDSS** – The DCFS Waiver Coordinator participates in monthly conference calls with Alameda County's Waiver Coordinator and CDSS Waiver Managers.
- **DCFS Executive Team**, led by the Director, meets weekly; the Waiver Coordinator provides updates, and upper level administrators discuss CADP activities, status and challenges.
- **DCFS Waiver Team** meets on a regular basis to discuss progress of CADP initiatives and day-to-day operations.
- **State/County IV-E Fiscal Workgroup** - Periodic conference calls led by CDSS with Los Angeles and Alameda Counties are held to discuss fiscal issues.
- **State/County IV-E Evaluation Workgroup** - Periodic conference calls led by CDSS with Los Angeles and Alameda Counties, and stakeholders, are held to discuss evaluation issues.
- **Family Team Decision Making Roundtable** – The TDM Manager meets on a monthly basis with TDM facilitators countywide to address policy, practice and operational issues and often addresses the implementation of permanency planning conferences (PPC).
- **PPC/TDM Facilitators** meet bi-weekly to address implementation of PPCs and outcomes related to PPCs held for youth in group homes.
- **Youth Permanency Implementation Workgroup** meets bi-weekly to address policy and practice issues and expedite implementation of the YP Units. A subcommittee, addressing Data Outcomes specific to the Units, also meets on an as-needed basis.
- **Up-front Assessment** meetings occur several times each month to address the implementation of up-front assessments, data collection and outcomes evaluation. Similar meetings take place with contracted up-front assessment providers.
- **Residentially-Based Services (RBS) Workgroup** has been on hiatus for the past several months while its subgroup, the RBS Collaborative, meets semi-monthly regarding a redesign proposal for residential care for DCFS youth. These efforts provide an opportunity to update RBS providers and receive feedback on barriers, successes and opportunities.
- **Other Meetings** are ongoing with the Children's Commissioners, Board Offices, and CEO budget analysts specific to DCFS project components.

Probation facilitates and participates in the following project planning/oversight meetings specific to its project priorities:

- **Weekly Probation Title IV-E Management Meetings** to help guide implementation of the CADP Plan and ensure fidelity to the Plan.
- **Monthly Group Home Provider Meetings** are held to address communication needs under the Waiver environment, facilitate communication of the CADP Plan to Probation's group home providers and provide feedback on barriers, successes and opportunities.

- **Quarterly Group Homes Administrators Meetings** are held to increase communication during the Waiver project period.
- **Bench Officers Meetings** are convened to inform Delinquency Bench Officers of the progress of Probation Waiver efforts and to receive feedback from the bench that could be included in ongoing efforts to improve services and move system improvements forward.
- **CADP Stakeholder's Steering Committee (Probation-Specific)**, consisting of representatives from group home providers, Children's Commission, bench officers, school districts, Public Defender's Office, Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Probation, has been charged with assisting Probation's efforts to align its foster care Placement Operation with the CADP planning and implementation of CADP programs and services.
- **Monthly conference calls** are held with the CEO and DMH regarding Title IV-E administrative and operational needs of all Probation Waiver initiatives.
- **Monthly conference calls** or formal meetings are held with a Casey Family Programs consultant for Probation's Practice Model that impacts Waiver efforts.
- **Monthly conference calls** are held with Casey Family Programs regarding Probation Waiver efforts and/or needs.
- **Other Meetings** are ongoing with the Children's and Probation Commissioners, Board Offices, and CEO budget analysts specific to the Probation project components.

Specific Program and Policy Changes – **DCFS** policy on TDM has been revised to address the use of Permanency Planning Conferences in each of the Department's regional offices. Formal policy has also been written and disseminated to staff regarding the YP Units in the three DCFS offices and the implementation of up-front assessments in all DCFS regional offices and Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP).

Probation has implemented a standardized Cross-Systems Assessment Reporting Tool. This tool ensures that all necessary client information is included in the assessment and reported. This information assists the supervision DPO and the group home and/or caregiver in addressing each clients needs. Due to the need to capture and track accurate Probation foster care data that are critical for the implementation of strategies using flexible funding, a new unit of operation has been developed. This operation is charged with tracking all Probation foster care youth and the assistance payments made on their behalf, including Wraparound Services. The new unit is housed within the Placement Administrative Services operation.

Challenges and/or Technical Assistance Needs

DCFS has experienced the following challenges in implementing the CADP:

- Difficulty in the timely hiring and reporting of allocated staff for expanded FTDM and YP Units due to County budgeting and hiring requirements.
- Shortage of staff required to monitor and oversee all aspects of up-front assessment implementation.
- Lack of an automated system to track expenditures and revenue in more detail, requiring DCFS to create manual spreadsheets to accurately identify and track data and funding sources.

Probation has experienced the following challenges in implementing the CADP:

- Difficulty reconciling Probation records and accessing Child Welfare Services/Case Management Systems (CWS/CMS) data, requiring a significant workforce effort for Probation.
- Lack of an automated system to track Probation Placement expenditures, requiring Probation to create separate spreadsheets to accurately identify and manually track data for each Placement case and all case activity to identify projected assistance payment costs and/or reductions as well as numerous trend data.
- Inability to obtain additional required CADP expenditure information, specifically funds used for Wraparound Services. Currently, DCFS and Probation are working together to identify the best methods for sharing information that will lead to appropriate tracking, monitoring, and data reconciliation.

Reinvestment of First-year Savings

DCFS and Probation earned \$28.9 million in reinvestment funds during the first year of the CADP and project spending a portion of this funding, with a majority going to contracted services in the community, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 and FY 2009-10. With the recent announcement that the United States has been in a recession since December 2007, concern has mounted that the economic downturn could result in increased maltreatment and larger caseloads for family maintenance and out-of-home care. Reforms undertaken the first year of the CADP have been essential in maintaining positive outcomes for children and families during economic downturn and will be built upon to ensure child safety and well-being throughout the recession. By keeping the reform momentum going, the Departments plan to continue to produce additional reinvestment funds to support the needs of children and families even in the midst of the economic crisis. Based on the success of first sequence priorities and input from our community partners and stakeholders, the Departments are currently writing the second sequence plan, detailing plans for FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10. The Departments' proposed reinvestment strategies for FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10 are summarized in Attachment II and III. The Departments will be requesting Board of Supervisors approval of the second sequence plan and authority to hire staff positions to support the expansion and/or implementation of Waiver strategies on February 3, 2009.

Both Departments will be monitoring their expenditures under the capped allocation on a regular basis.

New Initiatives and/or State Waiver Related Program Activities - DCFS

Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) – On February 26, 2008, DCFS' \$5 million PIDP was approved by the Board of Supervisors through June 30, 2009. Eight contracts were approved to establish lead agencies in each of the Service Planning Areas (SPA). The PIDP was initially a 12-month project, but DCFS obtained an additional four months of time for the lead agencies and their DCFS regional partners to fully develop and implement their prevention strategies and initiatives. All lead agencies implemented their plans in July 2008. The evaluation of PIDP is conducted through a collaborative of Casey Family Programs, First 5 LA, and Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey of the University of Southern California. The goals of the evaluation are threefold: identify best practices which can be replicated countywide; identify successful leveraging strategies between and within the Community Based Organizations, County agencies and private business; and provide DCFS with results to be used to restructure current contracting process to become more client delivery focused. A mid-year evaluation of

the Project is due by the middle of February 2009, to look at initial promising best practices that were emerging from the first six months of implementation, and the final evaluation is expected to be available no later than August 2009.

Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC)/Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) – As previously reported, DCFS received CDSS approval to develop ITFC beds for 72 children and MTFC beds for 60 children, as alternatives to placing children in group homes. The Board of Supervisors approved contracts for three ITFC providers for 24 beds each and two additional providers for 60 MTFC beds, a highly structured model of treatment foster care for which DCFS obtained CDSS approval to fund at the ITFC payment rate. All five providers signed their contracts in early January 2008, providing a total of 132 beds for the two program types. As of December 31, 2008, 24 beds were available and 13 children were placed in these beds. Remaining empty beds are in the assessment process and have been matched with children. In addition, 14 homes are in various stages of certification. Although certification is not complete, potential matches for children with most of these homes have been made while the four to six week assessment process is completed. The potential matching process will expedite placements once the homes have been certified.

Residentially-Based Services (RBS) Reform – As previously reported, Los Angeles County was selected to be part of the RBS Demonstration Project to pilot an alternative program design and funding model under the authority of AB 1453. The model is designed to provide concurrent wraparound services to youth and their families while youth are placed in selected RCL 12 and 14 group homes for reduced lengths of stay, and ongoing wraparound and community-based care after the youth exit residential care. Funding for concurrent wraparound services will come from savings realized from reduced lengths of stay. On October 15, 2008, Los Angeles County issued a Request for Information (RFI) to test market interest in providing RBS services. Several providers submitted letters of interest and met the minimum qualifications. DCFS subsequently submitted a letter to the State asking for permission to formally identify these providers and add RBS as an amendment to their current and upcoming Wraparound contracts. Upon State approval, DCFS will begin discussions with the providers that responded to the RFI and met the minimum qualifications. On November 5 and 6, 2008, DCFS Deputy Director and Waiver Coordinator, Lisa Parrish, Michael Rauso, Angela Shields from DMH, and several Los Angeles providers attended the RBS symposium which highlighted RBS implementation challenges and related topics to assist in developing RBS plans. DCFS continues to work with its RBS consultants on an implementation plan due to the State in March.

New Initiatives and/or State Waiver Related Program Activities - Probation

The Prospective Authorization and Utilization Review Unit will be established to assist in the decision making process to match youth and families with appropriate services, improving consistency in service utilization, as referrals to services will be pre-approved, based on whether or not a youth and family meet the specified focus for each service. This unit will be responsible for reviewing the use of each of these services at designated intervals to ensure that there is a systematic approach to the rationale that allows for extended services that may be required to obtain desired outcomes on a case-by-case basis. This will improve Probation's ability to strategically manage available resources and maximize fiscal resources. Implementation is scheduled for April 2009.

Probation, in partnership with CIMH, will continue to implement FFP training to approximately 40 DPOs during the next six months. The Placement Restructuring Steering Committee will be reviewing and providing feedback on the following:

- Probation Practice Model, developed by Probation and the Casey Family Programs contracted consultant, which will directly target the Department's placement youth and/or youth identified as at imminent-risk of removal from their homes, and
- Recommended "new" Waiver initiatives and possible supervision models in an effort to determine which initiatives and supervision modifications will be implemented next.

The Placement Restructuring Steering Committee will also assist in identifying needed system improvements and administrative infrastructure needs that will build on supporting current programs while providing enhanced services.

Direct Services Activities

As detailed in earlier sections of this report, during the past six months **DCFS** has continued to provide direct services to children and families under its three first sequence priority initiatives. FTDM has been expanded to provide PPCs to youth in group home care in an effort to expedite permanency for these youth; over 600 PPCs have been conducted for identified group home youth during the Waiver period. YP Units have been staffed, and social workers in these units are carrying reduced caseloads in an effort to locate and connect high need youth with permanency resources. These units currently serve close to 200 youth. Finally, approximately 790 up-front assessments have been conducted to assess referrals involving substance abuse, domestic violence and/or mental health issues in the DCFS Compton, Metro North and Wateridge Offices and the ERCP since May 2008.

Probation and DMH have conducted approximately 650 Cross-Systems Case Assessments, 540 in FY 2007-08 and 110 during the first six months of FY 2008-09. Probation provided aftercare supervision services to approximately 129 youth in FY 2007-08, and FFT services were provided to 145 families by both Probation and Probation contracted FFT providers during the first six months of FY 2008-09; of the 145 families provided FFT, 15 successfully completed FFT.

Evaluation Activities

As previously reported, the primary purpose of the CADP evaluation designed by Charlie Ferguson, Ph.D., is to determine whether changes in the funding structure for foster care will result in changes in the functioning of County child welfare systems that lead to improved outcomes for dependent and delinquent children and their families. During November and December 2008, Dr. Ferguson conducted a series of key stakeholder interviews with Los Angeles County's external partners in an effort to identify community involvement and overall understanding of the CADP project.

As stated, DCFS, in conjunction with Casey Family Programs and Dr. McCroskey, has begun to evaluate the Los Angeles Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) and Point of Engagement (POE). The evaluations of POE and PIDP are similar enough that many data collection tasks can be merged – especially since the prevention evaluation built on the original

POE evaluation. On November 17, 2008, DCFS held a PIDP-POE Learning Session with over 150 attendees from a diverse group of public and private sector agencies and communities. Representatives from the different SPAs convened during afternoon breakout learning sessions to discuss, compare and contrast their experiences in implementing new strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect in the different regions of Los Angeles County. Dr. McCroskey began conducting interviews in November 2008 in the DCFS regional offices with four levels of staff: Regional Administrators, Assistant Regional Administrators, SCSWs and CSWs. Interviews are intended to collect information regarding the history, context and implementation of POE in each regional office and the impact of POE on outcomes for children and families.

As a result of Probation's inability to access CWS/CMS data and because juvenile justice systems have not historically warehoused needed project evaluation data, technological system enhancements are necessary and will promote the ability to draw down baseline and outcome data. Probation has incorporated many of the Waiver data needs into the automated system that will be implemented in March 2009. It is anticipated that the new system will be able to capture the number of active placement youth, number of closed placement cases, average length of stay in out-of-home care, number of placement episodes, number and type of outreach services provided for each case, and assistance payment costs for all Probation Placement youth. Additionally, Probation has continued to work with DCFS and the State Evaluator in identifying data that are currently available and needed data enhancements. Probation has been working with the State Evaluator in conducting both internal focus groups and surveys to identify baseline data for the evaluation.

Expenditure Narrative Based on Claiming Submissions

DCFS expanded the following initiatives/strategies utilizing available flexible funds under the Waiver: Family Team Decision Making; Up-front Assessments; and Family Finding and Engagement. For the period of July 2008 to December 2008, the total amount of expenditures incurred for these initiatives/strategies is \$1,873,324. This amount includes salaries and employee benefits in the amount of \$1,498,659 and Indirect Costs in the amount of \$374,665. These expenditures will be reflected in our revised first quarter claim for fiscal year 2008-09, and appropriate costs will also be included in the second quarter claim.