



STATEMENT OF SAM MALHOTRA
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
BEFORE THE
SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE
FY 2016 BUDGET

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015



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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
FY 2016 BUDGET**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Good afternoon, Chairman Madaleno and members of the Committee. With me today is our Acting Executive Director of the Social Services Administration, Debbie Ramelmeier and the Department's Budget and Finance Director, Stafford Chipungu.

The Social Services Administration (SSA) is responsible for overseeing services to vulnerable adults and children. The overriding goals are protect vulnerable children and adults, strengthen families and promote customer independence.

The fiscal year 2016 Budget Allowance for SSA totals \$598.2 million in total funds. This is a one percent decrease from the fiscal 2015 Appropriation of \$613 million, substantially due to the continued decrease in caseloads.

Child Welfare Overview

DHR remains committed to achieving positive outcomes for children and families by providing services that keep children safely at home and assist families in meeting their needs. Since 2007, over 20,000 children have been adopted, moved to guardianship or safely returned home.

Maryland now has the fewest number of children in care in over 26 years, from 10,330 in June 2007 to 5,036 in November 2014, a decrease of over 51 percent.

Alternative Response

During fiscal 2014, we successfully implemented Alternative Response, which allows DHR to respond to low risk CPS cases in a manner that engages families while keeping children safe. Since Alternative Response was implemented statewide, approximately 40% of all screened in Child Protective Services cases are being assigned to Alternative Response. Through June 2014,

1,355 families had received an Alternative Response. The preliminary data on Alternative Response indicates that our new dual-track system is providing workers with the flexibility needed to partner with families differently, to identify their family's needs and then, linking families to needed services sooner, which keeps children safe.

Ready by 21

DHR remains committed to actively supporting youth with transitional living services necessary to transition youth from the foster care system to adulthood by ensuring they have a job or educational opportunities, stable housing, access to health care, financial stability, and a mentor/permanent connection with an adult. Approximately 53% of youth in foster care are between the ages of 14-21, half of those are between the ages of 18-21 years old. Since SFY 2013, DHR has measured key indicators for youth who are exiting at age 21 through the *Ready By 21 Survey*.

The annual results show:

- 90% have a stable place to live upon exiting foster care
- 92% have a State ID
- 73% have a high school diploma or GED
- 48% have employment
- 90% have permanent connections.

IV-E Waiver

We are excited to be able to share with you how we will continue moving Maryland's child welfare system forward to even better outcomes. Maryland has been authorized by the federal government to conduct a 5-year, \$650 million demonstration project that provides flexibility to

use federal funds previously limited to out of home placement expenditures. This flexibility will allow us to invest in services to strengthen families so as to prevent out of home placement and to provide post permanency support to keep children from having to reenter care.

Adult Services

SSA supervises programming for vulnerable adults, including the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Our goals are to keep the adults we serve safe from abuse, neglect, self-neglect and financial exploitation, and to help them live as independently as possible in the community, outside of more costly and restrictive institutional settings. In fiscal 2014, we served 38,112 Maryland citizens and ensured that over 98% remained in their communities.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will now have Ms. Ramelmeier and Mr. Chipungu address the issues raised by the analyst.

Department of Human Resources
FY 2016 Budget Highlights
Social Services Administration
 NB00.04

	<u>FY 2015</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2016</u> <u>Allowance</u>	<u>Changes</u>
I. FUNDING^a			
General Funds	12,166,610	8,479,505	(3,687,105)
Special Funds	-	-	-
Federal Funds	17,608,234	18,026,424	418,190
Reim. Funds	-	-	-
Total	29,774,844	26,505,929	(3,268,915)
 II. PERSONNEL^a			
Regular Positions:	124.00	124.00	0.00
Contractual Positions:	10.00	2.00	(8.00)
 III. MAJOR CHANGES (In Thousands)			
01 <u>Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits</u>			1,087
Increase in Regular Salaries due to Annualized COLA and Step Increments, \$665K; Retirees Health Insurance, \$288K; Employees Retirement, \$214K; Fringe Benefits, \$57K; Health Insurance, \$49K; Accrued Leave Payment, \$31K; Reclassifications, \$14K; Unemployment Compensation, \$1K; Offset by Decrease in Workers Compensation, (\$91K); Salary Adjustment, (\$85K); and Turnover Expectancy, (\$56K).			
02 <u>Technical and Special Fees</u>			(350)
Decrease in Special Payments Payroll due to Contractual Conversion of 8 positions, (\$313K); FICA, (\$24K); Contractual Turnover, (\$1K); Staff Development, (\$1K); and Unemployment Compensation, (\$1K).			
03 <u>Communications</u>			(2)
Decrease in Communications mainly due to Regular Telephone Services, (\$3K); Offset by Cell Phones, \$1K.			
04 <u>Travel</u>			(2)
Decrease in Travel due to Out-of-State/Routine, (\$2K); In-State/Routine Operations, (\$1K); Offset by Increase in Out-of-State/Conference, \$1K.			
07 <u>Vehicles</u>			(2)
Decrease in Vehicles due to Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs, (\$3K); Offset by Increase in Gas/Oil, \$1K.			
08 <u>Contractual Services</u>			337
Increase in Other Contractual Services, due to Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project and Child Abuse Prevention/Treatment, \$534K; Freight and Delivery, \$2K; Offset by Decrease in Administrative Hearings, (\$143K); Room Rentals, (\$43K); and Purchase of Services for Title IV-E Adopted Children, (\$13K).			
09 <u>Supplies</u>			4
Increase in Supplies due to Data Processing Supplies, \$4K; Office Supplies, \$1K; Offset by Decrease in Promotional Expense, (\$1K).			
12 <u>Grants, Subsidies and Contributions</u>			(4,343)
Decrease in Grants for Family Preservation and Family Support Services, (\$2,897K); Kin Connections, (\$527K); Funds for the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Parents, (\$473K); Taxable Grants Contributions and Subsidies for Federal Independent Living funds through Title IV-E, (\$307K); CARE Project Home, (\$129K); and In-Home Aide Services Training, (\$10K).			
13 <u>Fixed Charges</u>			2
Increase in Insurance (Non-Sto Payments), \$4K; Offset by Decrease in Licenses and Other Fixed Charges, (\$2K).			
Total			(3,269)

^a Reference Source: FY 2015 Maryland State Budget Book - Part II: Pages 340-342.

**Department of Human Resources
 FY 2016 Budget Highlights
 Foster Care Maintenance Payments
 NG00.01**

	<u>FY 2015 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2016 Allowance</u>	<u>Changes</u>
I. FUNDING ^a			
General Funds	223,061,299	192,959,820	(30,101,479)
Special Funds	5,494,730	4,835,798	(658,932)
Federal Funds	90,640,640	98,660,940	8,020,300
Reim. Funds	0	0	0
Total	<u>319,196,669</u>	<u>296,456,558</u>	<u>(22,740,111)</u>

II. PERSONNEL ^a			
Regular Positions:	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contractual Positions:	N/A	N/A	N/A

III. MAJOR CHANGES (In Thousands)

Decrease due to continuous decline in caseloads.	(22,740,111)
Total	<u>(22,740,111)</u>

^a Reference Source: FY 2015 Maryland State Budget Book - Part II: Page 354.

**Department of Human Resources
FY 2016 Budget Highlights
Local Child Welfare Services (CWS)
NG00.03**

	<u>FY 2015 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2016 Allowance</u>	<u>Changes</u>
I. FUNDING ^a			
General Funds	138,895,126	171,367,246	32,472,120
Special Funds	1,489,381	1,517,566	28,185
Federal Funds	79,023,344	54,774,257	(24,249,087)
Reim. Funds		-	-
Total	<u>219,407,851</u>	<u>227,659,069</u>	<u>8,251,218</u>
II. PERSONNEL ^a			
Regular Positions:	2,257.41	2237.41	(20.00)
Contractual Positions:	0.50	0.50	0.00
III. MAJOR CHANGES (In Thousands)			
01 Salaries			8,087
Increase in Salaries due to Retirees Health Insurance, \$4,880K; Annualized COLA and Step Increments, \$3,115K; Employees' Retirement, \$1,824K; Turnover Expectancy, \$793K; FICA, \$206K; Accrued Leave Payments, \$44K; Unemployment Compensation, \$5K; Offset by Salary Adjustments, (\$1,338K); Abolishment of 20 FTE Positions mainly in Baltimore City, (\$840K); Health Insurance, (\$570K); and Reclassifications, (\$32K).			
02 Technical & Special Fees			39
Increase in Other Technical and Special Fees, mainly in Baltimore County, \$32K; Special Payments Payroll, \$5K; Contractual Turnover, \$1K; Consultant Fees and FICA, \$1K.			
03 Communications			(89)
Decrease in Communications due to Regular Telephone Services mainly in Baltimore City, (\$114K); Cell Phone, (\$15K); Offset by Increase in Postage \$39K; and Data Processing (DP) Telecommunications-Lines, \$1K.			
04 Travel			4
Increase in Travel due to In-State Routine Operations, \$3K, and Volunteer Meals, \$1K.			
06 Utilities			55
Increase in Utilities due to Electricity Usage, mainly in Baltimore County and Baltimore City, \$53K; Fuel and Oil, \$2K.			
07 Vehicles			(19)
Decrease in Vehicles due to Maintenance and Repairs, (\$32K); Gas and Oil, (\$11K); Leased Vehicle Mileage, (\$2K); Other Motor Vehicle Charges, (\$1K); Offset by Increase in Rental for Parking Spaces, \$21K; Motor Vehicle Replacement, \$4K; and Mileage Adjustment, \$2K.			
08 Contractual Services			(477)
Decrease in Other Contractual Services due to Adoption Together Services (\$500K); Purchase of Services - Client, (\$12K); Offset by Increase in Repairs/Maintenance, for Buildings/Grounds, \$18K; Service Contracts for Buildings/Grounds, \$15K; and Birth Certificates, \$2K.			
09 Supplies			(8)
Decrease in Supplies due to Office Supplies, (\$5K); Printed Forms, (\$1K); Data Processing Supplies, (\$1K); and Other Supplies and Materials, (\$1K).			
12 Grants, Subsidies and Contributions			778
Increase in Grants, Subsidies and Contributions mainly for Adoption Together, \$500K; Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) Grant, \$271K; and Background Checks, \$7K.			
13 Fixed Charges			(119)
Decrease in Fixed charges due to Non-DGS Rent, (\$167K); Rental - Multi-Service Centers, (\$6K); Offset by Increases due to DGS Rent, \$52K; Subscriptions & Dues, \$2K.			
Total			<u>8,251</u>

^a Reference Source: FY 2016 Maryland State Budget Book - Part II: Pages 359-361.

**Department of Human Resources
FY 2016 Budget Highlights
Local Adult Services
NG00.04**

	<u>FY 2015 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 2016 Allowance</u>	<u>Changes</u>
I. FUNDING*			
General Funds	9,616,043	9,513,647	(102,396)
Special Funds	1,295,498	1,737,793	442,295
Federal Funds	33,690,889	36,323,056	2,632,167
Ream. Funds	-	-	-
Total	44,602,430	47,574,496	2,972,066
II. PERSONNEL*			
Regular Positions:	447.50	446.50	(1.00)
Contractual Positions:	0.50	0.00	(0.50)
III. MAJOR CHANGES (In Thousands)			
01 Salaries			2,365
Increase in Salaries due to Annualized COLA and Step Increments, \$1,373K; Retiree Health Insurance, \$990K; Employee's Retirement, \$435K; Fringe Benefits, \$70K; Unemployment Compensation; \$2K; Offset by Decrease in Salary Adjustment, (\$250K); Accrued Leave Payments, (\$93K); Turnover Expectancy, (\$69K); Abolishment of 1 FTE Position in Baltimore City, (\$38K); Health Insurance, (\$29K); and Reclassifications, (\$26K).			
02 Technical & Special Fees			(20)
Decreased in Special Payment Payroll for Services to Adults Gateway II-100 LF in St. Mary's County, (\$34K); and Social Services Support, (FICA) (\$2K); Offset by Increase in Technical and Special Fees for Baltimore and Charles Counties, \$10K; Contractual Turnover in St. Mary's Co., \$5K; and Interpreter Fees, \$1K.			
03 Communications			(15)
Decrease in Communications due to Regular Telephone Services, (\$20K); Cell Phone Expenditures, (\$1K); Offset by Increase in Postage, \$6K.			
04 Travel			(3)
Decrease in Out-of-State/Conferences/Seminar, (\$3K); In-State/Routine Operations, (\$1K); Offset by Increase In State/Conference/Seminar/Training, \$1K.			
06 Utilities			16
Increase in Utilities due to Electricity Usage for Baltimore Co., \$15K; and Fuel-Oil in Talbot Co., \$1K.			
07 Vehicle			5
Increase in Vehicles due to Rental of Parking Spaces in Baltimore City; \$5K.			
08 Contractual Services			468
Increase in Purchase of Service-Client Services for PG Local Only-Adult Services, In-Home Aide Services, and Housing Opportunities for Person with AIDS (HOPWA) in Dorchester Co., \$398K; Contractual Services in Frederick Co., Local Only-AS, \$40K; Senior Care Personal in Services to Adults Gateway II 100-LF, \$19K; Senior Care Emergency, \$5K; Senior Care Adult Day Care, \$4K; Senior Care Home Delivered Meals, \$3K; Equip. Rental, \$3K; Services Contracts, \$2K; Attorney Fees, \$1K; Offset by Decrease in Senior Care Other, (\$3K); Rental-Copy Machines, (\$2K); Printing/Reproduction, (\$1K); and Senior Care Grants to Families, (\$1K).			
09 Supplies			19
Increase in Data Processing Supplies, \$8K; Promotional Expense, \$7K; Office Supplies, \$2K; Other Supplies and Materials, \$1K; and Library Supplies, \$1K.			
10 Equipment - Replacement			1
Increase in Micro-Basic Hardware due to replacement of computer hardware, \$1K.			
11 Equipment-Additional			1
Increase in Office Equipment; \$1K.			
12 Grants, Subsidies & Contributions			167
Increase in Grants to Montgomery County, \$145K; Grants for Subsidies Rents for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) in Dorchester Co., \$13K; Taxable-Grants, Contribution for (HOPWA) in Dorchester Co., \$8K; and Background Checks, \$1K.			
13 Fixed Charges			(32)
Decrease in Rent Non-Department of General Services, (DGS) for Baltimore, Carroll, Garrett, Queen Anne's, Somerset, and Washington Counties, (\$27K); Rent Paid To DGS, (\$8K); Offset by Increase in Rental-Multi Services, \$3K.			
Total			2,972

* Reference Source: FY 2016 Maryland State Budget Book - Part II: Pages 362-363.

Department of Human Resources

DHR – SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

N00B

Response to Issues

The Secretary should comment on the improvement in adoption outcomes.

Response to Issue

Maryland has substantially reduced the number of children in Out-of-Home (OOH) placement over the last 7 years from 10,330 in FY 2007 to 5,339 as of June 30, 2014 and in doing so has also reduced the number of children with a goal of adoption. As a result of DHR's Place Matters and Family Centered Practice initiatives, the State has lowered the length of stay in foster care for all children, especially among those with a plan of adoption.

The Secretary should comment on reducing the incidence of maltreatment while children are in the State's care.

Response to Issue

During fiscal 2014, of the 6,545 children served, only 35 experienced maltreatment while in foster care. The following steps are being taken to reduce the incidences of maltreatment:

- Monthly caseworker visitation (at least one monthly visit by caseworkers with each child in foster care, to focus on safety, development, placement and school experience) has increased in the recent year to over 95%;
- DHR has implemented, for the private providers of foster care (group homes and treatment foster care), a Performance Reporting System that uses indicators concerning staff safety, licensing and contractual requirements, and child well-being. Private providers who experience maltreatment of foster children are subject to DHR sanctions if those indicators are not followed, and;
- DHR is planning to launch its revised and improved Quality Assurance process that will focus attention on assuring complete and timely criminal and child protective services clearances for public foster parents and other issues that can impact child safety, such as assessing foster parents needs and strengths, appropriate matching of foster parents to foster children placed, and providing ongoing support to foster parents.

The Secretary should comment on the services available to foster children who are close to aging out of the foster care system.

Response to Issue

Ready By 21 Services are provided to all foster youth between the ages of 14-21 to remove barriers that will hinder youth attaining self sufficiency upon exiting the foster care system. The Department is developing a State-wide curriculum for life skills classes geared toward youth living independently. The following life skills are available to children before they age out of the foster care system:

- Opening, maintaining and reconciling a bank account, and;
- How to pay their monthly bills.

Also, the Department makes every effort to insure that foster care children graduate from high school or receive GED training assisting them in obtaining their GED diploma. Starting at age 20, the Department encourages local departments of social services to place youth in their own affordable housing and provide intensive case management. This will allow youth to practice living independently for 1 year with caseworker support prior to exiting.

In addition to the above, the Department also arranges to continue the following services that will allow children to live independently once they have aged out of the system:

- Medical Assistance until age 26;
- Maryland Tuition waiver until age 25, and;
- Education and training Vouchers for 5 years once enrolled before the age of 25.

The Secretary should comment on how often a month's benefits exceeds the cost of care.

Response to Issue

Approximately 4% of foster youth receive federal benefits. In 99% of the cases, the cost of care exceeds the federal benefit. When there is excess in any specific month, the amount is maintained in a separate account and used to purchase needed services or goods for the child. Those accounts are maintained and tracked by the local department of social services.

The Secretary should comment on implementing recommendations of that task force.

Response to Issue

The task force proposed the following three recommendations and listed below each of the recommendations are the pertinent actions being taken by the Department.

- 1.) For the medically fragile foster children in group homes who are enrolled in the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) program, DHMH will require that the REM case manager coordinates each child's care and communicates with all involved.

Proposed Action: As part of the on-going quality process, DHR has scheduled weekly calls with DHMH/OHCQ to review the status of all children including participation in REM.

- 2.) DHR and DHMH will work together to develop and implement transition plans for medically fragile foster children to ensure a smooth transition to appropriate services at age 21.

Proposed Action: DHR developed a plan for youth with disabilities to transition prior to their 21st birthday into Adult Services and DDA. This policy is included in DHR's Ready by 21 Manual.

- 3.) By April 2015, DDA will implement a financial incident reporting system for DDA providers, similar to the process implemented by DHR for children's providers.

Proposed Action: DHR will assist DDA with their implementation of a financial incident reporting system by sharing DHR's process which was developed earlier this year.

The Secretary should comment on implementation of the Title IV-E Waiver and related changes to Maryland's child welfare system.

Response to Issue

DHR will be building on the successes of Place Matters through the IV-E Demonstration project by identifying remaining issues in the system that have become barriers to strengthening families to ensure safety, permanency and well-being. To further examine potential problem areas, DHR completed a comprehensive analysis of statewide data from the SACWIS system and identified two particular problems that could be addressed by utilizing flexible IV-E funding and could have significant impact on families. The first is finding a way to better support families once identified before they enter Child Welfare's front door (i.e., preventing children from coming into care for the first time).

The second is that although the number of exits from care has increased, the number of re-entries back into the system also has increased and is above the national average. In order to take the next step in building a coordinated and comprehensive system that will strengthen Maryland's families and youth, DHR will utilize the IV-E Demonstration Waiver project to address ways to reduce the occurrence of children first entering the child welfare system and reduce the number of children who re-enter the system after exiting to reunification, guardianship or adoption. In consultation with the federal government, DHR has shifted the focus from specific age ranges (as described in our application) to addressing the larger issues of initial and reentry in foster care. Although these are the overall statewide target populations, local variations within each of these populations may be identified through a local needs and readiness assessment process currently being conducted by DHR.

To better respond to the needs of children, youth and families who come into contact with the Child Welfare system, DHR will focus on state-wide implementation of a trauma informed system including, standardized trauma assessment measures, the use of evidenced based trauma informed services and workforce development trainings related to the impact of trauma on children and families as well as on front line staff. Effectively connecting trauma-informed screening and assessment findings to trauma informed evidence based practices through the IV-E Demonstration project will allow Maryland to reduce entries into out-of-home care and reduce re-entries into out-of-home care, while improving the wellbeing of the children, youth and families it serves.

DHR established an advisory committee to assist the State in developing and implementing the demonstration project. The Advisory Council meets monthly and includes representatives from the Children's Cabinet agencies, community and advocacy organizations, and universities, in addition to the LDSS. The local departments of social services (LDSS) are engaged in the design and implementation phases of the Waiver Demonstration, including as members of the Advisory Council. The LDSS have a critical role in the initial readiness assessment being conducted in winter 2015 to prioritize evidence-based and promising practices for implementation. The design phase was initiated in October 2014. We are working towards an initial implementation date of July 1, 2015.

DHR will collaborate with its sister child and family-serving agencies and community-based provider organizations in the expansion of services to better support the two target populations. DHR will utilize the analyses from the jurisdictional needs and readiness assessment data to determine the specific needs that emerge from the data, existing resources available across Maryland and the service gaps. Specific community based interventions that will be supported by the Demonstration will not be identified until the needs and readiness data have been analyzed, recommendations from the Advisory Committee have been provided and further information is gathered on each of the possible interventions.

The Secretary should comment on why vacant positions are not transferred from jurisdictions that exceed recommended staffing levels to those that are below the recommended staffing level.

Response to Issue

The Department concurs with the Analyst's concerns and agrees that the vacant positions should be transferred as recommended by the Analyst. This new administration will make sure that these transfers are made.

To better estimate costs in future years, DHR should calculate current and future year costs based on actual spending, rather than to include deferred prior year payments in the calculation. In addition, DLS recommends adopting narrative requesting from DHR actual caseload and cost per case figures for fiscal 2012 through 2014, and modifying annual budget bill language in requesting DHR to report actual spending on foster care by type of foster care.

Response to Issue

Over the past fiscal years, due to funding challenges, the Department has had to defer expenditures in foster care and adoption payments. The deferred expenditures were paid in the next fiscal year. As of fiscal 2014, all prior fiscal year deferred expenditures have been paid. As noted by the Analyst, this has caused confusion in calculating the actual caseload and cost per case. The Department concurs with the Analyst recommendation to report actual expenditures and caseloads in foster care by type of care for the current fiscal year expenditures. We will work with the Analyst and the Department of Budget and Management to estimate costs in future fiscal years.

**Department of Human Resources
Social Services Administration
N00B**

Response to Recommended Actions

Recommendation #1:

Add language to N00G00.01 restricting the general fund appropriation for Foster Care Maintenance Payments to that purpose or for transfer to Child Welfare Services. **(Pages 4 and 26)**

Response: Disagree

The Department respectfully disagrees with the Analyst's recommendation to add budget language restricting use of funds to the purposes appropriated or for transfer only to N00G00.03 Child Welfare Services. While the Department concurs with the spirit of the Analyst's recommendation to restrict the use of funds to the purposes appropriated, the Department needs the fiscal flexibility to transfer funds to reflect real time service delivery. The Department believes that limiting the funds use has a potential of adversely affecting services to the citizens of Maryland. The need for flexibility is even more critical in the current economic climate.

Recommendation #2:

Add language to N00G00.03 restricting the general fund appropriation for Child Welfare Services to that purpose only or for transfer to Foster Care Maintenance Payments. **(Pages 4 and 26)**

Response: Disagree

The Department respectfully disagrees with the Analyst's recommendation to add budget language restricting use of funds to the purposes appropriated or for transfer only to N00G00.01 Foster Care Maintenance Payments. While the Department concurs with the spirit of the Analyst's recommendation to restrict the use of funds to the purposes appropriated, the Department needs the fiscal flexibility to transfer funds to reflect real time service delivery. The Department believes that limiting the funds use has a potential of adversely affecting services to the citizens of Maryland. The need for flexibility is even more critical in the current economic climate.

Recommendation #3:

Adopt committee narrative requesting actual cost per case figures for each foster care program. **(Pages 4 and 26)**

Response: Concur

Over the past fiscal years, due to funding challenges, the Department has had to defer expenditures in foster care and adoption payments. The deferred expenditures were paid in the next fiscal year. As of FY 2014, all prior fiscal year deferred expenditures have been paid. As noted by the Analyst, this has caused confusion in calculating the actual caseload and cost per case. The Department concurs with the Analyst recommendation to report actual expenditures and caseloads in foster care by type of care for the current fiscal year expenditures. We will work with the Analyst and the Department of Budget and Management to estimate costs in future fiscal years.

Recommendation #4:

Adopt committee narrative requesting a report on child welfare caseload data. **(Page 4 and 27)**

Response: Concur with a requested date amendment

The Department concurs with the adoption of committee narrative requesting reports on child welfare caseload data to be submitted on November 20, 2015. The Department would like to request that the data used for the caseload use the average yearly number of cases and filled positions assigned, by jurisdiction, using 12 months service data available through August 2015.