

The Kenny A. vs Perdue Consent Decree

DHS Continues to Show Improvement Delivering Care to Georgia's Youth

Highlights of Period 11 Performance
January 1 – June 30, 2011

Presented to: Department of Human Services Board

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Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

Introduction

- June 2002, Children Rights Incorporated (CRI) filed a class action lawsuit against the State of Georgia on behalf of children in Georgia's foster care system
- October 2005, a settlement was reached under what is known as the Kenny A. vs Perdue Consent Decree

Introduction

- Although filed against Georgia state officials, only **Fulton** and **DeKalb's** foster care systems were included in the lawsuit
- Every 6 months the State's progress toward achieving the goals of the Consent Decree are measured and reported
- External monitoring is conducted by a federal judge (Marvin Shoob), 2 court-appointed monitors (Jim Dimas & Sarah Morrison) and the plaintiff attorneys (CRI)

Overview

- The Consent Decree contains 29 outcome measures and 159 relevant reporting standards
- To exit the Consent Decree, State Defendants must achieve **all 29** outcomes **simultaneously** for **3 consecutive 6-month** reporting periods

Progress

Several significant milestones were accomplished during Period 11 which covered 01/01/11 – 06/30/11

- 15 Outcomes Achieved
- 4 Outcomes were within 5% of Goal
- 4 Outcomes were within 8% of Goal

NOTE: This is the last period for which we have all validated data

Significant Period 11 Highlights

- **Achieved best maltreatment-in-care rate to-date**
 - * Goal < 0.57%
 - * **Achieved 0.41%**
 - * Previous best 0.42%
- **Over 29,000 visits made**
 - * Face-to-face between class children and case managers
 - * Parents and children whose goals are reunification
 - * DFCS case managers and caregivers
 - * Siblings

Remaining Challenges

- Achieve the remaining outcomes and sustain performance over time
- Work with plaintiffs around several outcomes identified as having design flaws and calculation issues

Sneak Preview into P12 Performance

Currently our performance is being assessed for Period 12 which covered July 1 – December 31, 2011

- **Over 30,000 visits conducted**
 - * Face-to-face between class children and case managers
 - * Parents and children whose goals are reunification
 - * DFCS case managers and caregivers
 - * Siblings
- **Adoption finalization efforts**
 - * 31 children's adoptions were finalized within 12 months of parental rights termination
 - * Goal 80%
 - * **Achieved 84%**

Next Steps Toward Exiting Consent Decree

What will it take...

- Continue to develop and implement systems and strategies to meet the outcomes and standards
- Continue to review barriers for outcomes not achieved
- Continue to research best practices
- Continue to focus on exiting the decree