

Kenny A. Update

Presented to: Department of Human Services Board

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Georgia Department of Human Services

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
- Monitoring is conducted by 2 court-appointed monitors, Jim Dimas & Karen Baynes-Dunning

INTRODUCTION

- The Consent Decree contains **29 outcome measures** and **159 relevant reporting standards**
- Outcomes 8 & 20 are divided into 2 parts, i.e. 8a & 8b; 20a & 20b

OVERVIEW

- Every 6 months the State's progress toward achieving the goals of the Consent Decree are measured and reported by the 2 court-appointed monitors
- To exit the Consent Decree, State Defendants must achieve **all 29** outcomes **simultaneously** for **3 consecutive** reporting periods or reach substantial compliance

PROGRESS

The last period for which we have all validated data was Period 13 which covered 01/01/12 – 06/30/12

Several significant milestones were accomplished:

- 16 Outcomes Achieved
- 6 Outcomes were within 5% of Goal
- 3 Outcomes were within 8% of Goal

PROGRESS

During Period 13 and for each 6-month reporting period:

- Nearly **30,000** visits are consistently made
 - * Face-to-face between class children and case managers
 - * Parents and children whose goals are reunification
 - * DFCS case managers and caregivers
 - * Siblings
- In October 2005 there were over 2,000 children in Outcomes 9 & 10; today there are 20

PROGRESS

- Period 14 which covered 07/01/12 – 12/31/12 is currently being assessed
- Anticipate release of the draft report within the next 2 weeks

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

To improve Child Welfare in Fulton and DeKalb:

- Two (2) Field Assessment and Support Team (FAST) team members have been deployed to Fulton to supervise and mentor intake and other workers
- The Safety Response System (SRS) Coordinator will be assigned to assist in the supervision and monitoring of Fulton intake staff one day a week
- Fulton and DeKalb will become a part of the centralized intake call center unit and will have 24-hour call center coverage for incoming CPS calls

Exiting Kenny A
is a Top
Priority!!

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
- Continued and heightened focus on exiting the decree

REMAINING CHALLENGES

- To achieve the remaining outcomes and sustain performance over time
- To work with plaintiffs and monitors around several outcomes identified as having design flaws and calculation issues (4, 8b & 24)