

Amendment to Georgia's 2010 Annual Progress and Services Review (APSR)

Submitted October 25, 2010

CFS 101 Parts I, II and III. Educational Vouchers

- Total number of youth (new recipients, unduplicated) to receive ETV vouchers for the 09-10 academic year: 47
- Total recipients for the 2008-2009 academic year: 170
- Total recipients for the 2009-2010 academic year: 237

Program Support

Updated IV-B Training Checklist

See Exhibit 1, All Classes IVB Plan Checklist, revised [date]

Updates on staff development plans paid for by the caseworker visit funding.

FY 2010 caseworker visit (CWV) resources were invested in system enhancements to improve caseworker access to technology. Investment in Georgia's SACWIS system improved system capacity to accurately collect and report caseworker/child visit data as well as analyze the data to improve policy, practice and performance.

The system enhancements included development and deployment of the following:

- *Provider Contact Portal* – allows private providers (CCI/CPA) who share responsibility for casework visits to have limited access to the SHINES system to enter contact documentation.
- *Oracle Business Intelligence (OBIEE) Expansion* – provides additional reports and alerts to track visit performance by region, county, unit and case manager as well as state visit data and outcomes.
- *Case Health Page* – provides an 'at-a-glance' AFCARS/CFSR/ECHEM real-time monitoring tool for case management and supervisory staff.
- *External Documentation* - updates and modifications improved ability to search external documentation and collateral materials.
- *Contact Documentation* - current enhancements to the child contact pages to ensure all that required CWV data is collected for federal reporting.

Additional CWV resources were invested in the purchase of networkable scanners for the placement units across the state to enhance collection of external documentation.

Coordination with Tribes

The state of Georgia does not have any federally recognized tribes, therefore; we have not consulted with any tribal representatives regarding policy or practice. Georgia does

have three state-recognized tribes under OCGA 44-12-300: The Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, the Lower Muscogee Creek Tribe and the Cherokee of Georgia. We have been in contact with these tribes in the past and will attempt to re-engage them in the review of policy and practice changes.

The state of Georgia currently has 126 children in care with documented Native American heritage. Georgia's SACWIS system, SHINES, has two questions regarding ICWA compliance. Staff must indicate if the child is a tribal member. If they answer 'yes' to this question, they are required to identify the child's tribal affiliation and document their tribal registry number. Data show that 37% of the documented Native American children in care have a tribe identified; of those, 3.9% have a tribal registry number documented. The state also documents each identified child's percentage of Native American heritage. Staff are required to notify the tribe when a Native American child comes into care, and this is documented under contact details in SHINES, with the contact person being the Indian tribe/council.

Currently the ICWA questions default to unknown and are only required to be answered for children ages 14 and older. A maintenance request has been submitted to enhance the system to remove the following ICWA system defaults: (1) 'unknown' for tribal membership, and (2) 'registered with tribe' in the foster care child (FCC) stage. Georgia will also be researching ways to include tracking for children eligible for tribal membership but not currently registered and adding a field to indicate notice was given to the tribes, via certified mail, of our involvement with youth who are members or are eligible for membership in recognized tribes. This will allow the state to monitor more closely its ICWA compliance.

All of Georgia's children in foster care, including children with a documented Native American heritage, are referred and assessed for independent living services.

Health Care Services

The agency has amended policies 11.3 and 11.7 for Independent Living Services to include the requirements from the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan. In addition to the changes in policy, the agency will be providing case managers with fostering connections medical health care proxy booklets for youth transitioning from foster care.

Current changes to the Independent Living Policy as it relates to health care services include:

Youth Transition Planning

Transition planning for youth will occur upon youth's enrollment in the Independent Living Program. The guide, *21 Things You Must Do Before You Leave Foster Care*, will be utilized by the Case Manager and/or Independent Living Specialist to assist youth in understanding what they need to do to establish and maintain self-sufficiency. Youth will be provided with assistance and support in developing a transition plan, in accordance

with the Fostering Connections Act, 90 days prior to their 18th birthday and 90 days prior to their exit from foster care.

The written transitional living plan (WTLP) will be personalized and created with the direction of the youth. The specific options to be included in the plan for the youth are:

1. Housing;
2. Health (physical, mental, and dental needs);
 - a. To include information about (1) the importance of the youth designating another individual to make health care related decisions on his or her behalf if the youth is unable to participate in such decisions and the youth does not have, or does not want, a relative who would otherwise be authorized under state law to make such decision, and (2) provide the youth with the option to execute a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or the Georgia Advanced Health Care Directive (see [11.7 Chafee Independence Program Medicaid](#)).
3. Education;
4. Individuals to support youth (life long connections);
5. Work force/employment services; and
6. Other details as requested by the youth.

To review the entire 11.3 and 11.7 Policy, please see Exhibit 2, Written Transitional Living Plan.rtf, and Exhibit 3, Chafee Independence Program Medicaid.doc.

Disaster Plans

Georgia experienced a disastrous flood event September 18-26, 2009. As a result of this flood, the agency was required to implement an emergency disaster response for several areas across the state. The following is a summary for these activities.

- Thirteen (13) FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) opened to date: Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Douglas (mobile), Fulton, Paulding, Rockdale/Newton, Stephens, and Walker.
 - Provided 2 or more county office staff members per site. Each DRC was equipped with laptop computers and printers, providing access to the DFCS network, supported by either an on-site or on-call IT technician.
 - Core services provided at DRCs: replacement Food Stamps (FS), new FS applications, and referral services to a host of local, state, and federal assistance providers (Detailed List of services on DRC Staffing and Locations tab in Exhibit 4).
- September 30, 2009: Redirected customers from six DRCs to local DFCS County Offices via 1-800-Georgia in response to a decreased number of walk-ins requesting DFCS services at DRCs (Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas, Douglas Mobile Unit, Paulding, and Stephens).

- October 2, 2009: Redirected customers from three DRCs to local DFCS County Offices via 1-800-Georgia in response to a decreased number of walk-ins requesting DFCS services at DRCs (Chattooga, Rockdale/Newton, and Walker).
- October 2, 2009: Public service announcement (PSA) issued by DHS Communications to inform existing FS clients in flood-impacted counties that they should contact their local DFCS County Office if they require FS replacement due to flood. Note: clients were required to sign an affidavit stating loss/replacement was due to flood.
- October 6, 2009: Redirected customers from two DRCs to local DFCS County Offices via 1-800-Georgia in response to a decreased number of walk-ins requesting DFCS services at DRCs (Carroll and Catoosa).
- October 7, 2009: Redirected customers from two DRCs to local DFCS County Offices via 1-800-Georgia in response to a decreased number of walk-ins requesting DFCS services at DRCs (DeKalb and Fulton).
- Issued 158 replacement FS at DRCs as of close of business on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 (County-Specific Breakout on "Food Stamp Activity" tab in Exhibit 4).
- Received 164 new FS applications at DRCs as of close of business on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 (County-Specific Breakout on "Food Stamp Activity" tab in Exhibit 4).
- October 10, 2009: DRC closures: Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Rockdale/Newton, and Stephens.
- All DRCs redirected to DFCS County Offices as of 12:00PM October 7, 2009.

Please see Exhibit 4, 2009 Epic Flood DRC Staffing and Support.xlsx, for a full report, inclusive of individuals involved and Food Stamps activities.

Requirement of ACYF-CB-PI-10-10

See Exhibit 5, Signed Assurance for PPACA.pdf

Statistical and Supporting Information

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