

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

Title IV-E Eligibility Program Improvement Plan

Goal I. Address Problem Areas in Judicial Determinations			
Activities	Person Overseeing Activity	Completion Date	Status / Update
1. Amend "Motion for Change of Placement" court order to include language that the department made reasonable efforts to maintain the child at home.	Kevin Aucoin	5/31/2008	
2. Work with attorneys and social caseworkers to prepare cases for permanency hearings so that the court can make meaningful determinations that the department has made reasonable efforts toward achieving permanency for the child.	Andrew Johnson	3/31/2009	
a. Meet with regional office staff to explain the purpose and importance of permanency planning and preparation; what documents are needed at a hearing and review examples of well prepared cases.	Lisa McInnis	3/31/2009	
b. Have NRC train legal staff and clearly explain their role in the permanency hearing process addressing the social, legal and financial significance of permanency planning.	Kevin Savage National Resource Center	11/30/2008	
3. Reprogram RICHIST so that IV-E funds will not be claimed until all legal requirements have been met.	Leon Saunders	3/31/2009	

Activities	Person Overseeing Activity	Completion Date	Status / Update
4. Meet with Family Court judges to review the purpose of meaningful "federal findings." Explain the purpose of making reasonable efforts findings in court on a yearly basis, requesting that the court make those findings on the record.	Patricia Martinez	12/31/2008	
5. Maintain all legal documents relative to IV-E in the IV-E foster care and adoption subsidy files.	Lisa McInnis	5/31/2008	Underway
6. Implement quarterly QA process to review a sample of 20 EI files to ensure that the correct legal documentation is being maintained in the files.	Lisa McInnis	9/30/2008	
Goal II. Improve Licensing Practices			
1. Work with NRC's TA program to reduce the average length of time it takes to license a foster home to under 6 months.	Kevin Savage	3/31/2008	Underway
2. Work with DCYF Licensing staff to improve record keeping system so that files will be readily accessible at all times.	Kevin Savage	3/31/2009	
3. Maintain copies of licenses and background checks in the IV-E foster care and adoption subsidy files as well as the foster care licensing files.	Lisa McInnis	3/31/2009	
Goal III. Improve AFDC Eligibility Determination Practices			

Activities	Person Overseeing Activity	Completion Date	Status / Update
1. Establish procedures to document child income during the redetermination process and document that in RICHIST.	Lisa McInnis	7/31/2008	Under way
1a. Work with MIS to design supporting programming needs to meet the requirements of goal 1.	Leon Saunders Lisa McInnis	3/31/2009	Underway
1b. Train staff on new procedures relative to the redetermination process.	Leon Saunders Lisa McInnis	3/31/2009	