

1

Overview of the 2007 CHSW Policy Priorities



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Prevention and Early Intervention

- Support home visiting, family support, parents education and other prevention/early intervention programs

Early Childhood Education

- Support the implementation of the Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Support an increase in the child care subsidy rate
- Support the Growing Skills for Kids: Child Care Consultants program
- Support the expansion of ECEAP slots and an increase in the rate
- Support family support and parent education as an integral component of early learning

Children's Mental Health

- Support improvements in the mental health system to ensure the provision of appropriate services to children and families
- Support the expansion of services that effectively prevent children from being hospitalized

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

- Increase the TANF grant
- Ensure support for families in sanction
- Address new federal regulations

IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN

Keep Kids Safe and Out of Foster Care

- Improve access to services for birth parents
- Improve the dependency and family court system
- Address racial disproportionality
- Increase relative search, placement and support efforts, including the expansion of the Kinship Navigator Program
- Support efforts focusing on the needs of children of incarcerated parents

Support Children while in Out of Home Care

- Support strategies aimed at improving educational outcomes
- Improve access to health and mental health services
- Expand the Mockingbird Family Model

Strengthen the Child Welfare System

- Increase the rate paid to providers of Behavioral Rehabilitative Services
- Ensure that children/caregivers receive caseworker services every 30 days

Improve Services to Youth Transitioning Out of Care

- Expand the availability of Post Adoption Services
- Extend Medicaid to youth up to 21 years of age
- Provide housing assistance for youth up to 23 years of age

SOCIAL SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support funding for the Community Services Facilities Program projects

January 8, 2007

Questions? Contact: Laurie Lippold at 206-695-3229 or 360-754-3290, e-mail lippoldlau@aol.com