

2006 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAUI CITIZEN'S REVIEW PANEL

The 2006 Annual Report of the Maui Citizen's Review Panel covers the period from January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006 as the reporting period changed from a calendar year to a fiscal year reporting format.

The next Annual Report will encompass the period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

Federal Outcome Measures: Maui County's Performance

The attached matrix covers the period from July 2004 to March 2006 for two reasons. One, complete data was not provided to the CRP for calendar year 2005 for inclusion in its 2005 Annual Report. And secondly, data is being provided for comparison purposes. Of note, data is not yet available for the April to June 2006 reporting period, and April to June 2005 was not provided to the CRP.

1. Reduce the recurrence of CAN

The Maui section showed consistent improvement in this outcome over the previous reporting period of 7/03 to 6/04. During the 7/04 to 3/06 period, the Maui section met the federal standard 6 out of the 7 quarters.

2. Reduce the incidence of CAN in foster care

As in previous reports, the Maui section met the federal outcome measures during the 7/04 to 3/06 reporting period.

3. Increase permanency for children in foster care (no federal standard)

Unlike in previous reporting periods, data for this category was not provided.

4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

- a. The Maui section met the federal standard in 8 of the last 11 quarters. Of the other three quarters, one quarter's data was not provided and the remaining two quarters were less than 1% from the national standard.
- b. This outcome measure continues to be the Maui sections Achilles Heal. They met the standard in only 1 of 4 quarters in calendar year 2005 and only 2 of 7 during the 7/04 to 3/06 reporting period. Percentages in quarters that did not meet the federal standard were no where close to the benchmark.

5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

The Maui section continues to do well in this outcome measure. They met the national standard in 3 of 4 quarters in calendar year 2005 and 6 of 7 in the 7/04 to 3/06 reporting period. The only blemish is the missing data from the 4/05 to 6/05 quarter.

6. Increase placement stability

The Maui section's performance was poor in this outcome measure. They did not meet the national standard in the last 7 quarters although percentages were all within 4 percentage points.

Review of 2005 Recommendations:

Please find attached DHS Director Lillian Koller's December 16, 2005 response to the Maui CRP's 2004 Annual report that addresses many if not all of the following recommendations:

1. Foster Care System

A Maui CRP representative sits on the statewide CQI committee and has met twice in the last six months in addressing placement difficulties and increasing communication between social workers and foster parents. Locally, it is uncertain how much progress has been made in the five subcategories.

2. Adoptions

It's recommended that the DHS define the qualifications for legally free foster children to be adopted.

Much of the CRP's discussions have revolved around the appropriateness of terminating parental rights if the child is not adoptable and/or if an adoptive home is not available, and the resulting implications to the freed child. The definition of "termination" and "divesting" of parental rights is unclear as is the protocol of utilizing such a practice.

3. Contracting monitoring

It's recommended that the DHS expand and improve its contract monitoring processes, especially with the change in the duration of POS contracts.

There has been little or no discussion about this recommendation in the last 6 months. On a positive note, no problems have been recently identified as a result of the contract monitoring status quo.

The CRP continues to feel increased contract monitoring is imperative given the opportunity for long term contracts.

4. Division support of the CRP

The CRP recommends that the DHS division continue its support of the CRPs in the following manner:

- a. Fund air, water and ground transportation for its Molokai and Lanai representatives,
- b. Fund transportation (air, water and ground), logistical and administrative costs for the semi annual Statewide CRP Meetings,
- c. Promoting CRPs as a valuable asset and an essential part of the CWS system, and not just a condition to receive CAPTA funds.

The department continues to fund air, water and ground transportation costs for its Molokai and Lanai CRP representatives. Likewise, the department funded costs for the 2005 Statewide CRP meeting on Maui.

Given only one operating CRP in the state, it is uncertain how well the department is insuring the continued survival of section CRPs, and how well they're promoting the importance of CRPs.

5. Meeting of the Minds

The CRP recommends that division promotes the Maui Section's Meeting of the Minds group to other sections, and if applicable, nationally.

The Meeting of the Minds group now meets every other month. They continue to focus on improving interdepartmental cooperation, problem solving multi-departmental involved cases and keeping their "Roadmap" of county services current.

The CRP continues to be represented in this group.

CY 2006 CRP Focus

The Maui CRP will continue to concentrate on the recommendations made in its 2005 Annual Report.

The CRP will also look towards increasing its membership both in numbers and diversity, continue promoting the statewide CRP meeting and continue supporting the resurrection of the CRPs on Oahu, Kauai and Hawaii.

Recommendations

1. Foster Care System

It's recommended that the DHS, as part of the PIP and CQI process, expand its foster care quality control/feedback system that results in the following:

- a. Increased communication between social workers and foster parents,
- b. Decreased placement difficulties,
- c. Increased coordination of mental health referrals,
- d. To improve communication between social workers and foster parents, to create a system of foster parent feedback, and to give foster parents a representative voice, an annual survey of active foster parents should be taken. The survey should measure levels of satisfaction, suggestions or complaints, and recommendations. The results of the survey should be shared with the Maui CRP for review.

2. Adoptions

- a. The results of DHS' participation in AdoptUsKids, HOPE Inc., Hawaii Family Forum and Heart Gallery shall be documented and evaluated annually.
- b. A database, preferably Internet based, shall be created for the public to easily access the profiles of current legally free foster children awaiting adoption.

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The CRP recommends that division promotes the Maui Section's Meeting of the Minds group to other sections, and if applicable, nationally.

MAUI CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL 2006 MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF:

Island of Lanai:	Butch Gima, Social Worker, Dept. of Health, Adult Mental Health Division	2000-present
Island of Molokai:	Irene Laemoa, Community	2000-present
Island of Maui:	Frances C. Joswick, MSW, Deputy Director Ka Hale A Ke Ola Resource Center	2000-present
	Elizabeth A. Ivey, Attorney,	2001-present
	Patrick Singsank, Program Director Children's Justice Center	2003-present
	Jim St. James, foster parent & foster parent trainer Hawaii Behavioral Health	2004-present
	Jeny Bissell, Family Health Services Section Supervisor State Department of Health	2004-present
	Debbi Amaral, Director Headstart Preschool Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.	2005-present
Staff:	Scott Seto, Supervisor Michelle Christensen Child Welfare Services	
Meetings:	The panel meets once each month on Maui at the conference room of Ka Hale A Ke Oka.	