

Department of Children and Families
Responses to
SBA Committee Hearing Follow-Up Questions

Senator Weinberg:

1a. Prior to the transfer of women's services from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in FY 2013, State grants-in-aid appropriations for sexual assault (i.e., rape prevention) services had been displayed as a separate line item within the DCA budget. Following the transfer of these services to DCF, grants-in-aid appropriations for these services were merged into the single Women's Services line item in the DCF budget.

- **Please indicate the feasibility of displaying the funds appropriated to DCF sexual assault services as a separate line item, disaggregated from Women's Services, in future DCF budgets.**

Response: In recent years, DCF has made a concerted effort to combine programs with similar purposes into consolidated accounts that align with the intent of the appropriation.

For example, in the budget for Child Protection and Permanency, line items for Group Homes and Treatment Homes were combined into the line item for Out-of-Home Placements because each of those appropriations represented out-of-home placements for children/youth. In the Children's System of Care, a line item for Partial Care was combined into the line item for Outpatient, as both categories represented outpatient services for children/youth.

Similarly, the programs within the Division on Women are combined with other related programs in the line item titled Women's Services. One of the reasons for moving the Division on Women to DCF was to align its programs in a department with similar services and the budget reflects the intent of that initiative.

DCF will continue to look for situations where budget line items can be appropriately consolidated, while still maintaining the required documentation on how funds have been expended.

1b. When the Division on Women was transferred from DCA to DCF in FY 2013, a total of \$5,361 million (gross) in funding was to be transferred as part of the reorganization. According to information provided to the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) by the Office of Management and Budget in March 2012, the allocation of the \$5,361 million (gross) was as follows:

Division on Women: Funding Transferred from DCA to DCF in FY 2013

<i>Direct State Services</i>		
Program	Amount	Source
Address Confidentiality Program	\$93,000	State
Empower II	\$37,000	Federal
Expenses of the New Jersey Commission on Women	\$7,000	State
Grants to Displaced Homemaker Centers	\$75,000	Other
Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women	\$252,000	State
Rape Prevention and Education	\$100,000	Federal
Women's Programs (primarily Salaries and Wages)	\$470,000	State
TOTAL		\$1,034 million
<i>Grants-in-Aid</i>		
Program	Amount	Source
Empower II	\$63,000	Federal
Grants to Displaced Homemaker Centers	\$1,130,000	State
Grants to Displaced Homemaker Centers	\$613,000	Other
Grants to Women's Shelters	\$25,000	State
Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women	\$56,000	State
Rape Prevention	\$900,000	State
Rape Prevention	\$210,000	Federal
Rape Prevention and Education	\$980,000	Federal
Violence Against Women Act Sexual Assault Services Grant	\$325,000	Federal
Women's Referral Central	\$25,000	State
TOTAL		\$4.327 million

- **Please clarify the department's response to question 22a. from the FY 2014 OLS Discussion Points, regarding the FY 2013 and FY 2014 funding allocations for the Division on Women's programs. For each of the programs listed above, and for any other Division on Women services or programs not listed above, please provide disaggregated information indicating the program's: final FY 2012 expenditures; FY 2013 adjusted appropriation; and FY 2014 recommended funding level. As in the table above, please also disaggregate the amounts reported by funding category (direct state services or grants-in-aid) and funding source (State, federal, or other funds).**

Response: See chart below

New Jersey Department of Children and Families
 Division on Women
 FY 2012 - 2014

Division on Women: Funding Transferred from DCA to DCF in FY 2013

Program	Transferred From DCA	FY2012 Expended	DCF		Source	Comments
			FY2013 Adjusted	FY2014 Recommended		
Address Confidentiality Program	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$93,000	State	
Empower II	\$37,000	\$0	\$37,000	\$0	Federal	Grant ended prior to FY 13
Expenses of the New Jersey Commission on Women	\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000	State	
Grants to Displaced Homemaker Centers	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	Other	\$75,000 moved to Grants-in-Aid for services.
Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000	\$252,000	State	
Rape Prevention and Education	\$100,000	\$89,728	\$100,000	\$100,000	Federal	
Women's Programs (primarily Salaries and Wages)	\$470,000	\$470,000	\$470,000	\$470,000	State	
TOTAL DSS	\$1,034,000	\$979,728	\$959,000	\$922,000		

Program	Transferred From DCA	FY2012 Expended	DCF		Source	Comments
			FY2013 Adjusted	FY2014 Recommended		
Empower II	\$63,000	\$0	\$63,000	\$0	Federal	Grant ended prior to FY 13
Grants to Displaced Homemaker Centers	\$1,130,000	\$1,130,000	\$1,130,000	\$1,130,000	State	
Grants to Displaced Homemaker Centers	\$613,000	\$646,000	\$688,000	\$688,000	Other	FY 14 reflects shift of \$75,000 DSS to GIA
Grants to Women's Shelters	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	State	
Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women	\$56,000	\$51,295	\$56,000	\$56,000	State	
Rape Prevention	\$900,000	\$450,000	\$900,000	\$900,000	State	
Rape Prevention	\$210,000	\$94,299	\$210,000	\$210,000	Federal	Federal appropriation will change based on actual grant award notification.
Rape Prevention and Education	\$980,000	\$920,663	\$980,000	\$980,000	Federal	Federal appropriation will change based on actual grant award notification.
Violence Against Women Act Sexual Assault Services Grant	\$325,000	\$214,583	\$325,000	\$325,000	Federal	Federal appropriation will change based on actual grant award notification.
Women's Referral Central	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	State	
TOTAL GIA	\$4,327,000	\$3,556,840	\$4,402,000	\$4,339,000		

GRAND TOTAL DSS and GIA **\$5,361,000** **\$4,536,568** **\$5,361,000** **\$5,261,000**

The difference between FY 13 -FY 14 is \$100,000 due to the Federal Empower II grant that ended prior to FY 13.

2. DCF recently adopted regulations establishing a “four-tier” findings system for investigations of child abuse and neglect. Under this system, investigative findings of "substantiated" and "unfounded" are redefined and two intermediary investigative findings of "established" and "not established" are added.

- **a) Please provide information regarding DCF's plans to implement the new investigative findings system, including the scope and timing of: training and workshops provided to DCF staff and affected professionals outside of the agency (e.g., attorneys, Administrative Law Judges, other court personnel, contract agency staff); public information activities; changes to Child Abuse Record Information check processing and disclosures; information system reprogramming; and any other necessary adjustments.**
- **b) What costs are expected to result from implementing the new findings system? Are expected costs in the current fiscal year fully supported under FY 2013 appropriations? Will expected costs in the next fiscal year be fully supported under the Governor's FY 2014 Budget Recommendation?**
- **c) Will the new system affect any federal funding received by the department, and have any necessary approvals been obtained from federal agencies, as applicable? Is the new system consistent with the terms of the Modified Settlement Agreement, and have any necessary approvals been obtained from the Federal Monitor and the Court?**

Response: a) DCF adopted regulations implementing a new child abuse and neglect investigative finding system on April 1, 2013. The new system is applicable for all child abuse and neglect investigations commenced on or after April 1, 2013. Training for Child Protection and Permanency staff was created by the Department’s Child Welfare Training Academy and Stockton College through the Child Welfare Training Partnership. The training lasts two full days and focuses on implementation of the new system while building investigative skills through the application of multiple fact patterns. Supervisory staff started training in October 2012 so that the approximately 3,000 supervisory and investigative staff could be trained before the April 1, 2013 implementation date. Additionally, an online “booster shot” course was developed as a refresher for all staff. This training currently continues to be provided to the balance of non-investigative Department staff that stand to benefit from a thorough understanding of the system.

DCF staff have also provided training on the new system to the Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect; Deputy Attorneys General through the Attorney General’s Advocacy Institute; Judges, court staff, parents attorneys, and law guardians at the April 22, 2013 Children in Court Conference in Galloway; as well as separate trainings for Office of the Law Guardian

staff in their Trenton and Asbury Park offices. Additionally, DCF is scheduled to provide training to attorneys and staff of the Office of Parental Representation in the Office of the Public Defender. Lastly, DCF has offered to provide training to the Office of Administrative Law. In addition to the extensive training offered to staff and system partners, explanations of the new system will be included in our regular communications with licensed and contracted providers.

The necessary changes to our Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System, NJ SPIRIT, were implemented on April 1, 2013 and there is no anticipated impact to the Child Abuse Record Information Check system.

b) There are no anticipated cost increases as a result of the new findings system. Training was developed and delivered as part of the FY2013 training budget. Ongoing training and communication efforts are fully supported by the Governor's FY2014 Budget Recommendation.

c) The new system will not be impactful on federal funding received by the Department. No approvals from the federal agencies were necessary, though the Department shared the plans with our partners at the Administration for Children and Families. Similarly, no provision of the Modified Settlement Agreement requires approval for this type of change, although the Federal Monitor was consulted about the change.

Senator Van Drew:

3. During FY 2013, services for children with developmental disabilities were transferred from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to DCF.

- **a) Please provide detailed information regarding: the types of services that DCF currently provides to children with developmental disabilities and their families; and how the services currently provided by DCF differ from the services that were previously provided to such children and families by DHS (prior to the FY 2013 transfer of services from DHS to DCF).**
- **b) For each service currently provided by DCF to children with developmental disabilities and their families, please also indicate whether any children and families receiving the service have been newly required to pay for all of, or an increased portion of, their service costs since the transfer of services from DHS to DCF.**

Response: DCF maintains all of the contracted services for children that were transitioned as a result of the realignment of state services for children with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families. Including; Out-of-Home Care, Intensive In-Home services and Family Support services. Family Support services are designed to assist the caregiver and include the following:

- In-home respite services
- Out-of-home respite services
- Summer Camp
- Assistive devices and technology, which include modification of both and vehicles to accommodate the youth's disability.

At this time, DCF is monitoring utilization of the current services and requests for services to ensure that the services provided are the most appropriate to meet the needs of the youth who have a developmental disability and the needs of their caregiver.

DCF also provides 24 hour care coordination services through PerformCare. Care coordination is a different service than was provided by DHS. A caregiver has access to a care coordinator 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This service allows a caregiver to access emergency services if necessary, request services and request information.

Children also have access to the full array of behavioral health services if these services are needed. For example, the Children's System of Care (CSOC) has expanded training for our Mobile Response and Stabilization providers to include training on serving children with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The integration of the service delivery systems allows for better connection and coordination with a broader array of services and supports.

There have been no changes to policy regarding the payment of services for youth with developmental disabilities due to the transfer of services from DHS to DCF.