



Children and Family Services 2019 Successes and Ongoing Work

Lisa Bayley | Acting Assistant Commissioner



Child Care Services Division

Key Statistics

- CCAP serves an average of 30,700 children in 15,350 families per month
- Child Development Services delivered more than 6,400 trainings for more than 30,400 individuals working in child care in FY19

Child Care Services Division 2019 Accomplishments

Program Improvements for Federal Conformity

- Finished implementing 12-month eligibility and continuity of care:
 - Elimination of the 6-month portability pool so families who move don't lose funding,
 - Access to Transition Year Child Care after one month of MFIP, and
 - CCAP continues until date of redetermination when child reaches the age limit
- Addressed needs of families experiencing homelessness by increasing access to child care
- Created provider due process in statute (effective Feb. 2021)

Data Transparency

- DHS may now :
 - Share CCAP data with MDE
 - Publicly share CCAP payment data for some child care centers

Child Care Assistance Program Implementation Update

Ensuring that new policies are rolled out

- Implementing retroactive eligibility period limited to 3 months instead of 6 (eff. 7/1/2019)
- Statewide training on new policies, approx. 250 staff attended sessions in 7 locations in fall 2019
- Monthly mentor meetings held
- A new notice included in applications: “The Child Care Assistance Program and fraud: Questions and answers for families” (see: DHS-3943B)

Child Care Assistance Program Implementation Update

Engaging with stakeholder and partners

- Research electronic attendance record systems and engaging with stakeholders about options moving forward, including changes to provider registration processes
- In July 2019, providers received a mailed notice and listserve notice that explains new policies and requirements
 - A provider phone line is advertised and used to answer questions
- Addressing homelessness: DHS engaged extensive process with stakeholders to plan for effective implementation of new policies that go in effect in Sept. 2020

Requirements for Federal Conformity

- CCAP rate increase
 - CCAP maximum rates must be at least the 25th percentile of the most recent Market Rate Survey
- Health and safety (Licensing)
 - Substitutes working at a family child care provider home must take health and safety training

Addressing Policy Gaps

- Streamlining requirements for CDS grants to child care providers
- Simplifying the process for ensuring CCAP continues in the event of a disaster
- Adding military providers to the definition of provider for purposes of CCAP



Child Safety and Permanency Division

Child Safety and Permanency Division

Key statistics (2018)

- Just under 40,000 children were alleged victims in screened-in child maltreatment reports, a 50 percent increase since 2014
- 16,488 children and youth spent time in foster care, which is about the same as the previous year, but is over 1/3 more children than experienced out-of-home care in 2014
- American Indian children were 18 times more likely, African American children were three times more likely, and those identified as two or more races were five times more likely than white children to experience foster care

Child Safety and Permanency Division 2019 Achievements

Child Welfare Training Academy

- Conducting community listening sessions
- Implementing initial curriculum enhancements
- Planning for new metro training facility

Initiative Tribe Expansion

- Red Lake Nation will become the third Tribe to join the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative (AICWI) on January 1, 2021
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is in the planning process to become part of the AICWI

Child Safety and Permanency Division

2019 Achievements

Initial Work to Implement Family First Preservation Services Act

- Enhancements to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program have been completed such as extending financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other supports/services to former foster care youth now up to age 23
- Robust stakeholder and partner engagement
 - Community, tribal, county, providers, advocates, other state agency staff, ombudspersons, parent and youth leaders have been participating in committees and work groups
- Key staff hired and working on next phase of implementation

Family First Prevention Services Act

- QRTP policy – needed in statute
- Considering how to help providers comply with QRTP requirements
- Ongoing planning and implementation work
 - Public engagement process
 - Multi-year process
 - One goal of act is significant state and federal investment in prevention services

Child Safety and Permanency Division

Ongoing Work

ICWA/MIFPA Compliance

- The intent of ICWA is to “protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families”
- ICWA places a strong emphasis on keeping American Indian children within their family bonds, tribe and culture
- ICWA recognizes that tribes have inherent sovereignty and right of self-governance
- Compliance rates highlight need for more ICWA training
- Collaboration effort to determine best methods for providing specialized training to counties

Child Safety and Permanency Division

Ongoing Work

African American Child Welfare Overrepresentation and Outcome Disparities

- African American children are disproportionately represented in Minnesota's child welfare system, both in terms of out of home placement numbers, length of out of home placement, and termination proceedings
- Compared to white children, African American children are 2.3 times more likely to be involved in a report of maltreatment, 2.9 times more likely to be involved in a maltreatment investigation, and 2.9 times more likely to experience out-of-home care
- CSP has been developing an array of potential proposals to address the service and program gaps contributing to the disproportionate involvement and disparate outcomes for this population of children, and positively impact these trends



Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division

Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division

Key Statistics

- About 390,000 Minnesotans receive SNAP each month
- The number of Minnesotans turning to SNAP has been decreasing since 2013
- In 2018, MFIP served an average of about 29,000 families each month
- About 72 percent of the people we serve are children
- In 2017, The Minnesota Community Action network of 24 agencies and 11 tribal governments served about 440,00 people (in 172,000 families) with low incomes

Economic Assistance and Employment Supports 2019 Achievements

MFIP Increase

- Thank you for approving a \$100 increase in maximum cash benefits
- First across the board increase to families in deep poverty in 34 years
- MN-IT and DHS staff:
 - Renegotiated the waiver that combines cash and SNAP food benefits
 - Developed guidance for local workers
 - Worked with local eligibility workers to test the MAXIS changes
- Went live on Feb 1
- Most of the parents who turn to MFIP are low wage workers concentrated in industries with high turn-over, part-time jobs and unpredictable schedules

Economic Assistance and Employment Supports

Ongoing Work

SNAP

- Updating statute for SNAP employment and training to align with current federal policies and state practice
- Exploring best practices for decreasing the payment error rate in our SNAP program

Economic Assistance and Employment Supports

Ongoing Work

Program Simplification

- A multi-year cross-program effort building on 2014 and 2015 legislative changes
- **Why:** Reduce errors in eligibility and benefits, reduce county administrative burden, and make the assistance we offer to Minnesotans in crisis more transparent and more predictable
- Working with our county and tribal partners to develop proposals for future legislation

Thank You!

Lisa Bayley

Acting Assistant Commissioner

Children and Family Services