

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of Children, Youth and Families



POTTER COUNTY

Needs Based Plan and Budget FYS 2009/10, 2010/11, and 2011/12

Version Control	
Original Submission Date:	8/15/2010
Version 2 Submission Date:	
Version 3 Submission Date:	
Version 4 Submission Date:	

Section 2: NBPB Development

2-1: Executive Summary

- ❑ Submit an executive summary highlighting the major priorities, challenges, and successes identified by the county since its most recent NBPB submission. The summary should include any widespread trends or staffing challenges which affect the county, particularly those which impact all outcome indicators.

With the State Budget impasse being the focus of the first quarter of FY 2009/2010 resulting in all PCHS line staff, including CY5 staff, being placed on a two-day work week through 10/23, no vacancies in any department being filled (21 vacancies), two ICSP funded Centralized Intake Workers being furloughed (not to return), one SB ICM position choosing a voluntary furlough (position remaining vacant) and IV-E dollars being held back, economics and maintaining mandated services and existing staff became the priority for the early months of the past year. Once cash flow was restored, emphasis was placed on service delivery and enhancement of programs including the further implementation of the PA Safety Assessment and Management Process, expansion of evidence-based programs (MST and FGDM), the initial year of the full-time staffed Independent Living Program, implementation of the ICSP Dental Promising Practices Grant and the completion and piloting of a county-wide truancy policy, that began in January 2010. The three federal outcomes remained a constant backdrop for any programming or service delivery with child safety most important. 'Safe' family preservation and permanency planning along with well-being remained areas of priority for this County.

As of July 23, 2010, another financial blow to the Potter County CY5 budget was announced with all funding for (2) established programs (School-Based ICM and Trailblazers) cut to '0' and (2) evidenced-based programs cut to almost nothing (MST and FGDM). In addition, the base NB budget was cut from the requested \$1,425,956 to \$1,000,423 with Act 148 monies slashed from a requested \$798,425 to the approved amount of \$514,374. With FY 2009/10 being a somewhat unusual spending year due to reduced personnel costs for 7 weeks in the 1st Quarter because of the State budget impasse, carrying three CY5 vacancies throughout the FY (in particular one SB ICM) and a record low for placements including no secure or YDC placements for the first time in years, expenditures will probably not be this reasonable again. And in fact, this county is already projecting an overmatch in Act 148 dollars plus possible layoffs in FY 2010/11. Thus, is the atmosphere a CY5 program begins a new year despite meeting federal outcomes, having 100% IV-E compliance audits, full licensing, establishing model programs for a small county, following regional and state recommendations in implementing evidence-based programs and pulling programs from a NB budget to 'Promising Practices' and for the most part, maintaining children safely in their own homes, with less money every year. Something has to give.

The economic priorities equate to challenges that this 8th class county continues to face. It must be repeated that shrinking budgets and greater demands by State and Federal regulations for increased services/documentation/credentials/safety checks/time deadlines can be overwhelming and difficult when their doesn't seem to be enough staff and time to go around. With the County providing mandated services including foster care and adoption programs 'in-house' contracting only MST and the IL staff position, job duties are multiple for everyone in the CY5 Department. Other challenges include no in-county, residential providers and limited MA dental providers; no user-friendly public transportation; and despite decreasing placement numbers, a

Potter County

continued percentage of youth needing high-end residential treatment. Procedural challenges have included very dated CPS Appeals being resurrected and findings changed. Perhaps the biggest challenge/worry that haunts every County CYS department is 'child safety'. Unemployment, poverty, isolation, addictions, domestic violence, emotional illnesses/physical disabilities, homelessness are all maladies that strike a large percentage of families in Potter County, as well as the region, and result in 'high-risk', 'impending danger' situations for young children and teens alike. Perhaps even more troubling are the 'seemingly safe' home scenes that are not 'in-your-face danger' at 3:00 p.m. but become so only hours later. WE MUST BE CONSTANTLY VIGILANT!

Fortunately, the 'successes' maintain hope that negative can change to positive, and services and interventions can result in positive outcomes for families. A young, sibling group left foster care to a permanent home with a private guardian; no dependency petitions were filed in 2009/2010, although respite care was used to prevent possible placements. An adoption goal was achieved late in the FY for the one dependent toddler in foster care with adoption finalization within reach in the next months. Through the ICSP Promising Practices Grant, 32 youth were provided with otherwise unaffordable dental treatment along with 'free' dental screenings and dental education being provided to hundreds of children in the County. The IL program has been greatly boosted having a full-time staff person on board. And a three-bedroom rental home was leased at the beginning of 2010 to provide transitional housing for aging-out youth. One success story includes a young, nomadic man who is now in Job Corp because of IL services and temporary housing to allow time for his application process and overall stability. Five families received FGDM services in FY 2009/2010 along with five youth active with the MST program. A County-Wide Truancy Policy was authored by School, District Judges and CYS Agency and implemented for the second half of the academic year. Ages and Stages and referrals to Early Intervention services are routine for all CYS families with young children, and County Collaboration continues to grow through the ICSP process. The County's School-Based ICM positions and the Trailblazers summer work program had another productive year in serving families. CYS traditional staff and SB ICM staff compliments remained constant throughout FY 2009/2010 with only one departure early in the FY.

Current Trends include decrease in overall placement numbers; decrease in overall dependent and delinquent referrals (both could be temporary); stable staff compliment; countywide unemployment/under-employment and decreasing school populations and limited funding that will not support any negative changes in these trends.

2-2a. Collaboration

Entity	County Engagement
County Children and Youth Agency Staff	Weekly staffings w/traditional staff, Monthly staffings w/SB ICM's, Bi-Mo. MDT meetings w/staff and community members, DPW trainings/meetings, Staff work meetings.
Juvenile Probation Staff	Probation ICM – a JP/CYS shared staff position, Planning Meetings w/CPO & CYS Director, Prob./CYS Staffings re: Trailblazers, NB, Shared Cases, FGDM/MST, CPO serves on CASSP/ICSP/ PCHS Advisory Boards.
Juvenile Court and Family Court Judges and Legal Counsel for Parties	Local Round Table Meeting (9/17/09), Truancy Planning Meetings w/District Judges, JP/CPS NB Meeting w/Judge (8/3/09), Provision of records/meetings/testimony upon legal counsel requests/subpoenas, Community Justice

Potter County

Entity	County Engagement
	Adv. Board, Sr. Judge ICSP Board Member.
Family Members and Youth, especially those who are or who have received services	Family Fun Fair (8/22/09), Monthly Parents Helping Parents Support Groups (3), Parent Ed. Classes, ICSP/Mentoring/PCHS Adv./CASSP/Foster Parent Ass. Board participation, Consumer Surveys, Teen Conference (10/16/09), 21 st Century/Mentoring/Bullying/IL/Busted programs, Truancy Workshop (1/30/10), Community Presentation on Bullying (4/22/10),
Child, Parent, and Family Advocates	Emotional/Physical Disability Advocates –ICSP Board Members, Guardian Ad Litem and Legal Counsel for Dependency Hearings, FGDM participants on behalf of family.
Mental Health and Mental Retardation service system	MH/MR/CYS Directors – a part of PCHS Management Team that participates in Management Staffings and PCHS Advisory Board Meetings, All Directors ICSP Team Members/CASSP Board Members. MH/CYS have shared responsibilities for HSS Information System and participate in SAP County-Wide Meetings.
Drug and Alcohol Service System	D&A/CYS Director – a part of PCHS Management PCHS Advisory Team that participates in Management Staffings and PCHS Advisory Board Meetings, Both ICSP Team Members and CASSP Board Members, Both Child Death Review Board Members.
Early Intervention System	E.I. Coordinator is ICSP Team Member, Established CYS/E.I. Intake and Assess. Protocol in place since 2004, E.I. Staff provides consultation for Ages & Stages, CYS worker sits on LICC Board, Two Depts. share Parent Education Curriculum.
Local Education System	SB ICM positions in all 5 School Districts, Teen Conf.(10/16/09) for all 7 th & 8 th graders, SAP County-Wide Meetings, Shared Bullying/Busted/Mentoring/21 st C. Prevention Programs in Schools, Partnership in establishing County-Wide Truancy Policy/Truancy Parent Workshop (1/2010). School Representation on PCHS Adv. Board/CASSP Board/ICSP Collaborative Board/21 st C. Adv. Board/Child Death Review Board/Mentoring Board.

Potter County

Entity	County Engagement
Community Organizations which provide support and services to children and families	CYS Director board member of Community Benefit Advisory Committee/Charles Cole Mem. Hospital & P. C. Boys and Girls Club Board & P. C. Habitat For Humanity, ICSP Team Meetings, Safety Presentations provided to pre-school programs, Mentoring Advisory Board, PHP Advisory Board, CDRT, 21 st Century Learning Centers w/array of providers including Penn State Extension and Local Businesses, CYS/Legal Training provided to Physicians (7/8/09), MDT Representation by Health Care, MH, Law Enforcement and Family Fun Fair Providers.
Current Service Providers	Private Providers such as Beacon Light (MST providers, ICSP Board Member), Dickinson Behavioral Health (CASSP Board Member), Recruitment visits from various Treatment Programs and CASSP Participants, and FFF Providers.

2-2b. Data Collection Details

Resource	Data Collected	Date of Data
Ex.: US Census	Population; poverty statistics	2008
AFCARS	Placements/IV-E	2009/2010
Human Services Software	Intakes/Plans/RA/File Maintenance	2009/9010
PEAPS	Detention/Emergency Shelter	2009/2010
In-House Tracking	Monthly Statistics of all CYS Activity, Placement (Enter/Exit Data).	2009/2010
CYS 28's	Quarterly CYS Statistics	
U.S. Census/PA ChildStat	Population/Poverty/Employment Statistics	2008/2009
National Center for Rural Health Works	Economic/Health/Education/Traffic/Crime demographics	2/2010

Potter County

2-3: Meeting Mandates

2-3a. PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure

- ❑ What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

The PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedures continue to be routinely followed since Potter County's implementation of the revised, standardized Court Petitions/ Orders in October 2008. The Court Administrator in turn provides tracking data for dependency cases to the Administrative Office of PA Courts on a monthly basis.

In response to the changes to Rules 1607 & 1800 in regards to youth under the Court's supervision but remaining physically in their own homes but not being Court reviewed, one such case has been routinely reviewed in the past FY at least every 6 months, more recently every 3 months.

2-3b. Truancy

- ❑ What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

Potter County's 'Truancy Officer' role remains intact for the CYS Dept., and the importance for 'School Success' remains a focused outcome in the 2011/2012 ICSP. The hire of a shared CYS/Probation ICM years ago for high-risk delinquent youth and then the implementation of the School-Based ICM positions in all of the Potter County School Districts (2005) reinforced the importance placed on in-home/community services toward family preservation and well-being with school attendance and performance an important focus for such families. However, as reported in last year's NB plan, it was observed that there was not a consistent response to unlawful absences and excessive tardies/lawful absences by each school district, and planning meetings had begun last summer 2009 to resolve such inconsistencies.

Great progress has been made in the past 12 months regarding an unified truancy policy and added services on behalf of families struggling with truancy. Work meetings were held on 6/11/09, 6/23/09, 10/7/09, and 12/10/09 with all five School District Administrators, two District Judges, School Based ICM's, CYS traditional truancy liaison worker and CYS Director partnering to author and approve a county-wide truancy policy that takes into account the Juvenile Act and PDE Guidelines. This task was accomplished, and the new and improved truancy policy was piloted in January 2010 for the remainder of the 2009/2010 academic year. Upon the request of the District Judges who struggled with sentencing the most appropriate and effective consequences that would deter chronic truancy, the CYS department put together a 6 hour truancy Parent Education Workshop to be used as a diversion program as needed by either the District Judges or CYS personnel toward 'reasonable efforts', and such a curriculum could be available on a monthly basis, although only one such session was held in the pilot months with three families in attendance.

PA ChildStat reports Potter County being at a 0.43% truancy rate with 20 truancy cases reported back in 2008/09. The 'welcomed' updated truancy information provided by PA Roundtable, 2008/09, reports a drop in the overall truancy number to 11 with Potter County's total school population at 2,581 students. It is this County's goal to intervene very early and

Potter County

consistently with any student showing signs of chronic truancy and to reverse the problem, and to continue to decrease overall truancy numbers and overall school drop-out rates.

2-3c. Quality Assurance Process

- What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

Potter County had a better FY year in this area. Two IV-E site audits were completed, one on 10/29/09 and another on 4/8/10, and both audit reviews found Potter County to be in 100% compliance for IV-E eligible cases and on ineligible/non-reimbursable cases. That being said, this County does not feel over-confident in this area. There are many requirements and potential pit-falls when it comes IV-E compliance. Therefore, the County will continue to be diligent in assessing and implementing good practice protocol to avoid such pitfalls.

One such step has been implemented as a result of recent audits. A paper RMTS questionnaire has been constructed for staff use in Potter County to assure the accuracy of RM hits. The questionnaire includes details of the moment's activities, case name and status and available documentation for the RM determination, and staff are being asked to complete as additional documentation for the file.

Potter County anticipates future training for RMTS and plans on participating as with any updated IV-E training. As an added comment, Adoption Subsidy eligibility remains absent on CY 60 and CY 61 forms.

2-3d. Fostering Connections

- What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

As an update to the 2010/2011 NB Plan narrative for 'Fostering Connections', file checklists of Fostering Connections requirements are now present in relevant files and was so during this Agency's recent June licensing for areas of 'supporting improving educational outcomes'; 'supporting sibling connections, kinship care and family connections'; 'supporting older youth transitions and permanency'; 'health oversight/coordination plan'; 'federal adoption tax credit'; and 'an applicable child eligibility definitions for adoption assistance'.

Practical application of some of these requirements include the implementation of the model form provided by DPW entitled, 'Annual Evaluation Form for Children in Receipt of Adoption Assistance', that provides for the required language and notification of the child's full-time school status and the Adoption Tax Credit. This annual evaluation form was used for Potter County's three adoption subsidy homes that were all renewed in 2010 and copies are present in the family files. In addition, a federal adoption tax credit notice is being provided with the adoption packets of information to newly studied families.

Educational stability was not an issue for any youth in the dependency system for FY 2009/2010 since no new youth were placed during the school year, and the remaining foster home placement is of a youngster that is not yet school age. Delinquent placements typically necessitate residential care and are not able to be maintained in home school districts. However, one such youth was transferred into a step-down foster home from residential care in the middle of the school year to a foster home that was located in his home school district to

Potter County

allow for a smoother transition to his family home a few months later. Placement location for any new placement entries will always consider the ability to locate youth in foster/kinship home setting that allow for continued attendance in their home school district. The lack of such resources or the need for residential care would be reasons for this not to happen. Through the SB ICM positions and overall good relationships with school districts, cooperation is positive for making special arrangements or assisting with effective transitional plans for youth that must need consideration for any given school district or change of school district due to out-of-home placement. It should be noted that with the anticipation of educational screens, there is uncertainty of staff time and software, or such, that may be needed and, thus, uncertain of added cost for this level of assessment.

In the past fiscal year, kinship care was not used for any Potter County youth, although kinship homes studies were requested, and one pending for the dependent youth. Safety prevented for any immediate consideration of family members and subsequent interest of extended family did not result in either home study approvals or home study completions on the family's part. Another family member has only stepped forward after a year's time and that home study is pending. Thus, there has been not the need to provide any kinship guardianship assistance payments, but would certainly be considered for any future scenarios. Neither were they any situations of sibling placements, but Potter County always attempts to keep siblings together when placement is necessary or maintains sibling visitation, as been the case for the singular child in placement with siblings living in other family homes.

The new and improved IL program for FY 2009/2010 is a step in the right direction for Chaffee and non-Chaffee youth needing the array of skills, services and support systems to promote healthy, adult independent living. One delinquent female, almost 17, with two remaining years of high school, will be completing her probation time in September, but with no family home to return to. FGDM has been used toward implementing a transitional living plan. Other youth, ages 14 – 21, are given opportunity to receive IL services, including temporary living accommodation in the IL rental home for older youth. In addition, those array of 'extended services' for older youth and personalized transition plans will be made available as appropriate and necessary through the partnering of the IL Coordinator and CYS/Probation personnel. The CWTP/IL Transition Plan Template is being used at this time for existing youth.

Required health screenings continue to be routine for all placement youth, according to DPW regulations and EPSDT protocol with health records maintained in case files for both placement and in-home youth. This record keeping includes Ages and Stages and Early Intervention information as well as mental health and D&A reports.

2-3e. Safety Assessment

- What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

Since Potter's initial implementation of the Safety Assessment and Management process in March 2009, there have been ongoing refinement of skills and the addition of required forms as available, such as the suggested 'structured case note' that includes the six domains and safety tag assessment. The model form was adopted in it's original form by this county and is now routinely used for all in-person contacts or any other contacts assessing safety. Staff are more efficient in completing safety assessment/plans and better understanding the process as it develops throughout the life of a case, connecting the dots. Safety tags for 'impending' or 'present' danger have been added to the intake form.

Potter County

During the Agency's June Licensing and safety review, overall, the county was deemed to be doing the process correctly with more human error than process error. In fact, the County was told that they were overdoing some parts, including a preliminary safety plan at the first contact, whether the safety assessment agrees or not, and continuing to fill out safety forms, when safety threats do not exist according to the assessment. And as reported last year, the county implemented an 'Action Plan' that is completed with families when a safety plan is not warranted, but rather to confirm the contact and those areas discussed and agreed upon for continued stability, even if it states that the previous conditions remain constant. Old habits are hard to break, and because Potter County had done safety plans for every contact in the past, it has been difficult not to continue this routine. It feels like you forgot to wear your coat when leaving a home and not doing a safety plan. However, practice will dictate to only use safety plans when warranted by the assessment, and the action plan for otherwise safe situations.

Also, workers must be more diligent in completing all boxes with necessary information, and safety assessments and risk assessments could be incorporated since intervals policies are very similar.

The anticipated safety assessment process for placement youth will be welcomed since the current process is not always responsive to those situations.

2-3f. Children & Family Services Act of 2006

- What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

The County remains constant in doing in-person visits with dependent and delinquent youth in placement, with a majority of such contacts conducted at the youth's placement site. This is more reasonably done with dependent youth that remain located in local foster homes, as was the case for the (4) young children that were in foster care in 2009/2010. In addition to foster home visits done by the caseworker, children were again seen during weekly/monthly family visits. A delinquent youth also spent a few short months in a local foster home as a step-down placement toward return home and also received at least his monthly CW contacts.

Generally, delinquent youth are more challenging (staff time and cost of travel) to see for monthly visits since they are often times placed in residential treatment facilities outside of the County, but visits are still accomplished by either the probation officer or shared ICM worker. Three such youth were being seen on a monthly basis at their placement locations along with Court appearances, CASSP meetings, FGDM meetings in one situation in 2009/2010 and (2) youth remain in residential care and continue to have such Agency visitation.

File maintenance for monthly visitation includes the required State's computerized tracking sheet; an in-house visitation form (colored coded green) and corresponding structured case notes. This County believes that it is within Federal and State guidelines for this Act.

2-3g. Development Evaluation & Early Intervention Referral

- What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

Potter County

Two CYS caseworkers are assigned to the majority of cases that have very young children and thus provide the Ages and Stages screenings on all children ages 5 and under despite the type of investigation (GPS & CPS) or finding. These same workers have been the contacts for the University of Pittsburgh personnel doing the ASQ study and participated in a phone conference on 7/15/09 for Phase I. All traditional CYS staff and Case Aide have been exposed to the Ages and Stages screening process and conduct A & S with their families as well, for children 5 and under.

Referrals are then made to the Early Intervention Dept. that is housed just down the hall from CYS staff and respond in a timely fashion with needy families. Their staff traditionally uses the 'Denver Developmental' tool and the 'Early Learning Accomplishments Profile' for all children with 5 domains being tested as well as the 'Ages and Stages Questionnaires'. Through established EI/CYS protocol and forms (2004), EI results are then made available for CYS file maintenance and for collaborative service delivery. In 2006/07, 23 referrals were made to EI by CYS, (28.57%) of all program referrals; 14 (39.47%) referrals in 2007/08; 26 (40%) for FY 2008/09 and 20 (12%) for the most recent FY 2009/2010. An additional 5 CYS youth were already receiving EI services.

The Early Intervention Coordinator is an active participant of the ICSP Board and was instrumental in obtaining the 'Dr. Dad' parenting series with ICSP funds that is now being used for parent education by many different organizations. Likewise, one of the CYS caseworkers is a member of EI's LICC Board.

2-3h. CFSR Outcomes and Continuous Quality Improvement

- What steps will the county take to develop or enhance a continuous quality improvement process related to the CFSR outcomes and themes?

Potter County continues to build on improvements since the 9/06 mock audit as has been addressed in previous NB Plans and have done the following in the most recent areas for the 2008 PA CFSR Review.

Youth and Family Engagement: A strength of this small, rural county is the high degree of staff attention given to families at all phases of the case process, from the 60 day assessment period (brief service) through placement and permanency planning, case management that is done in house and not contracted out. Licensing reviews have credited this agency for such attention, and as quoted in the 2009 license summary, 'Potter County caseworkers continue to see all their families frequently and provide actual casework services in their efforts to keep families intact and prevent costly out of home placements'. And reported again in the 2010 licensing summary, 'Potter County caseworkers see their families frequently and provide effective caseworker services to keep families intact.' That being said, staff provides many opportunities to engage families in their life journey with CYS, with both cooperative families and resistant family members, through regular home contacts to include all family members; to review and solicit signatures for standard safety and action plans, FSP and CPP plans, with letters of invitation to participate with the planning process; reinforcement of treatment meeting participation to assure family feedback and treating families with overall respect and candor.

Timely Permanency: Potter County has improved in this area in the past few years, with the lingering, intensive placement cases coming to resolve and newer cases being recommended for earlier permanent dispositions with some positive response from the Court. With recent

Potter County

dependency cases being reviewed on a 3-month cycle, this too, reinforces more immediate accountability on all sides for the best and more-timely results. As an example of this movement, a lingering dependency, sibling group were placed with their present legal guardian early on in 2009/2010, and the other dependent child had a goal change to adoption within 13 months of his original placement with the TRP petition filed and hearing scheduled for August 9th, an adoption family waiting in the wings.

Assessments: The implementation of Ages and Stages, routine referrals of family members of all ages for MH and D&A evaluations, SB ICM on the front lines in the educational system and having ready access to educational resources and routine gathering of all such records, including physical health records, provide needed information and opportunities for CYC staff and other supportive services to identify or seek out early diagnosis or cause of problems.

In the 2010/2011 and again in the 2011/2012 ICSP Plans, Potter County identified the need for a 'common child assessment tool' for use by CYC, Probation, SB ICM's, MH and any other interested agencies toward comprehensive information gathering and assessments. If funding is available, such a tool will be purchased and implemented in 2010/11.

Transition Planning and Preparing for Adulthood: This is a big order but progress is being made by this County through an upgrade of the Independent Living program now having a full-time staff person and increasing the range of youth served. In addition, the FGDM process is being used more by CYC, Juvenile Probation and IL staff in putting together transitional plans and making available a transitional living home for identified youth. Other character building programs such as the Trailblazers summer youth program provide opportunities for maturity and growth in participants.

Enhancing the Quality of Practice: This area will be reviewed throughout this NB Plan including staff retention and experience, implementation of the safety assessment process and early childhood assessments with added county protocol, response times to families with young children, maintaining high quality foster homes and overall improvement in the three federal outcomes.

Potter County

2-3i. Shared Case Responsibility

- ❑ What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

Potter County CYS Director and the Juvenile Chief Probation Officer attended the 12/07 Shared Case Management Forum held in State College where this concept began to be reviewed, defined and the need to rewrite policies for shared cases determined. Quite honestly, in Potter County, such cases were based on the Court Order finding of delinquent youth that were in placement and met the understood criteria of shared case management, with that 'box' checked. From there, joint services and file maintenance were done to the best of this county's understanding of the meaning of shared cases, with the county's shared ICM person assuming some of that responsibility. Clearly, the newly named 'Shared Case Responsibility' bulletin demands more from both departments and Potter County intends to be in compliance.

Therefore, a preliminary 'Shared Case Responsibility Implementation Plan' was written and signed by the CYS Director and CPO and forwarded to the Western Region on July 2, 2010 for their review.

Current practice is providing mutual services through IL, Trailblazers, SB ICM, FGDM, MST, CASSP and having a shared CYS case manager that is physically located in the Juvenile Probation Department. Local foster homes are available for both dependent and delinquent Youth.

In FY 2009/2010, three teen youth required services from both systems. All 3 actually began on the CYS side with their families requiring assessments and resulting Family Services Plans for a variety of reasons. Two of the families had been 'open' cases with CYS for the past few months/years. One youth reacted to the abuse that had gone on in his home perpetrated against his sister and committed delinquent acts, resulting in residential care through the probation department. He later transitioned into a local foster home, being monitored by both departments and then returned home to his family that continues to be active through a FSP with CYS. He is currently in the joint Trailblazers program and the family is being monitored by both agencies. In the other two cases, the teens displayed incorrigible, delinquent behaviors within the home and community; both had MH issues and both were initially placed in detention and then a new, short-term, intensive residential program with hopes of returning to their homes. One youth did, the other moved on to a longer term RTF, where she remains. CYS continues to service the long-time, family through a FSP and collaborates wherever possible with the youth's CPP generated by the Probation side. The parents will benefit from CYS sponsored services such as Parent Education and Parents Helping Parents Support Group, joint case management from both CYS and Probation, and the youth will receive monthly contacts by both departments. The other youth is now at home and participating in Trailblazers, a shared program, and will be monitored by the shared case manager position along with his Juvenile Probation Officer.

2-3j. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) – Guardian Ad Litem training

Potter County

- ❑ What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

The present process provides for the Court to assign a Guardian Ad Litem for dependency cases from the array of practicing attorneys that do not have a conflict. Such attorneys have varying degrees of knowledge and experience in representing juveniles, but overall, do an adequate job. However, a uniformed training in appropriate and consistent representation will be welcomed by the CYS department and probably by most attorneys.

The CYS worker has contacted the Potter County Bar President and the CYS Solicitor for their review and comments on expected training requirements and will respond to suggestions for implementation. Protocol and practical implementation will depend a lot on the availability of the training curriculum. Some of the required continuing legal training hours for local attorneys are provided within the county through technology, but most training requires travel to Pittsburgh and other PA locations. It is recommended that at least pilot sessions be located throughout the Commonwealth for all regional areas.

Adjustments will be made for the implementation year for monies to cover anticipated training costs for approximately 6 local attorneys.

2-3k. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) - National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) – Baseline Survey

- ❑ What steps are the county taking to prepare to address this mandate?

Potter County anticipates full compliance with this mandate with data collection beginning in October 2010 and will involve the IL Coordinator, Shared CYS/Probation ICM, Placement Workers and clerical worker. Monthly CYS statistics are already maintained and this required data could become a part of that format. Baseline population numbers for Potter County are expected to be quite small based on placement history of older youth for the past few years. Currently, there is only (1) youth in placement that will reach her 17th birthday in the next few months.

As the NB Guidelines directs, any added costs for the implementation for these database-reporting requirements will be included in the IL budget under Administrative Costs.

2-3l. Emergency and Disaster Planning

- ❑ What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

On 11/25/09, a requested Disaster Response and Emergency Medical Plan for pandemic preparedness was faxed to the County's Western Regional Office for their review in response to an October 9, 2009 DPW letter. This information included emergency response guidelines for placement youth and local foster homes (residential providers having their required disaster plans) as well as in-home families and all scenarios regarding line staff and supervisory/management personnel. This request sparked renewed interest in reviewing the County's overall emergency plan, which is comprehensive and includes all County personnel.

Potter County Human Services has an established 'safety committee' (as does the County) that meets bi-monthly, a committee that provides safety guidelines/policies and periodic safety training that has included universal precautions, H1N1, Meth labs, staff safety and other

Potter County

relevant topics. The 2009 staff reduction due to the State Budget Impasse actually served as a demonstration for protocol in staffing in crisis situations, but maintaining full service delivery to all age populations. Such protocol served useful in updating disaster plans.

The PCHS safety committee is scheduled to revisit both PCHS/County plans to determine any needed additions and to be sure all plans compliment each other for any future situations. The five federal requirements listed in the NB Bulletin will be implemented into such plans if they do not already exist.

Contracted Providers will be re-contacted regarding their existing disaster response plans.

2-3m. Time Limited Family Reunification (TLFR)

- What steps are the county taking to address this mandate?

Potter County does not receive this grant or does not intend to apply for such at this time.

Section 3: General Indicators

3-1: County Information/Background

□ Population and poverty trends

This information remains similar to the previous NB Plan report but bears repeating with some slight changes in numbers. Potter County, an 8th class County, continues to be an economically depressed county with significant unemployment rates and a gradual declining population. Previous plans have chronicled the collapse of the former national business, Adelphia Cable Co., along with the loss of other businesses from the area or drastic reduction of employment activity that include Charles Cole Hospital (employees experienced pay cut), Encon, Time Warner, Level Three, J. C. Penney, Morgan AM & T and probably other less public, small businesses. The Agriculture industry remains a depressed industry for the smaller family farms that affect upcoming generations that would otherwise continue the farming tradition if a living can be made. At a recent 'young farmer's leadership workshop' at Bucknell University, 'The Dailey Item' of Sunbury, PA reported on the reaction of agriculture students about a proposed federal law to make it illegal for young people to get summer jobs on local farms. One of our own Potter County Youth, Rea Ianson, passionately supported the need for young people to be exposed to farm life so that they have a realistic understanding of what it entails, hardships and rewards.

The 'U. S. Census Bureau, State & County QuickFacts' estimates Potter County's total population for 2009 to be at 16,714, a continued decrease from 2008 (16,720) and 2006 (17,568) and under the 'projected' population number for 2010 at 17,760 (PA State Data Center). However, the more vulnerable age populations continue to be close or exceed State percentages with children under age 5 at 5.7% compared to the State average of 5.9% ; persons under age 18 at 23.2% for Potter County exceeding the State's 22.2% and seniors, over age 65, over the State % being 18.3% compared to 15.3%. Therefore, the young and old are growing populations that must rely on a decreasing working populations that would typically be caretakers or support systems for these age groups.

Total persons in poverty for Potter County in 2008 were at 14.4%, a slight drop from 2007 and 2006 and at 20.6% for children under 5 and 18.1% for children between ages 5 – 18. All percentages that exceed State levels. (US Census Bureau)

Potter County is primarily a white community (97.5% - 2008) with the remaining population representing African American, American Indian and Alaska Native persons, Asian persons, persons reporting two or more races and persons of Hispanic or Latino origin. (US Census Bureau)

The unemployment rate for Potter increased from the June 2009 rate of 11.1% to the reported June 2010 rate of 11.7% (Bureau of Labor Statistics), the highest rate for the fiscal year, and is higher than the reported 9.2% state unemployment for May and June 2010 as reported on a recent PA radio report.

As reported in the previous NB Plan, more importantly than statistics is the sense of 'well-being' that communities possess, and this sense of well-being has elevated slightly in regards to employment opportunities and potential 'wealth' due to the drilling for Natural Gas in Potter County and neighboring counties. Gas wells are springing up along with an increase of jobs on

Potter County

drilling rigs, water transporters, lodging and food providers, abstractors, etc. The sense seems to be that there is money to be made, as is the potential for State Government through taxation. Of course, the down side includes environmental concerns for water sources, landscape, other pollutants, unwanted population growth, and worker safety to name a few. Only time will tell.

Despite overall populations gradually declining in the County, the service needs appear to be constant and at times growing. Nomadic families moving between PA and NYS and between county lines continue with 5 such families needing services: (2) kinship home studies for out-of-state youth; (1) GPS case with mother between the two states; (1) kinship placement whereas mother moved to Potter to get away from NYS to claim her sons from a Potter County Kinship home and another Potter County home needing a foster home study to care for a NYS sibling group with supervision from Potter County. In addition, approximately 19 safety checks/interviews were requested from other states and counties of adults/children residing in Potter County that were subjects of cases with other agencies. Some of these scenarios were complicated by differences in State jargon, procedures, Court Orders, obviously requiring Interstate Compact involvement.

In regards to placement patterns, dependency numbers remain low and are at an all time low at the end of FY 2009/2010 with only child in placement. One dependency petition was filed in the fall 2009 for a truancy case with dependency granted, but the youth was allowed to stay in her physical home, where she remains, and a sibling group of 3 were removed from Agency care and custody during the same FY to be with a permanent guardian.

Delinquent placements remained consistent with 2008/09 and 2009/2010 year-end data ending with 3 youth in out-of-home placements, but with activity throughout the most recent FY 2009/2010 including short-term detention/shelter stays for 4 young men, 2 short-term residential stays, 1 D&A inpatient and another boy stepping down from residential to foster care to home.

❑ Issues in annual licensing review and/or the Quality Services Review

In the June 2010 licensing review two Western Region Representatives participated and found Potter County Children and Youth Services to be in complete compliance for another year. Therefore, a full license was granted. This year's comments again recognized the frequent home visitation and 'real case work' being done by the CYF staff. Other positive programs being used by Potter County, as commented in the 2010 licensing summary, includes 'the use of county Intensive Case Managers (ICM) located in the counties school districts has also proven to be highly effective in screening children to determine need of early intervention and prevention services, and for referring children and/or families to community services to avoid direct CYF intervention,' (a program recently un-funded as a PA Promising Practice) and 'the use of FGDM' with good results (another program recently cut in funding).

Another reviewer looked solely at the implementation of the safety process for Potter County and found the Agency to be overall doing the process appropriately, but with some 'tweaks' in being more detailed in some information on forms, such as explaining why a safety threat does not exist, rather than use of repeated generalities. In fact, in some areas, the Agency was doing more than it needed to do with the addition of 'Action Plans' when assessments deemed situation to be safe.

Routinely, the CYF Director and staff work diligently to stay abreast of changing regulations and policies that affect 'good practice' and file maintenance. In some instances, Potter County requires more than DPW such as more frequent Risk Assessments, Action Plans, family

Potter County

engagement letters for FSP's and HIPPA notices. More attention has been given to increase collateral information such as behavioral reports (MH, D&A); EI/Ages and Stages; extensive Health information particularly for younger children; photos of home conditions and home checklists; visitation logs; CW placement visit forms and Prothonotary activity forms for Resource Family files. Fostering Connection tracking lists have been added as recent as June 2010.

In keeping with Fostering Connections requirements for educational planning, the Potter County CPP wording has been updated in the past FY 2009/2010 to include documentation of 'School Proximity to Placement Source' and 'Schedule for visits . . . with minimal Educational Interruption'. Similarly, supervision logs now include specific questions regarding safety decisions and services meeting safety needs.

There has been no recent 'Quality Services Review' done in this County.

□ Other Changes or Important Trends

Economic Uncertainty – This concern continues to be top on the list for Potter County in regards to the CYS budget, along with other departments within PCHS and throughout the County, for all dollars serving families, or lack of dollars, ultimately affects service delivery. At the beginning of the FY 2009/2010, (4) positions were lost, (2) in the Aging Department and (2) for all child-serving agencies, Centralized Intake. Vacancies were not filled, including (2) for CYS (supervisor and homemaker). A third CYS vacancy exists due to one of the SB ICM's persons leaving their position back at the end of the summer, and although that position was not filled during the most recent academic year, mainly due to economics, and now with the SB ICM program being an un-funded PA Promising Practice, it is expected that the SB ICM vacancy will remain.

As of the July 23, 2010 allocation letter for FY 2010/11, economic uncertainty has become a crisis for this small county, not only cutting total funding for two promising practices that have been existing NB programs by \$259,000 and new evidenced based programs (MST and FGDM) by \$114,963, but jeopardizing continuation of these services and personnel (six casework positions).

Cash flow problems and stagnant county match despite growing financial needs are persistent challenges for county government.

To further highlight this area, consumer employment and economic security remain tenuous both for working families and those families relying on governmental support. All areas of life are affected by economic uncertainty including housing, transportation, food, clothing, utilities, and the threat of losing everything. Two very recent cases come to mind with one family with 5 children becoming homeless due to money mismanagement and few landlords willing to take a risk on this dysfunctional family, and with another family living in a structure that is not worth remodeling, but they feel they do not have the resources to improve their living situation. Few CYS families own their own homes and rent whatever is available, sometimes suitable sometimes not, with utilities always unaffordable. Health care is lacking for most and has resulted in children not having the routine screenings they need. There continues to be no dental providers within the county that accept new MA patients and although the recent ICSP Dental initiative was a 'Godsend' for working families with no health insurance, underinsured, MA families continued to struggle in getting children to out-of-county dentists, since grant monies could not be used for MA covered families.

Potter County

For our aging-out population, this rural county has little to offer under-educated, emotionally fragile, immature, many times homeless young adults looking for a source of income and stability.

Population Trends - Decreases in all areas of population (school/county, dependent/delinquent referrals, placements) seem significant from a statistical point of view but not necessarily indicative of daily routine and service needs. Staff are busy, County and School populations remain needy for services and child safety remains looming every single day. Will the growing 'gas boom' return Potter County to the Adelphia days when many were dreaming of wealth and opportunities and certainly a population burst? If such a boom happens, then busy days will get even busier.

As for decreasing placements numbers, this statistic is so concerning in that if the previous family of five, whom the county respite for about a month to allow the parents to find housing changes tomorrow, suddenly, placement numbers have increased (5) fold. It only takes one costly placement to put this 8th class county budget into a whirlwind. And, in fact, a dependency petition will be filed by this agency by the time this NB Plan is submitted for a female probation placement, ending her probation term, but needing CYS placement resources because she has no home to return to.

With a newly elected Judge in January 2010, adjudication and disposition trends are untested.

Program Updates – The believed established 'Centralized Intake Unit' must be restructured due to necessary lay-offs. It is anticipated that current departmental staff (CYS, MH, MR, EI) will be trained to take on more universal intake responsibilities through the obtaining of 'a common child intake tool' that will provide for consistent, comprehensive screenings of youth entering the system and should be responsive to the recent demands of the 'shared case responsibility' bulletin. Monies have been requested through the ICSP process for FY 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 and may be sufficient, but if not, categorical monies would be needed.

The 21st Century, Cohort 4, three year grant has been extended for one more school year at a 50% decrease in grant funding. However, despite a 'shrinking budget', PCHS and the 3 participating school districts are committed to operating the program for another year at a reduced schedule, staff, etc. should carry-over monies not be approved.

The evidenced-based programs (MST, FGDM) used by Potter County continue to grow legs and show early benefits. Contract provider, Beacon Light Behavioral Health, serviced five youth through the MST program, with costs paid primarily by Managed Care, CCBH. However, the County must still anticipate possible service needs that would not be covered by Managed Care and believe the early participant numbers have actually exceeded expectations. Of these five youth, only one youth still required placement needs due to her special needs despite efforts of the MST program. Unfortunately, the recent MST allocation of \$40.00 will probably not go far for youth not covered by MA.

Five families participated in the FGDM process for FY 2009/2010 with expected referrals for the implementation year, 2-3 families already identified. A second staff has been trained to assist with this process. As anticipated, the IL populations are very good candidates for this process and one such probation youth is receiving needed permanency planning through FG. However, the 2009/10 FG expenditures (\$2,416.67) have exceeded the 2010/11 (\$997) allocation.

Potter County

Other grant-initiated programs are now being sustained through traditional staff and funding including Olweus Bullying, Mentoring and Parent Education/Support Groups. The Teen Screen grant program did end in the past FY and will now only be available for individual referrals as a support to the existing Yellow Ribbon Teen Suicide Prevention Program.

The ICSP Promising Practice Dental Grant was very successful in reaching 32 youth and if approved for FY 2010/2011, may continue for another year. However, established programs, SB ICM's and Trailblazers Summer Youth Work Program are now in jeopardy due to recent budget cuts.

Regulations, Regulations – In early June, a press conference was held by the Potter County Commissioners Heimel and Keffer and PCHS Management around a conference table laden down with government manuals, forms, regulations to demonstrate the overwhelming burdens that governmental agencies face daily to comply to lawmakers requests. Commissioner Keffer was quoted in the 'Potter County Connection' paper entitled 'Enough Is Enough' as saying "Legislators rarely see the final product of the law after the 'regs' are added, but we do, the local agencies, organizations, and governments are drowning in red tape. The banks of common sense have been removed, and bureaucracy is flooding the land." Commissioner Heimel added, 'because such a large proportion of county employees' time must be devoted to meeting administrative requirements, fewer resources are available to accomplish the goals of government programs'. PCHS Administrator, Jim Kockler, agreed, "meeting people's needs – is compromised by administrative demands of the federal and state governments. Some flexibility would help."

This theme was voiced years ago in the initial ICPS Potter County Plan where we encouraged tearing down the 'funding silos' and allowing for more flexible, individualized spending based on the County's needs. Case in point, when MST funds are not being spent out due to MA dollars, allowing those dollars to be spent elsewhere for service delivery, rather than losing the dollars.

CPS Appeals – This repeated concern took an even more bizarre turn when outdated, (way past the appeal time frame by decades) were allowed to be heard, in one case overturned. Three CPS cases with Indicated findings were appealed in FY 2009/2010 from the vintage years of 1996 (physical abuse), 1999 (medical neglect) and 2002 (physical abuse) by the perpetrators wanting their records cleared for purposes of employment, schooling, etc. The Hearing Officer subsequently overturned one of the indicated findings because, surprisingly, the Agency could not recreate evidence and bring forth witnesses for a case almost 14 years old. The child victim, now an adult woman, who did not want to relive the situation or enter into another adversarial relationship with her biological mother, the perpetrator, refused to participate in another hearing, so the Agency lost. There was no recanting of the abuse, even after all of these years.

In a letter written to Childline Director, Terry Clark, by Agency Solicitor, Thomas Shaffer, eloquently stated this worker's sentiments, "The main goal of both the present and previous CPSL is to protect the child not treat the offender." This is a standard that CYS staff are held accountable on a daily basis, appropriately so. Such laws governing mandated reporting, Citizens Review Panels, the undated Child Death Review Procedures all reiterated the responsibility of child safety and keeping the public in the loop, but yet our own system repeatedly finds identified perpetrators of serious child abuse as 'unfounded' of child abuse for an sundry of non-sensible reasons, and abusers go without a record. It is a hard pill to swallow.

Potter County

The June 8th DPW phone conference facilitated by Cathy Utz/Terry Clark regarding Childline procedures was informative and helpful. As a result of this discussion some procedures came to light, such as automatic sharing of CY 48's with indicated/founded findings to Perpetrators by Childline staff.

Collaboration – The 'Big Board' ICSP Team celebrated a year of greater collaboration of the original ICSP Board members, the Family Collaborative Counsel (the original FSSR Collaborative Board of the late 90's) and advisory boards for the Olweus Bullying Grant and 21st Century Grant. This in conjunction with a County Human Services Structure that has existed for more than 20 years demonstrates this County's commitment to an integrated social services system that strives toward countywide collaboration. Examples and results of such collaboration include the annual, signature event, Family Fun Fair that drew 500 attenders last year; the dental initiative; School-Based ICM personnel (PCHS/Schools); Trailblazers (Court, Probation, CYS); Mentoring (Court, CYS, Community); 21st Century (PCHS, School, Penn State) and the most recent county-wide Truancy Policy (School, District Judges, SB ICM, CYS).

This County and services have survived 'tough economic times' in large part due to collaboration and will continue to use this formula for future success toward the selection and implementation of a 'common child assessment tool' and other programs for families as funding becomes available.

Youth in Transition – Progress was made in this area with a full-time staffed program for Independent Living youth and the acquisition of a IL rental house. Youth, ages 14 – 21, placement and in-home, can benefit from educational programs, work experiences, career selection, high school diplomas/GED's, survival skills/housing, toward healthy, successful adult living.

Rural Challenges – Potter County, 'God's Country', is a beautiful place to live, a safe place to raise a family, but family isolation due to no public transportation (1081 square miles); limited health providers; limited jobs and public housing; poverty; rise in social problems (D&A, domestic violence, sexual offending); limited specialty services and resources; lack of in-county higher education institutions/vocational institutions; lack of in-county juvenile treatment facilities and the lists goes on results in clusters of risk and safety factors that result in serious neglect/abuse of children of all ages. (It should be noted that for FY 2009/2010, CYS staff travel was at 50,149.8 miles and PCHS travel on behalf of CYS families totaled approximately 2,727 miles.)

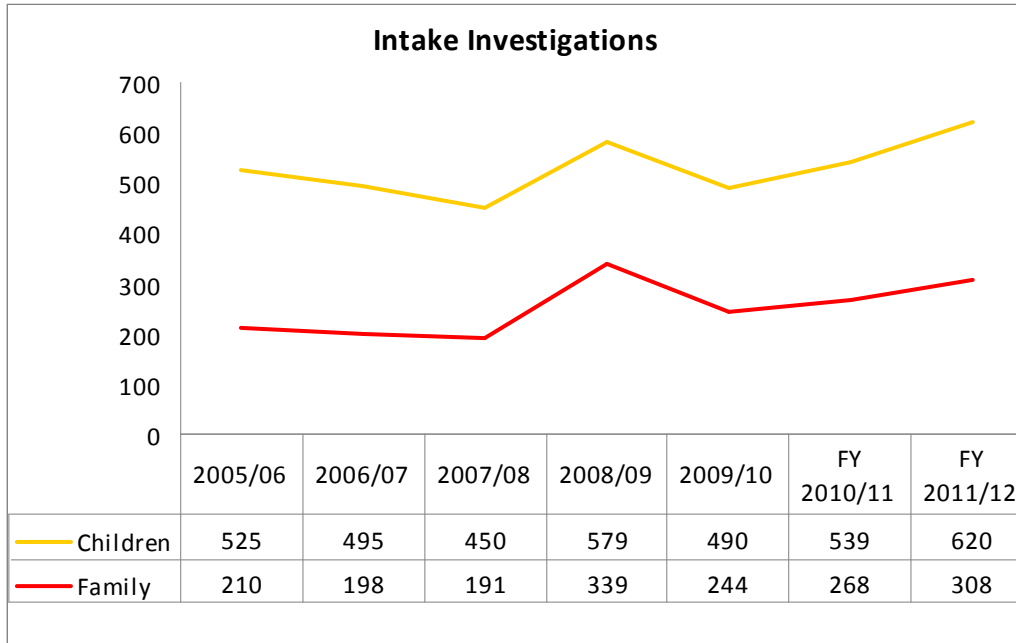
With challenges build character, resilience and creativity. Therefore, this County meets its mandates and does more when possible, but rural service delivery is becoming harder with budgets doing down and demands going up. And to repeat a necessary reminder, it takes only one expensive, unexpected placement to put a small county budget into overmatch!

Staff Composition – A positive trend for the County is the stability of staff composition with only one departure of a SB ICM, CWEL student who left CYS for a more specialized, MH position in FY 2009/2010. The newest worker now has almost 3 years tenure with CYS and others many years of experience.

3-2a. Intake Investigations

Potter County

Insert the Intake Investigations Chart (Chart 1) and discuss any highlighted trends. Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.



For this small county, a very large number of case activity for all workers are their number of intake investigations or what is termed in Potter County, 'Brief Services'. Some such intakes result in the classification of 'Information and referral', but even these types of calls can result in some activity by the caseworker, such as a courtesy interview for another county or meeting with a family to determine their need of other services rather than by CYS. However, as regulated, the staff have up to 60 days to investigate, assess and determine rather the brief service can be closed with no present or impending danger or need for continuing CYS services on a short-term basis or opened with a FSP or possibly a CPP under extreme cases. It should be noted that 'present danger/impending danger' are not the typical findings for this county's intake investigations. Rather, dirty houses, poor hygiene, infestations of some kind of varmints, questionable disciplines, lack of supervision, lack of medical care or school attendance are more likely. All are legitimate concerns for a CYS Agency, but sometimes more challenging to determine the true risk of dependency, the longevity of the problem, the candor of the family wanting a quick exit by CYS workers. Thus, is the importance of the intent of the safety process to truly assess the underlying issues rather than just treating the symptoms?

FY 2009/10 shows a return to a more normal level of overall intakes compared to a spike in FY 2008/09 that was not indicative of any unusual trend other than perhaps a few more truancy referrals and requests for 'courtesy interviews' on behalf of residential youth or the presence of nomadic families. With the termination of the 'Centralized Intake Unit' at the beginning of the past FY, the intake process returned to a traditional CYS worker taking and processing the initial phone call/walk-in, providing the information to the Director for assignment and the investigation beginning with a home visit, SB ICM interview or whatever is necessary. Response time continues to be determined by the safety and risk tags, but office policy dictates that any intake involving a young child must result in a face-to-face contact within 2 hours of the assignment, whenever possible.

Potter County

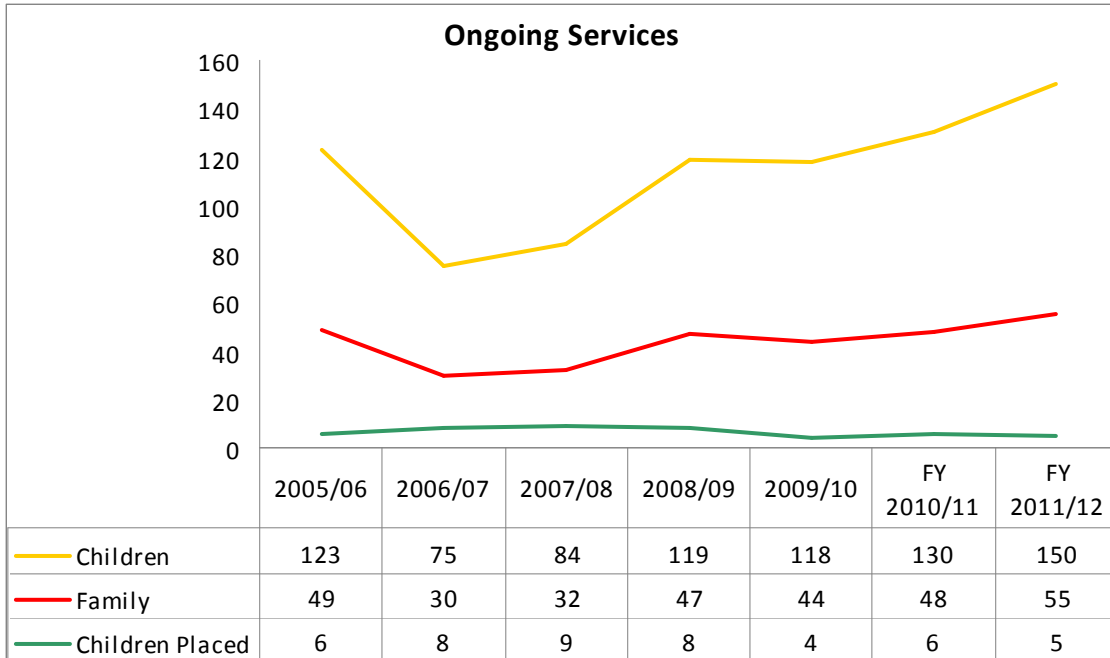
Other factors influencing numbers of intakes are the School-based ICM personnel located in all of the five school districts as first responders and their intervention at the school environment, and sometimes out into the community, may influence how that situation is handled. For MH crisis, it has resulted in fewer crisis calls, as could be the case for CYS crisis situations. However, a gradual increase in overall intakes could be seen due to the SB ICM's being first responders in five different communities. In last year's NB, the anticipated countywide truancy policy, that now exists, presented the possibility of increased truancy referrals. From the final truancy policy draft written in 12/09, (11) truancy referrals were received. Therefore, it is expected for an increase of truancy referrals for the upcoming full academic year. Similarly, with the IL program expanding, 'active' IL participants have increased in the past FY (12 at the end of the FY 2009/2010) and such additional intakes will probably continue throughout the implementation year.

Declining county/school populations would suggest that referrals would gradually decline. However, as previously stated, nomadic families and demands for needed services on behalf of neighboring counties/states continue to influence the CYS populations (18 such intakes), along with unpredictable CPS/GPS needs. All of the above could result in unpredictable trends, possible increases. Therefore, for the implementation year, Potter County is predicting a 10% increase for intake numbers and a 15% increase for the NB year.

Potter County

3-2a. Ongoing Services

- Insert the Ongoing Services Chart (Chart 2) and discuss any highlighted trends. Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.



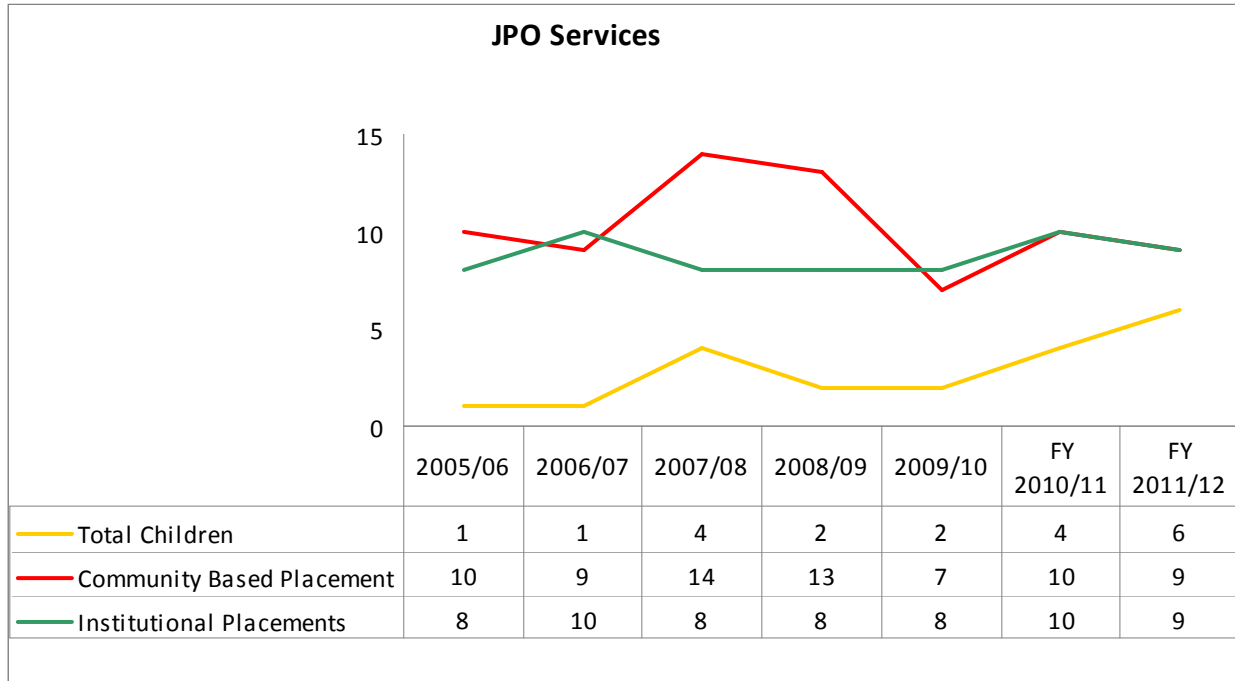
There is little change in this area from last year in regards to open, in-home cases. Due to a selection of in-home/community/school services and a broad array of referral categories that rural counties receive, and not all at the level of 'impending danger or present danger', caseworkers are able to resolve a majority of 60 day brief service investigations to a safe conclusion without the need of opening the case with a FSP. Therefore, 'ongoing service' numbers noticeably drop compared to intake numbers. Likewise, total numbers of youth served throughout CYSP sponsored/supervised programs are much larger in numbers than actual 'open cases'. Prevention and educational programs such as parent education/support groups, mentoring, school events (teen conference), school-based ICM programs, ICSP Family Fun Fair can provide program exposure to hundreds of family members but not result in need for ongoing services. Therefore, 'ongoing services' or 'open services' is another unpredictable number for future FY's that could see an increase should overall investigative numbers rise and present with more serious problems at the onset of the case. Anticipated increased truancy referrals could be one category that would result in increased case activity. Therefore, 'ongoing services' numbers are being predicted at a 10% increase for the implementation year and a 15 % increase for the NB year.

Dependency placement numbers decreased in the past FY and will be further discussed with relevant indicator charts.

3-2a. JPO Services

Potter County

- ❑ Insert the JPO Services Chart (Chart 3) and discuss any highlighted trends. Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.



Potter County is defining the 'total children' for JPO Services as traditional 'shared case management' youth and included (2) youth for FY 2009/2010; a girl and boy, both teens, both starting out on the dependency side. The young lady is a child of an open CYS family due to neglect, and the boy, a part of a 60-day CYS investigation due to his behaviors and an ineffectual single parent, resulting in a short-lived FSP. Both youth displayed behaviors that resulted in delinquent acts, and both ended up in detention/short-term residential through the probation system. The young man has since returned home with MST beginning services, and the young lady, needing more intensive residential care, is now at Erie Cornell Abraxas.

These numbers do not take into account the group of children that participate in the Trailblazers program (9 currently) that are at-risk youth from both CYS and Probation populations, but are not necessarily receiving case management per se. With the program now not being a PA Promising Practice, future service delivery must be reassessed.

With the onset of the revised 'shared case management responsibility' bulletin, the predicted numbers for the next two FY's have been increased, and perhaps understated.

As for JPO placement activity, overall activity has remained similar to FY's 2007/08 and 2008/09. However, only three youth remain in placement at the beginning of FY 2010/11, a stable number, with no extreme changes for the past year. Of the three remaining youth, one male continues from the previous fiscal year, a juvenile sexual offender requiring ongoing residential care and treatment. However, his discharge to a grandparent has very recently occurred on 7/28/10. The second youth, a 16 year-old female teen, has been a high end user of placement services since her original placement back in 6/2005. She has been in all levels care, with the exception of a YDC, and returned home twice to only return to placement. She, too, was in placement at the end of FY 2008/09, as well, but had her most recent return home in FY 2009/10 for a short period of time. She will be completing her probation term in September,

Potter County

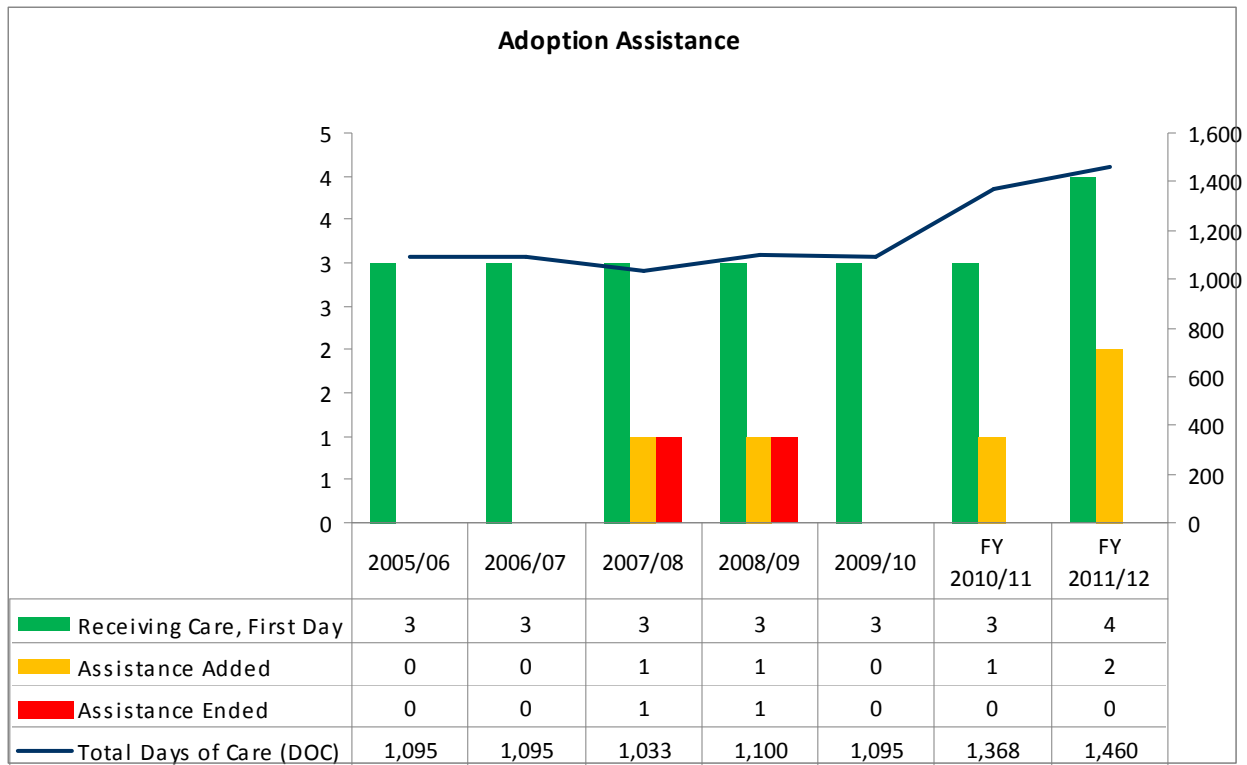
but cannot return home at that time. The FGDM process is being used to determine a permanency plan for her, and she will probably be transferred to a foster care home through dependency. The third youth is one of the 'shared case management youth' that required continued placement.

The good news for FY 2009/10 was no secure residential/YDC placements for probation youth were needed. However, (8) youth required detention stays, (2) foster home placements and (5) community residential.

In summary, although overall probation placements have leveled off over the past few years, three at the end of the FY, delinquent youth are still the highest population requiring costly secure and non-secure residential care and treatment, and numbers can fluctuate very quickly in regards to increased need. Therefore, Potter County must continue to anticipate higher numbers of placements to safeguard potential budgetary needs. Recent examples include a young man requiring \$300+ per day secure residential care for much of FY 2008/09 and the female teen that continues to use placement services spanning a 6-year period. Short-term, diagnostic stays, detention days, boot camp, in-home electronic monitoring are other customary expenses for probation youth in any given fiscal year. And it only takes one costly placement to cause havoc for a small county budget.

3-2b. Adoption Assistance

- Insert the Adoption Assistance Chart (Chart 4) and discuss any highlighted trends. Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.



Potter County

Potter County has provided for three youth through Adoption Subsidy for the past five years, although the three children have varied. Some earlier youth have since aged out including two brothers. The current compliment of subsidy recipients includes a younger sibling group (10 year old boy, 7 year old girl) and a 15-year-old female. The brother and sister were not adopted by the same family by the choice of their maternal grandparents who felt they could only raise their grandson. Fortunately, the young girl bonded with a subsequent foster home, who became her adopted parents, and she is thriving. The teenager was adopted by her foster family as a young child, and she, too, is doing very well with her adoptive family. All three children come from varying degrees of abuse, neglect, tragedies and have resulting behavioral and emotional problems and the older child, a medical condition that has required surgeries and specialized treatment.

The four youth described as possible subsidy candidates in last year's plan have had significant progress toward permanency planning. The young sibling group of 3 was placed in the private guardianship of their foster mother (10/09) whom they were very attached. The FGDM process was used to sort out possible resources with neither the biological mother nor other extended family willing or able to care for and raise these children. The biological father remains incarcerated for sexual perpetrator. The guardianship arrangement was preferred to allow for the biological mother to still have a relationship with the children, and maybe future reunification some day.

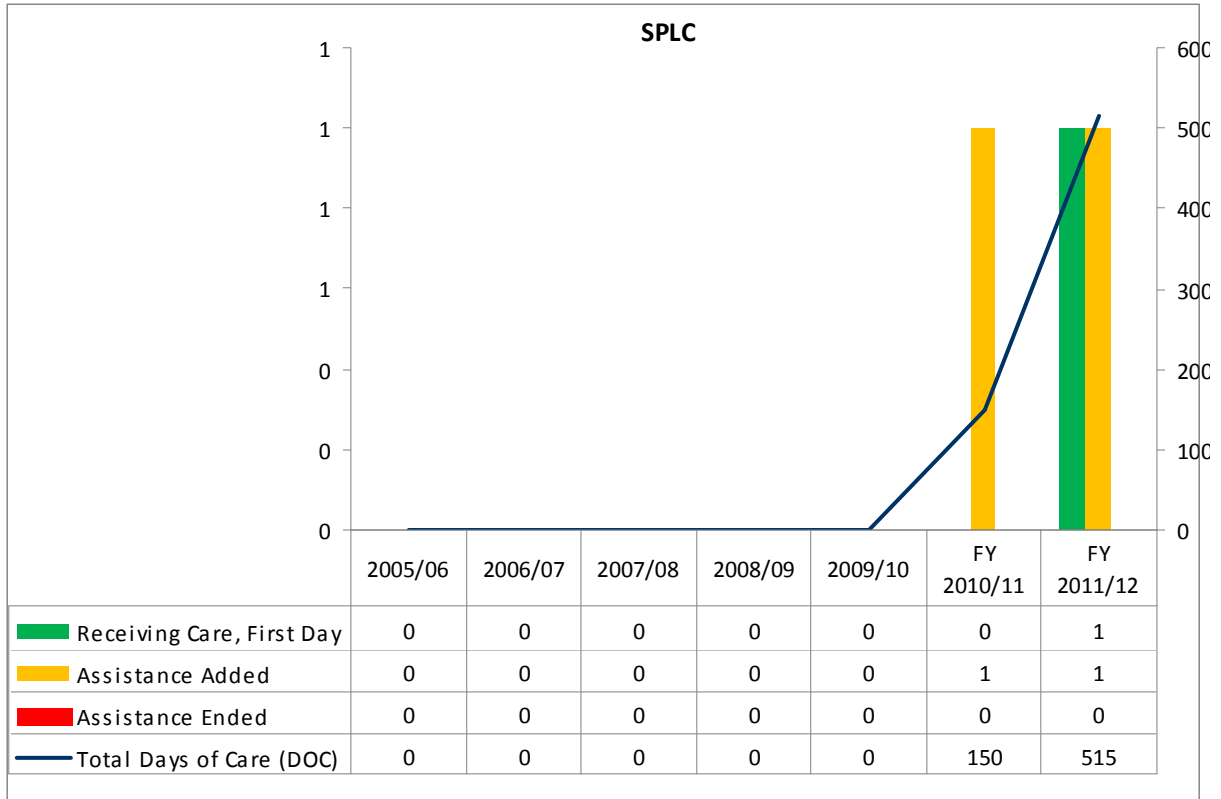
The fourth child, now a toddler, was seriously physically abused and both parents are now in jail. The Court approved a goal change to adoption in May 2009, 11 months after initial placement, and a TPR petition filed in July. Extended family have been notified throughout his months of foster care with varying degrees of interest and follow-through. Only one family remains in the running, with a home study pending from Georgia. The anticipated adoptive family is the child's one and only foster family whom the child is very attached and they with him. Due to his medical needs (shunt) as a result of the physical trauma to his skull adoption subsidy will be recommended.

For the NB year, the possibility of another two youth are being reported as well as existing subsidies remaining active.

3-2c. Subsidized Permanent Legal Custody (SPLC)

- Insert the SPLC Chart (Chart 5) and discuss any highlighted trends. Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.

Potter County



Currently, there are no Subsidized Permanent Legal Custody arrangements, or have their been in the past. However, the County must continue to anticipate the possibility. Quite honestly, this county has had past possibilities with three different foster homes having children where family reunification was not an appropriate option, but the foster families were willing to accept private guardianship of the youth through a Court proceeding. Two of the older youth had Social Security benefits that could financially support such arrangements, and both youth aged out into other living arrangements.

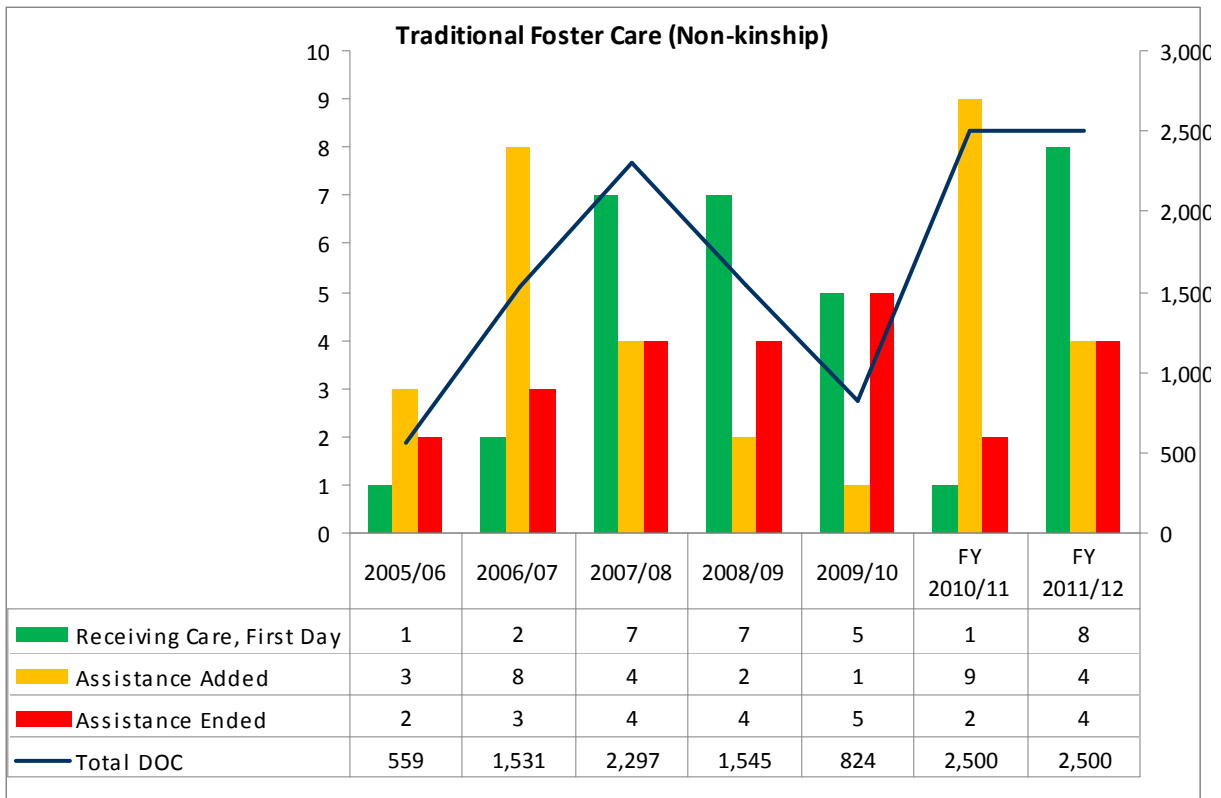
A more recent scenario (FY2009/10) involved a young sibling group of 3 who had been fostered for a couple years with hopes of parent reunification with the mother, dad incarcerated. However, time past without any significant progress on mother's part, and she and significant other chose to accept other living arrangements and goal for the children, preferably with the foster mom, whom the children had bonded. Thus, a private guardianship was approved. In this case, the children were very good candidates for adoption by adoptive families, and thus, did not meet the eligibility definition for SPLC.

Older probation placement youth seem to be more likely to meet the need for SPLC. Such is another female teenager ending her probation term in September, but cannot return to her family home. A community family seems to be interested in providing a permanent home, but the County will have to see how this plays out. Thus, the potential exists for future SPLC arrangements.

3-2d. Out-of-Home Placements: County Selected Indicator

Potter County

- ❑ Insert charts related to out-of-home placements where trends are highlighted (Charts 6-13), and discuss the trend(s). Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.



For this indicator, Potter County has chosen to include both dependent /delinquent youth using county foster homes for FY2009/2010 and for the past two FY's, more youth are leaving foster care than entering. For FY2008/09, two dependent sibling groups required foster care along with two short-term teens (male and female). Both sibling groups have since left foster care within the last two FY's, two adopted and the other group in a permanent guardianship home. The teen youth left foster care as well, one aging out to her own household, and the other teen returning to family members. Toward the end of FY 2008/09, an infant male came into foster care due to serious physical abuse. He remains in care with a goal of adoption, and is the only child in foster care to begin the implementation year.

Three delinquent youth received foster care from county foster homes in the past two years. Two of the youth aged out of care in FY 2008/09. In fact, both youth were over age 18 while still in foster care to allow for permanency plans to develop, one college, the other to reunite with family.

The third delinquent youth is the repeated user of placement services, and was in two different foster homes spanning between the two fiscal years. She left foster care in FY 2009/10 to go into other placement environments.

The only other foster care activity for FY 2009/10 was a male probation youth stepping down from residential care to return home via a short-term foster care stay.

Potter County

In summary, a total of (4) dependent youth and (2) delinquent youth used foster care in FY 2009/10 with five of these youth exiting foster care in the same FY. Only one child remains in foster care at the beginning of FY 2010/11.

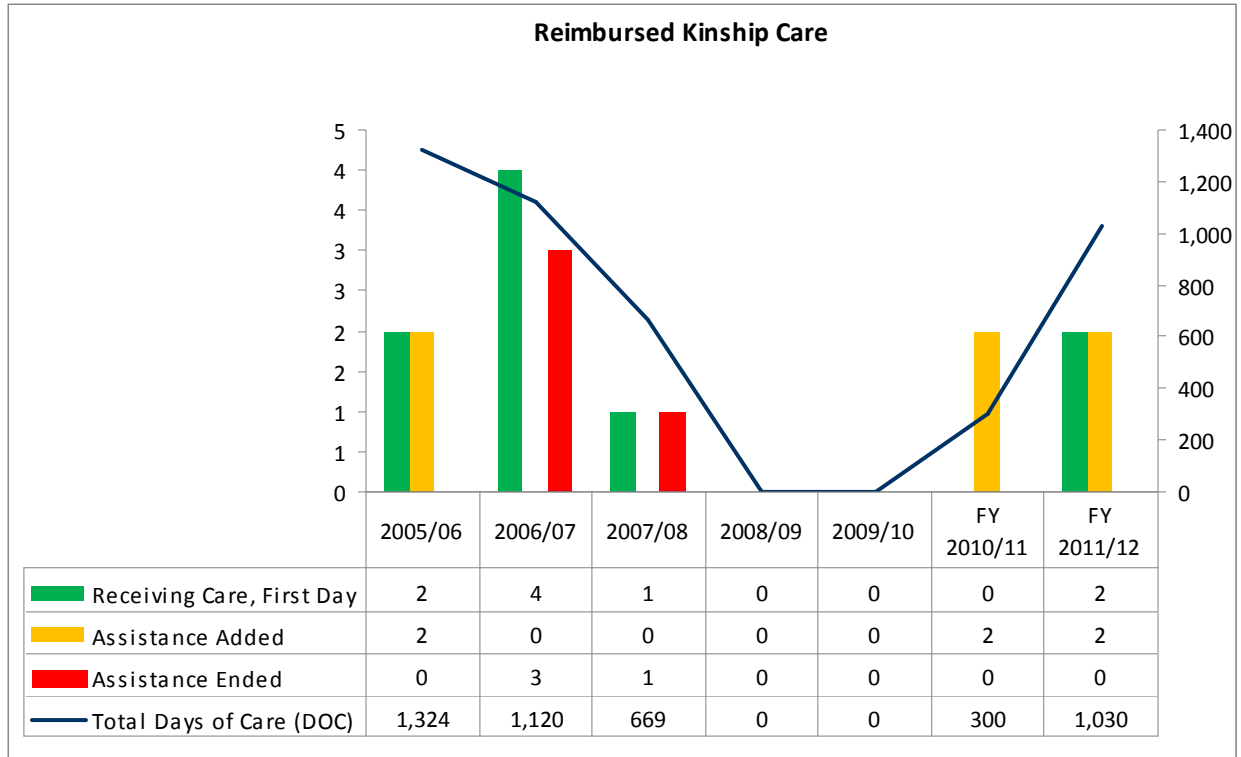
As for the probation youth in foster care, the Court and Probation Department have used county foster homes more frequently in recent years as both a step-down placement or for overall placement needs whenever suitable.

For the implementation year, the Agency is preparing for a spike in foster care, with one current GPS family of five having housing problems and could result in placement, with other possibilities including delinquent youth. The number is projected to remain fairly constant in the NB year. It is hoped that these numbers are over-stated due to the use of temporary respite care and other in-home services.

3-2d. Out-of-Home Placements: County Selected Indicator

- ❑ Insert charts related to out-of-home placements where trends are highlighted (Charts 6-13), and discuss the trend(s). Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.

Potter County



Potter County has historically searched out extended family members (biological, step, adopted) for youth in need of substitute care taking whether it be for a short respite period or a more permanent custodial arrangement when a child's safety was in question and living arrangements outside of the parent's home was necessary. This was frequently done to avoid the need to take legal custody of the child and is in keeping with the philosophy of 'family preservation', maintaining children with people that they know and trust. Upon the passing of the Kinship Care regulations, home studies were and are conducted, when legal action was necessary, to determine compliance and appropriateness of family members as safe and caring care takers on behalf of children in the legal custody of the Agency requiring services and financial support on behalf of these children.

Kinship home studies have been done for in-county homes, as well as requests from other counties/states, and such was the case this past FY 2009/10 for two states, Virginia and Mississippi. A Potter County family was interested in caring for their young cousin in placement in VA, and, thus, a Kinship home study was requested through Interstate. The family was subsequently approved, but the child never arrived in PA, planning still pending. Fortunately, for Potter County, this home has become a foster home resource for Potter County families. The second home were interested great-grandparents for their young great grandson. They, too, were studied and approved, but Mississippi did not choose them as the placement site at this time. It should be noted that the differences in procedures and expectations between States can result in confusion and frustration from a County level, and it seems that it is not unusual for homes to be studied and then not used, or not in the way anticipated. Thus, a lot of time and energy is spent for no real placement results.

Case in point is a situation described at it's beginning stages in last year's NB. A Potter County maternal Aunt and Uncle were studied as a kinship home at the request of NYS for 2 – 3 nephews due to serious neglect problems with Bio parents in NY. The kinship home study was

Potter County

expedited and approved, but for whatever reason, NY did not retain custody of the boys and custody was transferred directly to the Aunt and Uncle for two of the boys, the third child remaining with parents. (Later, NY explained that the kinship home became impatient and filed for custody and was granted.) However, a subsequent NY order specifically set provisions prohibiting any unplanned return of the boys to the mother without Court involvement. Well, the boys came to Potter County and this Agency voluntarily provided supportive services to the kinship home for 6 months with the situation status quo. However, as soon as Potter County closed services due to stability, bio mom moved to Potter County, and aunt and uncle put the boys with mom due to Aunt's declining health. Upon notification to NY by this Agency, a hearing was held reminding bio mother of things to be done for such return, with Potter County strongly supporting continuation of the kinship arrangement. However, Potter's voice was lost in the shuffle and boys are now back with mom by virtue of simply moving to another state, it seems. Such a sibling group could be potential candidates for future placements.

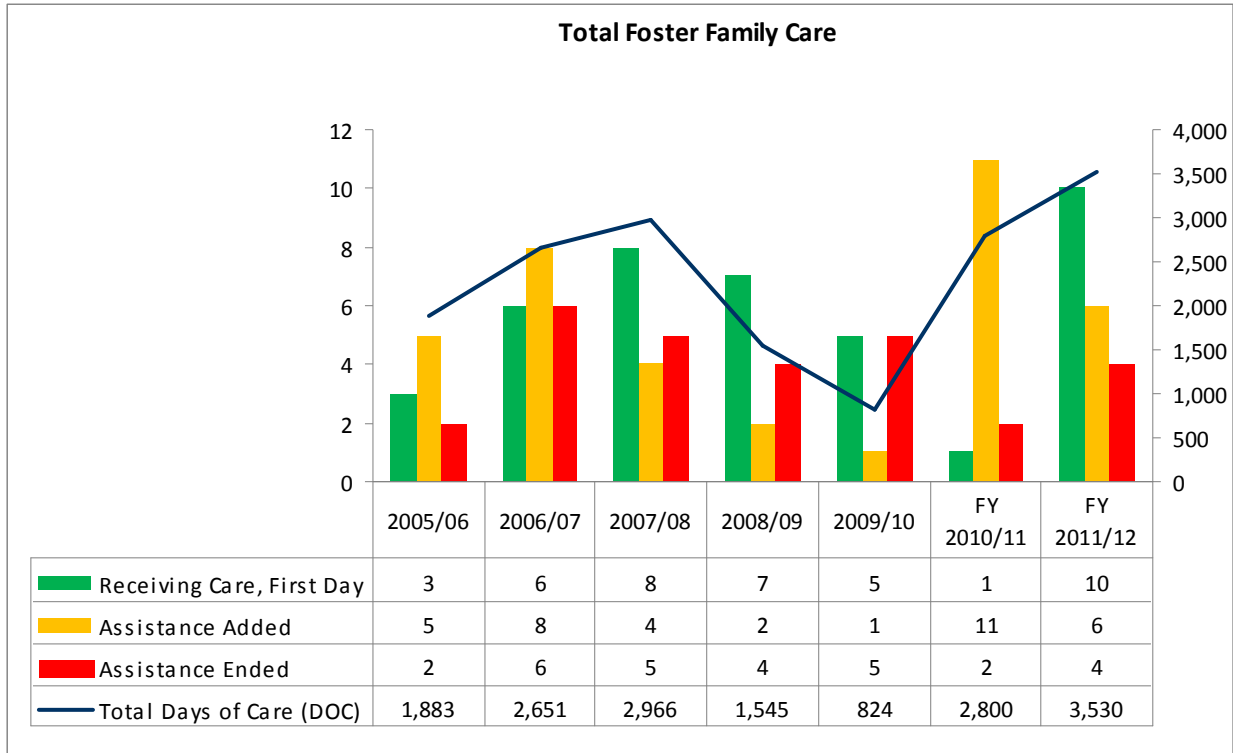
The last kinship home placements for Potter County youth were back in 2004/05 - (2) and 2005/06 - (2). All four youth became adopted or placed in the permanent guardianship of their Kinship provider and were closed from this category, (2) now being adoption subsidies. There have been no Potter County Kinship Home placements in FY 2008/09 or 2009/2010. The infant placed in traditional foster care in FY 2008/09 had been seriously injured despite interaction with local extended family members, and therefore, for safety reasons, he was not placed with family members at that time. Subsequently, in accordance with regulations, family members were notified and two aunts began the home study process, but neither completed the process or were considered suitable for approval. A third family member came forward after a year of placement from the state of Georgia and that study is pending. However, well-being would now suggest that this toddler has since bonded with his current caretakers, and through their care, would not be exposed to potential, non-protective family members.

Kinship care (formal or informal) will always be a primary resource for any placement youth when appropriate, and (2) possible kinship placements are projected for the Implementation Year and an additional (2) for the NB Year.

3-2d. Out-of-Home Placements: County Selected Indicator

- Insert charts related to out-of-home placements where trends are highlighted (Charts 6-13), and discuss the trend(s). Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.

Potter County



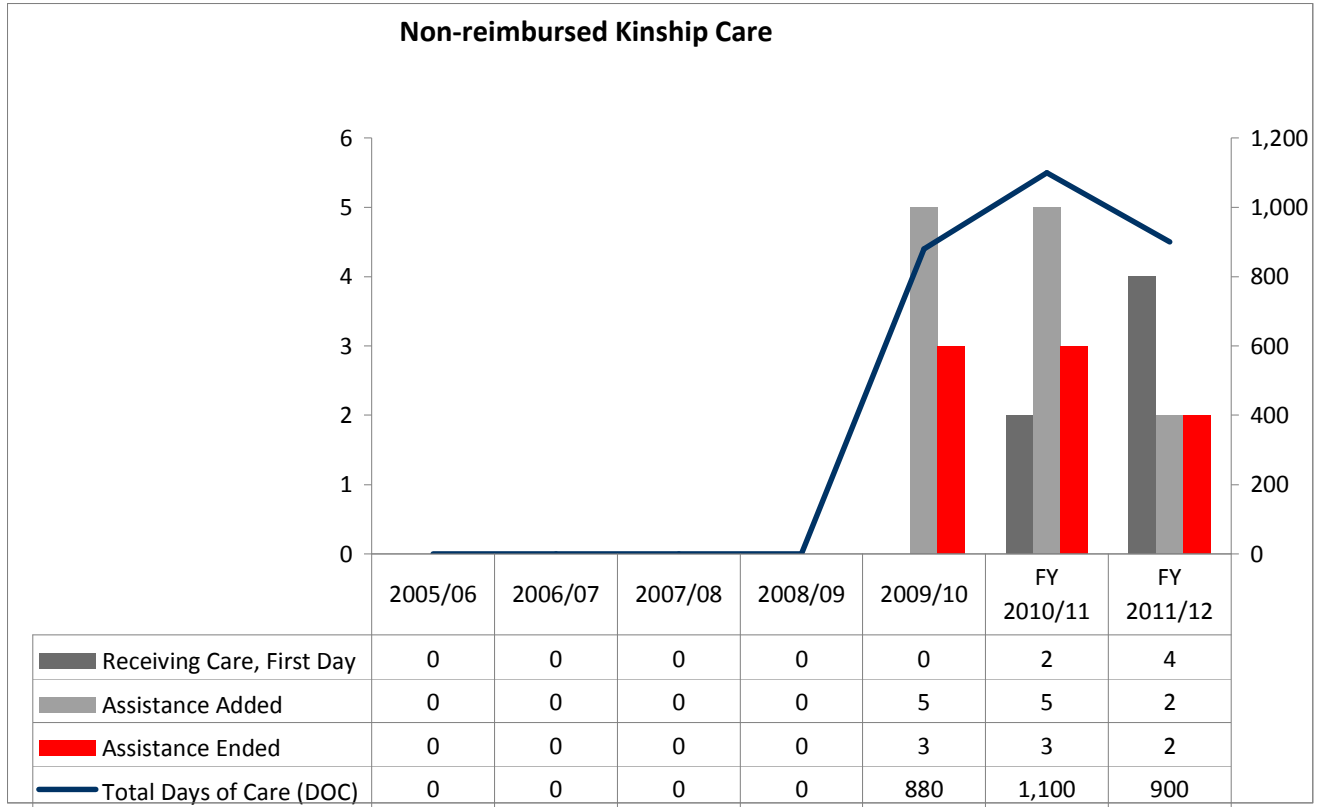
Foster care is a great budgetary and program value for both dependent and delinquent youth whose needs can be met in a family setting. In addition, local foster homes allow youth to remain in their own County and many times in their home community and school district.

Potter County operates its own foster care program, and although active, approved homes have decreased in numbers in the past decade due to foster parents retiring, some deaths or newer homes not up to the task, there continue to be approximately 10 foster homes available for a variety of placement needs. The Regional Representative for the June Licensing process made a foster home visit, and the high quality of the foster home was noted.

3-2d. Out-of-Home Placements: County Selected Indicator

- Insert charts related to out-of-home placements where trends are highlighted (Charts 6-13), and discuss the trend(s). Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.

Potter County



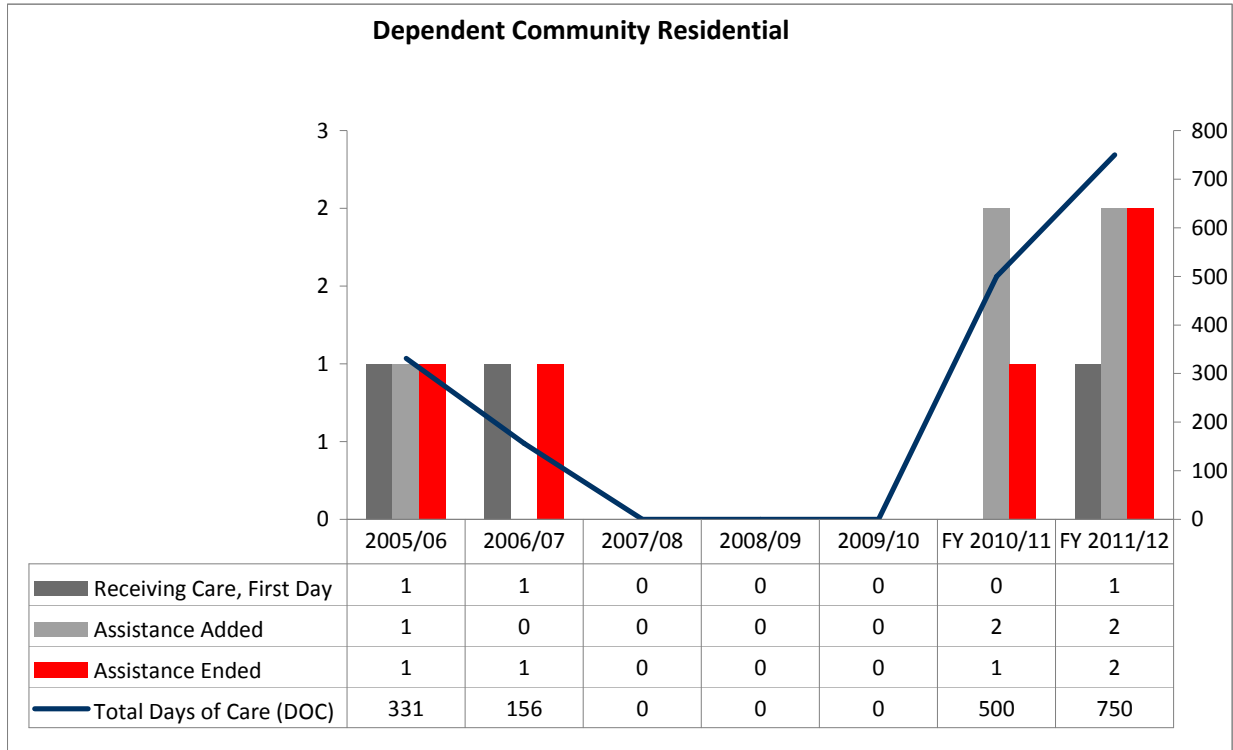
As earlier discussed, extended family members are routinely searched out for respite/emergency/temporary care of children in unsafe or unwanted situations. Therefore, non-reimbursed kinship homes do occur in Potter County, more so for CYIS identified youth than for probation youth, although has happened for both populations. On the probation side, a juvenile offender was permitted to stay at a grandparent's home (FY 2008/09) when it was no longer safe for he to be around family members in the parent home, until Court disposition. As for dependent youth, more recently (FY 2009/10) two GPS families were given assistance from extended family members. In both cases, grandmothers opened their homes to grandchildren while parents resolved D&A/housing issues. A sibling group of 2 young children live with their maternal grandmother in Potter County, and Potter County CYIS has a FSP with grandmother/parents to provide supportive services to the kinship home and treatment expectations to parents for eventual reunification. A sibling group of 3 young children have gone back and forth to a paternal grandmother in Ohio due to their parent's instability, where they are currently staying, with both parents in jail, and grandmother very recently receiving temporary legal custody. Neither situation required Court action by CYIS since families made their own arrangements with Agency support.

Potter County anticipates additional activity in this area for both the implementation and NB years since it is a practical resource for any child needing care outside of the parent home.

3-2d. Out-of-Home Placements: County Selected Indicator

- ❑ Insert charts related to out-of-home placements where trends are highlighted (Charts 6-13), and discuss the trend(s). Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.

Potter County

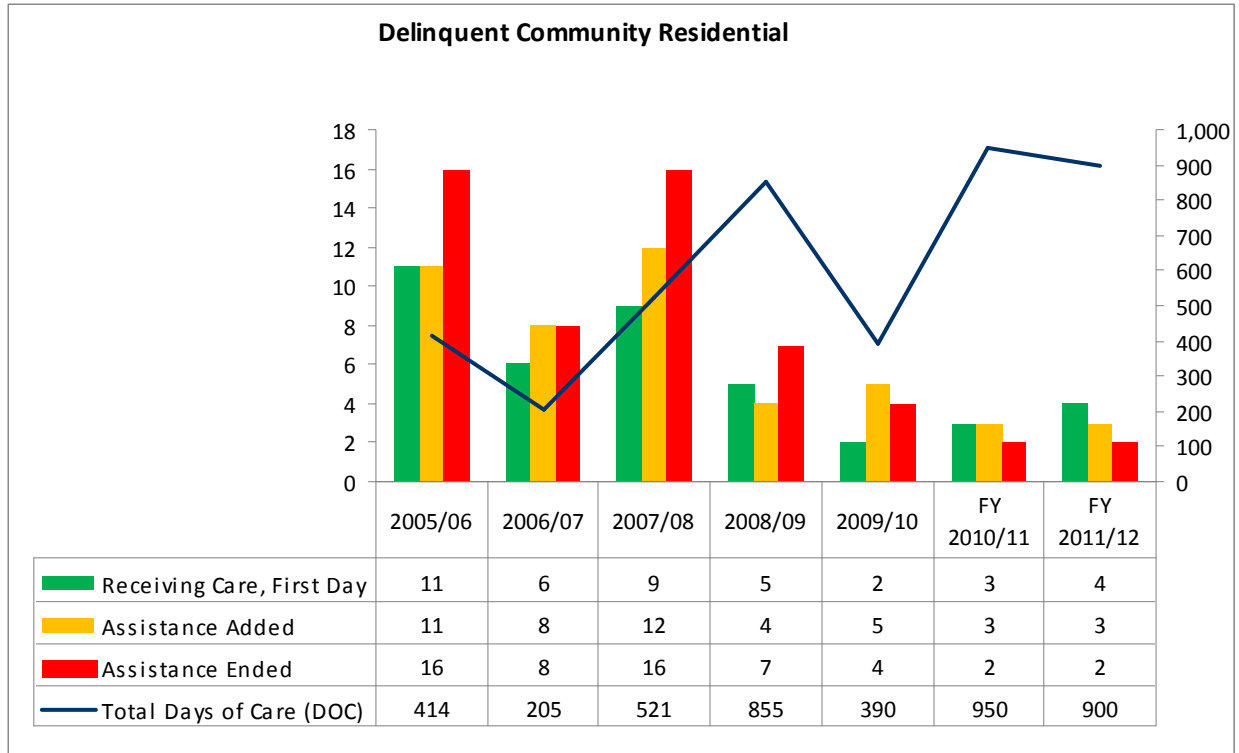


Fortunately, Potter County has had another FY where Dependent Residential Care was not required; placement needs being met through foster care. Therefore, there have been no dependent residential placements since FY 2006/07. However, the potential is always there for dependent youth having more serious problems that cannot be addressed in a family setting. In-home services such as MST, MH Family-Based/Wrap-Around services have helped greatly to stabilize troubled youth that could otherwise need out-of-home care with specialized treatment services. Therefore, Potter County projects the possible need for such services for up to (4) youth in the next two FY's.

3-2d. Out-of-Home Placements: County Selected Indicator

- I
- Insert charts related to out-of-home placements where trends are highlighted (Charts 6-13), and discuss the trend(s). Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.

Potter County



The Juvenile Probation Department and the Court continue to be receptive to community-based residential placement options for delinquents needing placement whenever possible. Therefore, the numbers in this category for the past few fiscal years have shown similar numbers, with decreases in overall numbers of delinquent placements in the past two fiscal years.

At the beginning of FY 2009/10, two probation youth were in residential care, both due to sexual abuse in their homes; one an offender of multi-victims and the other boy a witness of incest between his younger sister and their father. The first boy was very recently discharged to an informal kinship home. The later boy returned to his family home with his father now in prison for sexual assault crimes.

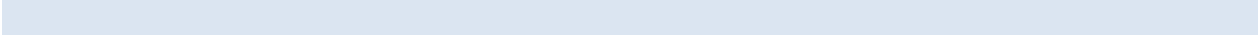
During the year, (5) youth entered residential care, three boys of whom were short-term placements. One young man returned to placement for a couple months as a response to a probation violation then returned to his mother's home now living in another county. The second boy was placed in shelter, then a D&A facility and since returned home. The third boy became threatening in his home, incorrigible and spent time both in shelter and a new STAR, short-term RTF program through Beacon Light Behavioral Health and recently returned to his parent's home with the support of MST.

The other two placements involved teenage girls who remain in placement. The first is one who has been in placement on and off since 2005 and is now in Centre County Youth Service Bureau (Stormbreak) looking to complete her probation time in September. A permanent home is being searched out for her that now appears to be foster care. The second youth has only begun her stay at Erie Abraxas RTF program after being in the short-term STAR program. She had an earlier MH placement at KidsPeace but became involved with probation services only after a short stay at home.

Potter County

Thus, only three youth remain in residential care, two being RTF placements, at the beginning of the implementation year, one more than last year at this time. Historically there has been activity for the probation population in the area yearly. The question is always how many? At what cost?

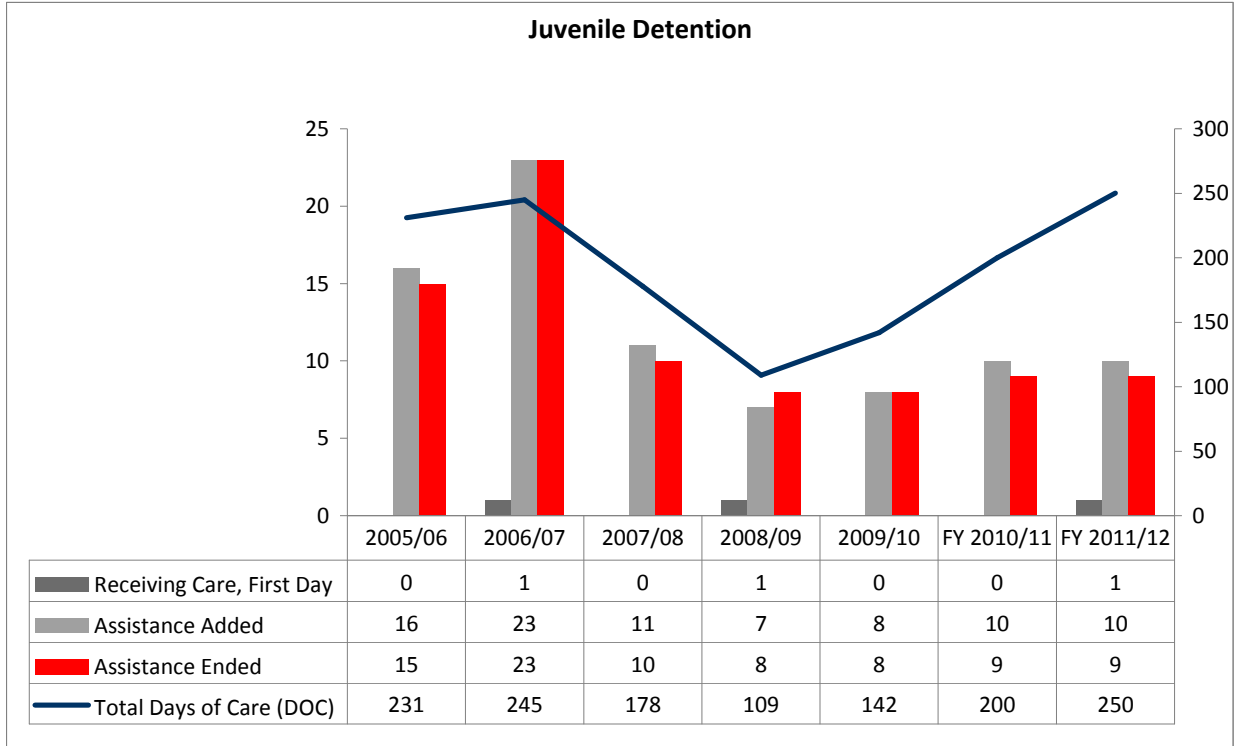
RTF programs continue to closely screen for acceptable/appropriate candidates for their programs, making it more challenging to find an receptive facility for youth with histories of aggression, serious mental health conditions or convictions and multi-placements, the very youth that counties need placement facilities for. With a 'rumor' of only one secure RTF in the State, the question remains what to do with their population of youth? Of course, institutional facilities such as YDC's and secure residential that for the most part are unaffordable to counties of any size, become the primary options. In FY 2008/09, one such secure residential placement was used for a Potter County youth and was very costly to the County, as has been past YDC placements.



Potter County

3-2d. Out-of-Home Placements: County Selected Indicator

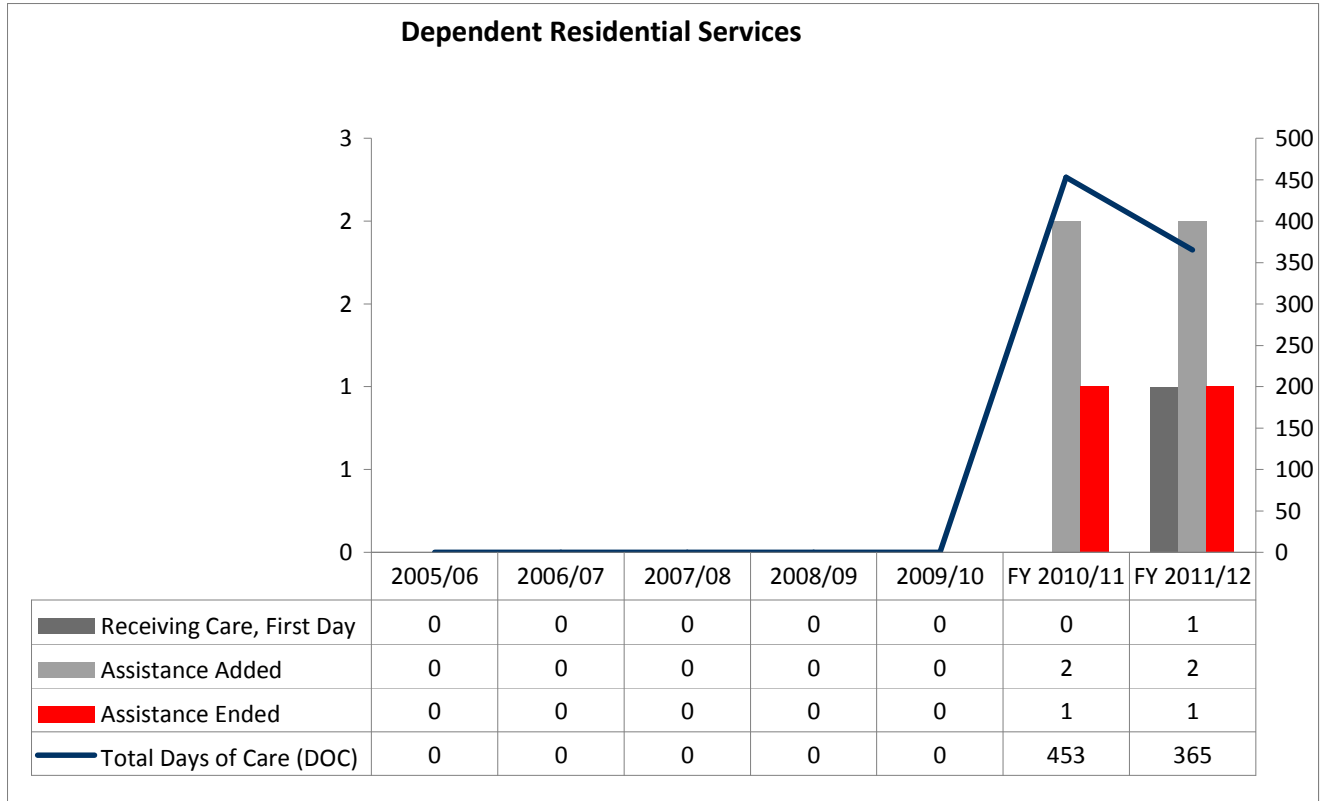
- Insert charts related to out-of-home placements where trends are highlighted (Charts 6-13), and discuss the trend(s). Describe factors contributing to the trend. Discuss any important trends that may not be highlighted.



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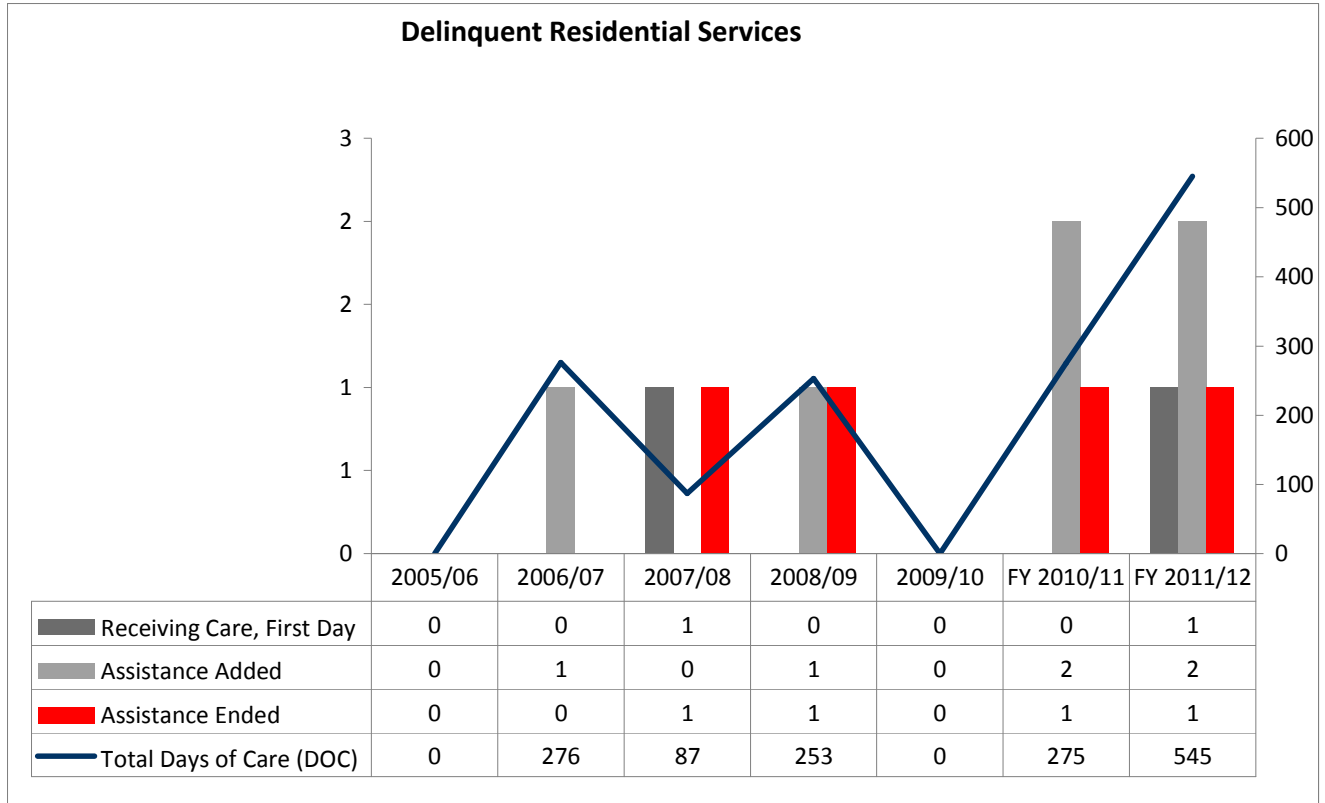
Detention placements remain constant in this county. Although days used vary from year to year and have decreased in the past 2 fiscal years, it again increased for FY 2009/2010 (8 youth at 175 days). It is always an expensive option for interim stays of delinquent youth and their families in crisis, probation violations and the like. In addition, the 2009/2010 per diem increase for the primary provider used by Potter County, Tioga County Detention, went up 20%, from \$181.00 per day to \$217.32 adding to fiscal concerns. With the loss of past funds, such as TANF, the 50% county share of rising detention per Diems is significant.

Potter County



Residential services for dependent youth that are licensed (Institutional) facilities are typically not used or needed. Fortunately, dependent youth needing residential care have been provided through community-based facilities (foster care, RTF's). However, this trend could change in any given fiscal year and a rural budget must be prepared for the unexpected. Therefore, the implementation and NB years anticipate the possibility of such placements.

Potter County



Residential Services (Institutional) for delinquent youth have become commonplace for this county. Such was the case in fiscal years 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09. The last youth in a secure residential placement spent almost the entire FY 2008/09 at Mid-Atlantic at \$308.03 per day, being discharged on June 10, 2009. Fortunately, no subsequent secure residential placements took place in the past FY 2009/2010. However, the two young ladies previously described under community residential have had multiple placements and both could be candidates for more intensive care if current placements deteriorate or return to placement is required in the future. And then there is always the unexpected. In FY 2006/07 such an 'unexpected' happened with re-budgeting of the 'Institutional Cost Center' becoming necessary primarily because of the secure non-YDC placement that occurred in that FY.

Potter County

3-2e. Aging Out

- Insert the Aging Out Chart (Chart 14). If the county does not have sufficient data to analyze trends, describe how the county plans to track this data in the future.



Aging out populations for dependent youth have been minimal in recent fiscal years with such cases happening in FY 2007/08 of a long-time placement youth exiting placement at almost 19 years of age after graduating high school and securing living arrangements/employment. Another young female was discharged from placement to her fiancée's family home at age 17, expecting a baby, in FY 2008/09. There were no dependent teens in placement for FY 2009/2010.

Similarly, the delinquent youth leaving placement in 2009/2010 were under the age of 18.

However, IL youth show movement in 2010/2011 with one young man already leaving the IL transitional home to go onto job Corp. Another boy will be aging out of the IL program and leaving the transitional home to live in another County with his girlfriend who is expecting a child. And a third older IL participant is already married and living on her own and will be leaving program this FY.

The NB year anticipates 2 youth that will be leaving for independence.

Potter County

3-2f. General Indicators

- Insert the complete table from the *General Indicators* tab. No narrative is required in this section.

3-2: General Indicators								
Type in PURPLE boxes only (blue for Excel 2007 users)								
County Number: 53			Class 8					
Potter County								
3-2a. Service Trends								
Indicator	FY 2005/06	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10	Projected FY 2010/11 FY 2011/12		2005-09 % Change
Intake Investigations								
Children	525	495	450	579	490	539	620	-6.7%
Family	210	198	191	339	244	268	308	16.2%
Ongoing Services								
Children	123	75	84	119	118	130	150	-4.1%
Family	49	30	32	47	44	48	55	-10.2%
Children Placed	6	8	9	8	4	6	5	-33.3%
JPO Services								
Total Children	1	1	4	2	2	4	6	100.0%
Community Based Placement	10	9	14	13	7	10	9	-30.0%
Institutional Placements	8	10	8	8	8	10	9	0.0%
3-2b. Adoption Assistance								
Indicator	FY 2005/06	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10	Projected FY 2010/11 FY 2011/12		2005-09 % Change
Adoption Assistance								
Receiving Care, First Day	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	0.0%
Assistance Added	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	#DIV/0!
Assistance Ended	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Total Days of Care (DOC)	1,095	1,095	1,033	1,100	1,095	1,368	1,460	0.0%
3-2c. SPLC								
Indicator	FY 2005/06	FY 2006/07	FY 2007/08	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10	Projected FY 2010/11 FY 2011/12		2005-09 % Change
Subsidized Permanent Legal Custodianship								
Receiving Care, First Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	#DIV/0!
Assistance Added	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	#DIV/0!
Assistance Ended	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Total Days of Care (DOC)	0	0	0	0	0	150	515	#DIV/0!

Potter County

3-2d. Placement Data								
Indicator	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	Projected		2005-09
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12	% Change
Traditional Foster Care (non-kinship)								
Receiving Care, First Day	1	2	7	7	5	1	8	400.0%
Assistance Added	3	8	4	2	1	9	4	-66.7%
Assistance Ended	2	3	4	4	5	2	4	150.0%
Total DOC	559	1,531	2,297	1,545	824	2,500	2,500	47.4%
Reimbursed Kinship Care								
Receiving Care, First Day	2	4	1	0	0	0	2	-100.0%
Assistance Added	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	-100.0%
Assistance Ended	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Total Days of Care (DOC)	1,324	1,120	669	0	0	300	1,030	-100.0%
Foster Family Care (Total of 2 above)								
Receiving Care, First Day	3	6	8	7	5	1	10	66.7%
Assistance Added	5	8	4	2	1	11	6	-80.0%
Assistance Ended	2	6	5	4	5	2	4	150.0%
Total Days of Care (DOC)	1,883	2,651	2,966	1,545	824	2,800	3,530	-56.2%
Non-reimbursed Kinship Care								
Receiving Care, First Day	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	#DIV/0!
Assistance Added	0	0	0	0	5	5	2	#DIV/0!
Assistance Ended	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	#DIV/0!
Total Days of Care (DOC)	0	0	0	0	880	1,100	900	#DIV/0!
Dependent Community Residential								
Receiving Care, First Day	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0%
Assistance Added	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	-100.0%
Assistance Ended	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	-100.0%
Total Days of Care (DOC)	331	156	0	0	0	500	750	-100.0%
Delinquent Community Residential								
Receiving Care, First Day	11	6	9	5	2	3	4	-81.8%
Assistance Added	11	8	12	4	5	3	3	-54.5%
Assistance Ended	16	8	16	7	4	2	2	-75.0%
Total Days of Care (DOC)	414	205	521	855	390	950	900	-5.8%
Juvenile Detention								
Receiving Care, First Day	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	#DIV/0!
Assistance Added	16	23	11	7	8	10	10	-50.0%
Assistance Ended	15	23	10	8	8	9	9	-46.7%
Total Days of Care (DOC)	231	245	178	109	142	200	250	-38.5%
Dependent Residential Services								
Receiving Care, First Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	#DIV/0!
Assistance Added	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	#DIV/0!
Assistance Ended	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	#DIV/0!
Total Days of Care (DOC)	0	0	0	0	0	453	365	#DIV/0!

Potter County

Delinquent Residential Services								
Receiving Care, First Day	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	#DIV/0!
Assistance Added	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	#DIV/0!
Assistance Ended	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	#DIV/0!
Total Days of Care (DOC)	0	276	87	253	0	275	545	#DIV/0!
3-2e. Aging Out Data								
Indicator	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	Projected		2005-09
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12	% Change
Aging Out								
Number of Children Aging Out	0	3	4	3	0	3	2	#DIV/0!
Have Permanent Residence	0	3	4	3	0	3	2	#DIV/0!
Have Source of Income Support	0	3	4	3	0	3	2	#DIV/0!
Have Life Connection	0	3	4	3	0	3	2	#DIV/0!

Section 4: County Programs & Services

➤ 4-1: Children/Families not Accepted for Service

- How does the county determine a child/family is not accepted for service?

This process has not changed since last year's NB narrative other than the centralized intake unit no longer exists, and intake duties are done by assigned traditional CYS caseworkers.

Mandated Services – For all youth and families referred to Potter County CYS (phone call, walk-in, written communication, etc.), a written intake form is completed by the intake worker, gathering all demographics, specific allegation, referral source and subsequently tagged for safety (impending/present danger) and tagged for risk (low, moderate, high). The Director/Lead Worker then reviews the intake for assessment of response time and case assignment.

At the time of the intake, the intake worker will determine if the concerns are relevant to CYS mandated services based on the referral information, concerns. If not, the intake worker will direct the caller to the appropriate provider, resource or do necessary legwork to assure that the person has needs met or have connected with the needed service provider. Examples of such scenarios include families wanting information for a certain provider, posing general care taking questions such as how old must a child be to be left unsupervised or having needs that can be addressed by another provider or County or ChildLine. The risk of safety or risk of immediate and future abuse/neglect are not in question with these types of calls and are considered 'Information and Referral' and thus closed out. Recorded I&R calls for FY 20009/2010 totaled 163 for Potter County.

Those referrals not screened out at the time of the initial intake are assigned to a caseworker for assessment to be reviewed up to 60 days (Brief service) and will include appropriate response times according to CPS/GPS regulations and needs. Safety assessments/safety plans and risk assessments will be completed according to regulated time intervals. Impending or present danger will determine if intensive services are needed such as out-of-home placement/opening of services with FSP/PPP, etc. Otherwise, the assessment will be completed within the 60 days and case determination made whether to close out CYS involvement and services or to 'open' the family for ongoing services for the next 6 months. (It should be noted that in a rural county such as Potter, cases are often opened when safety and risk are relatively low, but monitoring is warranted or wanted by the family such as the need for improved parenting, housing/economic concerns, single parents subject to scrutiny by absent parent and the like.)

Potter County Human Services in general and, particularly, the CYS Department operate many prevention/education programs. Therefore, there are hundred of children and their families that are exposed to a program/service, but are not considered active cases with the Agency such as mentoring, parent education/support groups, teen conference, Family Fun Fair, 21st Century. However, as mandated reporters, program coordinators and supervisors will refer any safety concerns that are brought to their attention or observed to the CYS staff. Likewise, School-Based ICM personnel will accept any CA/N referrals that come to their attention in their respective school districts and will be first responders to such concerns or provide 'Information and Referral' services on behalf of families and faculty when appropriate.

In summary, families accepted for services are based on presenting problem, safety and risk assessment outcomes, caseworker's investigation or the family's request for services. Families

Potter County

are not accepted for services when the need does not meet mandated services definitions, are not at immediate or future risk of safety/danger of CA/N and family is not requesting services. In some situations when other problems such as Mental Health, Mental Retardation, D&A are the presenting problem, collaborative treatment meetings are held, such as CASSP, whereas, family members and professionals can establish an integrated case plan that confirms that CYS services are not needed or necessary at that time. However, even in these cases, CYS typically acts as the 'lead worker', until the family can appropriately be handed-off to the appropriate service provider.

➤ 4-2: New/Enhanced Programs

- ❑ Briefly explain requests for funding of new programs or enhancements to existing programs. The explanation must include why the county is seeking funding for the new/enhanced program and how it relates to needs identified in the county.

Potter County has implemented newer programs through grant requests for evidenced-based programs (MST and FGDM). Therefore, as been the pattern in the past three NB plans, Potter County is not requesting funding for any new programs, but rather enhancements for existing programs and are as follows:

SB ICM/Trailblazers (Enhancement) – With the recent notification that the requested PA Promising Practices (SB ICM and Trailblazers) are not funded as special grants for FY 2010/11, Potter County is returning these services under the NB funding (positions already approved) for the NB year. These have been established programs for at least the past (4) years (SB ICM) and Trailblazers, for more then a decade. Both programs, particularly the SB program, has positively affected all the other statistics that this County presents, and it would be unconscionable to allow these programs to cease when they respond to every federal outcome, DPW regulation expectation, good practice standard that is supposedly the measurement of sound CYS policy. It is anticipated that the (1) vacant SB ICM position will be filled in the NB year.

Staff Time and Resources for Implementation of regulations (Enhancement) – Due to the onslaught of newer regulations/procedures for implementation and no new staff to accommodate, Potter County is being faced with creative ways to remain in compliance. Such program enhancements include 'Ages and Stages', Safety Assessment and Management Process, Voter Registration, Shared case Responsibility, Truancy Upgrades, Implementation of 'Child Assessment Tool', upgrade of Informational System to name a few. Increased contracted hours, increased staff training hours, the hopeful filling of existing staff vacancies (supervisor, homemaker, SB ICM) in the next couple years are all possible solutions. (It should be noted that with the termination of the Centralized Intake Unit in FY 2009/2010, intake responsibilities have been returned to traditional staff, and the anticipated implementation of the common child assessment tool will result in the restructuring of staff time and intake duties within the CYS Dept. and for other child services categoricals within the County.)

Parent Education and Support Groups (Enhancement) – This has been somewhat of a broken record, but a necessary repeated theme. Hours and intensity of services are increasing due to the upgraded Truancy Policy/Procedures/Monthly Truancy Workshops that will be required by the District Judges/CYS/court for families of 'habitual truants'. A student component will also be a part of this series. In addition, newer parent curriculums purchased such as 'The Total Transformation Program' and the "Dr. Dad Series" ha increased families experiencing

Potter County

divorce/separation resulting in adjustments for the children and frequent 'get even' calls to CYS. The current contracted parent educator has training in custody disputes and could be used as a resource. Finally, Penn State Extension is looking to implement the 'Prosper' program that includes the evidenced-based, Strengthening Families, parenting curriculum. It is hoped that training hours could be purchased for CYS parenting educator in this curriculum. One support group remains active in the county with the other two locations lagging. Again, an increase of staff time and resources are needed to boost this important program along with added financial incentives for group facilitators. *(If the support groups, under the umbrella of the PA Family Support Alliance, are considered a 'Parent Anonymous Program' and is one that needs special approval from the Deputy of Secretary for the 2011/2012 FY, then Potter County respectfully requests approval for continued efforts in this area.

Prevention Programs (Enhancement) – Programs that were initiated through grant funding, but special funding since ending (Teen Screen, Mentoring, Bullying, Family Fun Fair) to name a few are important prevention/education programs offered to a broad population of families that prevent potential problems and education and give needed support to families at risk for abuse/neglect/truancy/death. Categorical monies are needed to fill these gaps when other funding streams are not available. In the 2010/11 ICSP plan, continued monies for dental subsidies, quality assurance, start-up costs for common assessment tool software were requested with hopes of approval. In the 2011/12 ICSP, funding is being requested for the annual Teen Conference, financial support toward an added site for a newly organized local Boys and Girls Club.

Foster Care Rates (Enhancement) – There has not been an COLA increase for County Foster homes since January 2006 with existing rates being at \$22.00 per day – traditional; \$27.00 per day – specialized and emergency (up to 3 days); \$225.00 annual (clothing for ages 0-11) and \$325.00 annual (clothing for ages 12-18) and 31 cents per mile for CPP related travel. An approximately 9.5% increase for all per diem rates will be implemented in January 2011 along with increase of mileage. Increase rates include \$24.00 per day – traditional; \$29.50 per day specialized and emergency; \$250.00 and \$350.00 annual clothing for two age categories and mileage to 50 cents per mile. Even with potential increases in foster care placements for the implementation year (11) and NB year (6), such increases are deserving and cost saving to maintain both dependent and probation youth in local foster homes and communities and school districts compared to residential care.

Forensic Interviewing/CPS – With continued concerns over lost CPS appeals and the overall importance of consistent and sound interviewing of alleged victims and perpetrators for 'truth' and potential Court cases. Potter County will research and participate in any certification training programs in forensic interviewing for at least one caseworker, possibly two staff members. Other options include contracting with existing forensic specialists/advocacy centers, which do not exist in Potter County. Some neighboring counties have their own forensic staff, but more noted specialists are located in Dubois/Pittsburgh/Erie areas, all 2 –4 hours away.

- ❑ In the specific budget adjustment forms for new initiatives or services, identify cost savings and reduced rates, and provide evidence that the new program is less expensive or more effective than the current service.

School Based ICM and Trailblazers Programs – The benefits of these two programs are a thread running throughout the entire NB plan. SB ICM's are first responders to CA/N, required attendance officers, crisis intervention workers, case managers for both dependent and

Potter County

delinquent youth, prevention/education facilitators, trained/direct service CYs workers and positions approved through the NB process. Their presence has decreased crisis calls, CYs traditional intake calls, deterrents of truancy and out-of-home placements, increased supportive services for troubled families at user friendly geographic locations toward promoting family engagement. Likewise, Trailblazers provide supervision, structure, education, job experience, community/family engagement for at-risk youth, and youth currently in the system, to promote stability and decrease recidivism. All of these results are overall cost savings for the entire CYs budget.

Staff Time and Resources for Implementation of Regulations – Staff stability and enhanced training and experience will continue to be goals for this agency toward consistent ‘good practice’ and effective casework. These qualities interpret into safe children and overall family preservation that results in enormous savings. Low placement numbers on the dependency side are an example of these results. In addition, doing the job right on paper results in increased State and Federal funding, a cost saving for both State and Local budgets.

Parent Education and Support Groups – Growing needs in areas of family living to address truancy, poverty, broken homes, domestic violence, D&A, child abuse are evident yearly, and having only one contracted parent educator makes it difficult to provide sufficient staff time. Resources have increased, however, but must be further implemented. Therefore increased contracted hours/rates will be looked at to respond to this area of need. Similarly, support groups that require a volunteer facilitator, physical location and resource are a must to keep the three existing support groups functioning. Unfortunately, two of three Potter County Groups have not stabilized, certainly have not grown since the last NB plan and must have continued attention (advertising, facilitator support, improved resources) to increase attendance and participation. Perhaps, using paid staff to facilitate groups will be a necessity to maintain consistent, monthly meeting times and opportunities. The formation of a 4th support group remains on the horizon. Both parent education and peer support are proven deterrents of child abuse/neglect that result in a decrease in more intrusive, expensive interventions such as Court action and placements. In addition, well-being is another expected outcome due to parents being more confident and appropriate in their care taking of children. In times of economic distress, support groups are even more important as a place to vent, offer support, provide guidance in how to ‘survive’ these troubling times.

Prevention Programs – ‘Prevention’ describes the intentions of these types of programs toward preventing problems before they arise and become costly to CYs/Probation budgets. The goal is to maintain existing prevention programs with certainly growth and improvements wherever possible.

Foster Care Rates – When out-of-home placements are necessary, the least restrictive, least costly, more responsive to all of the federal outcomes is foster care, and better yet, homegrown foster homes at reasonable base rates. Thus, such homes must have a reasonable reimbursement rate to somewhat keep up with rising costs of caring for a home and family. Since no increases have been provided to Potter County homes in 4 years, it is now time. thus, any future placement needs will have an array of good foster home providers to choose from.

Forensic Interviewing/CPS – This is another example of skill building for staff for better outcomes. In most cases, improved outcomes do result in cost savings. Certainly, using in-house specialty staff avoids the need for travel outside the County for such specialty services.

Potter County

- ❑ For enhanced programs, describe how the program is effective.

School Based ICM and Trailblazers Programs – The overall positive effects of the SB ICM Program have been detailed in the previous description. Similarly, Trailblazers provides job experience and supervision and transitional planning for at risk youth and aging out youth.

Staff Time and Resources for Implementation of regulations – The added roles, duties, expectations that the legislators, DPW, Federal Government, community, consumers, to name a few interested parties, place on CYS workers are a multi-faceted, complicated, serious business, and agencies must continue to equip workers with knowledge and skills to respond to such demands. In keeping with the recent press release on ‘regulations’, it is no longer ‘just’ mandated services that line workers and supervisors must be concerned about, but all the other ‘nuances’ that must be detailed for assurance for compliance and funding. Thus, good practice teaches us that experienced workers (2 years plus of field work) and practical knowledge through such experience and meaningful training can better equip these strong, courageous practitioners to know what to do, when to do it, efficiently and effectively, hopefully, resulting in good outcomes toward consumer safety, improved consumer rights and compliant file maintenance.

Parent Education and Support Groups – Studies and experience show that parenting practices are based on our own child rearing and values or lack of one or both. Even those parents that have the benefit of both are not always prepared by the advent of parenthood. Therefore, addressing parenting intellectually (curriculum), shared parent experiences from teacher and other participants, an arena to vent and gain confidence and have guidelines to address child safety, basic care taking and non-physical discipline are essential for young, damaged and immature parents. The greatest weakness of parenting education is the lack of consistent practice of skills in the home or ‘transfer of learning’. This area must be further addressed along with enhanced parenting education opportunities, such as the concentration of dealing with truancy and importance of education lacking in family’s basic value system. In addition, parent support groups are another proven program for parent sharing, learning, and support in times of stress. The Family Alliance Model demonstrates the success of parents supporting parents in a structured, but non-threatening group environment. It has been seen in this County, the ‘family ties’ that regular attendees form with each other toward overall improved self-esteem and improved parenting, resulting in reducing child abuse and serious neglect. However, these opportunities need to reach more participants.

Prevention Programs – Limited budgets have provided for mandated services, but with not much left over to do the prevention and education so needed to keep youth safe and healthy, and in some cases, alive. Such prevention programs have been very effective in early detection of depression, providing appropriate adult role models, assuring awareness of available services, increased academic support and success. Thus, such anticipated funding gaps must be provided for in keeping up with the demands of the Juvenile Act requiring ‘reasonable efforts’ and ‘services to families toward rehabilitation’.

Foster Care Rates – As previously stated, foster care is the least restrictive, community-based placement environment for youth. Potter County has only contracted an outside provider for foster care once in the past few years due to the aging youth’s special needs and extensive placement history. Otherwise, foster care providers are local families studied and supervised by the County agency. They do an excellent job and at a far less daily rate than contracted providers. In some cases, foster homes have become the permanent home for needy youth,

Potter County

becoming their permanent guardians, as was the case for at least three different families in the past few years.

Forensic Interviewing/CPS – Despite the experience and knowledge that many of the Potter County case Workers possess in doing CPS work, or any type of investigation, the increased demands of the legal system, DPW regulations and apparently the appeal review officers on investigative protocol reinforces the need for added training and level of skill that a forensic interviewer credentials provides in doing our jobs. Areas of concern, such as tainted testimony can make or break a case, and no one wants to see the true offender be let off due to poor CPS work. Therefore, the value of this increased knowledge is invaluable.

- ❑ For enhanced programs, discuss the expected level of program improvement, and describe how the program will reduce costs or the rate of future cost increases.

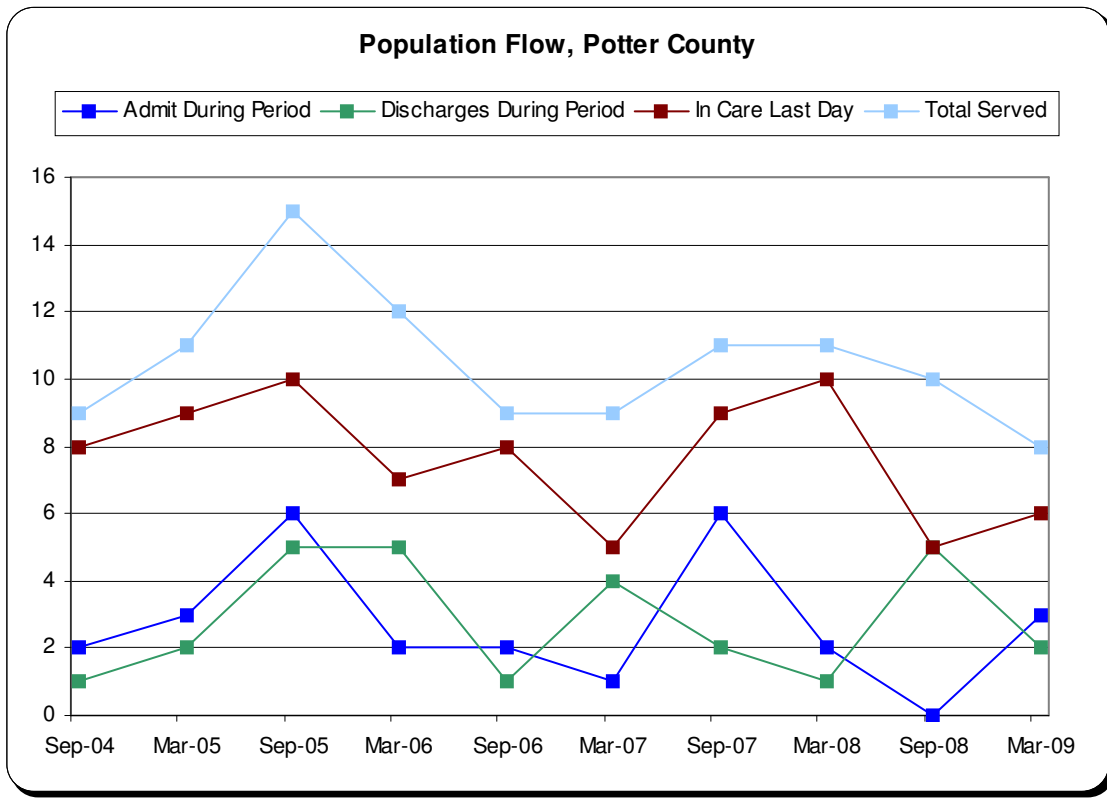
For all program enhancements comments will become repetitive, however, in summary, in maintaining programs that work, an increase in staff development, including specific forensic training; increased contracted time for parent education, increased advertising, paid facilitators; financial support of prevention programs and increased foster care rates are at minimal costs compared to the larger cost savings that can be provided by positive outcomes in overall safety, permanence and well-being of children and their families.

POTTER COUNTY

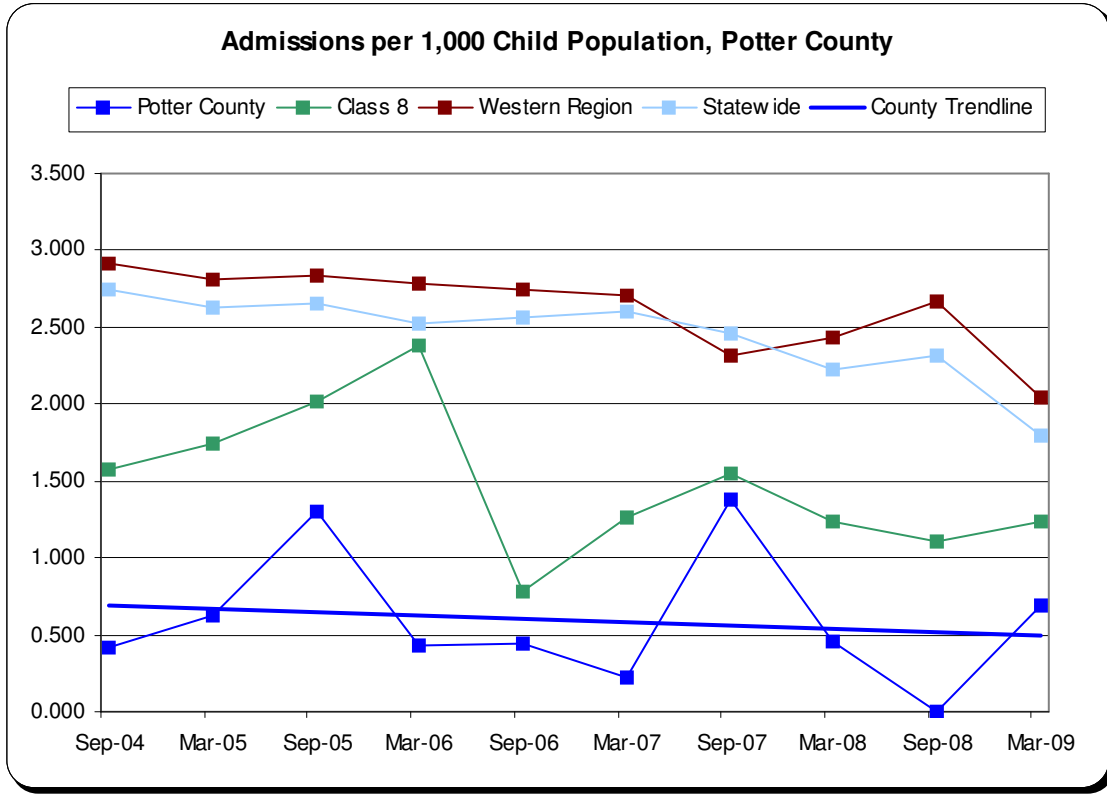
Section 5: Outcome Indicators

5-1a. Foster Care Population Flow (See HZA Data Package)

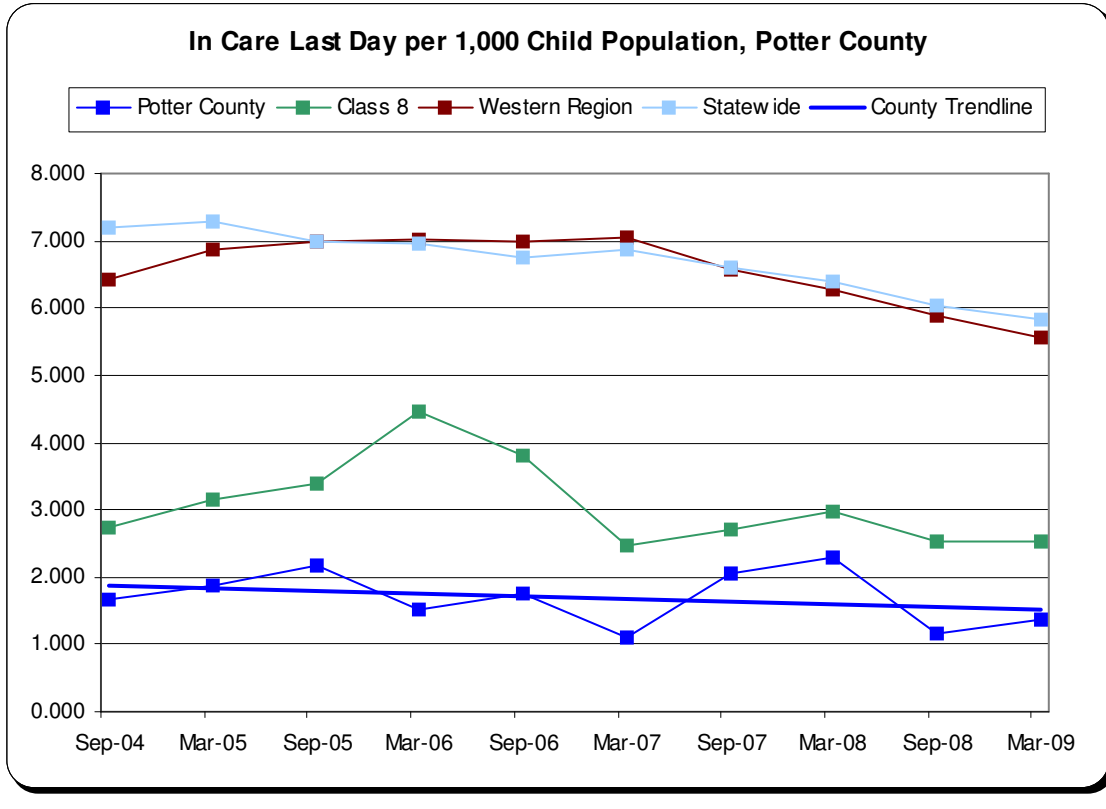
On the following pages, paste up to three charts from the HZA data. Each chart should be pasted on a separate page.



POTTER COUNTY



POTTER COUNTY



- Is the overall trend in the number of children being served or in care in the county different than that in the state as a whole? In counties of the same class?

Data highlights as reported by Hornby Zeller Ass., Inc. shows a similar trend for Potter County as in last year's NB for population flow of children entering and exiting care and total numbers served. The County has been below all comparison populations (8th class counties, Western Region and the State) in these areas and continues to be so for the past FY. Potter County does replicate an overall statewide trend of gradual decreases in admissions and children in placement at the end of recent fiscal years, although Potter's numbers are smaller in both areas. For Potter, dependency placement numbers have been stable or decreasing for past many fiscal years. Probation placements have been more dynamic over the past decade, but recent years have also seen more stability and even decrease, particularly in the past couple FY's.

In a June 9, 2010 letter from Deputy Secretary Gold, he commends the State for a safe reduction of youth in out-of-home care by 25.5% decrease in a 3-½ year span and to Potter County specifically for a 75% safe reduction rate for the same time frame.

For FY 2009/10, there were no dependency entries into placement, although a dependency petition was filed and granted for a truancy youth, but the youth remained in her parent's home. In turn, there was a 75% success return rate of dependent youth. A sibling group of three, who had been in foster care since 6/10/2007 left formal foster care and was transferred into the care and custody of the foster parent in October 2009 after the reunification with mother was no

POTTER COUNTY

longer plausible. Only one child remains in foster care at the beginning of the implementation year with an adoption goal approved by the Court.

As for probation, there were an equal amount of entries and exits for delinquent youth in FY 2009/10, (8) each. Only three delinquent youth remain in placement at the end of the FY, the same number as the previous FY 2008/09. Of the three remaining youth in care, (2) continued into care from the previous FY, the one, a female teenager and chronic user of placement services as previously described. She began the past FY in foster care; returned home in the 2nd quarter to only soon return to detention, then shelter, then to her current placement site, Centre County Youth Services, Stormbreak. She is expected to be discharged to foster care on the dependency side. The second youth has a serious history of sexually offending and was already in an RTF (Adelphoi Village) at the beginning of FY 2009/10 and remained in an RTF at a different location (Harbor Creek) until his very recent return to a family member.

The third remaining youth entered placement in March 2010 and has used detention, shelter and STAR (short-term RTF) before arriving at her present destination, Erie Abraxas, for an indefinite time.

Other placement activity for the (8) youth that exited care included one youth being released from a community residential program to home via foster care, and the other (7) youth needing short-term stays at detention, emergency shelter and RTF.

Despite the very positive trend of placement stability, even a decrease from 7 at the end of the previous FY to 4 this past FY, it should be noted that trends for smaller counties can be very short-lived and deceiving. The remaining probation youth are at high risk for continued or repeated placements and current active, in-home families with the CYS and Juvenile Probation Departments have potential placement candidates for the implementation year.

- Please describe what demographic factors, if any, have contributed to changes in the number of children being served or in care.

Although the overall-county and school populations are seemingly decreasing, children and youth populations are gradually growing. In addition, nomadic families account for some increases of referrals, services, and sometimes placement services. However, overall placement numbers seem to be influenced more by 'trends' of behavior (sexual and physical abuse, juvenile sexual offending, violent crimes, conduct disorders, etc.) than demographics.

- Please describe what changes in agency priorities or programs, if any, have contributed to changes in the number of children served or in care and/or the rate at which children are discharged from care.

This area of focus has not changed since last year's NB Plan. The Agency continues to place a great deal of value on a 'family preservation' philosophy whenever safely possible, looking for safe solutions to a potential placement situation, rather than placing and then searching out kinship, temporary respite, added in-home services, etc. The experienced CYS staff remain attentive, vigilant in seeing families and implementing 'good practice' standards in regards to response time, safety and risk assessments and the like. Clearly, the increase of overall in-home services for families is another reason for decreasing placements including MH, D&A,

POTTER COUNTY

prevention programs, evidenced-based programs (MST/FGDM) and School-Based Intensive Case Management. These front-line workers in the school/community environment are first responders, attendance officers and provide overall supplemental staff time for an array of prevention, education, crisis services in the school environment.

Probation families have also been effected positively with many of the in-home and community-based services. Programs such as Independent Living and Trailblazers are examples of such programs for youth needing to maintain their behaviors within the community or toward shorter placement stays. Likewise, the increase in using county foster homes and RTF programs over the past decade for probation youth have added options for better permanency planning for delinquent youth. Finally, the Court and JPO and CYS personnel have worked more closely and cooperatively in past years to review many options of intervention and ways to safely reduce placement stays, such as using step-down programs. etc.

The newer evidenced-based programs (MST and FGDM) are showing early signs of success with both dependent and delinquent families in either safely maintaining youth in their homes and communities or providing more realistic permanency planning for older youth and lingering GPS/CPS cases. Similarly, the more recent upgraded IL program and IL transitional home provides for additional services and options for a broader age range of both in-home and placement youth.

- ❑ Are there any demographic shifts, which impact the proportions of children in care (for example, are younger children making up a larger proportion of admissions than in years past)?

On the dependency side based on previous years, there have been an increase of younger children entering care due to serious abuse scenarios as well as an increase in in-home GPS families with babies and young children, the highest risk population in the past few years. However, with no dependent placements in FY 2009/10, the age trend has not been recently repeated. The one and only dependency adjudication for the past FY was a female teenager due to truancy. With the newly implemented countywide truancy policy, this perhaps could be the beginning of similar activity for the implementation year.

As for probation youth, males continue to out number females for placement activity, with only 1 female out of the 8 new placement entries for FY 2009/2010. However, females out number males 2 to 1 of the current probation youth in placement.

- ❑ How has the county adjusted staff ratios and/or resource allocations (both financial and staffing, including vacancies, hiring, turnover, etc.) in response to a change in the foster care population? Is the county's current resource allocation appropriate to address projected needs?

As for resource allocations being appropriate to address projected needs, no, it is not in regards to financial resources. The current reduced FY 2010/11 allocation is inadequate for maintaining current services and to be responsive to anticipated growth in all areas.

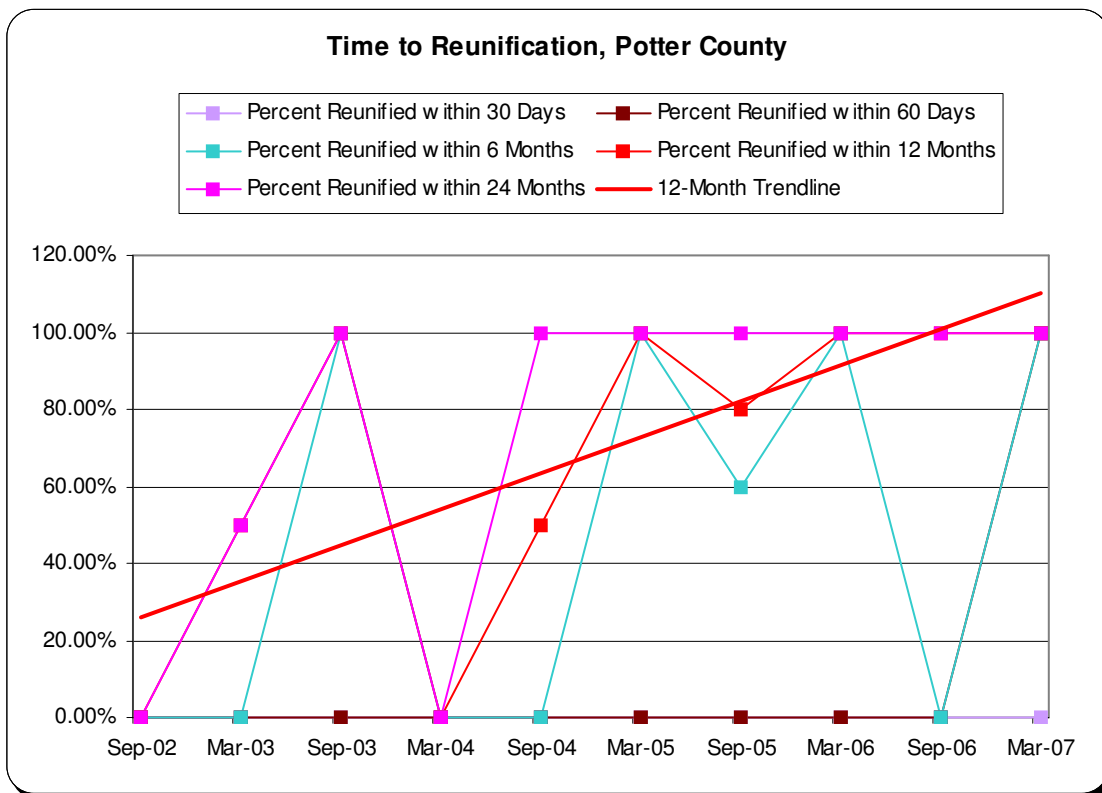
Historically, Potter County has increased overall in-home services including a full compliment of traditional case management staff and the hire of a ICM probation case manager years ago, along with the more recent hire of SB ICM's, expansion of parent education, support groups,

POTTER COUNTY

implementation of grant prevention programs, collaboration with other categoricals toward the integration of services such as partnership with Early Intervention and the provision of respite care and day care when needed, all services toward maintaining youth safety in their own homes. Therefore, smaller dependent, placement numbers are those cases where all reasonable efforts have been exhausted, and placement is needed for a period of time to come up with a permanent plan. With a younger population, concurrent planning becomes even more relevant to provide options for toddlers, young age school children. FGDM is a process being used more and more for these planning needs.

Small counties must continue to always plan for that one or two unexpected case(s) or need that is so costly that a budget can be placed in jeopardy. It should be noted that the county continues to carry (3) staff vacancies (supervisor, homemaker, SB ICM) due to space, budget and available personnel issues.

5-1b. Reunification Survival Analysis (See HZA Data Package)



- Is the county's performance in each measure improving or declining over time? Please describe briefly any significant trends in the data. What policies or practices explain the trends?

There has been great improvement in this area for dependent placement youth in the past couple years. The most recent FY provided a conclusion for the last lingering placement of a young sibling group (28 months) to permanency. The remaining youth in placement had a goal change approved within 13 months of placement to adoption, and adoption finalization should

POTTER COUNTY

be accomplished within the 24-month period. There was no other placement activity for the past FY.

Probation trends, too, continue to improve in timely returns. Of the 8 new youth entering placement in FY 2009/10, (3) youth returned home within 30 days, (2) within 60 days and (2) within six months. Only one youth remains in care of the 8 new entries since March 2010. Of the remaining two placement youth, as of July 2010, one youth has returned to a family member (17 months) and the other youth will remain in care (age 17).

Overall, trends involving probation youth leaving placement are still unpredictable, but on the average, shorter in duration compared to a decade ago. This change has occurred due to increased in-home services and on-going communications between CYS, Probation and Court regarding placement options, costs, greater availability of county foster care providers for delinquent youth as step-down placements and the assistance of the IL program. Short-term stays in detention and an increase use of shelter days have provided responses to crisis situations, probation violations and the like. Time limited boot camps have also been used frequently for a population of youth. MST has shown signs of either delaying or preventing out-of-home placements or allowing for a quicker return to home and community in the past FY.

The more significant trends for both dependent and delinquent youth are that fewer numbers of youth are being placed, and if placed, very serious in nature and not easily resolved in a short period of time even with concurrent planning and kinship care always being considered. Secure settings are used more readily for probation youth, and reunification with parents are less frequent for older youth having no family to return to when their probation is up. Finally, CYS staff will continue to be more aggressive at an earlier time in the Court process (6 – 9 months) to recommend other goals besides reunification for serious abuse cases. Perhaps, the Agency and the Court have given such families more time than is appropriate to stabilize, thus, resulting in longer placement times for children.

- ❑ If there are fewer reunifications within 12 months of the child's removal, what is happening to those children? Are they returning home later or eventually being discharged in some other way?

Twelve month plus placements are children that are remaining in care due to their families needing more time to stabilize and resolve dependency issues, or so ordered by the Court for the juvenile offenders for community safety. The lingering dependent sibling group could not eventually return to parents with dad in jail and mom not stabilizing after 28 months of Agency involvement. An 'other' permanent custodian was chosen for their permanent home. The remaining dependent youth does now have an approved adoption goal and has a potential kinship home or other adoptive family waiting in the wings to adopt him. Both his biological parents are incarcerated for his physical abuse.

Two of the three probation placement youth have remained in care or returned to care due to their behaviors and safety and the need for their treatment and stability, but one has now returned to a grandparent and the other to a permanent caretaker through foster care.

- ❑ Are children being reunified more quickly, or more slowly, than in past years? Does the timeliness of the reunifications reflect the changing needs of families in the county? Among children reunified in less than 30 days, were the services provided sufficiently to alleviate the

POTTER COUNTY

concerns that led to the child's removal? What services could have prevented removal of children who were reunified within 30 days?

Many of these questions have already been responded to. Children, in general, are being returned more quickly, particularly on the probation side. Those limited numbers of children in placement are there due to very serious abuse, neglect, sexual crimes or serious behavioral/MH issues. Very short-term placements are typically detention or respite stays to address an immediate crisis, probation violation or allow a family to remedy an immediate problem such as housing. The stay is short-term because of the extensive in-home services being provided prior to and after the placement.

- ❑ How does the county's data compare to other counties of the same county class size? To the statewide data?

Since the available data chart is dated (3/07), it is hard to be completely knowledgeable in this analysis. However, from available information, it seems that Potter County is at least comparable to other like size counties and good compared to the State. The placement activity within FY 2009/10 of new entries/discharges suggests that the County is doing very well in this area.

- ❑ If the county's performance exceeds comparable county and/or statewide performance, what policies or practices does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to maintain or improve its performance?

In home services and the emphasis that this County places on good and consistent case management practices are reasons for fewer placements or shorter-term placements for the CYS population. Similarly, probation youth have benefited from these same services and ongoing communication and collaboration between the two departments. However, those youth staying longer in placement are there because of safety and treatment needs, not lack of attention to the case planning.

Or

If the county's performance lags behind comparable county and/or statewide performance, what factors does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to improve its performance?

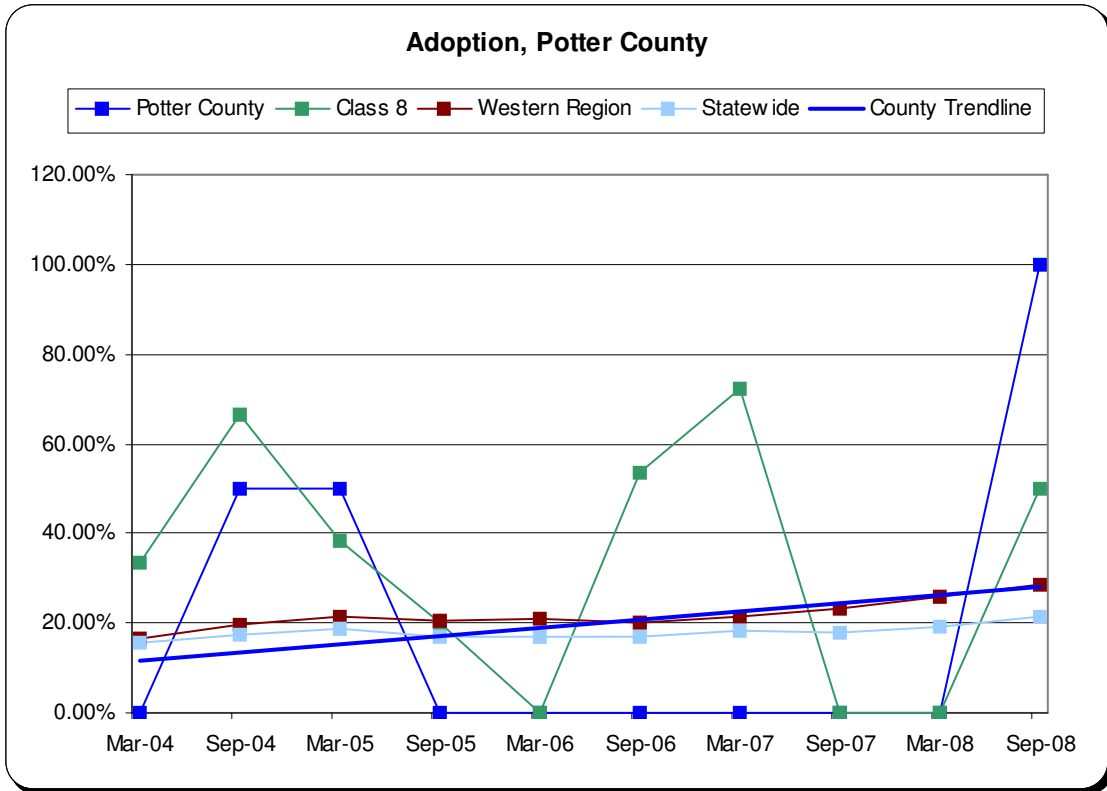
- ❑ Are there certain populations, which are disproportionately represented in this measure? What actions is the county taking to address that population's needs?

It seems that populations being served by non-IV-E funding are not being considered such as detention youth. They are accounted for in the PEAPS system, but are they counted in the data provided for NB? Similarly, youth in boot camps, shelters, alternative treatment and IL placements are not considered as part of data collection.

Additionally, measurements are concentrating on time frames of children that are in placement rather than numbers of youth being kept out of placement.

POTTER COUNTY

5-1c. Adoption Rate, 17 Months (See HZA Data Package)



□ Is the county's performance in each measure improving or declining over time? Please describe briefly any significant trends in the data. What policies or practices explain the trends?

The County has caught up in this area and now expects to be improving in performance for current cases. In FY 2008/09, two youth were finally adopted (one kinship and the other by a foster family) after a 4-year wait, beyond federal time guidelines.

A more recent case, and only dependent placement child at this time, is an almost 2-year-old toddler who went into care in April 2009 remaining in the same foster home. Due to the seriousness of his physical abuse and the 'founded' finding by the Court early in the process, aggravated circumstances confirmed against dad, dad being incarcerated and mom having pending charges, the Agency recommended an adoption goal at the first 6 month CPP hearing. However, the Court was not inclined to grant a goal change that soon or at the next 6-month review. However, at a subsequent 15-month review, after mom had been found guilty and incarcerated, the Court did grant an adoption goal change after 13 months of placement. A TPR has been filed this summer 2010 and an adoption finalization is anticipated to be completed within 24 months of his initial placement date. So far this case is on track to be timely according to federal guidelines.

None of the three probation youth currently in placement are candidates for adoption.

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ Do current policies of the agency or courts serve affect the timeliness of adoptions? Do the delays tend to occur between removal and TPR, between TPR and pre-adoptive placement, or between pre-adoptive placement and finalization?

There are no known County or Court based policies that are intended to interfere with the ASFA Law or federal guidelines. Rather, such cases are considered individually and handled accordingly. In past delayed adoption cases, time has been necessary for different needs of the children, family members or for adoption options to become available. Concurrent planning begins on the first day of placement, but cases, at least in Potter County, are not easily solved in a few months to arrive at permanent decisions. FGDM, bonding assessments, timely kinship home studies, family searches and other strategies will be used more aggressively (as was done in FY 2009/10) to help hurry the process along but not at the expense of making premature decisions on behalf of children. For very young children, this County agrees that timeliness becomes more relevant for such babies and toddlers deserve a connection as early as possible for bonding/attachments to be established with their parental role.

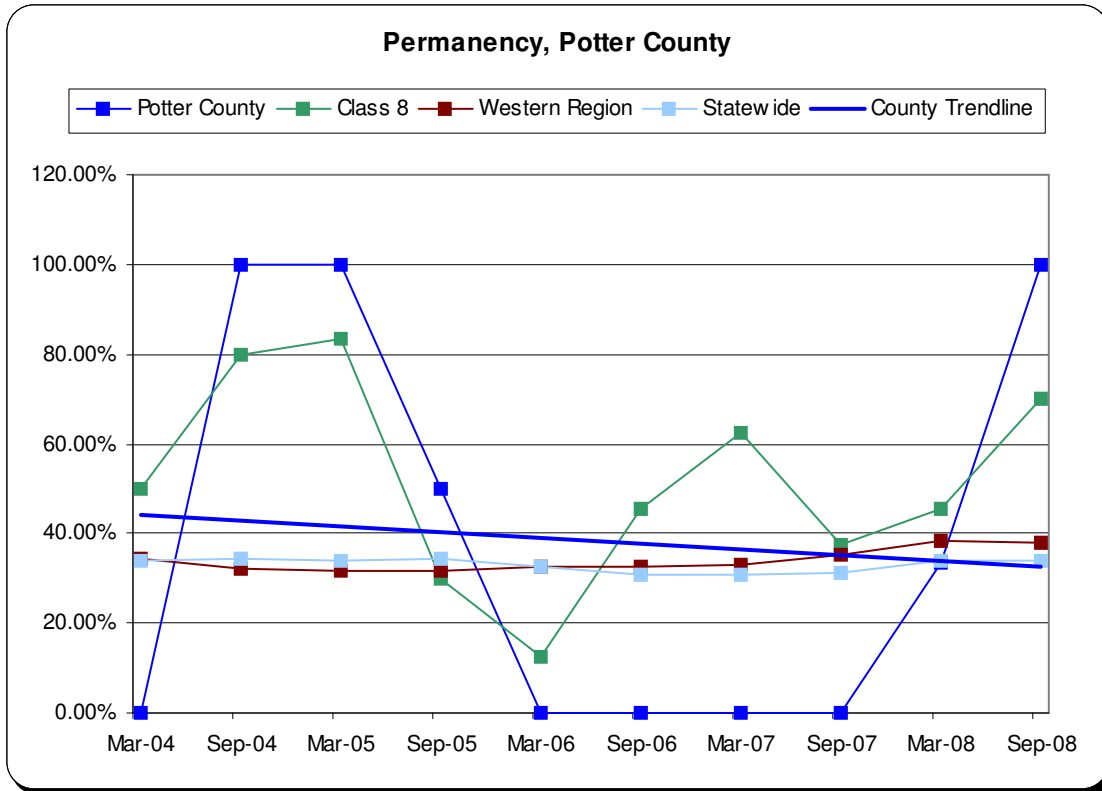
Delays typically occur between removal and filing for TPR's. It seems to take time for either the Agency to determine the readiness of a goal change to 'Adoption' or the Court is hesitant to approve a goal change which was, in fact, the situation regarding the last three children, In fact, in the case of the two children adopted in 2008/09, the Agency proceeded to file TPR's against the parents prior to the Court approving the adoption goal, the same Judge that ultimately granted the TPR without hesitation.

- ❑ Which group of children represents the largest proportion/share of children for whom performance is below the national standard? What actions is the county taking to address that population's needs?

Of the five dependent youth that have been adopted in the past 10 years, there were two sets of sibling groups, one quite young, and the other younger school age. Both sets of children came from very serious neglect/abusive homes, including a child death. The older sibling group had extensive special needs (MR/MR/behavioral) requiring residential treatment, delaying both boys' adoption and ultimately resulting in one boy's adoption to disrupt, and aging out of a placement situation, never to return to live with his adopted parent. The third child was medically needy and had a birthmother in denial of her maltreatment as a parent, whom contested termination of rights. And final sibling group were placed rather timely in a kinship home, but biological mother remained in the picture for some time, and the Court chose to delay termination of rights. Therefore, all situations are looked at case-by-case and responded to accordingly.

POTTER COUNTY

5-1d. Permanency, 24 Months (See HZA Data Package)



- Is the county's performance in each measure improving or declining over time? Please describe briefly any significant trends in the data. What policies or practices explain the trends?

In prior NB Plans, the County has been at a lower success rate in this area compared to all groupings, and this was primarily due to the 'few youth in placement' being of very difficult circumstances. Perhaps too much time was given for parent reunification than warranted, or the youth's individual needs and conditions delayed permanency planning due to their placement instability. However, as discussed in the previous adoption section, the County is now catching up and anticipates improved scores in this category.

The lingering sibling group of 28 months in placement is now in a permanent arrangement. The one and only dependent youth currently in care (16 months in August) should be adopted prior to his 2-year mark. In the case of this little boy, the Agency was more aggressive in recommending an early goal change (at first 6 month review) and will continue to do so whenever appropriate.

Similarly, probation youth are moving through placement at a quicker pace and either being reuniting with parents, extended family members or living in another permanent arrangement. None of the three existing delinquent placement youth have exceeded 24 months, with one of the youth already in permanent setting. It is anticipated that the increased in-home specialty

POTTER COUNTY

services such as MST and the upgraded IL program will reinforce this more positive trend toward timely permanency planning.

- ❑ Which group of children represent the largest proportion/share of children in care more than 24 months? What are the most frequent permanency goals for these children? What are the most frequent actual discharge destinations for these children?

Although of recent years younger children have lingered in placement awaiting circumstances to come together for a permanent plan, in general, adolescents are the more challenging population to return to their homes/communities in a timely fashion as seen more so with the delinquent population. Such were three adolescent males, whereas, family would either not take them back, unable to take them back because of parental issues or rejected the child soon after the return. All three young men were cared for in either their former foster homes and or by another family. In this past FY 2009/2010, a female adolescent currently in placement and awaiting probation discharge in early September is another youth without a family home. She and mom simply cannot co-habitate with two unsuccessful return homes in her placement history. Thus, through FGDM another living arrangement is being sought, probably foster care.

For both CYS and Probation youth, the typical permanency goal is to return to their own homes, but with kinship care or placed with another guardian as more actual discharge destinations. Adoption goals are non-existent for probation youth, but is becoming a more realistic direction for lingering CYS youth. There are currently three children receiving adoption subsidies.

- ❑ What steps is the county taking to achieve permanency for these children? What are the barriers to achieving permanency?

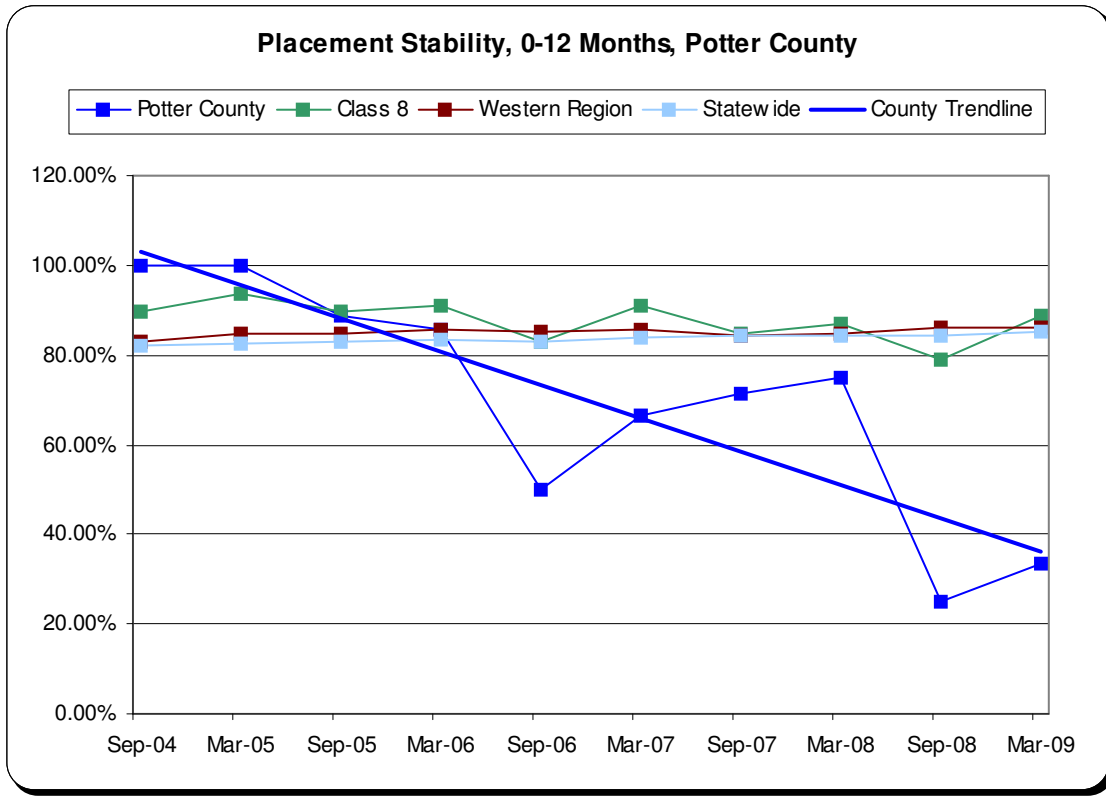
As for current placement youth, adoption, return home and foster care are all obtainable permanency goals to be achieved early in the implementation year.

In general, Potter County takes those steps considered to be 'good practice' toward permanency planning. Concurrent planning is a section on all CPP's and considered on 'day 1' of placement. An array of community services are recommended and provided to families including parenting education, support groups, in-home MH services, D&A services, frequent family visitation, support toward finding improved housing, employment, prevention programs, etc. to promote timely home returns. However, to further respond to barriers, FGDM will be used more toward permanency planning as well as the use of Accurint in locating absent family members and using enhanced IL services for older youth. Cutting the ties with biological parents sooner and more aggressively when adoption is the most likely destination is another strategy toward more timely resolutions.

In summary, barriers in achieving permanency have much to do with life circumstances and the human condition. Thus, staff experience and attitudes are very important, as well, in approaching the case through services planning. Training enhancements in this area will continue to be sought out for staff.

POTTER COUNTY

5-2a. Placement Stability, Less than 12 Months (CFSR Measure 4.1)
 (See HZA Data Package)



- Is the county's performance in each measure improving or declining over time? Please describe briefly any significant trends in the data. What policies or practices explain the trends?

In the past NB Plan, this was an area that seemed to be in a negative trend for the first months of placement, improvement in year 2 and then another decline after 24 months. For FY 2009/10, probation youth continued to experience more placement changes in the first months of placement compared to dependent youth, however, with improvements. Of the (8) new probation entries, six of the eight (75%) were in 2 or fewer different placement locations. In fact, only one of the six had two placement locations, detention to short-term residential. The other five youth had only one placement site. The remaining two youth had placement changes due to their special needs, one from detention to shelter to a D&A facility and the other with detention, shelter, short-term residential to RTF being her journey. These last two scenarios tend to explain the trends earlier described. For Probation youth, the entry to detention and switch to shelter are becoming routine and then either return home or onto a more permanent location. Thus, more placement stability after 12 months.

The (3) probation placements that existed at the beginning of FY 2009/2010 had placement changes. One youth had experienced placement disruptions in 2008/09 due to her behaviors, actually returned home in 2009/2010; to return to placement and then experienced the detention-shelter-residential care moves in her first months of placement. She is now in a

POTTER COUNTY

stable placement environment. The other two youth had some changes as well. One boy stepped down from his residential location to foster care, to home, where he remains. The third youth was stable in a RTF program, but was transferred to his existing RTF location due to Adelphoi Village/ NTCH closing its program in Potter County.

As for dependent placements, they met the federal guidelines for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10. The sibling group that left placement in the past FY had been in the same foster home for all of their placement time. The remaining placement child has remained in his same foster home for all of this placement months.

In summary, youth are not maintained in placement any longer then needed or relocated unless absolutely necessary. And of the two populations of placement youth, CYS youth are typically more stable in their placement environments then probation youth.

- How does the county's data compare to other counties of the same size? To the statewide data?

According to HZC, Potter County is less successful in placement stability compared to similar size counties and the State for youth less then 12 months and 24 month plus.

- If the county's performance exceeds comparable county and/or statewide performance, what policies or practices does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to maintain or improve its performance?

Or

If the county's performance lags behind comparable county and/or statewide performance, what factors does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to improve its performance?

Due to probation scenarios as earlier described, it is challenging for such youth to be placed directly to their more permanent site. Detention/shelter days contribute to such mobility, as well as foster care being used prior or as a step-down from residential care. The county will continue to reinforce the more consistent use of foster/kinship care from the onset when safety is not a serious issue. It should be noted that shelter days have increased in usage over the past years to hopefully decrease detention time, and some shelter days are spent in foster care, where the youth may remain.

As for dependent youth, county foster homes/kinship homes are primarily used and youth tend to remain in these homes as originally placed. Exceptions to this pattern are those dependent youth that are mobile within the foster care program due to their misbehaviors/foster care burn out. They then either relocate to another foster home, or in some cases, require residential care. However, in the past two FY's, dependency placements have met the federal guidelines in this area.

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ When compared to class and state performance on each of the measures, at what point does placement stability tend to break down– the first, second, or third year? What is the county doing differently than the class, region, or rest of the state?

As earlier described, Potter County's data shows the breakdown more relevant in the first 12 months of placement, primarily for probation youth.

Potter County is unsure of other counties' protocol in placing new probation entries, and believes that the data for the past two years for dependent youth is at 100% compliant and not inferior to other groupings.

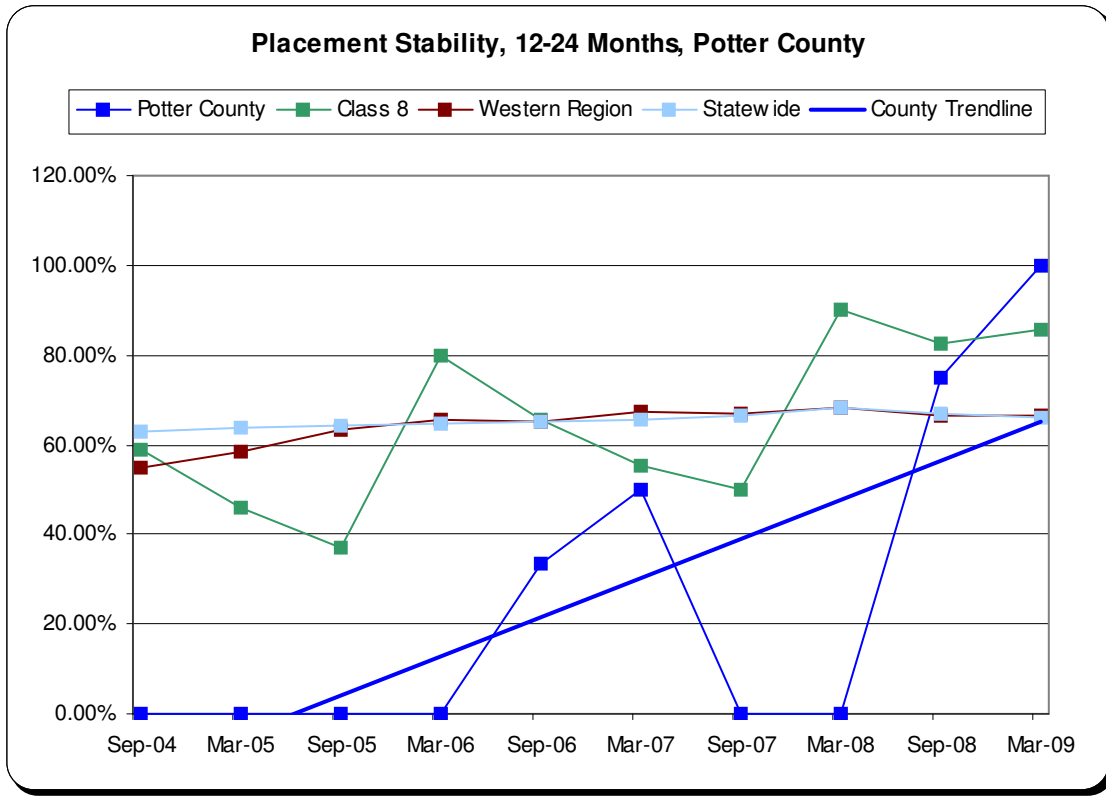
- ❑ Describe the relationship between actions taken in the first 24-72 hours of a child's removal and the on placement stability? How often does the child's first placement become the placement in which the child remains while in care? What steps is the county taking to increase that proportion?

As for CYS families, Potter County uses many strategies, including voluntary, short-term respite stays to avoid taking emergency custody and subsequently dependency adjudications. Respite care allows families to place their child(ren) with safe, local caretakers for a few hours/days, and respite care costs are the family's responsibility. Thus, the County is proactive in formal placement prevention. However, in emergency placement situations for dependent youth, county foster homes are typically used for both shelter days and ongoing stays with the child remaining in the original placement location.

As earlier described, probation youth are more susceptible to fluid placement in those beginning days due to the use of temporary locations such as detention or shelter. Improved practice will continue to include recommending that foster homes be used more for beginning days of placement with the hopes of youth remaining in such homes, or perhaps shelter and residential care being used from the same provider, if residential care is anticipated, or when safety allows, for the youth to go directly into shelter rather than detention to shelter.

POTTER COUNTY

5-2b. Placement Stability, 12 to 24 Months (CFSR Measure 4.2)
 (See HZA Data Package)



□ Is the county's performance in each measure improving or declining over time? Please describe briefly any significant trends in the data. What policies or practices explain the trends?

Potter County continues to improve for this time frame. Trends include dependent youth that are in placement due to serious abuse and are younger in age, pre-school through elementary school age. Thus, typically an experienced, nurturing foster home or kinship home are capable of assisting children with the adjustments of placement and then maintaining care even when emotions and behaviors disrupt, or medical needs are demanding. Such is the case with the four most recent dependent youth in foster care where a sibling group of 3 remained stable in their same foster home for the entire placement time and the other child just completing his first year in care and beyond remains in the same foster home.

Only one probation youth went into this second consecutive year of placement in FY 2009/2010 and has remained in the same location for year 2 thus far.

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ How does the county's data compare to other counties of the same size? To the statewide data?

It appears that Potter County had been less successful in this area compared to other 8th class counties and the State prior to 9/2008, at which time the county began improving and showed 100% success around 3/2009, above State averages, and remains at 100% for FY 2009/2010.

- ❑ If the county's performance exceeds comparable county and/or statewide performance, what policies or practices does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to maintain or improve its performance?

The practice of using foster or kinship care has already been discussed toward good practice for this area. This philosophy will continue for both dependent and delinquent population to include such use for initial placement days, that are typically handled through residential shelter or detention, where an attachment can begin early in the placement episode in a family setting and hopefully maintain until a permanency plan can be realized.

With anticipation of a 'common child assessment tool', perhaps an indirect benefit will be early detection of any clinical problems on behalf of youth and to choose an appropriate early intervention, even if placement, that fits from the start, whether it be a foster home or RTF.

Or

If the county's performance lags behind comparable county and/or statewide performance, what factors does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to improve its performance?

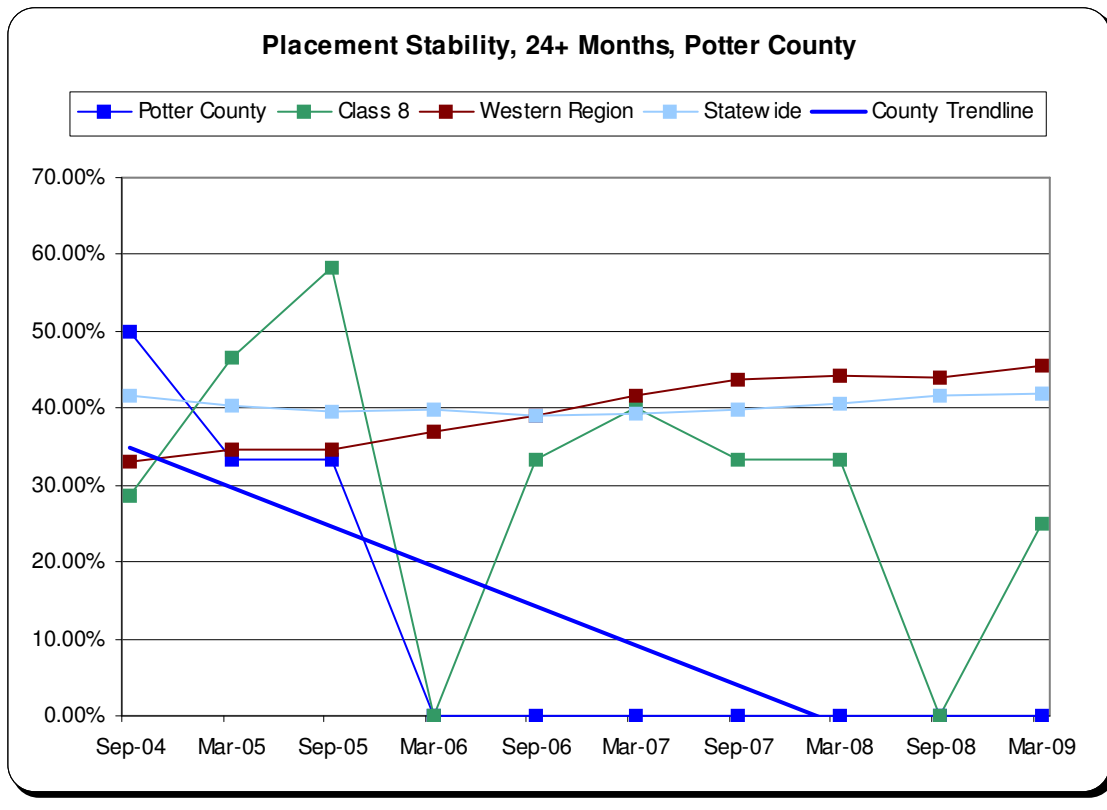
- ❑ When compared to class and state performance on each of the measures, at what point does placement stability tend to break down— the first, second, or third year? What is the county doing differently than the class, region, or rest of the state?

Statistics indicate that the County is successful at the second year of placement in that location of placements for youth become stable. A good foster care program and attentive CYS/JPO workers are credited for this success or having the appropriate residential provider that meets the needs of the resident. Particularly, for the probation population, the monthly worker visitation requirement plus availability of the County's unique shared CYS/Probation ICM have added to placement awareness and support to youth that are locally placed or in facilities outside of the County.

- ❑ Describe the relationship between actions taken in the first 24-72 hours of a child's removal and the on placement stability? How often does the child's first placement become the placement in which the child remains while in care? What steps is the county taking to increase that proportion?

This information is the same as discussed for (12) months placement stability.

5-2c. Placement Stability, More than 24 Months (CFSR Measure 4.3)
(See HZA Data Package)



- Is the county's performance in each measure improving or declining over time? Please describe briefly any significant trends in the data. What policies or practices explain the trends?

As stated in the past NB Plan, recorded data for this area does not seem entirely accurate. As for Potter County records, in FY 2008/09 and 2009/2010 the two lingering dependent sibling groups found permanency, and only of the 4 children experienced some placement changes after being asked to be removed from her kinship home. Otherwise, there are no current dependent youth in placement over the 24-month mark.

Similarly, there are no current probation placement youth that have reached the 24-month mark.

Long-term placements can take on many looks, but generally a child is either settled in to whatever placement setting and the bigger question becomes what is the next best move toward permanency, or the child remains in placement due to their very special needs that may result in placement disruptions. All such cases would be assessed case by case toward a timely, positive resolve.

- ❑ How does the county's data compare to other counties of the same size? To the statewide data?

It appears that other like size counties have peaks and valleys in this same time area as has Potter County. However, Statewide a more stable percentage exists.

- ❑ If the county's performance exceeds comparable county and/or statewide performance, what policies or practices does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to maintain or improve its performance?

Factors contributing to these results as well as actions to be taken for improvement have already been discussed in earlier sections. However, added comments include the observation that placement is intended to be temporary in nature, and when care persists beyond 12 to 18 months, maintenance of children in an intended temporary setting becomes more challenging, unrealistic. Therefore, this County must work harder to avoid any long-term placements, become more proactive in accomplishing a permanency plan as soon as is appropriate and productive for placement youth for both CYS and Probation youth. However, interestingly, just because more recent laws no longer list long-term foster care as a placement goal, it doesn't mean that such scenarios do not exist.

Or

If the county's performance lags behind comparable county and/or statewide performance, what factors does the county believe have contributed to this result? What actions is the county taking to improve its performance?

- ❑ When compared to class and state performance on each of the measures, at what point does placement stability tend to break down— the first, second, or third year? What is the county doing differently than the class, region, or rest of the state?

Although statistics suggest that the break down is more pervasive for third year placements, Potter County disagrees with this finding, but still accepts the need to avoid such long-term care on behalf of youth. The enhancement of FGDM, family searches and assertive case management will be continued efforts used toward improved and timely results.

- ❑ Describe the relationship between actions taken in the first 24-72 hours of a child's removal and the on placement stability? How often does the child's first placement become the placement in which the child remains while in care? What steps is the county taking to increase that proportion?

This information is the same as discussed for earlier time frames.

➔ 5-3a. Prevention Services

- ❑ Briefly describe prevention programs, including services to be provided and what will be prevented (i.e., child abuse, child neglect, truancy, delinquency).

As a 'family preservation' county, a prevention attitude is of great importance to have and maintain. Thus, the CYS Department, and a Human Service Agency as a whole, have invested time, funding and resources in seeking out and providing an array of prevention programs and strategies. These prevention efforts include:

School-Based Intensive Case Managers – CYS Case Managers are located in every Potter County School District (5) to assist in the implementation/maintenance of many school-based, prevention programs (busted, yellow-ribbon, SAP, mentoring), monitor attendance problems, identify and act as first responders to CA/N situations, facilitate summer youth programs, provide student and family counseling and act as support staff for probation youth, as well, to name a few of their duties. (This program addresses CA/N, truancy, delinquency, educational and community well-being).

Olweus Bullying - With the Olweus Bullying Grant and Staff ending in June 2010, the SB ICM personnel will take over some of the duties for this prevention program in conjunction with school personnel. In fact, a bullying task force has been formed (SB ICM, School, Community) to meet and coordinate ongoing efforts in this area. (This program addresses well-being, truancy, and child safety).

School-Based and Community-Based Mentoring – Adult mentors are recruited and matched with needy youth, of all ages, who can benefit from a safe and appropriate adult role model. Mentor/Mentee matches can interact at the school setting, in the community or both. The Mentor Program is supervised by the CYS Department. (This program addresses well-being and is a mandated reporter of any suspected CA/N).

Parent Education/Parent Support Groups – Parent Education workshops on relevant topics (discipline, communication, child development, child care, child behaviors) along with special topics are provided 3 to 4 times yearly for CYS/Probation families and to the community in general. In addition, (3) county 'Parents Helping Parents' support groups are held monthly and are affiliated with the PA Family Support Alliance. Childcare and parent education are provided along with discussion groups all led by a facilitator. (These programs address CA/N and overall family well-being).

21st Century Learning Centers – Fortunately, this three year grant has been extended for one more academic year (2010/11) in (3) of the five Potter County School Districts, implementing after-school programming for any interested middle school student (6th, 7th, 8th grades) and their families with emphasis on academic support, enrichment activities, family/school engagement and overall socialization. This grant is supervised by the CYS Department. (This program addresses educational well-being, truancy, supervision, and site coordinators are mandated reporters of CA/N).

Good Touch/Bad Touch Presentations – Safety programs regarding GT/BT and what to do about unwanted touches are provided by CYS personnel to pre-school and young school age

POTTER COUNTY

children as well as to community organizations. (This program addresses CA/N and well-being).

SCAN Presentations – Potter County CYS is a participant of the American Academy of Pediatric Organization in collaborating with Health providers to educate and update doctors/nurses/practitioners in identifying and reporting CA/N. (This program addresses CA/N and responsive medical care for youth and their families and enhanced mandated reporting).

Evidenced –Based Programs – MST and FGDM were implemented in Potter County toward treatment and prevention of incidents of CA/N. (These programs address CA/N, permanency planning, and well-being).

Public Awareness Programs – Community awareness efforts such as the annual Family Fun Fair, the Teen Conference and the Mobile Family Center provide information on an array of topics and services to all ages toward increasing healthy family living, including dental screenings. Such programming is supervised by the CYS Department and the ICSP Team. (These programs address CA/N and overall family well-being).

ICSP Dental Initiative – The 2009/10 ICSP Promising Practices Grant provided for dental subsidies and dental education for youth and their families in Potter County. To date about 32 youth received dental treatment that was otherwise unaffordable, about 85 received free dental screenings and hundreds of children received dental care products. (This program addresses neglect and health well-being).

Potter County Death Review Board – This local chapter of the PA Child Death Review Team reviews patterns of maltreatment or mishaps resulting in child/adolescent death and determines any actions of correction/prevention for recommendations to and implementation by the county. (This program addresses CA/N and well-being).

PCHS sponsored programs – Yellow Ribbon and D&A programs are continued programs that provide education and prevention strategies toward remedying child and teen suicide and addictions. (These programs address child safety and CA/N).

Trailblazers and Independent Living – Trailblazers is a Court sponsored, Agency supervised summer work program for high risk, adolescent dependent/delinquent youth for in-home and placement youth. IL also works with similar populations toward productive, adult living, and in some cases, increasing parenting knowledge and practice. (These programs address CA/N, permanency planning, well-being).

POTTER COUNTY

➤ 5-3b. Previously Introduced Outcomes

- ❑ For each outcome introduced by the county in past budgets, describe the activities, programs, or services implemented in order to achieve the outcome and results.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

Items (1) & (2) Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment and repeat maltreatment

Potter County continues to be very responsive to CPS referrals (immediate to 24 hrs.) investigating in a timely fashion. A county policy directs that any infant or young pre-school age child will be seen within 2 hours of the receipt of the referral whenever humanly possible, or have been seen by a trusted provider, to have a preliminary safety plan to be put in place. All CYS staff have been trained in the new 'safety assessment and management process' that was initially implemented in March 2009 and further refined in the first year of usage. Safety assessments and safety plans are done routinely on all 60-day assessment cases (brief services) or active cases along with increased Risk Assessments then are required by the PA Model. In addition, an 'action plan' (blue coded) has been added to the safety assessment process to do routinely with families when safety plans are not warranted. Such plan must be signed by participants establishing CYS requirements in the CPS/GPS home. Weekly/monthly face-to-face contact is maintained with all CYS identified families by CYS traditional and SB ICM staff along with the CYS case aid and IL Coordinator for selective families. Voluntary respite care by county foster homes or other safe caretakers known by the family are used for short-term removals from crisis/unsafe situations until the situation improves or stabilizes. FSP's and CPP'S attempt to better reflect accurate problem areas and realistic actions to respond to/remedy the identified problem areas with appropriate time frames and providers listed. All previous listed prevention/education programs along with other community programs provided by MH/MR, Adult Services, D&A and the like are made available to families. Another county policy directs that all youth age 3 and under are referred to Early Intervention along with the regulated 'Ages and Stages' screening tool being done by CYS workers with all young children under the age of 5 despite case status. County created 'home checklists' are used for poor housing conditions by CYS personnel for consistent documentation and provision of services. Case Aid time is spent in providing instruction in basic care taking needs, supervision of visitation, transportation of consumers, safety check, etc. Staff receives ongoing training toward improved 'good practice' in case management and file maintenance. In the past FY, the majority of staff received training in 'Realities of Poverty' and the prevention of 'Shaken Baby Syndrome'. (It should be noted that Charles Cole Hospital has confirmed routine review of 'Shaken baby Syndrome' with all new parents, and Agency will pursue any signed confirmation of relevant parents for file maintenance.)

PA Criminal and PA Child Abuse Clearances are routinely done on household members in care taking roles.

As for repeat maltreatment, the 2009 CPS report documents that there was 1 youth out of the 5 'indicated' findings that was re-abused, although this Agency is uncertain what child is being identified. It is suspected, that as in the past, a victim had more than one number with disclosures coming out at a similar time, but not returned to a known perpetrator to be re-

POTTER COUNTY

abused. However, if such a threat existed, this Agency would either assure that the child was under the supervision of a safe caretaker or file for dependency and placement of the child.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate

Items (1) & (2) Services to family to protect children in home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care

Risk assessment and safety management

Potter County remains faithful to this second safety outcome as highlighted in previous NB Plans. Most of the activities under 'Safety Outcome 1' and the provided list of prevention services are used for this safety outcome as well. Some added strategies and services include purchased day care slots for needed socialization and instruction for the child as well as respite for the parent, packets of specialty information regarding child development and safety tips are routinely provided and reviewed with CYS families, increased parent education curriculums shared with families (1,2,3 Magic; Total Transformation, Dr. Dad) toward positively managing child's behaviors, the more recent implementation of MST for older youth in their homes and accessing the many in-home mental health services (family-based, wrap-around, out-patient services). Frequency of home visits, routine photos of home conditions and family members, the gathering of collateral medical and educational and behavioral health records for in-home families are added strengths toward monitoring and documenting safety and well-being status in individual homes. FGDM is being used more routinely for in-home families toward resolving unresolved issues interfering with child safety, well-being and case closure.

Risk assessments and the implemented safety assessment and management process are maintained with every family involved with CYS, and added intervals of risk and safety as well as action plans upgrade the State's mandates in this County.

Well-Being Outcome A: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Items (17) (18) (20) Needs and services of child, parents and foster parents
Child and family involvement in case planning
Caseworker visits with child
Worker visits with parents

Again services and strategies listed for the previous safety outcomes address many of these items and well-being outcome. The evidenced-based programs, MST and FGDM, as well as many of school-based prevention programs assist with this particular outcome. Recruitment of consumers for advisory boards (PCHS Board, ICSP, CASSP) is a continuing goal to allow for families to be a part of service planning and participation. The SB ICM program interacts with families in a more non-threatening, non-traditional way that assists in enhanced family engagement. A county operated foster care program with an active foster parent association continues to be a priority and adds to a collaborative between agency, community and families to provide the best substitute care as possible either in the child's home community or in close proximity. Finally, casework visits within the home and placement settings with children are frequent and in most cases more than what is regulated as evidenced in case file documentation (case notes, safety plans, action plans, photos). A caseworker visitation log is now a part of a family's case file in Potter County for both dependent and delinquent placement youth. Added documentation includes FGDM plans, MST treatment plans and updates,

POTTER COUNTY

transitional plans for aging youth and a checklist of requirements in keeping with 'Fostering Connections' regulations.

- ❑ Describe whether the county will continue its efforts to improve outcomes, or if the county has analyzed needs and chosen to address different outcomes.

Due to the importance of child safety for CYS agencies and workers, the Safety Outcomes remain highlighted by this County, and personnel will remain vigilant in maintaining and improving on any and all procedures that assure safety and family preservation when safely possible.

The Well-Being Outcome (1) remains as well, although Well-Being (2) regarding educational needs has received some added attention due to the piloting and further implementation of the County-Wide Truancy Policy for the past school year 2009/2010 and upcoming academic year and the increased involvement of SB ICM's with this process.

- ❑ Discuss whether the outcome has been achieved, and reasons for that status. Provide specifics on the activities, programs, or services that affect the targeted outcome (county provided and/or purchased).

As long as numbered investigations and referrals are received by this County regarding any degree of CA/N, the safety outcomes have not yet been fully achieved. However, the County believes that earlier discussions of procedures and services that have been put in place have positively affected this County's ability to keep children and youth safe from serious child abuse and neglect and repeated maltreatment.

Similarly, improvement can always be made when it comes to overall well-being for youth and their families, kinship and foster homes as well. Programs and services have already been discussed, but with new emphasis between CYS and the School Districts to improve truancy protocol.

- ❑ For continuing or newly targeted outcomes for FY 2009-10:
 - ❑ Identify specific activities [planned] and services to improve the outcomes.
 - ❑ Provide timeframes for measured improvement.
 - ❑ Describe the process for data collection/measurement.

Safety Outcomes 1 & 2: Activities and services have already been identified with the increased use of FGDM, improved usage of the Safety Assessment and Management Process, enhanced practice and implementation of Ages and Stages, upgraded training for experienced CYS staff, including the return of intake duties. In restructuring the intake process, with the loss of Centralized Intake, it is anticipated to expedite the implementation of a 'common intake tool' with ICPS funds and supporting CYS funds in the implementation year.

Vacant CYS positions will be filled as funding and available candidates allow. Priority positions for FY 2010/2011 are the 6th SB ICM position and the supervisory position, now in jeopardy due to budget cuts. Increased efforts in Quality Assurance will be helpful for safety and any and all CYS programming and will be further implemented as budgets allow.

All enhancements will be accomplished to some degree in the implementation year.

POTTER COUNTY

Initial data collection and measurement will be accomplished through the current CYS system, HSS, but with the help of anticipated IT Grant, Potter County intends to convert to a more proven, CYS informational system that will be compatible with State requirements in the implementation year. (The HSS system continues to use both a character and Web based structure making the system difficult in navigating and does not include all forms and alerts that are ideal in such a system. Data analysis is non-existent.) This, in addition to anticipated capabilities of a common child intake tool, should assist Potter County to be more capable in this area.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Activities and services have already been added. The enhanced Independent Living Program, implemented in 2009/10, shows early signs of successful upgrades for a broader range of youth. Similarly, the 2009/10 ICSP Dental Grant was very successful with 32 youth served for actual dental subsidies along with countywide dental health awareness.

Well-Being Outcome 2: The initial months of the countywide truancy policy seemed successful and has added positive attention to this outcome.

Data collection and measurement will be using the same technology, documentation and strategies as listed for the safety outcomes.

5-4a. Family Engagement in Case Planning

- ❑ Assess performance to determine if improvement in this area is needed in the county; describe previous efforts, which the county believes have had a positive impact, and any new initiatives to improve this area.

Despite upgrades/improvements in engaging families in their case planning, more is always needed. There continues to be resistant families, angry family members, family members with disabling conditions that make it difficult to emotionally and intellectually navigate such an intrusive system that results in struggles in working with CYS caseworkers and JPO. In addition, older youth mimic parent's negative attitudes in accepting responsibility for misbehaviors and family dysfunction.

However, newer strategies, such as the implementation of FGDM are moving overall positive relationships in the right direction. This process is being used more routinely with long-term, entrenched GPS/CPS families to re-energize both family members and staff toward improved outcomes. Likewise, the more established CASSP process examples an integrated approach for treatment planning with family members at the table.

Other steps toward family engagement include invitation letters sent to families encouraging their involvement in service planning at the time of the initial FPS and subsequent FSP reviews and CPP's. Additional education and prevention information is provided, a booklet to families with youth in placement to better explain the process, definitions of terms that families struggle with to understand. Non-traditional staff such as SB-ICM's, prevention personnel, parent educator, support facilitators are additional communicators and listening ears for intimidated families. Conscience efforts to communicate with referral sources, extended family members, stakeholders and providers have been enhanced through individual efforts by caseworkers or through entities such as advisory boards, the ICSP Team.

POTTER COUNTY

Potter County continues to place time and energy toward locating and communicating with absent parents, typically dads, including all required documents (case status letters, FSP's, CPP's, hearing notices, etc.) unless there is an existing PFA preventing such contact and knowledge by that parent. This interaction includes parents that are incarcerated.

Finally, the individual attention that caseworkers continue to provide to their families during home visits, phone calls, meetings, in doing safety checks, action plans and service planning always attempts and generally succeeds in including family members in all aspects of their case planning. Mutually, assessing a child's development with parents through tools such as Ages and Stages is another opportunity for workers to positively interact with parents. Interestingly, positive feedback is often received from the families that have been active with the Agency the longest.

More of the same will be continued toward improvements in family engagement. Responses received from consumer surveys and other strategies provided through Quality Assurance will be beneficial for growth in this area as well.

5-4b. Youth Involvement in Case Planning

- ❑ Assess performance to determine if improvement in this area is needed in the county, describe previous efforts which the county believes have had a positive impact, and any new initiatives to improve this area.

Youth of appropriate ages are included in Agency interactions with families and FGDM. As required, all youth 14 years and older are presented the content of their FSP/ CPP and are asked to sign these plans in agreement or disagreement. Youth sit in on CASSP, MST, MH planning meetings, attend their Court hearings (dependent/delinquent), have their own legal representation as appropriate for the Court proceeding and certainly are heard by the Court. A case in point, in the past a young woman requested to leave foster care earlier than was recommended by the Agency, and the Court did rule in favor of the young lady's wishes.

The enhanced IL program is a very supportive, interactive program by nature for youth who are encouraged to make their own decisions on behalf of future dreams, independent living. FGDM is another grouping where youth can participate in family decision-making, and sometimes be an equal partner at the table.

5-4c. Transition Planning & Preparation

- ❑ Assess performance to determine if improvement in this area is needed in the county, describe previous efforts which the county believes have had a positive impact, and any new initiatives to improve this area.

The full time IL program is a great improvement for this County toward assisting youth/families with transitional planning and preparation. Increased services to a broader age range (ages 14 – 21) have been implemented in the past FY and does include the IL coordinator having a role in facilitating transitional plans as required by the 'Fostering Connections' legislation. In January 2010, the IL program began renting a 3-bedroom home in the Coudersport area to be used as transitional housing for older youth aging out of the system. So far the house has provided such services for (3) young men (age 18 –21) and all three situations have been very positive. One young man stayed long enough to stabilize and complete his application for Job Corp where he

POTTER COUNTY

is now a participant and boarder. Another youth will soon be leaving the house to be a part of his own family, expecting a baby. The third youth has just moved in and preparing for his next move.

Other efforts in this area include foster parents and residential providers encouraged, required to promote youth participation in daily living activities and chores to reinforce skills for independence and self-confidence. At the annual April 2009 foster parent training, Stephen Edison and the County IL Coordinator trained resource families on the importance of preparing older youth for the world beyond placement and methods to successfully accomplishing this goal. It was emphasized that such attention can and should be provided to younger youth as appropriate toward readiness for self-reliance.

Routinely, older youth (both placement and in-home youth) are a part of their family's case planning as already stated, in addition to individual treatment plans when appropriate. High school graduation or GED's are always expected or encouraged and support systems reviewed for youth aging out or a part of a family group being closed out. Teen parents are invited to parenting education classes and support groups. The SB ICM's take special interest in youth that are looking toward future goals and offer services in the school environment as well. The Agency has funded summer school classes and supported any needed project/need for this age population. In the past FY, a teen mother, still a high school student, was provided support and some funding by IL and the SB ICM/school personnel to move into her own apartment with a young toddler. There have been some set backs, but overall she and child are doing ok. Continued support will be needed until mother has more maturity and resources to go it on her own. Her goal continues to include earning her high school diploma.

Potter County does not kick placement youth out automatically at age 18 on the dependent side, but rather advises that dependent youth have the legal right to request release from the system at age 18. Reasons for delayed release include graduation, need for continued treatment or no place to go. At least 3 young people have benefited from delayed placement discharges in the past few years, although there were no teenagers in placement through CYS this past FY.

It should be noted that despite the direction of this Agency toward helping the aging out youth with transitional plans, and even continued placement and transitional housing, the system must be realistic with limited funding and keeping within the age parameters of the Juvenile Act. Quite honestly, the CYS system is not truly prepared to provide and prolong all the needed services for all of the struggling youth out there, a need that is only increasing due to the local, State and National economy.

5-4d. Implementation of Concurrent Planning


- ❑ Assess performance to determine if improvement in this area is needed in the county, describe previous efforts which the county believes have had a positive impact, and any new initiatives to improve this area.

A 'concurrent planning' section has routinely been present on Potter County's CPP forms, completed with families and presented to the Court since concurrent planning was initiated. Therefore, the County begins looking at alternative permanent goals for dependent youth in placement at the beginning of the placement, even when the initial goal is 'return home'. Typical options are kinship care or adoption. Certainly, delayed stays in foster care occur to allow for concurrent plans to develop, and as earlier acknowledged, perhaps to a 'fault'. Potter

POTTER COUNTY

County gives biological parents more than ample time to remedy the dependency issues for the hopes of reunification.

Due to the serious nature of dependency issues resulting in the limited placements done by this county, problems are not easily fixed and often times it takes longer than 12 months to come to a final, safe solution. Likewise, our Court system expects thorough efforts for whatever time it takes to assure all has been done to resolve the dependency issues preventing the child(ren) to return to their home. The Agency continues to remind all parties of the ASFA time frames and will, and has recommended, expedited moves to other permanent goals than 'return home'. The FGDM process has been beneficial in these types of cases, needing to move along a concurrent plan. In another 2009/2010 case, the Agency began recommending the 'Adoption' goal at the initial CPP review hearing toward a more timely resolve for a seriously abused child.



Section 6: Administration

6-1a. Salary & Benefits

See “Personnel Summary” and “CY Staff Summary” tabs in Budget Excel File.

6-1b. Employee Benefit Detail

- Submit a detailed description of the county’s employee benefit package for FY 2010-11. Include a description of each benefit included in the package and the methodology for calculating benefit costs.

Potter County Human services offers the following fringe benefits:

Fringe Type	Who Qualifies
Health Insurance Coverage	Full Time Employee only
Dental Coverage	Full Time Employee only
Vision Coverage	Full Time Employee only
Retirement	All Employees
Fica/Medicare	All employees
Life Insurance	Full Time Employee only

In order to reduce the increase in Premiums for 2010, PCHS went with an increase in the deductible paid by individuals and PCHS then elected to pay a portion of the yearly deductible. (Employee pays single \$150.00 other \$300.00 PCHS pays rest)

Health Insurance, Dental and Vision Coverage premiums are based upon who is covered by the plan (ie. Family, Husband/Wife or Individual)

We will then be billed based upon the coverage chosen by each person to give us a total billed amount Potter County Human Services monthly Premium.

We will also pay for all deductibles up to a certain limit.

We then take that total monthly bill for premiums and for deductibles and allocate them out to all Agencies (Aging/Coordinated Services/Children & Youth/Drug and Alcohol/Human Services/Medical Assistance Transportation/Mental Health and Mental Retardation) based upon a percentage calculated at the beginning of the year. The percentage is a calculation based upon wages (from time studies) of employees and Department Served.

POTTER COUNTY

Our Health Insurance premiums are listed by year

Health Insurance and Vision

Monthly Premium - Jan. 1, 2010 through Dec. 31, 2010				
	Individual	P/Child	H/Wife	Family
Union	\$421.21	\$986.68	\$1,108.93	\$1,278.70
Non-Union	\$407.97	\$971.11	\$1,093.42	\$1,263.26

2009 – 2010 Increase				
Union	Individual	P/Child	H/Wife	Family
Premium Increase	\$76.02	\$186.81	\$208.38	\$238.31
% Increase	23%	23%	23%	23%
Non-Union	Individual	P/Child	H/Wife	Family
Premium Increase	\$73.44	\$155.26	\$176.89	\$206.89
% Increase	22%	19%	19%	20%

Monthly Premium – Jan. 1, 2009 – Dec. 31, 2009				
	Individual	P/Child	H/Wife	Family
Union	\$336.19	\$799.87	\$900.55	\$1,040.39
Non-Union	\$334.53	\$815.85	\$916.53	\$1,056.37

Yearly Deductible (New for 2009)		
	10-11	09-10
Single	\$1,350	\$850
P/Child/ H/Wife/Family	\$2,700	\$1,700

No Increase budgeted for 10/11 because we don't know the affect of any premium increase.

Dental

	2010	2009
Single	\$21.32	\$21.32
Family	\$65.00	\$65.00

We are projecting no 10/11 nor 10/11 increase.

Retirement

Each employee has to contribute at least 5% and can contribute an additional 10% up to a maximum of 15% of annual salary to the retirement plan. Upon retirement each employee will receive an annuity, which shall be the actuarial equivalent of his accumulated deduction standing to his credit in the members annuity reserve account and a county annuity equal to one-one hundred twentieth of his final salary multiplied by each year of prior service.

Since we have no way of knowing how much will be needed to fund retirement in 10/11 we will not be increasing nor decreasing the amount for 10/11 or 11/12.

POTTER COUNTY

Fica/Medicare Payments for 10/11 and 11/12

As with all employers we must contribute to Fica/Medicare at 7.6% of total wages.

Project Additional Fica/Medicare Payments					
10/11 Wage Increase	Fica/Medicare %	Additional expense	11/12 Wage Increase	Fica/Medicare %	Additional Expense
\$19,903	7.60%	\$1,512.6	\$20,699	7.60%	\$1,573.12

Life Insurance

Each full time employee has life insurance coverage and Potter County Human Services pays \$359/month to keep the coverage in effect. We then take that total monthly bill and allocate it out to all our Agencies (Aging/Coordinated Service/Children & Youth/Drug & Alcohol/Human Services/Medical Assistance Transportation/Mental Health and Mental Retardation) based upon a percentage calculated at the beginning of the year. The percentage is a calculation using wage percentages (from time studies).

We anticipate no increase or an immaterial increase in premiums, therefore we are making no adjustments.

6-1d. Organizational Changes

- Note any changes to the county’s organizational chart.

A permanent change anticipated in last year’s NB is the termination of the Centralized Intake Unit that involved (2) ICPS funded case management positions that were furloughed last July 2009, not to be returned to their positions. As earlier stated, the intake process is being restructured throughout PCHS with existing traditional workers doing intake duties within the CYS department.

The CYS Governmental Summer Intern position remained vacant for another summer (2010/2011) typically filled for the Trailblazers Program, with one existing staff and a contracted summer assistant employee running the program.

Otherwise, the Organizational Structure remains constant for CYS and PCHS, but with many existing vacancies throughout the organization to yet be filled. CYS vacancies include supervisor, homemaker and (1) SB ICM position.

POTTER COUNTY

6-1e. Staff Evaluations

❑ Describe the method for evaluating staff effectiveness.

1. Licensing – The Regional annual inspection of active cases (Intake/Assessment/GPS/CPS/Foster/Residential/Adoption) reviews file keeping and documentation for compliance and quality issues, reflecting service delivery by staff. Such documentation shows the frequency of contacts, completeness of safety and risk assessments, FSP's and CPP's and the like. Potter County has had full licensing for many, many years, including this most recent inspection in June 2010 with full licensing granted once again. In addition, the 2009/10 safety assessment and management process was reviewed and found to be in compliance as well, although not a licensing item for this past FY. Suggestions were given for a better product, but overall the process was complete and being done correctly, in some cases, overdone.

2. Consumer Satisfaction Surveys – Surveys are sent out approximately quarterly to a random sampling of families, along with completing the forms at the time of case closures and service planning. Response of mailed surveys continues to be very poor, under 5%. However, of the few that are completed, responses continue to be quite positive, giving average to highest marks for the worker and services provided. (According to a 2009 Quality Assurance training, it is not uncommon for a poor survey response and for negative comments not to be shared in writing.) The Agency did as planned, to present surveys more routinely at defined case intervals, in person by workers, but with responses sealed or sent back without responses being shared with worker.

3. Complaints - Potter County continues to receive sporadic unhappy consumer calls for varying reasons, either directly to the PCHS/CYS administrators, to the Region or to higher authorities. However, it does not seem that these calls were in excess, or above average, for the past FY. Categories of calls include absent parents wanting information about their child or complaining about the other parent (private custody cases); parents not feeling they warrant services; collateral people/extended people feeling that the Agency has not done enough to protect children or generally in the nature of the caller wanting the child(ren) removed from the home or an apparent personality difference by family of a particular case worker. Interestingly, at least two families that became involved with Potter County were cooperative with Potter County staff, but complained about another PA County/other State CYS agencies they had been involved, and a Potter County family praised NYS for their response to a case compared to Potter County.

A timely, professional response is made to these callers and concerns with factual information provided regarding the parameters of CYS laws and regulations. In most cases, inquiries are satisfied. Information is provided promptly for any Regional/DPW requests as well. Corrections or actions are implemented as recommended, although in most cases, Potter County's performance has found to be satisfactory.

4. Civil Service Evaluations – Six month probationary and yearly civil service job performance reviews are completed by the Director with each CYS worker to assess their individual strengths and weaknesses and discuss strategies in increasing individual job skills.

POTTER COUNTY

5. Individual Training Need Assessments – ITNA’s were completed on all CYS staff for 2010 to determine training/skill needs. Upgraded training opportunities are intended for all staff in the implementation year.

6. CPS Appeals – Approximately (7) new and dated CPS appeals were taken against Potter County this past FY. Some pending, (1) founded case confirmed, (1) old case won due to perpetrator not following through but any going in front of the Erie Hearing Officer lost. This area has been covered earlier in this plan, but as a Judge tends to not like having Court decisions appealed and then reversed, so is the case for this Agency, particularly when the Agency’s investigations and decision making is under scrutiny.

7. Case Results – Results of service delivery is the best measurement of effectiveness such as numbers of youth successfully maintained in their own homes, progress toward closure of active cases, the persistence in accomplishing permanency, etc. In addition, the many prevention/education programs that CYS supervises/operates lends toward a more positive image of what CYS personnel can provide on behalf of families and the community besides threats of removing children or placement cases. Case in point, at the July 2010 NB Public hearing, the attendees complimented the CYS Department on it’s overall good performance and at a 2009 school planning meeting, a high school principal publicly complimented the CYS Department for all the programming that has been done over the years for their particular school district.

Staff retention continues to be stable for another FY with only one SB ICM departure early in the 2009/2010 FY, a CWEL caseworker, who left to specialize in MH counseling duties upon the completion of her time commitment to CYS. Otherwise, all (6) traditional Caseworkers, (5) SB ICM’s, (1) case aid and Director remained. The newest caseworker will have completed (3) years in September 2010, and longest hire at 11 years with the Agency with everyone else in between. All caseworkers have their ‘Direct Service Worker’s Certification’, two with Masters Degrees and another worker working on completing her Master’s Degree.

The CYS Director has completed her 34th year with CYS as of April 2010 and CYS secretary 22 years.

6-1f. Contract Monitoring & Evaluation

□ Note the employee/unit which oversees county contracts. Describe the evaluation process.

FY 2009/2010 was another very poor year for the contracting process, similar to FY 2008/09, with the system being that lead counties would negotiate programs with per diems under \$200.00. What was hoped to be a more efficient year did not turn out as such. Once again, Potter County found itself contracting with far fewer providers and not having some final contracts well into the 3rd Quarter. Why, You say? Contracts were done as approved rates were posted, being done very late, and then after this County prepared contracts with the approved DPW rates, rates sheets had to be re-approved because the provider was charging a lower rate then was on the posted site.

Routinely, the CYS Director sends out standard contracts in May for the upcoming FY with recent wording/policy updates that are dictated by DPW, language for ‘Documentation for Residential Provider’ included to those providers normally used with the anticipation of signed

POTTER COUNTY

provider contracts being returned to the County by the end of June for County signatures by early July, for the contracted FY. As an 8th Class County with a low placement population and having no residential providers in the county, Potter has little clout in directing or participating in the negotiating process so does rely on other lead counties for this task. ‘Performance Based’ contracting is an interesting term. Potter County believes that providers work for the County in providing a safe living environment while the child is treated for his/her needs. Family counseling is expected to be a part of that routine. Timely placements are also expected which has become more of the Probation Department’s philosophy, as well, meaning that providers need to show timely results in the treatment strategies with the youth, or have reasons why a youth is not progressing in their program with possible solutions. With the onset of health choices in this County, provider performance will be looked at, as well, in regards to approved funding through the managed care process.

Other measurements used in terms of provider performance includes stability and growth of the youth in the placement environment, the level of family engagement with the youth’s treatment and treatment team, discharge planning and rates of recidivism of youth, rate of disciplinary actions on behalf of youth’s behavior and, certainly, any pattern of staff improprieties. The Incident Management System has assisted in the last area, sharing reports of CPS investigations/ findings against residential staff and generating data regarding high incident rates and provisional licensing episodes to assist counties in choosing the best and safest placement sites for usage.

6-1g. Largest Providers Contract Review

Review the Schedule of Existing Purchased Services and identify the four largest providers (regardless of whether it is a CCYA or JPO provider) as follows:

- Two largest providers of In-Home Services. Include contact information.

Provider Name	Provider Address & Phone	Provider Contact Name	# of Children Served FY 2009-10	Total \$ Amount of Services
1: Howard & Marie O'Donnell	1242 Highway 6 W. Galeton, PA 16922 814-435-1366	Same as provider name	5	\$2,592.00
2: Mary Freeman	1392 Dividing Ridge Road Coudersport, PA 16915 814-274-8491	Mary Freeman	25 individuals 400 - groups	\$377.63

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ Largest provider of Community Based Placement services. Include contact information.

Provider Name	Provider Address & Phone	Provider Contact Name	# of Children Served FY 2009-10	Total \$ Amount of Services
1: Bethesda Children's Home	15667 State Highway 86 Meadville, PA 16335 814-724-7510	Rebecca Hover	1	\$27,851.88

- ❑ The largest provider of Institutional Placement services (excluding Youth Development Center and Juvenile Detention Center placements). Include contact information.

Provider Name	Provider Address & Phone	Provider Contact Name	# of Children Served FY 2009-10	Total \$ Amount of Services
1: N/A				

- ❑ Briefly summarize the services provided by these entities, the expected outcomes of those services, and how provider performance is monitored.

In-Home Providers –

The O'Donnell's are long-time foster parents for Potter County. For FY 2009/2010, they served (1) foster child and a sibling group of (4) through the respite program. Their probation foster child was a female teenager who was on the end stretch of her most recent episode of placement. She had been in another foster home beginning in 10/08, to Detention/Shelter/Boot Camp/back to initial foster home, to have that disrupt. The O'Donnell's provided care as the transitional home from her previous foster home until her return home in October 2009.

The O'Donnell's provided respite care for a sibling group of (4), young school aged children, toward the end of May through the first of July 2010. The family had become homeless due to parent's separation, lack of maintaining bills (no utilities/rental eviction) and mom's mental health instability. The children had been in foster care previously in another county years ago, due to serious abuse perpetrated by their biological father who is now incarcerated. Prior to this most recent housing crisis, almost the entire family was receiving in-home, mental health services, but had not been active with CYS. Short-term respite care was chosen over filing for dependency due to the nature of the problem and the expectation that with assistance, the family could recover and find housing, which they did on July 2.

In both scenarios, reunification with family was the ultimate outcome. In the first case, the placement was formal care with Court approval of a 'return home' goal. The teen had successfully completed her residential stay in boot camp seeming to have made progress and although she returned to her initial foster home with differences with foster parents, she committed no additional delinquent acts and earned her way back to mother's home. As for the respite youth, respite care was a safe support to parents, giving them time to stabilize, reunite

POTTER COUNTY

and find housing. The children are now back with mom and step-dad, but now under an active FSP through CYS and continued MH counseling and financial responsibilities with PCHS.

Monitoring of the formal foster care placement was done jointly by the Probation Officer and shared CYS/Probation ICM to do safety checks, provide for any family visitation, and facilitate foster home protocol. The ultimate review took place with the Court approving continued foster care and the youth’s return home.

As for the respite situation where parents legally remained the decision makers for their children, the CYS Case Worker was the contact person for respite home, family members, and other providers. In fact, MH providers continued to see the children in the respite home to continue needed services, and parents could visit children, as they were able.

Community-Based Placement Provider –

Bethesda Children’s Home is a residential group home that has been used very little by this county, but seemed to have needed treatment services for a probation youth that had discovered incest within his biological family (dad and sister). In reaction to that discovery, he ran away from home and committed delinquent acts resulting in placement. After detention and a diagnostic stay, he was moved to Bethesda where he remained for almost 11 months, then to foster care as a step-down to return home. Treating the multitude of emotions and behaviors that this young man was displaying and stabilizing behavior in a safe environment was the expectation placed on the provider for this placement. In this case, the provider appeared to successfully fulfill these expectations. The outcomes of safety and permanency were accomplished through this placement with the youth timely returning home to the non-offending parent, also allowing his return to his home community and school.

Direct monitoring of the performance of this provider was done by the Juvenile Probation Department and Court based on the youth’s progress and the documentation of such progress, the level of staff communication and cooperation and the absence of any safety issues during the youth’s stay. In this case, such performance by the provider was very positive. The youth’s progress was evident and resulted in a relatively short stay at the facility.

Institutional –

Only detention was used for the FY 2009/2010 and no other institutional facilities.

6-3a. Evidence Based Programs

Pertinent Submission Information

This subsection of the Narrative Template is for Special Grant Initiatives (SGI): Evidence-Based Programs (EBP), Pennsylvania Promising Practices (PaPP), Housing and Alternatives to Truancy (ATP) programs. Please review Appendix 9 of the FY 2011-12 NBPB prior to completing this section or the Budget Excel File worksheets.

To ensure proper evaluation of any special grant request, counties must provide brief and sufficient explanations and justifications to the questions in the Narrative Template. Counties are advised to prepare informative responses that offer a clear understanding to help the

POTTER COUNTY

reviewer recommend approval, rather than a denial or reduction in funds because of missing or unclear information.

Additionally, if a county is requesting a renewal or an expansion of an existing special grant and there was under-utilization and/or under-spending of the grant in FY 2008-09 and/or FY 2009-10, the county must provide detailed explanations as to the cause(s) of the underperformance and must identify measures the county will utilize to prevent the underperformance in both FY 2010-11 as well as FY 2011-12.

If a county is requesting a new grant, it must provide succinct details as to the target population, planned utilization, realistic timeframes for implementing the special grant and outcomes expected to be achieved.

In addition to the Narrative Template, the county must enter SGI fiscal information for each fiscal year in the Budget Excel File. That file will be the primary source for fiscal information. Please ensure fiscal costs in the Narrative Template match the Budget Excel File. Instructions for completing the Excel files are included in Appendix 9 and in the Excel file.

The Special Grants Budget Form for FY 2010-11 requests FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10 actual expenditures with Needs-Based Fund adjustments and line-item budget information for each SGI in Appendix 9 with the exception of State Reintegration. CCYAs are also required to enter fiscal information in the FY 2011-12 Special Grants Funding Request Form.

Counties are also required to complete the SGI Contact List in the Budget Excel file for all SG and IL programs.

Requests to Transfer/Shift Funds within Evidence-Based Programs and Pa Promising Practices

The following subsections provide counties the opportunity to transfer or shift funds within the EBP and PaPP for FY 2010-11. The requests may not exceed the total allocation of the EBP or PaPP and must include detailed justification for the proposed changes. This opportunity is available only for EBP and PaPP. It is not applicable for Housing, ATP or State Reintegration.

6-3a. Evidence Based Programs: Multi-Systemic Therapy

Please indicate which type of request this is:

Request Type	Enter Y or N			
	Renewal from 2009-10		X	
New implementation for 2010-11 (did not receive funds in 2009-10)				
Funded and delivered services in 2009-10 but not renewing in 2010-11				
Requesting funds for 2011-12 (new, continuing or expanding)		New	Continuing	Expanding
			X	

Complete the following table if providing this service or requesting a **transfer, shift, or revision** only of funds for FY 2010-11; and/or requesting funds for FY 2011-12. Enter the total amount of

POTTER COUNTY

state and matching local funds. (Transfer/shifting is allowable only within EBP funds. Counties may not transfer/shift from or to other SGI categories.)

Total Budget Amount	Original/Approved Allocation (Amt requested and approved)	Revision Amount Change + or -	Requested Amount (enter this amount in fiscal worksheets)
FY 2010-11	\$40.00		\$40.00
FY 2011-12			\$30,000

- ❑ Did your county request and receive approval to transfer/shift funds during FY 2009-10? If YES, will the rationale for the change remain the same for FY 2010-11? Describe, briefly that rationale for the approved change and do not respond to the next question. If NO, please respond to the following question.

Response:

Potter County did request and receive approval to shift a small amount from the MST grant amount of (\$5,000.00) to fund a second EBP, Family Group Decision Making for FY 2009/2010. However, Potter County is not requesting a change in the 2011/12 NB numbers for the MST grant since Potter County received a total allocation for EBP of only \$1,037.00.

- ❑ Explain why the change is requested. What are the deciding factors to move from the originally requested program(s) to another(s)? Was this change discussed with the regional office?

Response:

N/A

- ❑ Complete the following table for each applicable year.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
Target Population	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	30	32
# of Referrals	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	10	12
# Successfully completing program	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	8	10
Cost per year	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,715.00	\$30,000	\$33,000
Per Diem Cost/ Program funded amount	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$27.50/unit	\$33.50/unit	\$35.00/unit
# of MA referrals	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	6	8
# of Non MA referrals	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	4	4
Name of provider	N/A	N/A	N/A	Beacon Light	Beacon Light	Beacon Light

If this is a renewal of services delivered in FY 2009-10, answer the following:

- ❑ Clearly describe the program’s accomplishments or results; any challenges to implementation; and the impact on service delivery for FY 2010-11. Use data/statistics to show the impact of the program services.

POTTER COUNTY

Response:

The greatest accomplishment for MST is that the program got off the ground with provider, Beacon Light Behavioral Health in FY 2009/2010 after a prolonged delay in the provider becoming licensed/trained and staffed. One in-home youth was soon to be referred early in the FY through the CASSP system and ultimately successfully completed the MST program with (4) subsequent referrals. Of those four referrals, two other children successfully completed the program, as well. One youth had returned to his parent home in January 2010 after a residential placement through probation, and MST was implemented as a transition/stabilizer program for his return home. This strategy has thus far worked with the young man continuing in the home/community /school and is currently enrolled in the Trailblazer's program. The 3rd youth was an in-home probation/CASSP youth, and during one CASSP meeting, gave a testimonial of how MST had changed she and her family's life for the good. She was a young lady that was defiant, non-compliant, working her way out of her parent's home. She is now stationary in that home and recently completed MST, with other supportive services still in place such as IL and MH. The fourth referral was a female teenager in the probation system that began MST when her behaviors were becoming out-of-control in the family home, and her physical aggression toward her family resulted in a delinquency adjudication. However, she was not able to be maintained in the home despite MST's early efforts and was placed in detention/shelter/STAR/Abraxas placements where she remains. The fifth and current MST Potter County youth has recently begun the program after returning to the parent home after a probation placement in Detention/Star and is doing well so far. Thus the 3 out of 4 success stories placed the county at a 75 % success rate.

The above chart predicts the increase of referrals and completed programs for the NB year.

The primary challenges have been indicative of starting up a new program for the provider and the users of the program. However, MST caught on very quickly, particularly through the CASSP treatment planning process.

- ❑ What are the barriers to the realization of your program outcomes? Identify each year and describe the barrier/challenge to reaching the program outcomes for that year.

Response:

For the only year of implementation, barriers have been few to the actual realization of an 75% success rate. An initial concern was the limited slots that Potter County could access (2 at a time) since the provider is being shared by four counties. However, in a February 2010 progress meeting between CYS, Juvenile Probation and the Provider, Potter County was assured that they could make additional referrals since the provider was staffed to handle 6 additional slots for the four counties, and that usage could vary between counties at any given time.

However, with recent revised allocation numbers for MST (\$110,000 to \$40.00) lack of funding will be an obstacle for any youth without MA approval. There will be no monies to pay for the services needed and such a child could end up in placement, a costly result.

- ❑ Describe the county's expenditures history, if any, for the program/practice. What factors contributed to the successful or under spending or under-utilization of grant funds?

POTTER COUNTY

Response:

There has been a drastic under spending of the MST grant despite the activity of consumers because all of the five consumers were approved for payment by CCBH, somewhat of another good surprise. One youth did have 62 units at the beginning of his MST participation that was not covered by CCBH and was taken from the grant, however, he is now approved for MA dollars. So utilization has been what was hoped, but covered by CCBH, with the implementation year's amount set.

However, County continues to ask for the implementation year and NB amounts for MST believing that a one-year history cannot determine a pattern of expenditures. It is very possible that with increased referrals a percentage of families will not be eligible for MA funding.

- If there were instances of under spending or under-utilization of prior years grant funds, describe what changes have occurred or will occur to ensure that grant funds for this program/service are maximized and effectively managed. Also, identify the measures the county will utilize in both FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12.

Response:

There has been no prior year history, but the county now anticipates the opposite of 2009/10 spending patterns, where there will not be enough funds needed.

Complete the following for each applicable year.

- Indicate and describe the target population for whom the county expects to provide these services. Describe how the target population was chosen and the internal and external factors influencing this decision. This may include age, location, type or reason for placement, whether it is countywide, school district focused, etc.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

Target youth include youth, ages 12 – 17, at risk of out-of-home placement due to anti-social or delinquent behaviors and/or youth involved with the juvenile justice system or at-risk dependent youth at risk of out-of-home placement due to anti-social behaviors or pre-delinquent behaviors. Also, for re-entry of placement youth to their permanency goal such as return home, kinship, other.

This population will encompass countywide youth that have been identified by Juvenile Probation, CYS, CASSP Team or community/school referrals.

FY 2011-12 Renewing counties may reply with “same as above” unless expanding or decreasing the services, which requires further information and justification. Describe the provider's capacity to serve additional youth.

POTTER COUNTY

Response:

Same as above, but with need for some monies to cover at least (2) youth not covered by MA dollars.

- Identify the service outcomes the county expects to achieve as a result of providing these services. Explain how service outcomes will be measured and the frequency of measurement.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

Expected outcomes will include improved safety, permanency and well-being in maintaining youth safely in their own homes (or permanent location) school/community with fewer or absence incidents of truancy/drop-outs; delinquent acts; behavioral crisis; out-of-home placements, and increased family and community engagement.

Monitoring will be done by both the County and Provider tracking all above areas for all participants on a monthly basis and up to 1 year and within 12 months of discharge by Provider. Mutual phone and in-person meetings will continue take place between the County and Provider regarding program administration on an as needed basis. Currently, Beacon Light provides a monthly written status sheet to the CYS Director and Probation Chief regarding active Potter County MST youth and anticipated discharge date.

FY 2011-12 Renewing counties may reply with “same as above” unless expanding or decreasing the services or revising prior outcomes, which requires further information and justification.

Response:

Same as above.

- Describe how the program will be implemented or operated for services from the identification and referral process through program completion. Do not describe the model. Discuss the agency’s experience with the provider agency, and their Medical Assistance approval and enrollment status. Provide a timeline for any changes or new program implementation.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

Potter County CYS/Probation/CASSP Team will be the primary sources of formal referrals to the Provider with crisis related situations, imminent of removal from home as being criteria for prioritizing the need for services. Other services/providers will be secondary to MST team and services. MST services typically last for 3 – 5 months with extensions being considered on a case-by-case basis. Ongoing communication will be maintained between CYS/Probation with MST provider throughout the time of intervention, with CYS/Probation providing on-call services until MST Staff can arrive to address situation. Discharge planning will be initiated when discharge criteria is met.

POTTER COUNTY

Potter County's relationship with Beacon Light Behavioral Health, previously known as Bradford Children's Home goes back at least 4 decades, and overall, Beacon Light has been a dependable, effective provider of residential/foster care/wrap-around/alternative education services. Similarly, they have been an eligible provider for MA funding for those known decades. Beacon Light was successful in obtaining approval by CCBH to provide MST services in the four county area with CCBH being the primary funder of the MST services implemented in FY 2009/10.

No new program implementations are anticipated other than the expansion of slots for Potter County already taking affect in FY 2009/10.

FY 2011-12 Renewing counties may reply with "same as above" unless expanding or decreasing the services, which requires further information and justification.

Response:

Same as above.

- Clearly explain the implementation year budget of FY 2010-11. Identify and discuss how the cost of services (per diem/unit or program funded) is determined and included in the budget, and provide a brief narrative description of each budget line item. Also describe the invoicing process and any requirements between the county and provider agencies.
- FY 2010-11** (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

In regards to MST, a 'Letter of Agreement' exists between the Provider, Beacon Light, and PCHS/CYS outlining services to be provided, cost for non-MA youth and the guidelines regarding invoicing the County. Such costs will be considered 'Purchased Services' and so included in the overall CYS/Probation Budget. As a 'Special Grant', designated monies will be used and accounted for according to any DPW procedures that are required, as was done in FY 2009/10. For FY 2010/11, \$40.00 should be expended by the first invoice.

- FY 2011-12** For new funding requests or renewing counties requesting an increase or expansion of funds, clearly describe the process used to calculate the county request for funding and the rationale. Provide historical information as to the county's successes or barriers to new program/practice implementation, including provider contracting and participation. Refer to the county timeline (requested above) as part of the rationale.

Response:

An increase of funds is necessary to provide up to (2) youth not covered by MA dollars at \$14,000 per child based on \$935/unit for up to four months of service.

POTTER COUNTY

- For FY 2011-12 Explain the potential cost savings/offsets and impact of increased use. When is it predicted that the cost savings will be realized? What type of placement will be utilized?

Response:

Cost savings have already been realized in FY 2009/10, the first year of utilization, in regards to (4) youth. All 4 youth have either been maintained in their homes without the need of out-of-home placement or youth have returned home with MST stabilizing their return toward a permanent return. Overall placement numbers remains stable on the delinquency side and no increased activity on the dependency side. Therefore, MST is one strategy that has assisted in those positive results.

As anticipated in last year's NB, a 10% decrease for the NB year in delinquent/dependent placements will be realized, including short-term stays to detention, shelter and boot camps. Indirect savings could include decreased on-call time spent by CYS/Probation workers, respite care, travel time and the like. The anticipated cost off set could be as much as \$50,000 - \$60,000.

- Identify any technical assistance needs the county or provider agency has to provide effective services.
- Identify any technical assistance needs the county or provider agency has to provide effective services.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

Adelphoi Village is providing such TA as needed.

FY 2011-12 (for counties requesting funds for the first time)

Response:

N/A

POTTER COUNTY

6-3a. Evidence Based Programs: Family Group Decision Making

Please indicate which type of request this is:

Request Type	Enter Y or N		
Renewal from 2009-10		X	
New implementation for 2010-11 (did not receive funds in 2009-10)			
Funded and delivered services in 2009-10 but not renewing in 2010-11			
Requesting funds for 2011-12 (new, continuing or expanding)		New	Continuing
			Expanding
		X	

Complete the following table if providing this service or requesting a **transfer, shift, or revision** only of funds for FY 2010-11; and/or requesting funds for FY 2011-12. Enter the total amount of state and matching local funds. (Transfer/shifting is allowable only within EBP funds. Counties may not transfer/shift from or to other SGI categories.)

Total Budget Amount	Original/Approved Allocation (Amt requested and approved)	Revision Amount Change + or -	Requested Amount (enter this amount in fiscal worksheets)
FY 2010-11	\$997.00		\$997.00
FY 2011-12			\$8000.00

Did your county request and receive approval to transfer/shift funds during FY 2009-10? If YES, will the rationale for the change remain the same for FY 2010-11? Describe, briefly that rationale for the approved change and do not respond to the next question. If NO, please respond to the following question.

Response:

Yes, Potter County was approved to shift \$5000.00 from MST to fund FGDM in FY 2009/10, but is not asking for any shift in FY 2010/11 since there are no monies to shift.

Explain why the change is requested. What are the deciding factors to move from the originally requested program(s) to another(s)? Was this change discussed with the regional office?

Response:

N/A

POTTER COUNTY

Complete the following table for each applicable year.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
Target Population	N/A	10	10	20	25	30
# of Referrals	N/A	1	4	12	15	20
# Successfully completing program	N/A	1	4	5	10	15
Cost per year	N/A	0	\$160.16	\$2905.35	\$997.00	\$46,250.00
Per Diem Cost/Program funded amount	N/A	0	\$160.16	\$2905.35	\$997.00	15 / \$3,000 5 / \$250
# of MA referrals	N/A	0	0	0	0	0
# of Non MA referrals	N/A	1	4	12	15	20
Name of provider	N/A	P.C. CYS	P.C. CYS	P.C. CYS	P.C. CYS	P. C. CYS

If this is a renewal of services delivered in FY 2009-10, answer the following:

Clearly describe the program’s accomplishments or results; any challenges to implementation; and the impact on service delivery for FY 2010-11. Use data/statistics to show the impact of the program services.

Response:

In FY 2009/10, the FGDM in-house program became more established and visible to outside agencies. The FGDM Case Worker and Case Aid completed the five-day CORE training for FGDM with periodic communication with the Statewide FDGM support and information group. Increased referrals (12) and completed referrals (5) were accomplished in the FY including a placement probation youth located outside of the County and a referral from an outside Agency for a Potter County MH placement youth to yet be decided. The youth in placement was in the focus of a recent FGDM session toward permanency planning. The other (4) youth were from long-term GPS families needing movement toward positive outcomes. One of these families has since closed out with CYS. A more recent referral brought the family back to the attention of CYS, but appears to be a 60 day assessment period rather than returning to an open, active case. The remaining (2) families remain active with CYS, but dependency findings have been vacated for both in-home supervision families with another FGDM meeting to be held again for at least one of the families for anticipated closure.

Challenges are primarily running an in-house program with existing staff that must put aside time for this important endeavor, refining the process and doing more public awareness of the service. The challenge for FY 2010/11 will be operating this program on a shoestring budget.

What are the barriers to the realization of your program outcomes? Identify each year and describe the barrier/challenge to reaching the program outcomes for that year.

Response:

The barriers are similar to aforementioned challenges, staff time, refining staff skills and acquainting consumers/providers to the process. Limited staff time is also a deterrent in the need for detailed preparation and follow-up, thus the reason for adding another support staff to assist in such tasks.

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ Describe the county's expenditures history, if any, for the program/practice. What factors contributed to the successful or underspending or under-utilization of grant funds?

Response:

Potter County has been under spent in this grant as well, but not to the same degree. Since MA dollars are not being used to off-set expenses, this too, will be a program that should increase in expenses with increased staff time and usage of services.

- ❑ If there were instances of underspending or under-utilization of prior years grant funds, describe what changes have occurred or will occur to ensure that grant funds for this program/service are maximized and effectively managed. Also, identify the measures the county will utilize in both FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12.

Response:

In FY 2008/09, FGDM was at the very beginning stages of implementation, thus, under usage and under spending. However, as the program grows, so will usage and expenses.

Complete the following for each applicable year.

- ❑ Indicate and describe the target population for whom the county expects to provide these services. Describe how the target population was chosen and the internal and external factors influencing this decision. This may include age, location, type or reason for placement, whether it is county-wide, school district focused, etc.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

The target population is broad. FGDM will be appropriate and available for any age child/youth that CYS/Probation are serving (GPS/CPS/Placement/Adoption). In particular, FGDM will be encouraged for youth involved with IL services that are aging out of care or services and require a transitional plan.

Although FGDM is a CYS sponsored program for identified CYS/Probation families, it can be available to other agencies and groupings as deemed appropriate and will be advertised more so in the implementation year.

FY 2011-12 Renewing counties may reply with "same as above" unless expanding or decreasing the services, which requires further information and justification. Describe the provider's capacity to serve additional youth.

Response:

Same as above.

POTTER COUNTY

- Identify the service outcomes the county expects to achieve as a result of providing these services. Explain how service outcomes will be measured and the frequency of measurement.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

All three federal outcomes (safety, permanency, well-being) will be addressed through FGDM since all categories of cases will be served. Thus far, three levels of care have already been served including placement/aging out youth, young placement youth needing permanency and in-home GPS/CPS families.

This concept is certainly not new and has been conducted at varying degrees. For example, the CASSP model is a founding parent of FGDM, but is primarily for MH youth and their families. Thus, the benefit of FGDM is that it can be available for a broader range population within CYS and families on the fringe and has a structure that is both practical and specific.

Outcomes will be measured case-by-case on a monthly basis for active cases, a 6-month –12-month review for families that have been discharged from Agency supervision. A primary measurement will be any return to CYS/Probation Services/Placement.

FY 2011-12 Renewing counties may reply with “same as above” unless expanding or decreasing the services or revising prior outcomes, which requires further information and justification.

Response:

Same as above.

- Describe how the program will be implemented or operated for services from the identification and referral process through program completion. Do not describe the model. Discuss the agency’s experience with the provider agency, and their Medical Assistance approval and enrollment status. Provide a timeline for any changes or new program implementation.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

This ‘grass roots’ approach to FGDM implementation continues to expand and improve with increased training of the FGDM facilitator and another support staff in FY 2009/10 and the education of traditional CYS staff and other agencies of the process. Families continue to be identified by CYS/Probation staff and reviewed with the CYS Director/JPO for acceptance. Referral information is then shared with the FGDM worker to proceed. Agency staff will assist in setting up meeting arrangements, providing contact information of family to facilitator, etc. Appropriate releases, attendance rosters, meeting goals, resulting plans will be completed and provided to appropriate family members and maintained in case files. Monitoring of plan results will be done by both the caseworker/officer of record and the FGDM facilitator.

POTTER COUNTY

The monitoring of resulting plans will be upgraded in the implementation year with dedicated staff time.

FY 2011-12 Renewing counties may reply with “same as above” unless expanding or decreasing the services, which requires further information and justification.

Response:

Same as above.

- Clearly explain the implementation year budget of FY 2010-11. Identify and discuss how the cost of services (per diem/unit or program funded) is determined and included in the budget, and provide a brief narrative description of each budget line item. Also describe the invoicing process and any requirements between the county and provider agencies.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

Expenses related specifically to FGDM would be coded to the special grant, as long as available. Staff time is based on current staff hourly rates and coded to the FGDM grant. Other operating expenses (food, training expenses, staff and family transportation, family lodging, etc.) will be reviewed by CYS Director and charged to grant. Reporting of grant expenses will be reported according to DPW requirements. However, based on new instructions and FGDM reimbursement structure, there is insufficient monies to cover a successful FGDM conference (\$3,000), barely enough for one successful FGDM referral or four unsuccessful FGDM referrals, not responsive to this county's needs in this area.

FY 2011-12 For new funding requests or renewing counties requesting an increase or expansion of funds, clearly describe the process used to calculate the county request for funding and the rationale. Provide historical information as to the county's successes or barriers to new program/practice implementation, including provider contracting and participation. Refer to the county timeline (requested above) as part of the rationale.

Response:

Potter County is requesting funds to respond to (15) successful FGDM conferences at \$3,000 per conference and for (5) successful FGDM referrals at \$250.00 per referral.

- For FY 2011-12 Explain the potential cost savings/offsets and impact of increased use. When is it predicted that the cost savings will be realized? What type of placement will be utilized?

Response:

For any real cost savings, FGDM must be used for a greater volume of cases and used significantly for youth in placement situations or at-risk for out-of-home placements. That being said, frequency of all cases will be looked at for the FGDM process, and it is expected that a cost savings will be realized in the next couple FY's with this process in place. For example, four previous youth were successfully moved out of placement and into permanent situations with the assistance of FGDM. More recent cases involve moving another chronic user of

POTTER COUNTY

placement services into a permanent living situation and maintaining youth in their own homes, so how much will this County offset costs? A few hundred to several thousand dollars, only time will tell.

- Identify any technical assistance needs the county or provider agency has to provide effective services.

FY 2010-11 (for counties with approved allocations or transfer/shift requests)

Response:

Potter County will look to the PA Child Welfare Training Program and the Statewide FGDM support group for further training and assistance, as well as other providers/counties doing FGDM.

FY 2011-12 (for counties requesting funds for the first time)

Response:

N/A

6-3e. Independent Living Service Grant

- In the table below, place an "X" for the services that will be provided by CCYA (regardless of funding source). Check as many boxes as apply.

Mark "X" in this column	Services
X	A. Needs Assessment/Case Planning
X	B. Life Skills Training
	C. Prevention Services
X	Dental/Health
X	Drug Abuse Prevention
X	Alcohol/Tobacco/Substance
X	Safe Sex/Pregnancy
	D. Education
X	Vocational Training
X	High School Support and Retention
X	Preparation for GED
X	Assistance in Obtaining Higher Education
	E. Support
X	Individual and Group Counseling
X	Stipends
X	Services for Teen Parents
X	Mentoring
	F. Employment
X	Job Placement
	Subsidized Employment
X	G. Location of Housing

POTTER COUNTY

Mark "X" in this column	Services
X	H. Room and Board
X	I. Retreats/Camps
X	J. Indirect Services
X	K. Program Administration

- ❑ In the following forms, complete the form **for services marked with an "X" in the above table only**. Provide the requested information pertaining to each specific IL service to be provided by the CCYA. Enter all county IL services information in this template. In each service area table, list the estimated requested grant amount to be used for IL services. Include the following in the estimate: staff costs to perform these services, the cost of materials and supplies and the cost to develop, implement and monitor implementation of these services unless adding in Indirect Services or Program Administration.
- ❑ For each IL service **marked with an "X" in the above table**, estimate the number of in care; delinquent, discharged and total youth (unduplicated counts) who will receive IL services.

IL Services (federal, state, local)	\$ amount
FY 2010-11 Approved Budget *	\$56,000
FY 2011-12 Budget Request *	\$56,000

* These amounts must match the amounts on the county's budget worksheets.

- ❑ Describe the county's expenditures history for IL Services for FY 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. What factors contributed to the successful or unsuccessful spending of grant funds for each year?

Expenditures for every year have been within a hundred dollars of the budgeted amount. Several factors contributed to the successful spending of grant funds in each of those years: An experienced IL Coordinator and IL Supervisor, a responsive fiscal department, collaboration between the fiscal department, Coordinator and IL Director, program youth who had needs and were compliant with the program, a growing IL program in terms of improving technology and information, and a local community that helped with the needs of program youth.

- ❑ If there were instances of under spending of prior years grant funds, describe what changes have occurred to ensure that grant funds for this program/service are maximized and effectively managed.

No substantial under spending over \$100 occurred.

A. Needs Assessment/Case Planning

- ❑ Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

POTTER COUNTY

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Needs Assessment/Case Planning	\$4,100	5	8	12	20
Total	\$4,100	5	8	12	20

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

- Describe how the needs assessment/case planning process will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what tool(s) will be used; and the frequency of the activity for or with youth.

PCHS Children & Youth, CAASP, and the Probation Department refer all qualifying youth to IL. If the youth qualify for IL services, he or she, and their parents or guardians are contacted by the IL Coordinator and a meeting scheduled. Sometimes an intimately close friend or relative is included in the Needs Assessment if a youth plans to spend the future with that person. Needs Assessments are also sometimes performed after the beginning of a youth’s inception into IL. Life-changing situations (legal convictions, death/separation, housing changes, etc.) often require another assessment. Case planning is based on a youth’s personal goals, and tempered by their abilities, educational potential, and character.

The IL Coordinator delivers and schedules all activities with youth. A 7 page, specialized intake-evaluation form is used, which includes required IL enrollment forms to document a youth’s issues, needs, and goals.

All program youth are invited to the monthly group meeting, and are visited by the Coordination as necessary in-between meetings. Individual meeting times fluctuate per the needs of each individual youth. Educationally based group events are open to the public such that program youth can invite their friend(s).

- Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs for current youth are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

B. Life Skills Training

- Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Life Skills Training	\$10,200	5	8	12	20
Total	\$10,200	5	8	12	20

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ Estimate the percentage of the delivery method for this service area.

60%	40%
Individualized Svcs.	Group or Classroom Svcs.

- ❑ Describe how life skills training will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what curricula will be used; and the frequency of the activity with youth.

A contracted IL Coordinator scheduled all IL services and delivers most of them, including life skills instruction. However, sometimes depending upon the topic and because of their expertise, other providers are asked to speak or included in a discussion. Many varying curricula are used, and most are assemblages from books on specific topics and coordinator knowledge. Every year, IL hosts life-skills instruction using the Daniel Memorial test as the basis for a two, ½ day group. This annual event is open to the public. However, much more material is included in this workshop than the raw DM exam. Prevention services are sometimes included in life-skills instruction because prevention is a life-skill.

Groups are held at least once per month. This includes approximately 10 educational-based groups and two groups “just for fun.”

- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History involving cost for obtaining and of delivering current life skills instruction, and projections of needs for current youth are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

C. Prevention

- ❑ Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Dental/Health	0	5	8	12	20
Drug Abuse Prevention	0	5	8	12	20
Alcohol/Tobacco Substances	0	5	8	12	20
Safe Sex/Pregnancy	0	5	8	12	20
Total	0	5	8	12	20

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

- ❑ Estimate the percentage of the delivery method for this service area.

60%	40%
Individualized Svcs.	Group or Classroom Svcs.

POTTER COUNTY

- Describe how prevention services will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what curricula will be used; and the frequency of the activity with youth.

Prevention services are included in group activities and discussions, as well as whenever the topic comes up while talking to youth or whenever the Coordinator senses the need to discuss the topic.

- Describe any additional prevention services provided to the youth that are not listed above and who will provide those services.

Crime, and poor health (mental, spiritual, & physical), prevention is also a topic of occasional discussion.

- Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

No specific cost was associated with this category as those topics are included in group activities and is performed as needed by the Coordinator. The Coordinator is quite knowledgeable about all those topics.

D. Education

- Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Vocational	\$4,000	5	8	12	20
High School Support and Retention	\$300	5	3	4	12
GED	\$300	0	3	4	7
Assistance in Obtaining Higher Education	\$300	5	8	12	20
Education and Training Grant (ETG) Provision and Retention	0	5	8	12	20
Total	\$4,900	5	8	12	20

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

- Estimate the percentage of the delivery method for this service area.

60%	40%
Individualized Svcs.	Group or Classroom Svcs.

- Describe how education services will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what curricula will be used; and the frequency of the activity with youth.

POTTER COUNTY

The IL Coordinator will schedule as necessary trips to secondary education institutions, as well as acquire literature and books pertinent to a youth’s educational desire. Assistance is provided with costs associated with high school students’ summer school, and tutoring. Assistance has even been provided on occasion to help youth with short-term Internet expenses so they can take classes on-line. GED assistance is offered when requested, and sometimes suggested by the IL Coordinator. Information about the ETG costs nothing to inform youth about and help them apply for. Each and every youth is heavily encouraged to complete high school in some manner, including stipend incentives when necessary. Every youth is told in advance that they get \$100 from Potter County IL after they graduate high school.

- ❑ Describe any additional services provided to the youth that are not listed above and who will provide those services.

Tours to secondary education institutions are provided for a youth to visit a facility before they enroll to attend. We have even paid the fees for youth to complete their high school education at accredited schools such as Penn Foster via the Internet. The IL Coordinator provides all services, except for those naturally occurring as part of high school courses curriculum.

- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs for current youth are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

E. Support Services

- ❑ Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Service	Budget Request (\$)		In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Individual and/or Group Counseling	\$6,500		5	8	12	20
Stipends	\$400		5	8	12	20
Services for Teen Parents	\$500		0	0	3	3
Mentoring	N/C		5	8	12	20
Total	\$7,400		5	8	12	20

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ Estimate the number of youth who the county will refer to the SWAN prime contractor for the following services related to permanent connections.

SWAN	
	No. of Youths
Child Profile:	0
Child Preparation:	0
Child Specific Recruitment:	0

- ❑ Estimate the percentage of the delivery method for this service area.

70%	30%
Individualized Svcs.	Group or Classroom Svcs.

- ❑ Describe how support services will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what curricula will be used; and the frequency of the activity with youth.

The IL Coordinator will mention adoption possibilities if the information is requested and then refer the person to the C&Y Director.

- ❑ Describe any additional services provided to the youth that are not listed above and who will provide those services.

The IL Coordinator supplies support to program youth in many forms. He accompanies them to court and advises on how to navigate the legal system. Counseling takes many forms, from simply listening to complaints, to helping youth learn how to control anger, to matters involving highly personal and even spiritual issues when asked. All program youth have the coordinator's home phone number, and use it.

- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs for current youth are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

F. Employment

- ❑ Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

POTTER COUNTY

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Job Placement	0	5	8	12	20
Subsidized Employment					
Total	0	5	8	12	20

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

- Mark with an “X” the types of subsidized employment services which will be offered, and whether the subsidy will be full or partial.

Subsidy Type	Offered	Full	Partial
Summer Employment	X	X	X
Agency Operated Only			
Tax Credits			
Other (describe:)			

- Estimate the percentage of the delivery method for this service area.

80%	20%
Individualized Svcs.	Group or Classroom Svcs.

- Describe how employment services will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what curricula will be used; and the frequency of the activity with youth.

Career Link offers subsidized summer employment to at-risk youth of which all IL youth qualify. Delinquent youth qualify for the summer job in “Trailblazers,” who are supervised youth who do outside work projects such as cleaning trails and debris from public areas. Trailblazers is sponsored by C&Y, in cooperation with the Probation Department. IL youth are notified of these job possibilities and told whom to contact. This year, 2 youth obtained jobs, with some others still pending. Some youth were not able to work for various reasons. Other than informational referral and transportation to an interview if required, IL provides no money toward these jobs.

- Describe any additional services provided to the youth that are not listed above and who will provide those services.

One group per year is dedicated to teaching job skills. A person from Career Link came to this year’s group to talk about all aspect of getting and keeping a job. The IL Coordinator talks about job aspects at other group functions, as well as during some individual meetings. Youth are bought job interview clothes, when necessary, and transportation to the interview and back home. Youth are helped with finding jobs, when necessary, although jobs for youth are hard to come by without the subsidized opportunities that other agencies offer.

POTTER COUNTY

- Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

No direct costs are associated with this IL service. The mileage reimbursement paid to the Coordinator falls under the “life skills” category since it is a small amount anyway, and usually does not occur with subsidized employment opportunities.

G. Location of Housing

- Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file. **Do not request placement costs in this service area or grant.**

□

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Location of Housing	\$6,000	0	4	4	8
Total	\$6,000	0	4	4	8

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

- Mark with an “X” the types of assistance which will be offered.

Assistance Type	Offered
Referral to public housing agency	X
Interview preparation	X
Application assistance	X
Accompany on inspection	X
Use local realtors as a housing resource	N/A
Other (describe:) Independent Living Transitional Housing	X
Other (describe:) Finding an apartment and making the initial phone call(s)	X

- Estimate the percentage of the delivery method for this service area.

80%	20%
Individualized Svcs.	Group or Classroom Svcs.

- Describe how location of housing services will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what curricula will be used; and the frequency of the activity with youth.

Program youth over 18 years old are helped with finding their own apartment. This includes all aspects of acquiring an apartment, with the addition of paying a resident’s first month’s

POTTER COUNTY

rent and deposit, provided they can prove they are able to pay the next month's rent. The IL Coordinator assists any program youth over 18 who want to and can afford to pay for their own apartment and utilities. Youth are guided in selecting an apartment location based on their ability to travel, possibilities of jobs if applicable, and availability of family and friends who would be able to provide support.

No specific curricula is used to teach about housing, but the Daniel Memorial test questions are used during group as a base to begin discussion. Youth are taught about housing aspects once per year during the annual life-skills group, but most youth only really learn about getting housing by going through all the steps themselves (with the Coordinator). The frequency of this activity varies with the needs of the youth, but is always offered as a priority when needed.

- ❑ Describe any additional services provided to the youth that are not listed above and who will provide those services.

Finding an apartment is an initial and important aspect of being able to live in one. But much more is taught about keeping and maintaining an apartment, included but not limited to: finances, roommates, rules, entertainment, neighbors, laundry, cleanliness, apartment inspection, availability of nearby resources, friends use of the apartment, legal aspects, etc.

- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs for current youth are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

H. Room & Board

- ❑ Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Room and Board	\$11,000		3	3	6
Total	\$11,000		3	3	6

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

- ❑ If the agency **does** provide youth with room and board, describe the frequency of staff contact with youth accessing these services.

Potter County now has a Transitional Housing program, which consists of a three-bedroom house currently housing men only, although depending upon the greater needs of men vs. women, the house could hold women instead. Youth can stay from 18 – 21 years-old, and youth come and go depending upon their needs and goals. All bills, except food are paid for youth staying at the house. Occasionally, if a room is available, Potter County Human Services may request a client to temporarily stay there, with approval of the C&Y Director and IL Coordinator.

Most monthly IL groups are held at the IL house, where cooking is also taught and performed. During group activities, one youth cooks for everybody in attendance. Staff stops

POTTER COUNTY

by as regularly as needed, with announced and announced visits. No non-staff or non-related visitors are allowed, although exceptions are made for older and responsible adults and relatives. Youth staying at the house must have a goal that will lead them to self-sufficiency, such as getting their own apartment, or going to post-secondary education, or other goals appropriate to each youth.

- ❑ If the agency **does** provide youth with room and board, describe the period of time that youth can access the service, by type of assistance offered and whether a “step-down” approach will be used.

Different youth have different goals, and all must lead in two basic directions. One direction is to finish high school or go on to secondary education. Another direction is to save money to get their own apartment and vehicle. This includes either getting a job or other legal income such as SSI. Youth may live in the ILTHP from 18 – 21 years-old.

- ❑ If the agency **does not** provide youth with room and board, describe what services are used to meet housing needs.
- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs for current youth are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

I. Retreats/Camps

- ❑ Complete the table and estimate the unduplicated total number of youth who will receive the services. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Service	Budget Request (\$)	In Care Youth*	Delinquent Youth*	Discharged Youth*	Total Youth*
Retreats/Camps	\$1,000		1	1	2
Total	\$1,000		1	1	2

* Enter unduplicated youth count only.

- ❑ Estimate the percentage of the delivery method for this service area.

100%	0%
Individualized Svcs.	Group or Classroom Svcs.

- ❑ Describe how retreats/camps will be delivered; who will deliver the activities (provider or agency staff); what curricula will be used; and the frequency of the activity with youth.

The IL Coordinator will select youth who are available and have the most to gain from attending the Retreat. The Coordinator will provide transportation and attend the event with these youth during this annual event.

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs for current youth are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

J. Indirect Services

- ❑ Complete the table and breakout the costs for these activities. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Indirect Service Type	Budget Request \$
Staff, Foster/Adoptive and other Residential Child Care Providers	\$200
Community Outreach and Educational Efforts	\$1,000
Interagency coordination to support IL activities and services at the local level	\$2,600
System change efforts	
Other (describe:) Program information	\$1,100
Total	\$4,900

- ❑ Describe the indirect services provided by the county.
- ❑ Describe any additional indirect services provided by the county and who will provide those services.
- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs are guidelines in establishing budgets for future years.

K. Program Administration

- ❑ Complete the table and breakout the costs for these activities. These totals must equal the amounts on the FY 11-12 IL Grant Request worksheet in the Budget Excel file.

Indirect Service Type	Budget Request \$
Staff providing direct services	
Program reporting costs	
Equipment, training materials, supplies, postage, facility expenses	\$2,800
IL and Youth Advisory Board related travel	
Other (describe:) Portion of IL Director salary	\$2,800

POTTER COUNTY

- ❑ Explain the administrative costs of providing IL services and the drivers of these costs.

The IL Coordinator and all program supplies, has the benefit of being housed and associated with Potter County Human Services. However, costs are attributable to the program, such as rent, utilities, supplies, the fiscal department, computer analysts, receptionist, and the Program Director, who is also the C&Y Director.

- ❑ Describe any additional administrative costs of providing IL services that are not listed above and the drivers of these costs.
- ❑ Describe how the costs to provide the activities are determined.

History and projections of needs are guides in establishing budgets for future years.

6-4. Accurint Search Tool

The following information must be provided for the Accurint Search Tool for the Implementation Year 2010-11 and to request and justify the number of users needed for FY 2011-12.

Column Instructions

Column 1

Provide the number of Accurint users that your county was allotted in FY 2009-10. If you do not know the number of users your county was allotted, please contact the DPW/OCYF Accurint Manager listed in Appendix 8.

Column 2

Provide the number of Accurint users that your county was allotted in the tentative or final allocations for July 1, 2010 by DPW/OCYF. If the final FY 2010-11 allocations have not been provided by the submission deadline, counties should not create more user ID's than originally assigned in FY 2009-10. If you do not know the number of tentative or final users your county was allocated, please contact the DPW/OCYF Accurint Manager.

Column 3

Provide the number of additional Accurint users your county needs for FY 2011-12. Before requesting additional users, counties should analyze their current usage. Justification for additional users must include the following:

- The type of staff selected to use Accurint and the reasons why. Examples of the types of staff may include County Administrator, LSI paralegal, supervisor, JPO, etc.
- The average monthly number of users who did searches in FY 2009-10.
- The average monthly number of searches completed by users in FY 2009-10.
- The total number of searches completed by your county for FY 2009-10.

For assistance with an analysis of your county's usage, contact the DPW/OCYF Accurint Manager.

POTTER COUNTY

Column 4

Provide the total number of Accurant users your county would like for FY 2011-12. This number is calculated by adding columns 2 and 3 together.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Number of users assigned by DPW for FY 2009-10	Number of users assigned by DPW for FY 2010-11	Number of additional users requested for FY 2011-12	Total number of users requested for FY 2011-12
1	2	0	2

Provide Justification for Column 2:

The County reluctantly became involved in this process due to limited searches done in the County, as was the case in FY 2009/10 with no searches completed. However, the CYS Director had limited training at the end of FY 2008/09 and is the only approved user at this time. However, in last year's NB Potter requested an additional user for FY2010/11 and hopes to accomplish the addition in the implementation year as training becomes available.

This system, as with most software systems, becomes rusty for the user when the system is not used. Additionally, this County has had problems with other informational systems provided by DPW in that the password names change about every 6 months, and if not used, become difficult to access when there is a need and include HCSIS, Docushare and the Supreme Court site. The County is a regular user of AFCARS, PEAPS and E-Gov.

Provide Justification for Column 3:

Practicality suggests that at least one other staff person should be educated and approved to access and use the system to be accomplished in the NB year.

6-??. Information Technology

Submit a detailed description of the county's current Information Technology Plan. The description should provide answers to the following questions and should include what the county is doing in FY 2010-2011 and planning for FY 2011-2012

1. Does the county currently have an automated case management system that is sustainable?
 - a. If yes, describe the system and its functionality.
 - b. If no, describe how the county plans to transfer an already existing case management system from another county.

Potter County does not have a sustainable case management system. Years ago, the CYS department contracted with a small company, HSS, that had been providing an informational system for the MH Dept. HSS was less familiar with the CYS system, but had begun in that area with another County and felt that they could initiate a suitable program and develop it as needed. One early software problem was it being only a partial web-based program; this was not user friendly and has never been revised.

POTTER COUNTY

Therefore, the County has requested in the 2010/11 IT grant, and seemingly approved, to purchase another informational system, CAPS or KIDS, that has already been recognized by the State.

2. How does the county's current system or transfer system align with the goals of the Statewide Child Welfare Information System Strategic Plan (Statewide Plan)?
 - a. Interoperability – The system uses technology that is web-based and allows the efficient and secure exchange of information with other systems or components.
 - b. Real-Time Information – The system is accessible to all workers, allows the direct input of real time information and will be capable of exchanging real time information with a statewide database. Information is not first tracked on paper and then entered into the system by data entry staff.
 - c. Standardized Data – the system accurately collects and reports data associated with federal and state reporting, such as AFCARS; and can be enhanced to exchange data with a statewide database using a standard data schema.
 - d. Case Management System – the system is a true case management system that is used by all caseworkers and supervisors to manage day-to-day caseload activities. The system adequately supports the following functional areas: Case Management (Intake/Investigation, In-Home Services, Placement Services, Adoption, etc.); Eligibility; and Resource/Provider Management.
 - e. The system is compliant with DPW and/or Commonwealth Enterprise Standards and the system software code is public domain.

The current HSS system only partially provides for a. – e., or not at all. The system is not totally web-based; it is not believed to be compatible with the statewide database; it does not currently have a comprehensive data collection system that would be responsive to AFCARS, and the like; it is not a full case management system that can support the full life of a case and it is not believed to be DPW compliant.

The State appears accepting of CAPS or KIDS and, therefore, with either system should meet the a. – e. requirements.

3. How does the county's current system or transfer system support other critical business areas such as Financial Management and Administrative Functions?

The current system would need to be upgraded at a cost to support other critical business areas. The County feels that such an upgrade would be cost prohibitive with an unpredictable results. Therefore, the switch to CAPS or KIDS should meet this standard.

4. How does the county's current system or transfer system support the evaluation of child welfare outcomes in the areas of child safety, permanency and well-being?

The current system would need to be upgraded at a cost to support outcomes evaluations. The County feels that such an upgrade would be cost prohibitive with an unpredictable results. Therefore, CAPS or KIDS should meet this standard.

POTTER COUNTY

5. How does the county plan support the reuse of existing IT assets?

Any usable IT assets already accumulated by the County (computers/printers/servers, etc.) would be maintained and used to implement another informational system. However, the County will continue to make requests for upgrades of assets or new assets as needed.

If the county is requesting funding for ongoing or new development in their FY 2011-2012 ITG, the county must provide the following information.

1. Business Need - describe the business need for the ongoing or new development;
2. High Level Requirements – provide a description of the high level business and technical requirements;
3. Project Cost Proposal – provide the total costs for the development as well as the total estimated project costs if the development is part of a larger project; and
4. Cost/Benefit Analysis – provide a cost/benefit analysis that demonstrates the ongoing or new development provides a better return on investment than transfer of an already existing system or component.

POTTER COUNTY

With the current system not meeting the DPW standards as an automated informational system and with the approval of the 2010/11 purchase of an acceptable software system, the 2011/12 ITG reflects the ongoing annual cost for hosting and maintenance of such system; any needed hardware upgrades and county staff costs.

Thus, the transfer to an acceptable system such as CAPS or KIDS should satisfy business needs of day-to-day CYS operations that can be compatible with DPW reporting needs and the requirements and costs described in the ITG.

Unfortunately, the current system never developed to a full, comprehensive informational software product that could be responsive to CYS needs, and the costs to pay a small business with limited resources and unfamiliarity with CYS procedures and reporting requirements would be unaffordable, with no guarantees that the end result would satisfy DPW.

Section 7: Required & Additional Language

7-1. Assurances

The following pages include assurance forms to be completed by counties. These forms are included:

- Assurance of Compliance/Participation
- Documentation of Participation by the Judiciary
- Assurance of Financial Commitment and Participation

The following forms must be signed and submitted in hard copy to:

Mr. Cliff Crowe
Office of Children, Youth and Families
Health and Welfare Building Annex
Seventh and Forster Streets
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2675

and

Mr. James Anderson, Executive Director
Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
401 Finance Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102-0018

POTTER COUNTY

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE/PARTICIPATION FORM DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION BY THE JUVENILE COURT

The Assurance of Compliance/Participation Form

The Assurance of Compliance/Review Form provided in this bulletin must be signed by the County Executive or a majority of the County Commissioners, the Juvenile Court Judge(s) or his/her designee, the County Human Services Director, the County Children and Youth Administrator, and the County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and submitted with the FY2011-2012 Needs Based Plan and Budget submission.

The Assurance of Compliance/Review Form has two signatory pages. The first page is for the County Human Services Director, the County Children and Youth Administrator, the County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and the Juvenile Court Judge(s) or his/her designee. This page must be submitted at the time of the county's implementation plan and needs based plan submissions. The second page is for the signatures of the County Executive or a majority of the County Commissioners. This page must be submitted at the time of the county's financial budget submission and must contain the financial commitment of the county.

COUNTY: Potter County

These assurances are applicable as indicated below.

Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 Children and Youth Needs Based Plan and Budget Estimate and/or the

Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011 Children and Youth Implementation Plan

Note: A separate, signed Assurance of Compliance/Participation form must accompany the Children and Youth Implementation Plan and the Needs Based Plan and Budget when they are submitted separately. This Assurance of Compliance/Participation form cannot be modified or altered in any manner or the Children and Youth Implementation Plan and the Needs Based Plan and Budget will not be accepted.

COMMON ASSURANCES

I/We hereby expressly, and as a condition precedent to the receipt of state and federal funds, assure that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955, as amended, and 16 PA Code, Chapter 49 (Contract Compliance Regulations):

1. I/We do not and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation or disability:
 - a. in providing services or employment, or in our relationship with other providers;
 - b. in providing access to services and employment for handicapped individuals.
2. I/We will comply with all regulations promulgated to enforce the statutory provisions against discrimination.

I/We assure that these documents shall constitute the agreement required by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. § 672 (a)(2) for foster care maintenance and adoption assistance payments.

POTTER COUNTY

I/We assure:

- the County Children and Youth Agency and Juvenile Probation Office has the responsibility for placement and care of the children for whom Title IV-E foster care maintenance and adoption assistance payments are claimed;
- the County Children and Youth Agency/Juvenile Probation Office will provide each child all of the statutory and regulatory protections required under the Title IV-E agency, including permanency hearings, case plans etc.;
- the agreement between the Office of Children, Youth and Families and the County Children and Youth Agency/Juvenile Probation Office shall be binding on both parties; and
- the State Title IV-E agency shall have access to case records, reports or other informational materials that may be needed to monitor Title IV-E compliance.

I/We understand that any Administration for Children and Families (ACF) disallowance incurred as a result of county noncompliance with Title IV-E foster care maintenance, adoption assistance or Title IV-E administrative claim requirements will be the responsibility of the county.

I/We assure that all information herein is true to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, based on my/our thorough review of the information submitted.

EXECUTIVE ASSURANCES

In addition to the Common Assurances,

I/We assure that I/we have participated in the development of the Plan, are in agreement with the Plan as submitted and that all mandated services if funded by the Plan will be delivered.

I/We assure that these Plans comply with the "Planning and Financial Reimbursement Requirements for County Children and Youth Social Services Programs" as found in 55 PA Code Chapter 3140.

I/We assure that, when approved by the Department of Public Welfare, the attached Children and Youth Implementation Plan and Needs Based Plan and Budget, including any new initiatives, additional staff and/or increased services and special grants that are approved, shall be the basis for administration of public child welfare services for all children in need under Article VII of the Public Welfare Code, 62 P.S. § 701 et seq., as amended.

I/We assure that, where possible, the county will cooperate with state efforts to maximize the use of federal funds for the services in this Plan.

I/We assure that all contracts for the provision of services addressed herein will require the providers to comply with the Chapter 49 provisions (contract compliance regulations).

I/We assure that expenditure of funds shall be in accordance with these Plans and estimates and Department of Public Welfare regulations.

POTTER COUNTY

I/We assure that services required by 55 PA code 3130.34 through 3130.38 will be made available as required by 55 PA code 3140.17 (b)(2);

I/We assure that the capacity of both the county and the providers has been assessed and it is my/our judgment that it will be adequate to implement the Plan as presented;

I/We assure all Title IV-E foster care maintenance and adoption assistance payment eligibility requirements are met for the specified children, not merely addressed by the agreement;

I/We assure that the County Children and Youth Advisory Committee has participated in the development of this Plan and has reviewed the Plan as submitted; and

I/We assure that representatives of the community, providers and consumers have been given the opportunity to participate in the development of this Plan; and

I/We assure that the county programs that affect children (e.g., Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Drug and Alcohol) have participated in the development and review of this Plan.

I/We understand that the accompanying budget projections are based on estimates and that the amounts may change when the state budget is adopted and final allocations are made.

I/We understand that substantial changes to the Plans subsequent to Departmental approval must be submitted to the Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families for approval.

NEW ASSUARANCE in FY 2011-2012 NBB Bulletin

I/We assure that all new Guardians Ad Litem have/will complete the pre-service training prior to being appointed to represent a child. If the GAL has not completed the pre-service training, costs incurred for representation of children by this GAL will not be claimed.

POTTER COUNTY

COUNTY ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE AND PARTICIPATION
DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION BY THE JUVENILE COURT

THE SIGNATURES OF THESE COUNTY OFFICIALS REPRESENTS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
COUNTY COMMITMENT TO ADHERE TO THE COMMON AND EXECUTIVE ASSURANCES
CONTAINED IN THE PRECEEDING PARAGRAPHS

County Human Services Director

Jame G. Kockler
Name


Signature

7-30-10
Date

County Children and Youth Administrator

Joy E. Glassmire
Name


Signature

7/30/10
Date

County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

John Moshier
Name


Signature

7/21/10
Date

DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION BY THE JUDICIARY

In addition to the Common Assurances:

I/We assure that I/we had the opportunity to review, comment and/or participate to the level desired in the development of the Children, Youth and Families Needs Based Plan and Budget.

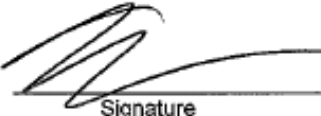
I/We assure that the plan accurately reflects the needs of children and youth served by the juvenile court.

I/We assure that the Juvenile Probation Office has actively participated in the development of the Children, Youth and Families Needs Based Plan and Budget.

Judicial Comments:

Juvenile Court Judge(s)/ Designee

Judge Stephen P. B. Minor
Name


Signature

7-26-2010
Date

Name

Signature

Date

POTTER COUNTY

COUNTY ASSURANCE OF FINACIAL COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION

THE SIGNATURES OF THESE COUNTY OFFICIALS REPRESENTS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTY COMMITMENT TO ADHERE TO THE COMMON AND EXECUTIVE ASSURANCES CONTAINED IN THE PRECEEDING PARAGRAPHS AS WELL AS COUNTY COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE LOCAL FUNDS SPECIFIED IN THE PLAN AS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE MATCHING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS BASED ON THE COUNTY'S PROPOSAL. THE LOCAL FUND COMMITMENT AS PROVIDED IN THE COUNTY'S PROPOSAL TOTAL:

\$ _____.

Signature(s)

County Executive/Mayor

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

County Commissioners

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date