



DHS CHILD WELFARE MEETING

Meeting. The Department of Human Services (DHS) invited caucus staff and LSA analysts to the Hoover Building on October 13, 2016, to discuss upcoming changes to the child welfare service procurement process.

New Service Contracts. New child welfare service contracts will begin July 1, 2017, for FY 2018. The DHS will group Child Welfare Emergency Services, Foster Group Care Services, and Supervised Apartment Living together in one contract, and Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families and Training and Peer Support in a separate contract. However, for the purpose of gaining entry into the upcoming two-year contract, providers can apply to provide services in any area that aligns with the provider's level of expertise.

Behavioral Assessment. The DHS is in the process of developing a multi-user behavioral assessment tool that will collect data on and feedback from children receiving child welfare services over a two-year cycle. This data will be used to determine the optimal placement of children in facilities and programs providing care in terms of geographic region and mode of service delivery. The DHS plans to partner with the Annie E. Casey Foundation for the purposes of collecting and analyzing the data and expects to cover the cost of the assessment tool with existing resources. However, surplus funds from the Decategorization budget will be redirected and used for the purpose of augmenting dollars going toward the provision of core child welfare services, including the behavioral assessment tool.

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