



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

JAN 05 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 27, 2004

Michael Marshall
Secretary of Senate
State Capitol
LOCAL

Margaret Thomson
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol
LOCAL

RE: Independent Living Services Annual Report

Dear Members of the Iowa General Assembly:

Section 234.35, subsection 4, directs the Department of Human Services to report to the Governor and the General Assembly annually by January 1 on data concerning youth who received independent living (IL) foster care services during the immediately preceding fiscal year and to assess the data as part of any evaluation of IL services or consideration for improving the services. Following is the report data and assessment as required.

Report Data

IL foster care is a foster care type of placement, in which youth served must be at least 16 years of age and have the capacity to function outside the structure of a foster family or group care setting. Youth live in an apartment unit with supervision provided by a provider that the Department contracts with to provide such supervision and skills to assist the youth in preparation for self-sufficiency. The total number of youth for whom the state paid for IL services during state fiscal year (SFY) '04 was 205. Attached is a spreadsheet detailing the number of youth served, by county, who received such services, were discharged from such services, the reasons for discharge, and the voluntary or involuntary status of such services.

Clearly the largest percent of youth receiving IL services, 27%, were from Polk County, with Linn County (12%) and Scott County (9%) coming in next, amounting to three out of Iowa's ninety-nine counties representing almost 50% of all youth served in the program, with no youth represented from 52 counties. This over and under representation for this particular foster care placement is not surprising when compared to overall representation of youth in foster care by county. Additionally, out of the 18 child placing agencies that the Department contracts with to provide independent living services, the majority provide services in Iowa's more urban areas, primarily due to availability of apartment units and landlords willing to rent to youth under the age of eighteen. Moreover, only a handful of the 18 providers contracted with have active independent living programs, with over half of providers only occasionally serving youth in this type of placement. The over represented counties are those counties in which there are strong independent living programs.

When reviewing numbers served by departmental service area, the Des Moines service area, which includes Polk County, clearly served the most youth in this particular type of placement, with the Cedar Rapids service area coming in second (which includes Linn County), the Davenport service area third (including Scott County) and the Ames service area (including Story County) fourth. Again, the rationale for this is apartment/landlord availability and strength of the program serving that particular area.

All 205 youth served were court ordered to placement (involuntary, under the age of 18); none were served on a voluntary basis (placement status for youth 18 through 19 years of age still working on their high school education). In order for youth to continue to be served past their 18th birthday, the youth (or person acting on behalf of the youth) must agree to stay in care in addition to completing their high school education. Additionally, funding must be available for the services. While funding is always an issue, it is not uncommon for youth who could remain in foster care past 18 years of age to choose not to.

There were 101 youth discharged from this particular program during SFY '04. Of those discharged, 59% "aged out" of care (left care because they have attained 18 years of age or older), with another 8% being discharged due to a change in placement/level of care (typically a more restrictive placement such as group foster care, due to behaviors of the youth), 24% returned home, 8% ran away from placement, and 1% were placed with a suitable person (i.e., relative, guardian).

It is interesting to note that almost a third (29%) of total youth placed in IL during SFY '04 were managed through juvenile court services (indicating adjudicated delinquent) as opposed to the Department. Additionally, a majority of all youth placed were placed due to the youth's behavior or because of delinquency. Such data profiling youth characteristics is important to keep in mind when evaluating effectiveness of program services. Often times, IL placement is a "last resort" placement for older teens that can't go home and for whom other foster care settings (group care or family foster care) are unable to serve. Many of these youth have mental health and substance abuse issues. Case planning and services need to be tailored to meet the individual needs of each youth served.

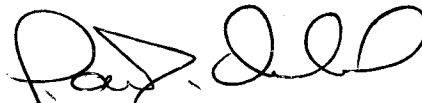
Evaluation of IL services

In addition to the above data, an ad hoc IL task force met during 2003 to assess program effectiveness and make recommendations for increasing effectiveness and improving services. Based upon recommendations, the administrative rules governing the IL program, IAC 441-202.9(234) have recently been revised, with changes effective 06/01/04. The program has been renamed to Supervised Apartment Living (SAL) foster care; rule changes allow for the program to provide services based more on individual need, removing caps on the number of hours of services that may be purchased and limits on the amount of time spent in placement and increasing minimum service requirements of supervision. Eligibility is based, among other things, on a comprehensive assessment of the youth that reviews available information on the youth, especially as it pertains to the youth's ability to live independently, participate in services and activities to achieve self-sufficiency, and in following the provisions of their case plan (see attached Preplacement Screening for Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care in addition to the

Request for Approval of Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care Placement, both of which must be completed prior to placing a youth in SAL). A significant change in rules now allows youth who have left foster care at age 18 to voluntarily return to IL foster care placement prior to their 20th birthday in order to complete their high school education or obtain a general equivalency diploma.

During 2004, a committee of SAL providers and Department staff continued to meet to discuss program effectiveness and implications of program changes. Much discussion has been held around what data to collect that best measures program results and youth outcomes; the committee and Department staff have reviewed data that providers are currently collecting as well as data being collected in similar programs in other states. Implementation of receipt of a core set of data outcomes collected by each provider will occur in conjunction with implementation of the child welfare redesign project. It is expected that an agreed upon consistent core set of data elements will be collected by providers beginning 07/01/05.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Nelson", written over a horizontal line.

for

Mary Nelson
Division Administrator

PREPLACEMENT SCREENING FOR SUPERVISED APARTMENT LIVING FOSTER CARE

Date:

Client Name	Date of Birth	FACS ID	County
Current Living Arrangement			Legal Status: <input type="checkbox"/> CINA <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquent <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary
Date Life Skill Assessment was completed: <i>(Attach a copy of the results to this assessment.)</i>			

School and Work History

Currently enrolled in school or GED

Grade	School	IEP? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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- Performing at appropriate level in school
- Mild to moderate problems at school including underachievement or discipline problems
- Serious school difficulties including suspensions, frequent truancy, significant discipline problems or failing

Not currently enrolled in school

Last School Attended	Last Grade Completed
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Currently employed

- Full-time
- Part-time

Not currently employed

Date Last Worked

- Has held a job for at least six months with few to no problems
- Has held a job for at least one month or has mild attendance or disciplinary problems
- Serious difficulties finding or maintaining employment
- No work history
- No opportunity to work

Medical or Mental Health Issues (Including Pregnancy)

Diagnosis:

Medications:

Is the youth able to manage own medication?

- Yes
 No
 N/A

Substance Abuse

- No notable substance use difficulties currently or in recovery for at least one year
- Mild to moderate substance use problems that occasionally present problems of living or in recovery for less than one year
- Moderate to serious substance abuse problem that requires treatment and exacerbates current problems and conditions

Describe current substance abuse treatment:

Parenting

Does the youth have any children?

- Yes. If yes, how many?
- No

Does the youth have custody of the children?

- Yes
- No

Does the youth's child have any health concerns or special needs?

- Yes. If yes, please describe:
- No

Cooperation/Compliance at Current Placement

- Generally compliant and cooperative
- Occasionally noncompliant to some rules or adult instructions
- Frequently noncompliant to rules and adult instructions

History of Delinquency

- Yes. If yes, describe:
- No

Date and degree of most recent charge:

Currently on probation?

- Yes. If yes, describe youth's compliance with terms of probation:
- No

History of Violence Toward Self, Others, or Property

- Yes. If yes, describe:
- No

Current (within past three months) violent/aggressive behavior:

- Yes. If yes, describe:
- No

List names of team members consulted in making the recommendations for SAL placement:

Other comments:

List the plan of services and resources available to address the identified needs of the youth in SAL placement (i.e., positive connections, economic, community programs):

Number of hours of supervision that will be authorized:

Overall assessment of suitability for Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care:

- Appropriate for SAL-scattered site
- Appropriate for SAL-cluster site
- Not appropriate for SAL

What is the plan if SAL placement is not approved or if SAL services are terminated:

Case Manager/JCO

Date

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SUPERVISED APARTMENT LIVING FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT

<i>Youth's Name</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Date</i>
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The youth must meet the following criteria for approval of Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care:

- Youth is at least 16 years old.
- Needs foster care placement and services according to Employees' Manual XIII-J.
- Pre-Placement Screening for Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care*, form 470-4063, is attached.
- Youth will have an approved living arrangement that meets required standards.

If under age 18 (check one):

- Attending high school and working (or in work training) part time.
- Attending GED program and working (or in work training) part time.
- Attending post-secondary classes and working (or in work training) part time.
- Attending high school, GED or post-secondary program. Work requirement waiver is requested until _____ month/year.

Reason for waiving work requirement:

- Working full time.

If age 18 or over (check one):

- Attending high school and working (or in work training) part time.
- Attending GED program and working (or in work training) part time.
- Attending high school or GED program. Work requirement waiver is requested until _____ month/year.

Reason for waiving work requirement:

- Request waiver of requirement for continuous placement in order for youth to return to foster care to complete high school or obtain GED. Youth is working (or in work training) part time or work requirement waiver is requested until _____ month/year.

Reason for waiving work requirement:

An initial allowance in the amount of _____ (*maximum \$400*) is requested to assist the youth in paying for deposits, furnishings, and other start-up costs.

<i>Worker</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Date</i>
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APPROVAL FOR SUPERVISED APARTMENT LIVING FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT

The request for a Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care Placement is: Approved Denied

Work requirement waiver is: Approved Denied

The request for an initial allowance is approved in the amount of: _____

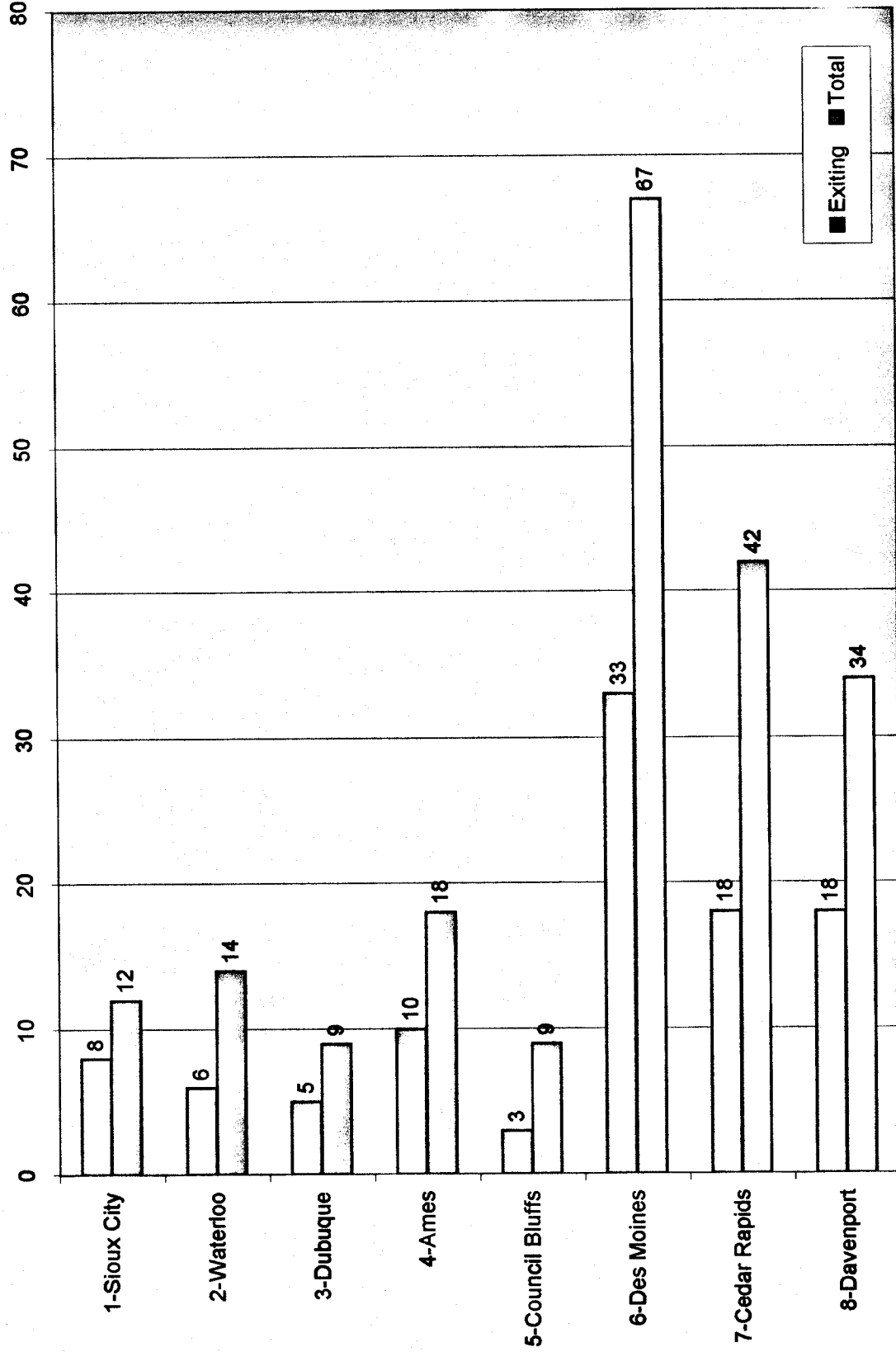
<i>Service Area Manager or Designee</i>	<i>Date</i>
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If youth is under age 18, obtain Juvenile Court Order for Supervised Apartment Living Placement after receiving SAM approval.

SFY2004 Supervised Apartment Living Report

Service Area	County	Total	Closed	AGED OUT	CHANGE IN LEVEL OF CARE	CHANGE IN PLACEMENT	PLACEMENT WITH A SUITABLE	RETURN HOME	RUNAWAY	Voluntary	Court	CINA	CUSTODY TRANSFERRED	RELINQUENT	
7-Cedar Rapids	Appanoose	1								0	1				
5-Council Bluffs	Audubon	1	1	1						0	1			1	
7-Cedar Rapids	Benton	1								0	1			1	
2-Waterloo	Black Hawk	9	3	3						0	9	5		4	
6-Des Moines	Boone	2	1	1						0	2	1		1	
3-Dubuque	Buchanan	1	1						1	0	1			1	
2-Waterloo	Butler	1	1	1						0	1	1			
8-Davenport	Cedar	1								0	1			1	
2-Waterloo	Chickasaw	2	2	2						0	2	1		1	
1-Sioux City	Clay	1	1	1						0	1	1			
3-Dubuque	Clayton	1								0	1	1			
3-Dubuque	Clinton	2								0	2	1		1	
6-Des Moines	Dallas	9	6	5	1					0	9	8		1	
7-Cedar Rapids	Davis	3	2	2						0	3	3			
8-Davenport	Des Moines	3								0	3	1		2	
3-Dubuque	Dubuque	1	1			1				0	1			1	
1-Sioux City	Emmet	2	2	1				1		0	2	1		1	
3-Dubuque	Fayette	2	1					1		0	2	1		1	
2-Waterloo	Floyd	1								0	1			1	
2-Waterloo	Franklin	1								0	1	1			
5-Council Bluffs	Greene	2								0	2	2			
5-Council Bluffs	Guthrie	1								0	1			1	
8-Davenport	Henry	2	2	1				1		0	2	2			
4-Ames	Humboldt	1								0	1	1			
3-Dubuque	Jackson	1	1	1						0	1	1			
4-Ames	Jasper	1								0	1			1	
7-Cedar Rapids	Johnson	6	1	1						0	6	2		4	
7-Cedar Rapids	Jones	2	1						1	0	2	2			
8-Davenport	Lee	3	2	2						0	3	1		2	
7-Cedar Rapids	Linn	25	10	7			1	2		0	25	19		6	
8-Davenport	Louisa	2	1	1						0	2	1		1	
7-Cedar Rapids	Mahaska	1	1	1						0	1	1			
4-Ames	Marshall	5	4	1				3		0	5	5			
8-Davenport	Muscatine	4	4	3				1		0	4	3		1	
1-Sioux City	Palo Alto	1	1	1						0	1	1			
6-Des Moines	Polk	55	25	9	2			11	3	0	55	36	2	13	4
5-Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie	3	1	1						0	3	3			
4-Ames	Poweshiek	2								0	2	2			
5-Council Bluffs	Sac	2	1					1		0	2	1		1	
8-Davenport	Scott	19	9	4		1		2	2	0	19	8		9	2
1-Sioux City	Sioux	2	1	1						0	2	1		1	
4-Ames	Story	2	1		1					0	2	2			
4-Ames	Tama	4	3	3						0	4	4			
7-Cedar Rapids	Wapello	3	3	1				1	1	0	3	3			
6-Des Moines	Wayne	1	1		1					0	1			1	
4-Ames	Webster	3	2	2						0	3	1		2	
3-Dubuque	Winneshiek	1	1		1					0	1	1			
1-Sioux City	Woodbury	6	3	3						0	6	1		3	2
State Total		205	101	60	6	2	1	24	8	0	205	131	2	59	13

Supervised Apartment Living



Supervised Apartment Living Exits SFY2004

