

CASA Presentation

I. The Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board.

A. A description of the program.

1. 7-member state board.
2. 7 member review panels of community activists review the cases of each child in care - every 6 months - Report to the Court.
3. Review of some sort federally mandated - 45% of the program is federally funded.
4. Registry and Annual Report.

B. Goals Established by State Board and Accomplishments (*Handout - Accomplishments sheet*).

1. Expand program without additional funds.

- ⇒ Base Year (FY 2000): 30 counties
2,217 reviews
- ⇒ 1st Year (FY 2001): 42 counties
3,200 reviews
- ⇒ Current (FY 2002): 55 counties
3,842 reviews

⇒ Current compared to Base Year**:

- 83% more counties
- 73% more reviews

**includes a budget cut.

2. Increase Number of Volunteers trained without additional funds.

- ⇒ Base Year (FY 2000): 10% trained
- ⇒ 1st Year (FY 2001): 55% trained
- ⇒ Current (FY 2002): 100% trained



Iowa Citizen Foster Care
Review Board

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Administrator

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5. Create a Public image.

☞ See Newspaper Reports (*Handout*)

6. Improve internal and external communication without additional funds.

☞ New Pamphlet (*Handout*).

☞ Annual Report (*Handout*).

☞ Quarterly Newsletter (*Handout*).

II. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program.

A. A description of the program now.

1. One volunteer advocating for a child.
2. Used when requested by a judge.
3. No federal funding or federal mandate.
4. In 30 counties (only 16 of which are where ICFCRB conducts review) *Handout - Map*.

**B. My vision of CASA (an opportunity for improvement).
*Handout - Memo to Bill Angrick.***

C. Examples of case protocols for CASA.

1. Children aging out of care.
 - During Fiscal Year 2001, approximately one third of the children reviewed by ICFCRB volunteers were ages 16-18.
 - IFAPA reports the following for the children who "age out" of Iowa's foster care system: 46% do not complete high school; 30% of the females will have babies within four years; 51% will be unemployed; 62% will not maintain a job for at least a year; 40% will continue to be a cost to the community; 33% will be homeless; and 35% will be in jail within ten years.

2. Very young children.

- The law now provides that the parental rights may be terminated for a child 3 years old or younger after only six months from removal (Iowa Code § 232,116(1)(g)).
- This increases the need for intensive involvement, close monitoring, and detailed information in a rapid manner.

3. Children who will return home, but need visitation.

- By far, the vast majority of children below the age of 16 in care have a permanency goal of "return home".
- There are few resources to facilitate regular, meaningful visitation between the child and the family before return home.
- ICFCRB volunteers regularly report that the leading barrier to permanency in cases where the goal is to return home is the lack of sufficient visitation between the child and family.
- Recent figures from DHS show that over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the children entering care from their homes were just in care during the last 12 months.

INDEX OF HANDOUTS

- **Summary of ICFCRB Accomplishments.**
- **Newspaper Articles about ICFCRB.**
- **ICFCRB 2001 Annual Report.**
- **CASA/ICFCRB Comparison.**
- **ICFCRB/CASA Map.**
- **Memo to Bill Angrick.**



STATE OF IOWA

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

IOWA CITIZEN FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
DON T. ROSS, BOARD CHAIRPERSON
JERRY R. FOXHOVEN, ADMINISTRATOR

Table with 3 columns: Fiscal Year, Counties, Reviews. Rows include 2000, 2001, 2002 (7 months), and 2002 (extrapolated).

How FY2001 Compares to the Previous Year:

Number of Counties: +40%
Number of Reviews: +44%

How FY2002 Compares to Previous Years:

Table with 3 columns: Comparison, Counties, Reviews. Rows include Over 2000 and Over 2001.

****PLEASE NOTE: Funding for ICFCRB was the same for FY 2000 and FY 2001. Funding for ICFCRB during FY2002 was REDUCED by 4.3% from the previous two fiscal years

An example of good government at work

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The Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board has released its accomplishments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and the report provides an example of

good government at work in Iowa. The Foster Care Review Board uses volunteer citizens to review the case of each child placed in out-of-home care by the state once

every six months to insure good planning to provide a safe and permanent future for the child. The local boards issue a report to the Juvenile Court Judge about the case, and the state board reports to the governor, Legislature, and Supreme Court concerning Iowa's child welfare system.

For the year ending June 30, 2000, the foster care review board used 302 volunteers to conduct 2,217 reviews of children in 30 counties. One year later, (in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001), the board used 375 volunteers (an increase of over 24%) to conduct 3,800 reviews (an increase of over 44%) of children in 43 counties (an increase of over 43%). This substantial increase of services was done with the same budget. "We made a commitment to the governor, the Legislature and the Iowa taxpayer to do everything we could to find a way to provide more services

for the same money," said Jerry Foxhoven, administrator of the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board. "With the help of our dedicated volunteers and staff, we successfully redesigned the program to do more without reducing the quality of our services."

Don Ross of Iowa City, the State Board Chair of the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board, announced the plans for the current fiscal year. "This year, again

with no increase in funds, our local review boards will conduct approximately 3,800 reviews in 55 counties. This is an increase of 71% in number of reviews and 83% in number of counties over two years ago with the same budget. I am delighted to serve as a volunteer state board member of this state agency, which is the perfect example of good government at work."



2390 Y

West Union, IA
Fayette County Union

Circ. 2,490

SEP 5 2001

1668 Y

Dubuque, IA
Telegraph Herald
Circ. 31,944

SEP 02 2001

Labor Day brings out the political

GOP invades: Many new faces grace this year's march

The next general election might be a year away, but Monday's Labor Day parade in Dubuque promises to be loaded with Iowa politicians looking to get a good head start.



MARY RAE BRAGG
TH reporter
Politics

Democrats, who traditionally have all but monopolized the Dubuque parade's political participation, will be there as expected. But Monday, Republicans

The increase in service while holding the budget line was accomplished by redesigning the program with the help of dedicated volunteers and staff, said Jerry Foxhoven, the board's administrator.

During the current fiscal year, holding to the same amount of funding, the review boards are expected to conduct approximately 3,800 reviews in 55 counties.

Doug O'Brien, a native of Bernard, Iowa, has been hired to serve as counsel for the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, chaired by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.

O'Brien is a 1989 graduate of Cascade High School, and a graduate of Loras College and the University of Iowa Law School. He also earned his master's degree in agricultural law

from the University of Iowa. Prior to joining the staff, O'Brien worked for Rep. Leonard Hill as a legislative aide. Most recent position was as legislative counsel for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

O'Brien's wife is Ann O'Brien.

A report on Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board activities for the past fiscal year shows a marked increase of services for the state's foster children while the group's budget remained the same.

Once every six months, the board uses volunteers to review cases of each child placed in out-of-home care by the state. The object of the review is to ensure good planning to provide a safe and permanent future for the child.

For the year ending June 30, 2000, the board used 302 volunteers to conduct 2,217 reviews of children in 30 counties. The report for fiscal year 2001 showed an increase to 375 volunteers conducting 3,200 reviews of children in 43 counties.

1895 Y

Keokuk, IA

Daily Gate City

Circ. 5,680

MAR 21 2001

Vilsack announces partnership linking community colleges, foster care review

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Beginning this spring, the Iowa Association of Community Colleges will offer special training for members of local foster care review boards.

Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack announced the new educational partnership, which links the Iowa Citizen Foster

Care Review Board and the Iowa Association of Community Colleges, at a press conference Friday in Des Moines.

Two southeast Iowans were also involved in the announcement. Dr. Daniel Phelan, president and CEO of South-

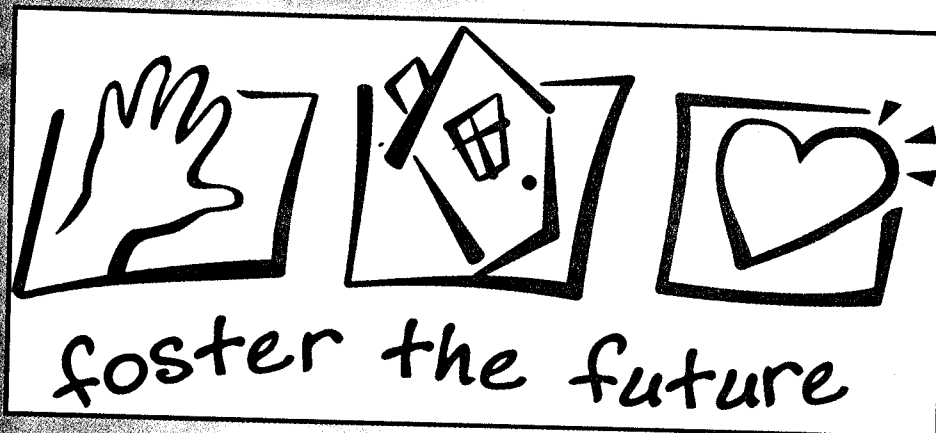
eastern Community College and first vice president of the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents, and Moudy Nabulsi, chair of the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees, took part in the press conference.

Also in attendance were Don T. Ross, chair of the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board, Jerry Foxhoven, agency administrator, and Barbara Crittenden, president of the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents.

It is anticipated that more than 300 members of local foster care review boards across the state will enroll in the initial 18-hour nationally-accredited course on methods of conducting reviews of Iowa children in foster care.

The mission of the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board is to ensure that planning for permanency occurs for all Iowa children living in foster care. During the last fiscal year, board members conducted more than 2,200 reviews.

*Iowa Citizen Foster Care
Review Board*



*Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2001
(July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001)*

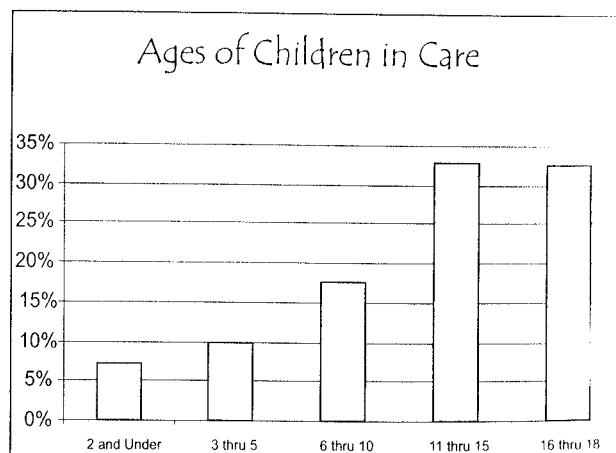
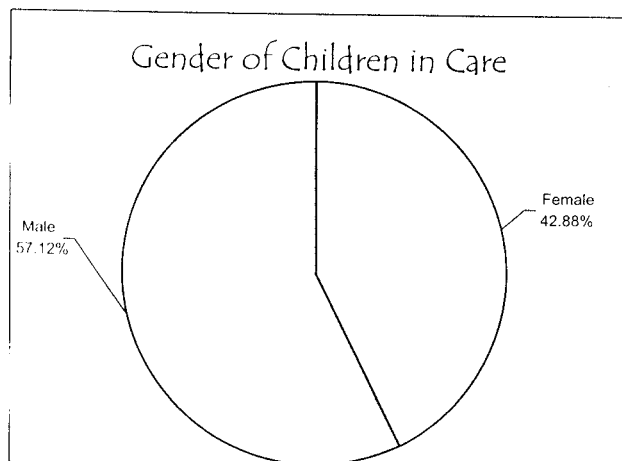
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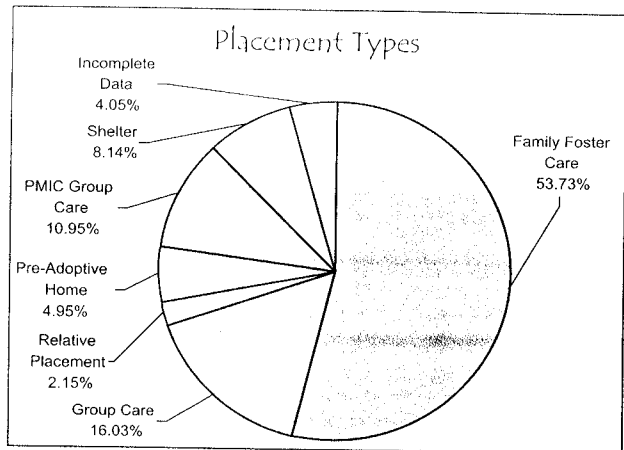
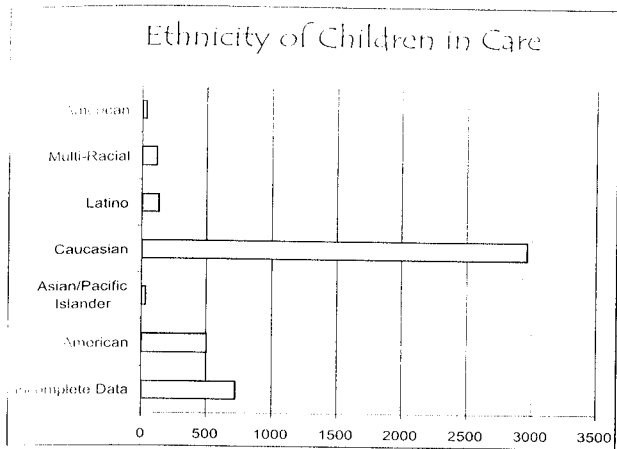
Overview

History: On any given day, there are almost five thousand children across the State of Iowa living in the foster care system. These children are the victims of abuse or neglect, or are not able to live with their own families for any number of reasons. In 1984, the Iowa Legislature created the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board to ensure that planning for permanency would occur for all of Iowa's children. The enabling legislation enlisted the help of citizen volunteers from the communities of the children in care for three purposes: (1) to review the cases of children in their own communities to assure that each child has a specific and appropriate goal for achieving a permanent home in a timely manner; (2) to establish a Registry of the placements of children in foster care to assist in the formulation of policy and the allocation of resources; and (3) to prepare and disseminate foster care data with recommendations on how the foster care system can be improved. Federal and state laws require that each child in foster care be reviewed by some source once every six months. Where a Local Citizen Foster Care Review Board conducts a review, the Department of Human Services does not conduct an administrative review.

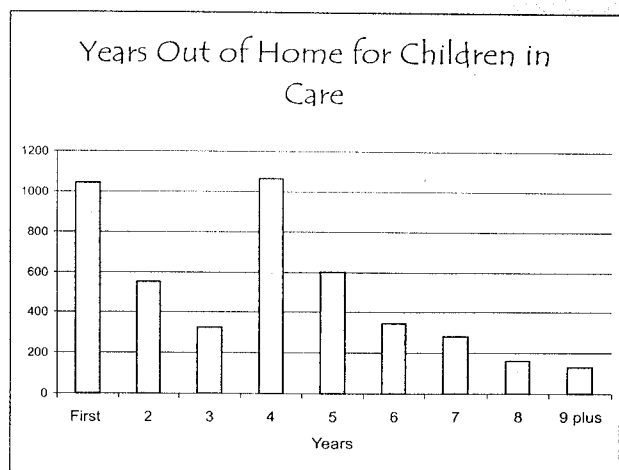
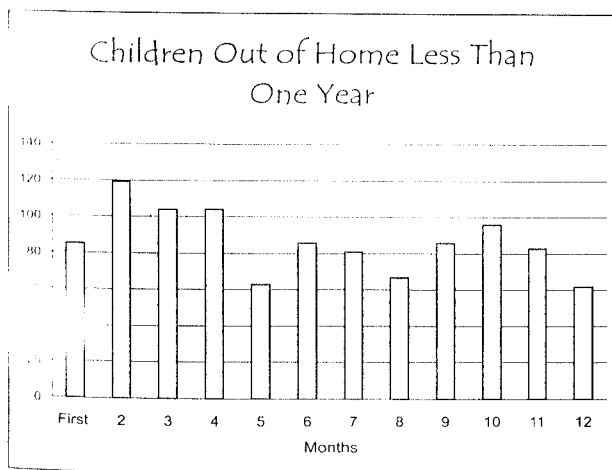
Our Mission: The Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board empowers the citizens of Iowa to review cases, collect data, and recommend changes to promote the safety and permanency of children who have been removed from the homes of their families.

Profile of Children Reviewed: The following is a profile of the children reviewed by these citizen volunteers, including gender, age, ethnicity, type of placements, and length of stay.



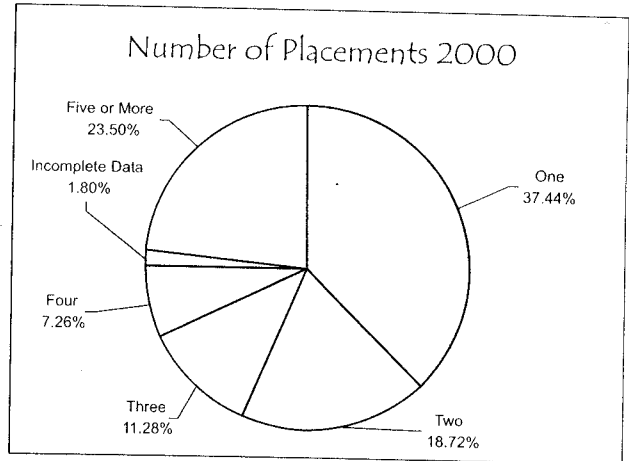
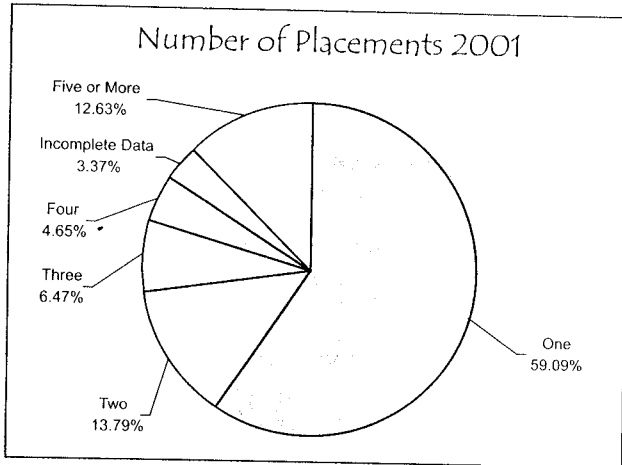


Length of Stay

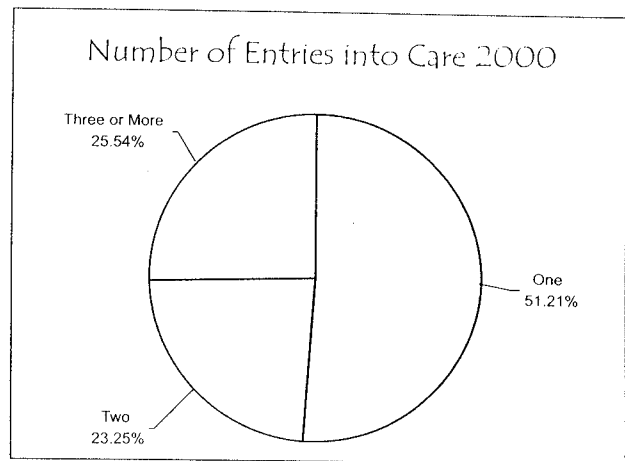
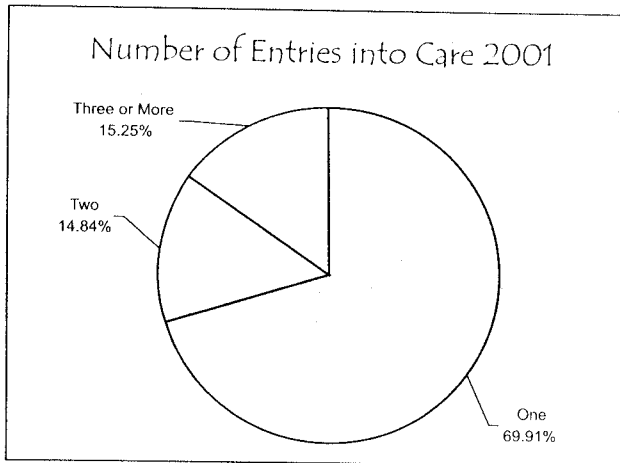


Improved Permanency: There has been substantial improvement in permanency for children in care over the past year in the areas where the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board conducts reviews. As shown in the following charts, where reviews are conducted, the percentage of children who have had multiple (more than one) placements has decreased substantially since the previous year. Also, multiple entries into care have substantially declined from the previous year.

Fewer children are moved while in care.



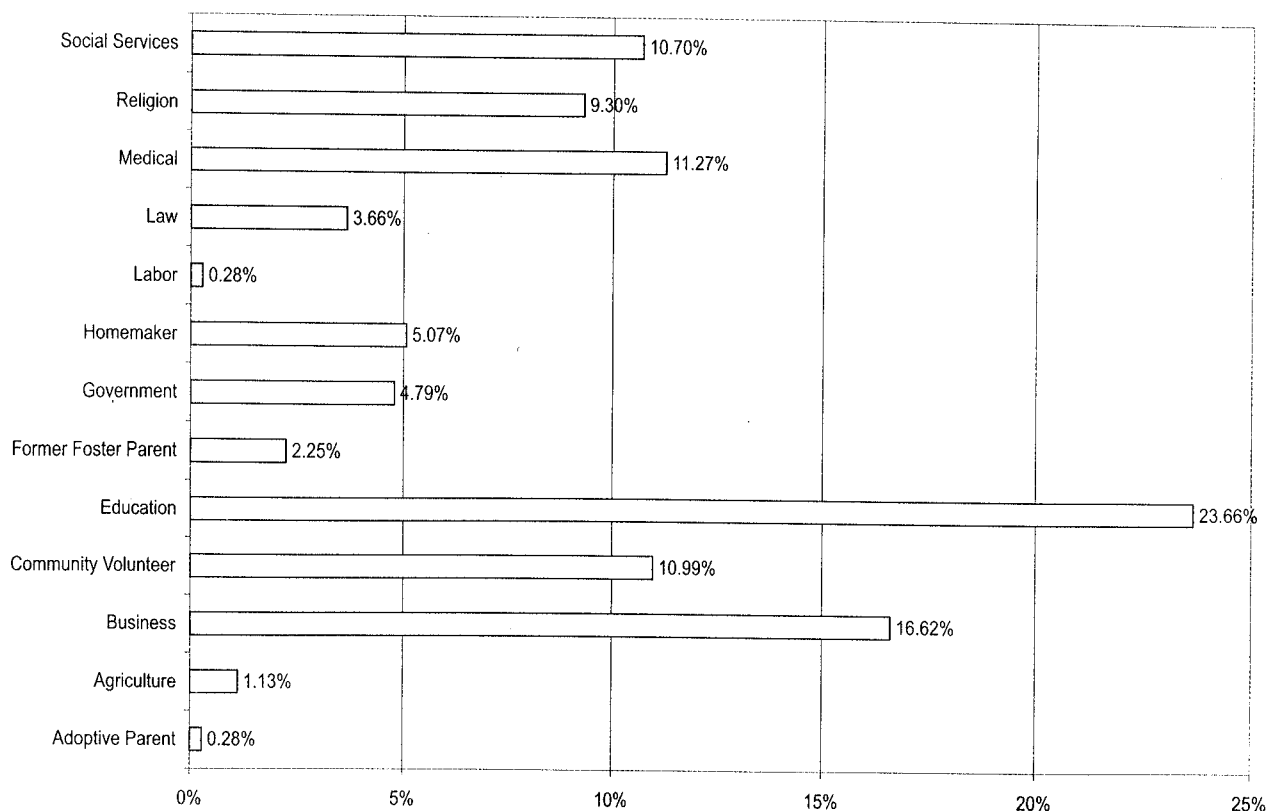
Fewer children re-enter care.



State Board: This seven-member board is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The board members are a diverse group of citizens from across the State of Iowa who have demonstrated an exceptional interest in the welfare of children. The State Board establishes policies and procedures for the entire program, and is responsible for ensuring adequate funding and staff to support the work of the community volunteers. The State Board is also charged with ensuring that the agency is in compliance with the Iowa Code, which provides the legal basis for supporting community involvement in foster care issues.

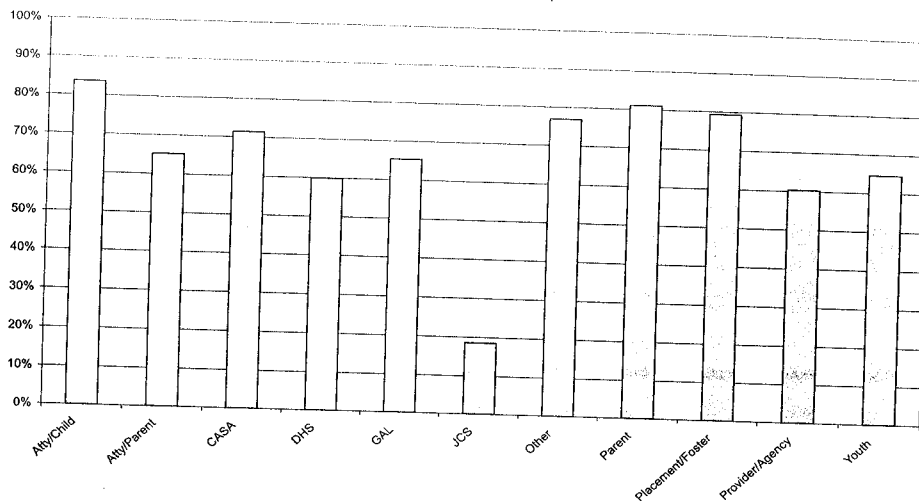
Local Boards: Local Citizen Foster Care Review Boards meet once each month to review the case of each child in foster care in their community. Each child is reviewed once every six months. These seven-member boards consist of citizen volunteers selected by the State Board and appointed by the Chief Judge of that judicial district. Almost four hundred volunteers serve as local reviewers in their communities. Volunteers are selected from a variety of ethnic and professional backgrounds and are committed to the welfare of the children in their own community. Board members are given an extensive, nationally recognized training prior to reviewing cases, and continue to receive ongoing training throughout their service. A conscious effort is made to recruit volunteers with a diverse ethnic and racial background. The Local Citizen Foster Care Review Boards have a higher percentage of minority volunteers than exists in the general population and have a relatively balanced gender makeup. The following is a profile of the multi-disciplinary background of the local volunteer reviewers.

Multi-Disciplinary Background of Volunteers

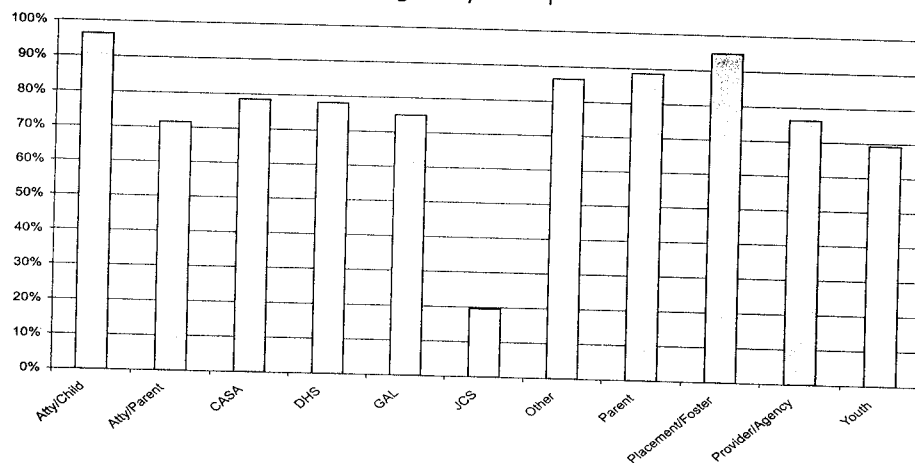


Reviews: Local Citizen Foster Care Review Boards meet at various community locations to conduct their reviews. Interested parties are invited to come before the board to discuss the progress of meeting the permanency goal for the child and any barriers they are experiencing in reaching the goal. Based on the information provided, the local board makes recommendations to the Juvenile Court Judge. These recommendations are advisory in nature, with the Judge having the final decision-making responsibility. The local board members identify barriers to permanency and report these barriers to the State Board for use in preparation of the Annual Report and Recommendations. The volunteers invite the interested parties to comment on the impact of the review anonymously. A summary of those comments follows.

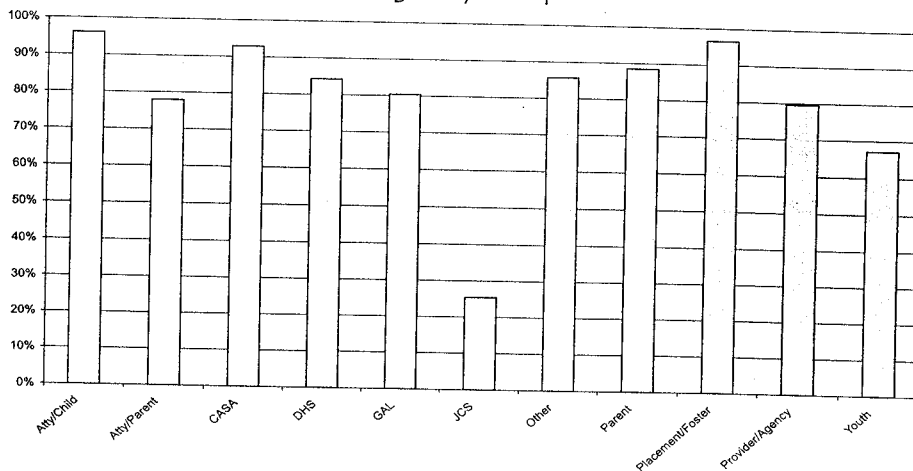
Did this review provide new information that will assist you?
Percentage of yes responses.



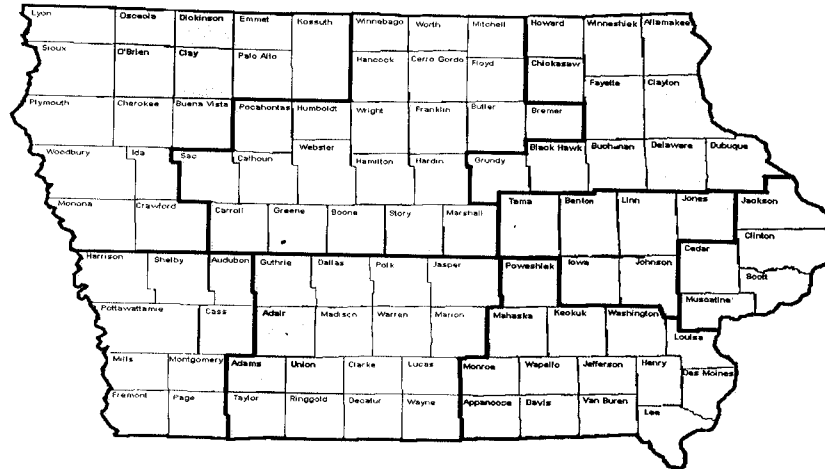
Did this review help your understanding of what steps each person or agency should take in order to achieve the permanency goal?
Percentage of yes responses.



Do you feel this review was helpful?
Percentage of yes responses.



Areas of Coverage: As reported in the last annual report, at the end of Fiscal Year 2000, approximately 300 volunteers conducted 2,217 reviews in 30 counties throughout Iowa. By the end of Fiscal Year 2001, 375 volunteers conducted 3,200 reviews (an increase of over 44%) in 42 counties. This substantial increase in programming was achieved with no increase in funding. During Fiscal Year 2001, volunteer reviewers donated a total of 22,499 hours to the foster care review process. This is the equivalent of the work of 10 full time employees donated by citizen volunteers.



Findings

The Local Citizen Foster Care Review Boards have identified the following barriers that appear to delay or prevent permanency for Iowa's children in foster care:

- A vast majority of children in the foster care system come from families who suffer from severe to moderate financial difficulties. The current economic climate will increase the number of children and families who will come into contact with Iowa's foster care system and will further tax the resources dedicated to that system.
- Family foster care is by far the most economical placement alternative for children who must be removed from their families and is often the best alternative for a child. The number of family foster homes is subject to a severe reduction because of adoption by those families as well as the lack of sufficient recruitment and retention of current and potential foster families.
- DHS caseworkers have caseloads that are so high that they cannot spend the time necessary to monitor each case at a level which could best promote permanency for children in care.
- Private placements often accept the children with the greatest needs. Reimbursement rates for private providers have remained unreasonably low for years. This has resulted in a significant turnover rate of workers in the private facilities which challenges the ability of the child welfare system to provide permanency to these children.
- Adoption rates are beginning to decline as the pool of children awaiting adoption have increasingly significant needs.
- The quality of representation of children by court appointed attorneys varies greatly, ranging from exceptional to substandard. This results in an unequal level of protections for children in out of home placement.

Recommendations

Recommendations to the Legislature

- Develop a systematic method for a gradual and continued increase of reimbursement rates for private providers.
- Allocate sufficient funding to the Department of Human Services to anticipate the expected increase in the number of children and families who will turn to the State of Iowa for support and services.
- Increase funding for the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board to allow for a systematic expansion of citizen reviews throughout the State of Iowa.

Recommendations to the Department of Human Services

- Develop a comprehensive plan that involves new and innovative methods for the recruitment and retention of foster family homes before such a shortage forces children into inappropriate placements.
- Examine programs in other states that have been successful in decreasing caseloads of workers without the need for vast funding increases.
- Conduct an analysis of other states and private businesses unrelated to the child welfare field to find innovative ideas that can be employed to increase the successful matches of adoptive parents and children.

Recommendations to the Supreme Court

- Implement rule changes to ensure that attorneys appointed to represent children in juvenile matters have measurable and identifiable minimum duties to perform in order to provide adequate representation of their clients.
- Implement additional rule changes (similar to those recently enacted concerning appeals of termination of parental rights cases) to appeals of Child in Need of Assistance cases to shorten the delays in permanency for children whose cases are on appeal.



**CASA/Foster Care Review
FY 02 Comparison**

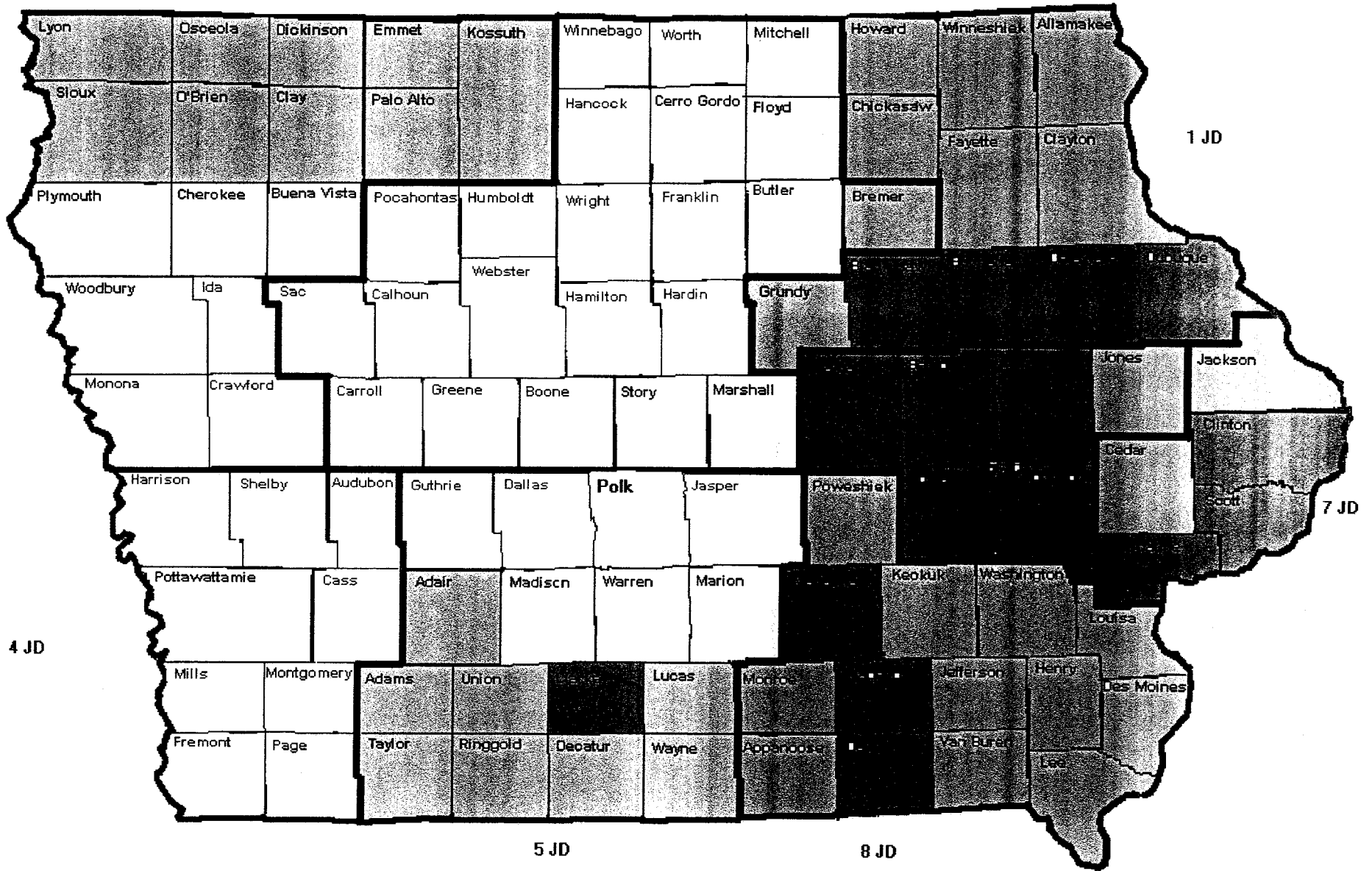
Item	CASA	FCRB
Definition (Code of Iowa)	Ch. 232.2 (9) "CASA.....to represent the interests of a child in any judicial proceeding to which the child is a party or is called on as a witness or relating to the disposition order involving the child resulting from such proceeding."	Ch. 237.19 Local five-member board.... "to review cases of children receiving foster care."
Duties of the local volunteers/board members (Code of Iowa)	Ch. 232.2 (22) "1) In-person interviews with child and parent, guardian or custodian of the child. 2) Interviews with child prior to any court-ordered hearing. 3) Visits to the home and residence (if different) and any prospective home or residence of the child, including each time placement is changed."	Ch. 237.20 "1) Review foster care cases every six months for a) placement status, b) efforts of the DHS to provide services to the parents, c) DHS efforts to return the child or find another home, d) problems, solutions, alternatives in the case, e) compliance with case plan. 2) Send a report to the court regarding the progress on the cases permanency plan."
Type of Contact	CASA volunteers average ten or more hours per month in 1) face-to-face interviews with any relevant person, 2) hearings, 3) staff meetings, 4) case conferences, 5) meetings with providers of health care, service, education, mental health care to the child, 7) submit regular reports to the court, and 8) monitor the case between court hearings.	Six month review meetings. DHS, providers, parents, foster parents, the child, GAL, and county attorney are invited to the meeting.
Supervision	Local coordinator provides consultation, helps plan meetings and helps evaluate case information, assists in preparing court reports and attends key court hearings with the volunteers.	Staff makes arrangements for the meetings, sends notices, prepares the reports and handles correspondence related to the reviews. Facilitators attend reviews and draft reports.
Types of Cases	Typically the most complex and difficult cases and the cases with serious safety issues for the child.	All children in the county who have been in foster care longer than six months.
Staff	24 FTE – 2 State office (Executive Director and Administrative Secretary) and 22 in field offices (coordinators and secretaries)	State Office (6) Local offices (Board support) Contract employees (facilitators)
Volunteers	613 Volunteers in FY 01 (37,284 hours)+E28	400 local board members (22,499 hours)

Item	CASA	FCRB
Budget	State: \$1,202,004 Grants in FY 02 \$47,580	State \$789,362 Federal Match \$715,434
Cases	1,129 children served in FY 01	3,200 reviews in FY 01
Who performs these duties when there is no volunteer?	Guardian ad litem (appointed by the Court)	DHS (administrative review process or the Courts)
Coverage Period	The Judge may appoint a CASA at any time from CINA adjudication until the case is dismissed. (Appointment often begins while child is in the home.)	Reviews are held six months after the child enters foster care and at intervals of six months thereafter, until the case is dismissed
Number and Location of Local Offices	Thirteen (13) local offices cover thirty (30) counties. Coordinators closely supervise the work of the volunteers.	Three (3) local offices cover fifty-five (55) counties (Dubuque, Washington, Cedar Rapids)
Access to the records	Juvenile court records and all other records relevant to the proceedings, including DHS, health, education, services, and mental health.	Juvenile court records and all other records relevant to the proceedings, including DHS, health, education, services, and mental health.
Level of confidentiality	HIGH	HIGH
Training	Thirty (30) hours pre-service training and twelve (12) hours per year of in-service.	Eighteen (18) hours of pre-service and follow-up in-service on an as-needed basis.

Invest in the Future

3 JD

2 JD



Gray Counties = ICFCRB
 Orange Counties = CASA
 Purple Counties = ICFCRB & CASA



Memorandum

To: Bill Angrick
From: Jerry R. Foxhoven
Date: February 11, 2002
Re: Visioning ICFCRB and CASA operating together

You and I have discussed my vision concerning the operation of the two programs of ICFCRB and CASA together. Because there is so little overlap of the two programs currently (CASA is in 30 counties and ICFCRB is in 55 counties, but they only overlap in 16 counties), there will only be a substantial cost savings when both programs were operated on a statewide basis. In the meantime, the two programs, if operated together even in their current coverage areas, could be more effective, for the money current spent on them. If these two programs were to be combined, here are the highlights of the vision that I would have for the program(s):

► **Governance:** ICFCRB is governed by an independent board appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. This board would govern both programs. It is essential to continue this independence so that the programs can make recommendations to improve the child welfare system without any question of partiality. This type of independence can be essential to assisting the State in dealing with controversial issues and cases. It provides an air of openness and accountability that is unavailable in any other format.

► **Training:** While there are aspects of the training for the CASA volunteers and the ICFCRB volunteers that are distinct, approximately 2/3's of the training curriculum would be combined. This means that the core portion of the training would be done jointly, and that the CASA and ICFCRB volunteers would break into separate groups to complete their distinct training. ICFCRB has partnered with the Community Colleges to provide their classrooms and facilities at no charge for training. This would continue with the joint trainings.

► **Volunteer Recruitment and Management:** A different type of volunteer is attracted to each of these programs. However, the same people and same functions can be used for

volunteer recruitment for both programs. This would prevent duplication. Also, the same is true with volunteer management. The same people in the field offices who recruit and/or manage volunteers for one program will do the same for the other program simultaneously. There is no reason to separate these functions between the two programs.

► **Data Collection:** ICFCRB maintains a Registry consisting of data concerning the children reviewed, as required by the Code. This data is used to formulate findings and recommendations and to assist decision-makers in the child welfare system. Some of this data is contained in the ICFCRB Annual Report. CASA currently maintains some type of data system, but the use of this data is limited. The data collected by DHS has not been reliable, and recently most of the funding for their data system was eliminated. If the two programs were combined, one data collection system would be used. Because of the nature of the two programs, the data collected by the program(s) would be extremely reliable and could be invaluable to decision-makers and now would be statewide. At least one state (Nebraska) places all of the data collection functions for the child welfare system in the hands of the citizen foster care review board, finding that program to be both independent and accurate.

► **Fundamental Changes in CASA:** There are a number of fundamental changes that should be made in the CASA program to make it more effective. These changes should be made immediately if the programs are combined, and certainly must be made if CASA is to be expanded statewide.

- **Case Screening:** A protocol should be developed to determine when a CASA volunteer should be assigned to a case. Currently, the only factors considered are (a) if recommended by a Judge and (b) if there is a volunteer available. Judges who are familiar with the program and like it request a CASA often. Judges who are not familiar with the program or have little or no experience with the program rarely, if ever, request a CASA volunteer. Consequently, assignment of a CASA volunteer is not necessarily determined by the appropriateness of the case. The protocol should focus on the cases that have the greatest potential for becoming problematic and that could be best improved by "hands on" attention. Three examples are: 1. Children who are "aging out" of the system; 2. Very young children; and 3. Children who will be returned home, but where assistance is need to supervise and facilitate visitation with the family before return home.
- **Diversity Recruiting:** ICFCRB requires the recruiters to find volunteers who are at least as diverse as the population of the county involved. This diversity focuses primarily on race and ethnicity as well as gender, but also encourages a diverse employment background and income status. Little attempt has been made to require a more diverse CASA volunteer base. The value of ethic and racial diversity among the volunteers is immense.
- **Program Assessment:** ICFCRB has implemented a series of tools that are used to constantly assess and improve the effectiveness of the program. I am unaware of any such effort in the CASA program. It is important to implement some type of procedure for continuous assessment and improvement.

STATEWIDE FOSTER CARE CASE REVIEW AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM

Background

Currently, the state of Iowa has the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board (ICFCRB), Department of Human Services (DHS), the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA), and the Courts involved in meeting state and federal requirements related to children in foster care.

Federal statute requires that the case of each child eligible under Title IV-E be reviewed at least once every six months in order to be eligible for the federal dollars for costs of care. This review can be done administratively (DHS or ICFCRB) or by the courts. Federal Title IV-E funds are available to the state for the care of those foster children eligible and for case reviews of those eligible children. Currently the ICFCRB receives 45% federal funds to conduct reviews in the counties where they are located (55 counties expected by the end of FY '02). The Courts do not currently draw down any federal funds for any reviews they may conduct.

The CASA program, through the use of volunteers, provides input to the judges in matters relating to children involved in the court system. A judge assigned a CASA volunteer to an abuse or neglect case. The volunteer conducts thorough research on the background of the case, reviews documents, and interviews everyone involved, including the child. The volunteer then makes recommendations to the court on what they believe is best for the child. The CASA program has been 100% state funded.

Proposal

Establish a statewide citizen foster care review and advocacy system under the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

- All Title IV-E 6-month foster care case reviews would be conducted statewide by a single system
- Recruitment, training and support of volunteers for the citizen review boards and CASA would be done by the same people – either state employees, not-for-profit organization, or a combination
 - One way to implement the review system and CASA under one “umbrella statewide structure” would be to contract through the RFP process with not-for-profit organizations to recruit volunteers and manage the field responsibilities of the system. This organizational structure would be organized to match each judicial district. It would allow for maximum local control through an oversight committee involving the Chief Judge of each district. It would tap into not-for-profit participation in programs built on volunteer support.
- Judicial districts would determine which information they wanted to utilize in their decision-making efforts – CASA and/or local citizen review board reports

- Judicial districts could choose to accept the citizen review board report in lieu of holding an additional hearing

Potential Benefits

The establishment of a statewide citizen foster care review and advocacy system would provide the following areas of opportunity:

- Full compliance with current state and federal mandates
- Potential for additional federal funds and reduced state costs in the areas of review and costs of care.
- Greater efficiency through streamlining processes and systems
- Consistency of policy implementation statewide
- Reduced workload on the court system; Improved focus on those cases needing greater attention.
- Maximize the potential for enhanced quality of life for children

Implementation

With the funding for CASA eliminated from the FY '03 budget for the Judicial Branch based on their cuts in FY '02 and the limitation of the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board (ICFRCB) funding to current level, implementation of this proposal would be delayed until alternative funding sources can be identified.

Potential funding sources, excluding new General Fund dollars, include:

- Federal and private grants for an enhanced CASA program
- State dollars currently utilized for reviews by all players matched with federal dollars to expand the citizen review program
- Current resources (staffing and financial) used for the activities of the seven-member state board for citizen foster care review and for activities related to obtaining, copying and distributing case file information redirected for expansion of citizen review, including a greater use of technology.

07/01/02						
CASA						
FY03 Proposed Budget & Expenditures						
Budget Category	Proposed FY 2003 Allocation	Proposed FY03 Allocation After 4.3% Cut	Proposed FY03 Allocation After 2.6% Cut	FY03 Expenses	FY 2003 Projected Expenses	Projected Balance
101 Personal Services	1,071,954	1,025,860	999,188		1,105,570	(106,382)
202 In-State Travel	15,100	14,451	14,075		10,512	3,563
205 Out-State Travel	1,500	1,436	1,398		0	1,398
301 Office Supplies	25,000	23,925	23,303		11,883	11,420
303 Equipment Maintenance	6,300	6,029	5,872		5,513	359
309 Printing & Binding	1,000	957	932		0	932
401 Communications	18,500	17,705	17,244		22,627	(5,383)
402 Rentals	46,000	44,022	42,877		29,946	12,931
405 Prof & Scientific Services	9,650	9,235	8,995		6,345	2,650
406 Outside Services	4,300	4,115	4,008		2,994	1,014
408 Advertising	1,100	1,053	1,025		0	1,025
410 Data Processing	1,000	957	932		565	368
414 Reimburse Other Agencies	0	0	0		503	(503)
502 Office Equipment	600	574	559		559	0
602 Other Expense	0	0	0		0	0
Total YTD Expense:	1,202,004	1,150,318	1,120,410		1,197,017	-76,608
		51,686	29,908			
		1,150,318	1,120,410			