

**CHILD WELFARE  
ADMINISTRATIVE MEMO #5-2008**

**TO:** Service Area Administrators  
Protection and Safety Administrators, Supervisors, and Staff

**FROM:** Todd L. Reckling, Policy Section Administrator  
Division of Children & Family Services

**Approved By:** Todd A. Landry, Director  
Division of Children & Family Services

**Date:** May 20, 2008

**Contact Person:** Margaret Bitz, Foster Care and Adoption Administrator,  
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**RE: Maximum Number of Children in Care for 24 Months or Longer**

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Duration:** Until revised in September, 2008

**Purpose:** Compliance with Federal Statute for Title IV-E funding

**Introduction and Background**

Federal statute requires, for each State receiving Title IVE funds:

- The State agency must formulate for each fiscal year a specific goal as to the maximum number of children who at any given time during the fiscal year will have been in foster care for over 24 months. The specific foster care goals must be included in State Statute or administrative regulation, with the force of law.
- The State agency must describe the steps that will be taken to achieve the specific goal established.

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish that goal for the Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2008. An average of 1,376 children in State custody were in out-of-home care for over 24 months during the period of December, 2006, through August, 2007. During that time, the highest number of children in out-of-home care for over 24 months was 1,413 and the lowest number was 1,311.

**Goal:** The goal of the Division of Children and Family Services is that, at no time between October 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008, no more than 1,350 children in State custody will have been in out of home care for over 24 months. This goal represents an approximate 2% reduction from the prior average.

**Steps to be taken to assure that this maximum number is not exceeded:**

- Supervisors will continue to review progress regarding permanency for each child no less frequently than every six weeks, per performance accountability standards;
- Service Areas will continue to do the required reviews of progress regarding children designated for “Governor Reviews.”
- Contracts with attorneys will continue to assure that terminations of parental rights are filed as appropriate, in a timely fashion.
- Contracts with Douglas and Lancaster County Attorney Offices will include performance standards related to filing of TPR cases.
- Listings of children in care for 24 months or longer will be provided to service areas on a monthly basis.