

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
Director's Report
DJJS/DFS Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board
February 5, 2015

The Department of Family Services (DFS) presents the following department updates:

Major Program Efforts:

Title IV-E Waiver:

- On February 3, 2015 DFS received notification from the Administration for Child and Families (ACF) that the Developmental Cost Plan associated with the IV-E waiver had been approved.
- February 5, 2015 the department submitted the Initial Design and Implementation Report (IDIR) to ACF for review and approval

Community Outreach:

- On February 2nd and 3rd DFS hosted a symposium for more than 120 DFS staff and partners. Dr. Charles Zeanah, a national expert in the area of interventions for young children who have experienced maltreatment, presented on the topic Understanding the Stages of Development.

Dr. Zeanah and Carol Shauffer from the Youth Law Center also facilitated a discussion to regarding developing next steps to promote the well-being of children utilizing the lessons learned. Dr. Zeanah and Ms. Shauffer will return in March to work with DFS management to solidify next steps.

- DFS is planning a "Passport for Parenting" meeting to be held in May of this 2015. This will be a meeting in which all partners in child welfare including DA's, DFS staff, and Foster parents will have a chance to come together to discuss partnerships with each other.

At this meeting DFS staff and foster parents will introduce the "Partnership Agreement" that has been developed through the Child Welfare Subcommittee of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI). DFS also plans to roll out new Foster Parent ID badges at this meeting.

Legislation:

- DFS is currently tracking approximately 30 Bill Drafts.
- DFS along with our Civil and Child Welfare DA's meet weekly to discuss and provide comment on bill drafts and amendments that have been released.
- DFS has commented on 8 bill drafts thus far:
 - SB49: Revises provisions governing the regulation of county emergency shelters for children.