

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
2014**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,
ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL ACCOUNT**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
December 2013**

SFY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO SECTION 346-7.5, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, created a Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as Section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Act specified *"the proceeds of the account shall be reserved for use by the department of human services for staff programs and grants or purchases of service . . . that support or provide spouse or child abuse intervention or prevention as authorized by law."* The funds originally came from fees for marriage licenses.

Act 216 of the Nineteenth Legislature, 1997, increased the Department's Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by adding revenues from increased fees for certified copies of birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

Act 177 of the Twenty-First Legislature, 2002, increased the Department's Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by raising the funding ceiling from \$300,000 to \$450,000 to allow the Department to fund additional program needs. The ceiling was further raised to \$610,000 per Act 158, SLH 2008. The SCASA funds are administered by the DHS Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS).

The Department is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature, providing an accounting of the receipts and expenditures from the account.

SFY 2013	
A. Balance on 7/1/12	\$ 526,879.29
B. SFY 2013 Revenues	
Fees for certified copies of health statistics records	\$ 346,340.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 34,045.56
Fees for non-business licenses, permits and marriage licenses	\$ 168,745.50
Total revenue	\$ 549,131.06
Total Funds:	
	\$1,076,010.35
C. EXPENDITURES for SFY 2013:	
1. Special Fund Assessments	\$ 260,589.90
2. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel Training	\$ 12,442.46
3. CWS Management Leadership Team Meetings	\$ 25,446.69
4. EPIC, Inc. (Ohana Conferencing Services)	\$ 131,429.40
5. Catholic Charities (Services for Infants & Toddlers in Foster Care with Special Health Care Needs)	\$ 173,961.38
6. Family Connections Services	\$ 767.92
7. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Conference Fees	\$ 171.20
8. Pregnancy Prevention	\$ 570.75
9. CWS Staff Training	\$ 2,000.00
D. Total SFY 2013 Expenditures:	\$ 607,379.70
	Carry over to 7/1/13: \$ 468,630.65
SFY 2014	

E. Balance on 7/1/13 (A + B – D)	\$ 468,630.65
F. Anticipated Revenue SFY 2014	\$ 439,700.00
Projected Total:	\$ 908,330.65
G. PLANNED EXPENDITURES for SFY 2014	
1. Special Fund Assessments	\$ 55,541.00
2. Services for Medically Fragile Infants & Toddlers in Foster Care	\$ 150,000.00
3. Family Finding and Engagement Services	\$ 100,000.00
4. Psychotropic Medication Oversight	\$ 100,000.00
5. Preparing Youth to Successfully Transition to Independence Services	\$ 100,000.00
6. Domestic Violence Services Training	\$ 75,000.00
7. Human Trafficking Assessment Instrument, Development & Training	\$ 75,000.00
8. CWS Management Leadership Team Meetings	\$ 40,000.00
9. LGBTQ Program Assessment & Training	\$ 40,000.00
10. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel Support	\$ 20,000.00
11. Continuous Quality Improvement Services	\$ 20,000.00
12. National Youth in Transition Database Support	\$ 10,000.00
13. Adoption & Foster Care Automated Reporting System Training	\$ 3,000.00
14. Random Moment Time Study Training	\$ 3,000.00
H. Total Planned Expenditures for SFY 2014	\$ 791,541.00
I. Estimated Balance 7/1/14 (E + F – H)	\$ 116,790.00

PLANNED USE OF FUNDS FOR SFY 2014

1. Special Fund Assessments (\$55,541.48)

The current spending plan for SFY 2014 will resolve all delinquent payments for the special fund expenses fees assessed pursuant to sections 36-27 and 36-30, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This obligation was in arrears in the past years due to the State's financial crisis requiring the Department to prioritize the use of the SCASA fund for services to ensure the health and safety of child and spouse abuse victims. The DHS will pay \$55,451.48 for the required special fund assessment fees. With this payment, the Department will be current with this obligation, as of September 30, 2013.

2. Services for Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care (\$150,000)

CWS plans to use funds to support specialized services for medically fragile infants and toddlers who are released from the hospital and have specialized health care needs. The program works with birth parents or resource caregivers to transition the care of the infant or toddler to a more permanent setting. Trained caregivers work with the child's doctors to teach/train birth parents or resource caregivers on specialized care for the child and support the caregiver at doctor appointments.

3. Family Finding and Engagement Services (\$100,000)

This expenditure will allow CWS to identify and locate family/relatives for possible placement of children removed from their nuclear family due to abuse or neglect. Research shows that children do better when placed with family members as opposed to non-relative caregivers. This supports the Department's continuing efforts to increase: 1) families' engagement in services, 2) family reunification rates, 3) timely permanency plans, 4) child placement with relatives or kin, and 5) on-going connections to supportive families.

4. Psychotropic Medication Oversight (\$100,000)

The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351) requires the State to develop a plan for on-going oversight and coordination of health care services for children in foster care. Additionally, the federal Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (P.L. 112-34) added on requirements specifying that the health care oversight and coordination plan must also include "protocols for the appropriate use and monitoring of psychotropic medications."

The Department plans to contract for pediatric psychiatric expertise to strengthen the State's monitoring plan on the utilization of psychotropic medications for children in CWS cases. This expertise will assist the CWS Multidisciplinary Team, comprised of pediatricians, clinical psychologists, registered nurses, and social workers, in its assessment of the medical, mental health, and psychosocial issues of the children to determine appropriate interventions and treatment needs.

5. Preparing Youth to Successfully Transition to Independence Services (\$100,000)

Federal Public Law 106-169, Section 477 established the John Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) which requires CWS programs to help youth transition from foster care to independent living.

To comply with this federal mandate and ensure that children in foster care acquire practical and necessary independent living skills in order to succeed as independent young adults later in life, CWS established an Independent Living Program for Youth. This funding will be used to continue to build program capacity.

6. Domestic Violence Services Training (\$75,000)

CWS will utilize these funds to build the capacity of CWS staff to improve identification, assessment, and intervention for domestic violence survivors and their children. In partnership with community domestic violence service providers, CWS plans to develop specific assessment tools to assess trauma in children who witnessed domestic violence, and to strengthen the training plan and curriculum for CWS staff who work directly with children and families. A coordinated system response by well-trained first responders will lessen the trauma experienced by the survivors of domestic violence and their children.

7. Human Trafficking Assessment Instrument, Development, and Training (\$75,000)

CWS will identify and implement assessment instruments to guide CWS staff in the identification of underage victims of labor and sex trafficking. These tools will further support CWS' capacity to identify and case manage human trafficking-related cases, including referrals and follow-up with appropriate services.

8. CWS Management Leadership Team Meetings (\$40,000)

These funds support the CWS Management Leadership Team initiative which brings together CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors from all jurisdictions for statewide meetings. At these meetings, the CWS Leadership Team will: 1) identify, discuss, and develop plans for improving services to CWS children and families; 2) provide an opportunity for inter-island networking, sharing of local strategies to meet required casework outcomes, sharing and discussing statewide and section data and implications on practice; and 3) review changes in federal or State statute, governing rules, procedures and the impact on practice. Due to the number of major initiatives that are being implemented in FY15 (i.e. extended foster care to age 21, Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project, and increase in Foster Care payments), the CWS Leadership Team will be required to meet more frequently and for longer lengths of time – monthly and for two days.

9. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Program Assessment and Training (\$40,000)

CWS will evaluate current policies and procedures and develop appropriate policies and procedures and training curriculum to ensure that services provided meet the needs of LGBTQ children and youth in CWS care. The policies and procedures and related training are intended to increase CWS' capacity to identify and ensure supportive and appropriate services to LGBTQ children and youth.

10. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel Support (\$20,000)

These funds support the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Funding will provide airfare for Neighbor Island CPR members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference and allows the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining CWS systems and making recommendations for improvements.

11. Continuous Quality Improvement Services (\$20,000)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families requires all states to maintain Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) systems in their child welfare agency. This requirement is intended to “ensure that children in foster care are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of such children...” In addition, states are required to “...measure the quality of services provided by determining the impact those services have on child and family...”

To comply with this federal mandate and ensure that children in foster care receive quality services that protect their safety and health, the Department performs quality assurance reviews to evaluate services provided by contracted agencies. Utilizing nationally recognized evaluation instruments, the CQI also measures the quality of these services by determining the impact on our children and families. These efforts will ensure that children receive the highest quality of care which benefits both them and their families.

12. National Youth in Transition Database Support (\$10,000)

The DHHS, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requires states to develop data collection methodology to track outcomes for foster youth in independent living services. The data is submitted in a National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) report to the ACF which is utilized to assess the State's performance with its independent living programs. Failure to comply with the NYTD reporting requirements will result in a financial penalty to the State.

13. Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System Training (\$3,000)

The DHS will train relevant CWS staff statewide on the proper coding and inputting of federal Adoption and Foster Care Automated Reporting System (AFCARS) data and related information in order to reduce errors in the AFCARS reporting. Hawaii is currently under a federal AFCARS Program Improvement Plan which requires refresher training for identified staff.

14. Random Moments Time Study Training (\$3,000)

The DHS will train relevant DHS staff statewide on how to properly respond to random moment surveys in order to maximize correct coding and improve Hawaii's Title IV-E federal penetration rate, and increase federal funding.