

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION
Child Welfare Services Branch

Report to the Hawaii State Legislature on the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund
pursuant to section 346-7.5(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes

December 2016

Section 346-7.5(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) requires:

The department of human services, in coordination with the department of health, shall submit an annual report to the legislature, prior to the convening of each regular session, providing an accounting of the receipts of and expenditures from the [Spouse and Child Abuse Special] account.

Act 232 (1994), established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as section 346-7.5, HRS. Section 346-75(b) specifies that,

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 following is an accounting of the receipts of and expenditures of the SCASA for state fiscal year (SFY) 2016, proposed budget for SFY 2017, and a brief report of outcomes for SCASA funded programs.

I. SFY 2016 ACTUAL BUDGET

A. CARRYOVER BALANCE FROM SFY 2015	\$ 876,014
B. SFY 2016 ACTUAL REVENUE	
Fees from Certified Copies of Health Statistics Records	\$ 239,078
Fees from Certified Copies of Marriage Licenses	\$ 114,940
Miscellaneous	\$ 33,052
SFY 2016 ACTUAL REVENUE	\$ 387,070
TOTAL SFY 2016 ACTUAL REVENUE (A+B)	\$ 1,263,084
C. SFY 2016 ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	
1. Transitional Housing for Domestic Violence Survivors and Children	\$ 200,000
2. Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care	\$ 100,000
3. Family Wrap Hawaii	\$ 148,650
4. Comprehensive Counseling and Family Strengthening Services	\$ 79,407
5. Intensive Home Based Services for Families	\$ 49,356
6. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors	\$ 13,178
7. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel / CWS Management Leadership Team	\$ 52,904
8. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$ 33,807
TOTAL SFY 2016 ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	\$677,302
TOTAL ACTUAL REVENUE	\$1,263,084
MINUS TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	\$(677,302)
REMAINING BALANCE IN SFY 2016	\$585,782

II. SFY 2017 PROJECTED BUDGET

A. CARRYOVER BALANCE FROM SFY 2016	\$585,782
B. SFY 2017 PROJECTED REVENUE	
Fees from Certified Copies of Health Statistics Records	\$239,100
Fees from Certified Copies of Marriage Licenses	\$115,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 33,100
SFY 2017 PROJECTED REVENUE	\$387,200
TOTAL SFY 2017 PROJECTED REVENUE (A+B)	\$972,982
C. SFY 2017 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	
1. Transitional Housing for Domestic Violence Survivors and Children	\$200,000
2. Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care	\$100,000
3. Family Wrap Hawaii	\$100,000
4. Comprehensive Counseling and Family Strengthening Services	\$100,000
5. Intensive Home Based Services for Families	\$100,000
6. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors	\$100,000
7. Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma Statewide Training	\$ 40,000
8. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel	\$ 40,000
9. Child Welfare Services Management Leadership Team	\$ 40,000
10. DAGS Special Fund Assessment	\$ 34,000
TOTAL SFY 2017 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	\$854,000
TOTAL SFY 2017 PROJECTED REVENUE	\$972,982
MINUS TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	\$(854,000)
REMAINING BALANCE IN SFY 2017	\$118,982

III. SFY 2016 Outcomes

1. Transitional Housing for Spouse Abuse Survivors and Children

Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness. On Oahu, 27% of the women in shelters are homeless due to domestic violence. On the neighbor islands, 39% of women are in shelters because of domestic violence. State of Hawaii; Department of Human Services; Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division, Homeless Programs, *2015 Statewide Point-In-Time (PIT) Count*, April 2015. These statistics, do not account for homeless women who are not in shelters but are living on the streets or living with friends or family.

Since 2010, DHS has provided emergency shelter and support services for victims of spouse abuse. Additionally, SCASA provides funds for transitional housing services for families in domestic violence shelters. In SFY 2016, 173 survivors and their children in domestic violence shelters statewide received transitional housing services. These services provide a critical bridge from immediate safety toward increased skills and resources that promote self-sufficiency, economic security, stable housing, and the opportunity to break the cycle of violence.

When these survivors are safe, healthy and independent, they are better able to properly care for their children. Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) anticipates that investment in transitional housing services will have a positive impact on both the entry and the re-entry rates of children into foster care, since stable and safe housing is a protective factor that will lower the risk of abuse or neglect of children.

2. Services for Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care

SCASA funded specialized services for medically fragile infants and toddlers in foster care. The program assists birth parents and resource caregivers to transition the care of their infant or toddler from a medical facility (i.e. hospital) to a more permanent setting (i.e. family or resource caregiver home). The child's doctor and nurses teach and train birth parents or specially-trained caregivers on the specialized medical care for their infant or child. The medical team supports the parent or resource caregiver in the daily care of the medically fragile child. In SFY 2016 birth parents and resource caregivers were trained in the specialized medical care, allowing 36 medically fragile infants and toddlers to leave the hospital and go to their family or resource care givers' home.

3. Family Wrap Hawaii

Wrap around services are provided to families with children in foster care. The children may be able to be reunified with their family, however, the family needs assistance and support to achieve reunification. The families involved in this program are engaged with multiple agencies which help serve their complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, and/or substance use. Other

families have children with behavioral challenges and physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Most of the children in these families are healing from physical and emotional trauma, and may additionally have learning differences that are difficult to address. Wrap around services brings all of the service agencies together to collaborate and overcome systemic barriers. The multiple services are coordinated with the providers and the family to remove the barriers to reunification. CWS works with the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), the Family Court, service providers, and others to "wrap" the family in supportive services, strengthening the family and enabling the children to return to their family.

Families expressed feeling profoundly supported by the wrap around services, and that the services felt more respectful and empowering than other services they had previously received.

In SFY 2016, 45 families received family wrap around services, and 15 children in foster care were able to reunify with 7 families.

4. Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services

Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services (CCSS) is a core service that CWS provides families who have children in foster care. These services help families acquire the skills and information they need to have their children returned to their care. The array of services includes: assessment, individualized program planning, parenting education, crisis intervention, counseling, supervised visitation, budgeting, practical life skills enhancement, nutritional assistance, transportation, advocacy, resource development, family management skills development, and clinical therapy.

In SFY 2016, 1,118 families received CCSS services statewide. Unfortunately, there are often waitlists for these crucial services. With more funding for these contracted services, waitlists will be reduced, families will receive the necessary services sooner, and children in foster care will be reunified with their parents at a faster rate.

5. Intensive Home Based Services for Families

In February 2015, Child Welfare Services (CWS) implemented Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS) on Oahu and expanded the service to Hawaii Island in October 2015. IHBS is provided to families with minimal risk, to address their needs and strengthen their capacity so their children will be safe and not have to be removed and placed in foster care. Specially-trained IHBS therapists work directly with the parents and children in their home for approximately 10-15 hours per week for 4-6 weeks. Intensive services include crisis intervention, hands-on discipline and parenting skills training, behavioral management, conflict resolution skill-building, and psychoeducation.

In SFY 2016, 40 families with 93 children participated in the IHBS program. Ninety percent of those families were able to keep their children at home, preventing these children from being removed from their families and experiencing additional trauma.

6. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014), Public Law 113-183, requires child welfare services in all states to provide support services to minor victims of sex trafficking. Unfortunately, no federal funds accompanied the change in law. CWS plans to use SCASA funds to offer counseling, advocacy and support to trafficked children throughout the State by trained and experienced professionals working with this specialized population.

These services are needed, as seven trafficking victims were identified by Hawaii CWS staff within the first two months following Sex Trafficking Awareness Trainings conducted for CWS staff in August and September 2015. Without these supportive services, the trafficked minors may suffer more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

7. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel /CWS Management Leadership Team

The Department financially supports the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended. The purpose of the CRP is to evaluate the extent to which the State is fulfilling its child protection responsibilities by (1) examining the policies, procedures and practices of the State, and (2) reviewing specific cases, where appropriate. Funding provides airfare for neighbor island CRP members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference. This allows the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining CWS systems and making recommendations for improvements.

The CRP completed an evaluation of CWS intake process. CWS implemented the CRP's recommendations which enhanced the accuracy of intake assessments and improved services to children and their families.

SCASA also funded the CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) initiative which brings together CWS Section Administrators and Supervisors statewide, once a quarter. At these meetings, CWS leadership: 1) identifies, discusses, and develops plans to enhance services to children and families engaged with CWS; 2) shares local strategies to reach desired casework outcomes, and reviews statewide and local data and its implications for improving practice; and 3) reviews changes in federal and State law, governing rules, and procedures, and the impact on CWS practice.

One important outcome of the MLT meetings is the CWS Supervisor Training Program. The foundation for the training program was developed at MLT meetings in SFY 2015. The training program was implemented in SFY 2016. The CWS-tailored training is

organized into 9 modules, which are presented over a 9-month period. Supervisor training topics include: strengths-based approach to supervision, crisis management, motivational interviewing, evidence-based practices, use of data, change management, communication styles and skills, and performance evaluation. Enhancing the skills of CWS supervisors will facilitate increased monitoring of case work, improve outcomes for children, and achieve permanency more quickly. Most importantly, responsive and supportive supervision also will increase employee retention, critical to ensuring continual services to children and their families.

8. DAGS Special Fund Assessment

In 2016 SCASA fund paid \$33,807 for special fund assessment fees.

IV. SFY 2017 Planned Use of Funds

1. Transitional Housing for Spouse Abuse Survivors and Children

In SFY 2017, CWS projects that 175 survivors and their children in domestic violence shelters statewide will receive transitional housing services.

2. Services for Medically Fragile Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care

In SFY 2017, CWS projects that 45 birth parents and resource caregivers will be trained in the specialized medical care, allowing 40 medically fragile infants and toddlers to leave the hospital and go to their family or resource care givers' home.

3. Family Wrap Hawaii

In SFY 2017, CWS projects that 50 families will receive wrap services and 52 children in foster care will be able to be reunified with their families.

4. Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services

In SFY 2017, CWS projects that 1,250 families will receive Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services.

5. Intensive Home-Based Services for Families

Given the initial success of the Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), CWS will continue the services and may potentially expand the eligibility criteria so more families and children may benefit from these services and prevent removal of children from their families. In SFY 2017, CWS projects that 50 families with 120 children will receive IHBS.

6. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors

In SFY 2017, Hawaii will be required to serve all sex trafficked victims who are minors. Proposed legislation extending the mandated reporting of all minors who are victims of sex trafficking will allow the Department to meet the provisions of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014). CWS anticipates that the new reporting requirements will result in a significant increase in the identification of minors who are sex trafficked victims which in turn will impact the demand for services. Additional resources will be required.

7. Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma Statewide Training

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, Hawaii hosts an annual conference which features national and local experts presenting on a wide range of CWS-relevant topics, such as teen dating violence, commercial sexual exploitation of minors, evidence-based practices in child welfare, culturally-informed service-delivery, and the use of psychotropic medication with foster youth. The financial support from CWS permits nearly 25% of CWS staff to attend this learning opportunity. The SCASA support is essential to keep the CWS and DV communities informed about current developments and research in child welfare practice, especially since Hawaii is geographically isolated and CWS staff and community providers cannot easily attend mainland conferences. Increasing our staff's knowledge and experience will enable them to better serve our children and families.

8. Hawaii State Citizen Review Panel Support

In SFY 2017, Hawaii's CRP will focus on improving the engagement of fathers by CWS workers, and enhancing the frequency, quality, and documentation of monthly visits by CWS workers and children in foster care. Improved engagement of fathers will result in positive outcomes for the child's wellbeing and increase the rate of reunification.

National research indicates that enhancing social workers' visits with children has innumerable positive benefits, including: reduced incidents of harm to children while they are in foster care; improved child well-being; decreased time to family reunification or adoption; increased identification and addressing of children's physical, emotional, academic, and health needs; and increased parent and sibling contact.

9. CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) Meetings

In SFY 2017, the Management Leadership Team (MLT) will focus on improving statewide performance of the standard national child welfare data measures. These criteria delineate three primary areas in child welfare services, safety, permanency, and well-being, into 18 measurable objectives. The planned effort and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership will lead to improved practice and services which will ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

10. DAGS Special Fund Assessment

In order to remain current with its fiscal obligation to the Department of Accounting and General Services, DHS plans to pay \$34,000 for special fund assessment fees.