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December 31, 2020

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the following report submitted in accordance with section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Related to the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts
Director

Enclosure

C:

Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Department of Budget & Finance
Legislative Auditor
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President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki

December 31, 2020

Page 2

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**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-FIRST HAWAII STATE
LEGISLATURE 2021**

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
December 2020**

This report is submitted per section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. DHS is required to provide an accounting of the receipts and expenditures from the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund (SCASF). DHS Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) administers the SCASF.

I. Background

Act 232 of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, 1994, established the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account (SCASA) in the Department of Human Services (DHS), codified as Section 346-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Act 232 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 funds to the DHS 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 DHS Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account by raising the funding ceiling from \$300,000 to \$450,000 to allow DHS to fund additional program needs. Similarly, in 2008, Act 158, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2008, raised the ceiling to \$610,000.

In 2019, the administration proposal SB 1231 became Act 84, SLH 2019 on June 7, 2019. Act 84, SLH 2019, amends section 346-7.5, HRS, to allow the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund to receive Title IV-E federal reimbursements received in the fiscal year following the year the Title IV-E funds were expended, up to \$3,000,000. The amendment was in preparation for the ending of Hawaii's Title IV-E waiver on September 30, 2019; the end of the waiver will result in a reduction of federal funds by an estimated 15 percent. Act 84, SLH 2019, also changed the fund name from Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account to Spouse and Child Abuse Special *Fund* (SCASF).

During the budget process of the 2020 legislative session impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature did not adjust the appropriation ceiling in the department's base budget to match the ceiling increase authorized in Act 84 (SLH 2019). For the 2021 session, the administration will propose another bill to increase the fund ceiling to \$5 million and request a corresponding ceiling adjustment in the executive budget. CWS needs a source of revenue to fund services required by the Family First Prevention Services Act.

7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review	\$5,000
8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)	\$30,000
9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu	\$120,000
Total Planned Expenditures	\$696,346
H. Projected Balance for 7/1/21	\$0

IV. SFY 2020 Outcomes

1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Family Wrap Hawaii Services provided services to families with children in foster care. The children may be able to be reunified with their families. However, the family needs assistance and support to achieve this goal. The families involved in this program engage with multiple agencies that help serve their complex issues. Some parents struggle with stable housing, domestic violence, mental health issues, and or substance use; others 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 have learning differences challenging to address. Family Wrap Hawaii Services brings agencies together to collaborate and overcome systemic barriers. It coordinates services with the providers and the family to develop creative ways to remove the reunification barriers. CWS partners with the Department of Education (DOE), the 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 safely. Wrap staff includes parent partners that provide peer parent support and help guide parent(s) through the CWS process. Youth partners offer peer support to the youth; community navigators help connect families with specific resources to meet identified needs, and facilitators lead the meetings and coordinate the teams' activities.

In SFY 2020, Family Wrap Hawaii Services safely reunited 28 children in foster care with their families. Families expressed feeling profound support by the Family Wrap Hawaii Services and that the services felt more respectful and empowering than other services they had previously received.

2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center

Federal Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014), requires CWS in all states to provide support services to minor victims of sex trafficking. Unfortunately, no federal funds accompanied the Act. CWS offers statewide counseling, advocacy, and support to children survivors of trafficking.

In SFY 2020, CWS contracted services from Susannah Wesley Community Center that served 27 confirmed minor trafficking survivors and served an additional 42 potential trafficking victims. Also, Susannah Wesley offered services to numerous family members of the victims. Without

these supportive services, the trafficked individuals would likely suffer more emotional and physical trauma, as many would return to their traffickers.

3. CWS Management Leadership Team

SCASF also funded the CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT) initiatives, which bring 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 CWS children and families; 2) shares local strategies to reach desired casework outcomes, reviews State and local data, and examines the implications for improving practice; and 3) reviews changes in federal and State law, governing rules, and procedures, and the impact on CWS practice.

In SFY 2020, CWS continued its MLT work, focusing on national measures and standards. CWS is in its third federally mandated Program Improvement Plan (PIP3), based on a 2017 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) thorough statewide assessment of cases and systemic factors.

The planned efforts and collaboration with the statewide CWS leadership will lead to improved practice and services, help Hawaii meet its PIP3 goals, and ultimately benefit the children and families CWS serves.

4. DAGS (Department of Accounting and General Services) Special Fund Assessment

In SFY 2020, DHS paid \$19,319 to the Department of Accounting & General Services (DAGS) for the required Special Fund expenses.

5. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services - Oahu

CWS contracts with local community providers for sex abuse treatment services for families involved in child welfare. On Oahu, CWS currently contracts with Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH). These services are for minor victims of parental sexual abuse, siblings, non-perpetrating parents, and parental perpetrators of child sex abuse. These services include assessment, skill-building, individual therapy, group therapy, and family therapy, as clinically indicated. Offenders are held accountable for their actions. Child victim safety is the overarching goal of the services and interventions.

In SFY 2020, this contracted service on Oahu served 203 individuals, including 115 victims and siblings of victims. The remaining 88 individuals were parents, some perpetrators, and some non-perpetrators. Of the victims and siblings served, more than half were under age 13. Ninety-nine percent of the people served by this contract received individual clinical counseling in SFY 2020.

V. SFY 2021 Planned Use of Funds

1. Family Wrap Hawaii – EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Please see the service description in Section IV.1. above.

In SFY 2021, CWS plans to continue these essential services, engaging in concerted and creative efforts, together with families, to reunify children in foster care with their families of origin.

2. Sex Trafficking Services to Minors – Susannah Wesley Community Center

Please see Section IV.2. above.

CWS plans to serve approximately 60 minor trafficking victims, along with their families, through its contract with Susannah Wesley Community Center in SFY 2021.

On the weekend of October 24 and 25, 2020, staff from Susannah Wesley, along with CWS staff, Honolulu Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigations, U.S. Marshalls, U.S. Secret Service, Homeland Security Investigations, Hale Kipa, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the National Child Protection Task Force worked together in *Operation Shine the Light*. The focus of the Operation was to find endangered and runaway foster youth. The Operation successfully recovered five youth, ages 16 and 17. It was the first cooperative effort of its kind in Hawaii, bringing together the efforts of federal, State, and local agencies to directly combat child exploitation.

3. Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Training Statewide

In collaboration with the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, CWS hosts an annual conference with featured national and local experts presenting on a wide range of Child Welfare Services (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 youth in foster care. Child Welfare Services' support to bring this conference to its staff and the community is necessary to provide CWS staff and community partners with the forefront of development and research in child welfare practice. In pre-pandemic times, sponsoring a national training event in Hawaii made it easier and more affordable to reach local providers, agency staff, and resource caregivers. Increasing staff's knowledge and experiences enable them to serve Hawaii's children and families better.

4. Hawaii State Citizens' Review Panel

The Department financially supports the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). 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, mileage, and car rental reimbursements for neighbor

island CPR members to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in the National CRP Conference. Funding allows the CRP to carry out its mandate of examining the CWS systems and making recommendations for improvements.

In SFY 2021, the CRP plans to further assist CWS in workforce support and development. This work will include further developing the CRP as an advisory board for line staff to voice their concerns to administrators. They will be able to act as neutral parties and advocate when necessary for staff issues. During this period, the CRP is also working on creating quiet rooms on-site at CWS offices for CWS staff to have a private, calm space to destress and meditate.

5. CWS Management Leadership Team (MLT)

Please see Section IV.3 above, which outlines the purpose of the CWS Management Leadership Team. In SFY 2021, among other projects and initiatives, the MLT will be working on continued coordination and implementation of Hawaii's CFSR PIP3.¹ Successful completion of the plan and the corresponding performance improvement is required to continue to receive federal funding.

Additionally, in SFY 2021, CWS will be preparing to implement its federal Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA) plan. MLT meetings will focus on sharing information with staff, engagement, developing, and implementing Hawaii's FFPSA plan.

6. DAGS Special Fund Assessment

To remain current with its statutory obligation to the DAGS, DHS plans to pay \$34,000 to DAGS for the required Special Fund expenses in SFY 2021.

7. DV Training and DV Fatality Review

Approximately 20% - 30% of the families involved in child welfare also experience domestic violence. In SFY 2021, CWS will collaborate with other State agencies and community providers to build awareness, ensure DV services are available, and thoroughly review fatality cases to provide the needed response to community domestic violence.

8. Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC)

CWS is part of a statewide multidisciplinary group of professionals mainly from other child and family serving State agencies. This group is working to break down systemic barriers, so that collaboration across agencies occurs smoothly. CWS and the other member agencies contribute funds to this collaborative to ensure its continuation and help families with needed services.

¹ CFSR PIP is the Child and Family Services Reviews-Program Improvement Plan 3 required by the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children & Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In SFY 2018, HISYNC proposed a resolution that was passed by the Legislature, urging the DOE, DOH, DHS, and the Judiciary to permanently establish and participate in the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC) to better serve youth and families with complex needs in the State. This official recognition promotes the continuation of the HISYNC committee beyond the existing membership, directing efforts of all entities toward better coordination and collaboration.

Also, in SFY 2018, through the collaboration of HISYNC, the partnership issued the first Request for Proposals (RFP) as a joint effort between DHS/CWS, DHS/OYS, DOH/ADAD, and DOH/CAMHD. The RFP is to procure a joint crisis home for youth with high needs who cannot be maintained in their homes and do not meet other placement settings criteria. In SFY 2019, the contract for the joint crisis home for youth with high needs was awarded to Child and Family Services (CFS). This contract was the first of its kind in the State. In SFY 2020, HISYNC focused energy on guiding, monitoring, and shaping the new contracted service, among other projects.

In SFY 2021, in addition to continuing to actively and collaboratively address issues of families with multi-system involvement, HISYNC is working on three projects: 1) increase HISYNC members' knowledge about each other's systems to improve service coordination; 2) strengthen the organization and usability of the Hawaii Youth Interagency Performance Report (HYIPR) that HISYNC produces; and 3) explore crisis stabilization services, identifying needs and resources to prevent and address family crises.

9. Intra-Familial Sex Abuse Treatment Services – Oahu

Please see the service description in Section IV.5. above.

CWS plans to continue to fund this essential and well-utilized service in SFY 2021, serving approximately 200 people on Oahu in need of sex abuse treatment.

VI. Note for SFY 2021-2022 Family First Hawaii – Family First Prevention Services Act

DHS will soon submit its Family First Prevention Services Act plan to the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Once the plan is approved, we will begin to draw on SCASF to implement the plan. Like other federal programs, the Family First Prevention Services Act fiscal model is a reimbursement model, requiring the State to expend non-federal funds on eligible activities to seek federal reimbursement. The amount we can use from the SCASF will depend on when the plan is approved and the amount of Title IV-E reimbursements we can retain in SCASF. Raising the fund's ceiling to \$5 million will determine how robust Hawaii's Family First Prevention Services Act plan will be.