



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

DEBRA K. DAVENPORT, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

WILLIAM THOMSON
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

November 21, 2007

The Honorable Robert Blendu, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable John Nelson, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Senator Blendu and Representative Nelson:

Our Office has recently completed a 24-month followup of the Foster Care Review Board regarding the implementation status of the 8 audit recommendations (including sub-parts of the recommendations) presented in the performance audit report released in September 2005 (Auditor General Report No. 05-10). As the attached grid indicates:

- 7 have been implemented, and
- 1 is in the process of being implemented.

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes our follow-up work on the Board's efforts to implement the recommendations from the September 2005 performance audit report.

Sincerely,

Melanie M. Chesney, Director
Performance Audit Division

MMC:Sjb
Attachment

cc: Dave Byers, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts

Caroline Lutt-Owens, Director
Dependent Children's Services Division

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

24-Month Follow-Up Report To Auditor General Report No. 05-10

FINDING 1: FCRB adds value, but can improve report effectiveness

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<p>1. FCRB should develop a comprehensive tracking system and monitor it to help ensure that its reports are submitted to the courts within 30 days from the review. At a minimum, the system should track the number of days that have elapsed from the review date and should clearly identify reports that are close to the 30-day deadline. To help further enhance the effectiveness of its reports, FCRB should also consider exploring the possibility of using its existing data to track the next upcoming court hearing for each case.</p>	<p>Implemented at 6 Months</p>	
<p>2. To help ensure that local boards better identify service gaps, FCRB should:</p>		
<p>a. Provide training to its volunteers regarding the identification and reporting of service gaps in the child welfare system. This training could include information about the types of services that are available locally and state-wide, and instruction on using available resources, such as the case plans.</p>	<p>Implemented at 12 Months</p>	

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 05-10

FINDING 1: FCRB adds value, but can improve report effectiveness (cont'd)

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<p>b. Continue its efforts to obtain access to CPS' case management system to ensure that its staff can access case plans that are otherwise unavailable, and to help ensure that local boards better identify service gaps.</p>	<p>Implemented at 12 Months</p>	
<p>3. FCRB should revise its service gap report and obtain input from other stakeholders, such as the Department of Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health Services, to help ensure that it encompasses relevant service gaps in the child welfare system, such as service gaps related to education.</p>	<p>Implemented at 12 Months</p>	

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

24-Month Follow-Up Report To Auditor General Report No. 05-10

FINDING 1: FCRB adds value, but can improve report effectiveness (concl'd)

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<p>4. When reporting service gaps, FCRB should clearly differentiate between service gaps related to DES' failure to participate in the review process and actual service gaps related to children in out-of-home care, such as the availability of behavioral health services.</p>	<p>Implementation in Process</p>	<p>FCRB has created a report that differentiates between the two types of service gaps. According to FCRB management, FCRB's Information Technology Department is working on coding and testing the report, which is expected to be in place by January 2008. FCRB management reported that training has been provided and staff and volunteers are already capturing the new information.¹</p>

¹ The new report does not differentiate the service gap types according to category as recommended in the audit report, such as identifying a lack of service as an actual service gap and identifying DES' failure to participate in the process as a different type of gap. Instead, it requires staff and volunteers to differentiate between "service gaps" and "system problems." For example, if a child did not receive appropriate services because the services were unavailable in the child's region, it would be considered a "service gap," while if the services were available but the child was placed on a waiting list, it would be considered a "system problem." Once the new report is in place, FCRB management plans to monitor it to ensure the revised format provides useful information to stakeholders.

**FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
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FINDING 2: FCRB can further enhance its volunteer management

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. FCRB should continue its efforts to ensure that volunteers meet training requirements, such as monitoring volunteer compliance and notifying volunteers who have not met the annual requirements.	Implemented at 6 Months	
2. FCRB should establish a diversity plan to help ensure that its recruiting efforts are effective. The plan should include a clear policy statement that communicates the FCRB commitment to diversity and the most current demographic data for Arizona's major regions to help ensure that the recruiting efforts are appropriately targeted.	Implemented at 12 Months	

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SUNSET FACTOR #3: The extent to which FCRB has operated within the public interest

<p>1. FCRB should comply with a state law (A.R.S. §35-142.01) that requires it to notify the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of its retention of federal Title IV-E reimbursement monies that it receives from DES to cover costs associated with reviewing children in out-of-home care. While FCRB is not required to deposit its federal reimbursements, it should notify JLBC of them.</p>	<p>Implemented at 6 Months</p>	
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