



Iowa Department of Human Services

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February 27, 2015

Agency focuses on families, stakeholders DHS meets federal goals

(Des Moines, Iowa) - The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) in collaboration with its many partners has implemented new action steps and strategies in child welfare that have allowed it to achieve all federal Program Improvement Plan (PIP) goals.

The department's plan, implemented over two years from October 2011 to September 2013, achieved substantial compliance in all seven areas of the Child and Family Services Review.

Some of DHS's actions included:

- Expansion of the Parent Partner Program
- Expansion of the Non-Custodial Parent Initiative
- Implementing a Foster Youth Bill of Rights
- Creating a new training plan for Family Team Decision-Making facilitators
- Strengthening Quality Assurance

"Iowa also strengthened relationships with stakeholders and especially biological parents through the expansion of the Parent Partner program and infusion of the parent voice across the child welfare continuum," said Joo Yeun Chang, associate commissioner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau. "These efforts demonstrate how much Iowa recognizes the importance of evaluating and improving child welfare practice from an agency and stakeholder perspective."

Wendy Rickman, administrator of Adult, Children and Family Services for DHS, said Iowa is committed to continuous quality improvement.

"We look forward to continuing to work with families and stakeholders to help Iowa children live safe, stable and productive lives," she said.

For more information on Child Welfare Services: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/child-services>

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