

Child and Family Alliance Testimony

Hi my name is Serena Kilseimer, I am 18 years old. I've been in foster care for 8 years. I would defiantly say that foster care for me has been beneficial. If I had stayed at home with my mother, who now is a convicted felon, I would either be likewise or dead. Foster care hasn't in most cases been the greatest experience for me but it sure beats being dead. I have learned a lot over the years, like respect and all shapes and sizes it comes in. some big and some small.

#1 I have had abusive, neglective, angry, and sometimes very disrespectful foster parents, but let me tell if not for being out of my mothers home I would have turned out a lot worse then I am. I have learned to be respect^{ful} to ALL. Great and small no matter the circumstances. I have learned for the most part to follow and obey rules and instructions. I have learned to be grateful for what I have no matter how little it may have been and still is. There are people just like me in the very same state that have nothing. And over all I have learned to love those and respect those who Do give all they have, their time, their money, and most of all their love into supporting me and helping me be a stronger, smarter, and respectful person and over all just a better person so I don't end up in the same situation as those did in the house hold I was taken out of.

#2 As I grew up in foster care I remember saying over and over again I can't wait go be on my own and in charge of myself and not having to listen to anyone. Well all that's true but there are things I didn't expect or think of back then and that is housing, money, school, and work. This is where the Foster care Independent Program comes in. if not for them I would be lost. Not only financially they have helped me. Not only with a roof over my head. And not only with schooling and college. But with emotional support too. There for awhile I was having some troubles with the stress and my addiction to solicited drugs. With their support I have pulled through and things are looking up. I just want to say thank you FIP for helping me and all the staff and therapist too. If not for you I don't know if I could have been as successful. You're the best!

Respectfully, Serena Kilseimer
2005

EXHIBIT [REDACTED]
DATE Mon Feb 1 2005

I think the MFCIP is a very good program for youth getting ready to get on there own. This program has ~~helped~~ helped me learn all sorts of skills such as budgeting. If youth didn't have this program then all youth will have a hard time making it on ~~own~~ there own.

Michael
Gardif

2/1/05

Written Statement
MT Legislature February 2005

Name: Bernice Anderson

1. How does or how has foster care benefited you and why is it important that there is foster care?

I think its important to have foster care, because there's alot of children getting abused. And they need to be offer that home. But foster care done some for me, but not all; being moved place to place. And it was very hard, I wanted to stay at one home. But it is important to have foster care to help children.

2. How does or how has the Montana Foster Care Independence Program benefited you and why is it important for the program to continue?

The Independence program is helping me very much. I really like this program, they want help me. There's alot that its doing for me. It very important to help people and children that need it. It really help me alot and I really think its good. Both are good, but foster care is kinda hard. moving place to place its hard.

Hello. We are Doug and Karen Guse from Missoula. We are the parents of three children, ages 3, 4 and 6. In June of 2003 our family was offered Family Based Services from Friends to Youth in Missoula for the purpose of family preservation. Our children were at risk of removal by DCFS as a result of them witnessing domestic violence at home. The Family Based Services therapist worked with our family to support us in providing a stable, structured, and predictable environment for our children. The intervention focused on fine tuning our parenting skills, building on our strengths, improving the communication between us, reducing conflicts, addressing our children's aggressive behaviors and helping our children to view us as capable and wise caregivers.

With the help of the FBS intervention there were no more incidents of domestic violence, we used the therapist as a resource when we had disagreements that we couldn't solve ourselves and together we worked on improving our communication. Behavior control was improved in our home. We were able to make changes in our schedules and their bed times, we implemented time out plans, and we were more creative in our approaches to discipline. All of this also increased the personal attention each of our kids received which reduced behavior problems. We were able to focus on the love and affection we have for one another and we increased the opportunities to show this to one another.

The intervention showed us a need for continued couples counseling to help us keep focused on improving and to make these changes long lasting. We sought out this counseling and have continued it even after the FBS intervention ended.

If we had not been offered the services of Friends to Youth, it is possible that our children would have been placed into foster care for an unknown amount of time. The impact that this would have had on our children is difficult to imagine. At the very least it would have been terrifying for them to be removed from our home by strangers and cared for by even more strangers.

Now, over one year since the Family Based Services intervention ended, we communicate better, we trust one another, our children trust and have confidence in our parenting of them, and we are a stronger family. We have learned better ways to handle the difficulties that life throws at us and we are better parents because of the help we were given.

Thank you for allowing help like Friends to Youth's Family Based Services to continue to be available in Missoula for our families and for the many other families that are served every year. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you.

Respectfully,
Doug and Karen Guse
1017 Ronan St.
Missoula, MT 59801

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EM
Mon Feb 1 2005
HB



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT E. WYNIA, M.D.
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION
PO BOX 8005
HELENA, MONTANA 59604-8005

MEMO

TO: Human Services Joint Sub-Committee

FROM: Chris Purcell, DPHHS/FFSD, Centralized Intake

SUBJECT: Statewide Reports on Child Abuse and Neglect

Chris Purcell

The attached documents are a breakdown, by region, of statewide reports for child abuse and neglect. The reports are complete through October 30, 2004.

All Regions

Comparative Data
Calendar Years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

Year	Region	April			May			June			Year to Date		
		CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI
2000	I. East.	103	7	31	103	14	27	86	14	31	638	85	167
2001	I. East.	89	8	31	99	8	50	77	14	36	538	64	224
2002	I. East.	103	36	54	91	37	54	90	20	27	568	205	216
2003	I. East.	99	10	33	102	13	41	68	13	33	522	63	241
2004	I. East.	81	6	43	85	16	30	57	7	38	451	59	256
2000	II. N.C.	95	7	85	136	15	87	110	12	63	736	60	483
2001	II. N.C.	112	16	96	116	13	126	86	7	65	681	66	541
2002	II. N.C.	183	55	72	160	48	75	133	35	49	906	287	373
2003	II. N.C.	120	11	66	132	15	81	108	8	59	766	91	423
2004	II. N.C.	108	17	69	140	15	72	98	15	39	679	110	432
2000	III. S.C.	164	32	51	183	34	64	159	39	58	1039	219	389
2001	III. S.C.	160	25	61	177	21	92	142	29	49	1030	180	408
2002	III. S.C.	169	57	70	213	60	100	186	59	58	1086	359	448
2003	III. S.C.	137	20	113	137	24	106	154	18	89	914	137	648
2004	III. S.C.	163	17	139	132	16	126	120	14	106	848	104	768
2000	IV. S.W.	195	16	86	214	23	122	168	17	95	1185	102	645
2001	IV. S.W.	230	25	107	232	29	129	149	18	127	1146	135	665
2002	IV. S.W.	167	84	91	213	72	98	170	55	54	1129	405	446
2003	IV. S.W.	170	29	94	174	28	90	159	17	87	1048	139	617
2004	IV. S.W.	179	23	111	176	24	100	158	23	77	1000	133	639
2000	V. West.	293	14	86	297	22	101	264	14	99	1759	97	554
2001	V. West.	272	14	87	338	20	97	228	28	94	1613	112	539
2002	V. West.	251	81	116	258	62	119	217	52	86	1401	403	549
2003	V. West.	208	24	95	184	35	84	148	20	90	1210	167	580
2004	V. West.	189	24	104	194	22	96	183	25	125	1141	151	681
2000	St. Unf.										0	0	0
2001	St. Unf.	6			11			10			57	0	0
2002	St. Unf.	31			19			18			151	0	0
2003	St. Unf.	15			11			9			73	0	0
2000	St. Tot.	850	76	339	933	108	401	787	96	346	5357	563	2238
2001	St. Tot.	869	88	382	973	91	494	692	96	371	5065	557	2377
2002	St. Tot.	904	313	403	954	279	446	814	221	274	5241	1659	2032
2003	St. Tot.	749	94	401	740	115	402	646	76	358	4533	597	2509
2004	St. Tot.	737	89	484	752	99	446	636	84	394	4209	570	2853
2000	Tribal Tot.	3	0	8	3	1	6	4	3	6	26	4	37
2004	Tribal Tot.	17	2	18	25	6	22	20	0	9	90	13	77

All Regions

**Comparative Data
Calendar Years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004**

Year	Region	July			August			September			Year To Date		
		CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI
2000	I. East.	91	9	23	93	15	39	91	15	36	691	53	124
2001	I. East.	100	10	56	102	16	56	74	20	38	814	110	374
2002	I. East.	103	32	29	105	35	32	121	18	35	897	290	312
2003	I. East.	84	15	34	89	19	17	81	14	34	776	111	326
2004	I. East.	87	15	25	59	8	31	80	5	33	677	87	345
2000	II. N.C.	129	8	63	104	12	85	119	16	74	1088	96	705
2001	II. N.C.	91	15	78	80	12	74	85	12	85	937	105	778
2002	II. N.C.	169	31	27	126	46	44	197	32	59	1398	396	503
2003	II. N.C.	124	17	46	96	21	50	106	13	81	1092	142	600
2004	II. N.C.	83	15	55	95	16	67	125	20	78	982	161	632
2000	III. S.C.	128	24	63	174	32	61	187	27	56	1528	302	569
2001	III. S.C.	154	25	47	171	24	65	124	27	70	1479	256	590
2002	III. S.C.	192	51	67	192	42	58	207	42	53	1677	494	626
2003	III. S.C.	135	17	93	121	26	85	117	18	142	1287	198	968
2004	III. S.C.	129	23	124	111	18	110	136	21	131	1224	166	1133
2000	IV. S.W.	159	20	87	166	24	110	174	17	79	1684	163	921
2001	IV. S.W.	164	14	107	185	22	118	179	13	95	1674	184	985
2002	IV. S.W.	216	70	69	162	55	64	222	49	65	1729	579	644
2003	IV. S.W.	169	28	86	151	28	92	153	36	93	1521	231	888
2004	IV. S.W.	184	26	107	132	22	86	181	28	111	1497	209	943
2000	V. West.	218	20	93	222	24	83	301	18	67	2500	159	797
2001	V. West.	220	20	80	300	10	71	240	15	73	2373	157	763
2002	V. West.	272	57	86	260	54	87	295	64	57	2228	578	779
2003	V. West.	182	38	78	160	34	78	180	26	107	1732	265	843
2004	V. West.	172	21	102	170	31	95	188	23	111	1671	226	989
2000	St. Unf.										0	0	0
2001	St. Unf.	8			11			10			86	0	0
2002	St. Unf.	14			16			9			190	0	0
2003	St. Unf.	5	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	82	0	0
2000	St. Tot.	725	81	329	759	107	378	872	93	312	7713	844	3257
2001	St. Tot.	737	84	368	849	84	384	712	87	361	7363	812	3490
2002	St. Tot.	966	241	278	861	232	285	1051	205	269	8119	2337	2864
2003	St. Tot.	699	115	337	619	128	322	639	107	457	6490	947	3625
2004	St. Tot.	655	100	413	567	95	389	710	97	464	6051	849	4042
2000	Tribal Tot.	8	0	9	4	1	6	6	0	9	41	5	61
2004	Tribal Tot.	27	6	11	15	0	7	41	0	12	173	19	107

All Regions

Comparative Data
Calendar Years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

Year	Region	January			February			March			Year to Date		
		CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI
2000	I. East.	124	14	12	98	14	26	124	22	40	346	50	78
2001	I. East.	118	20	39	66	8	33	89	6	35	273	34	107
2002	I. East.	97	44	34	112	35	18	75	33	29	284	112	81
2003	I. East.	92	7	48	83	10	46	78	10	40	253	27	134
2004	I. East.	82	8	37	70	11	49	76	11	59	228	30	145
2000	II. N.C.	121	6	88	126	13	76	148	7	84	395	26	248
2001	II. N.C.	133	9	70	101	5	89	133	16	95	367	30	254
2002	II. N.C.	153	60	50	125	44	55	152	45	72	430	149	177
2003	II. N.C.	136	22	79	130	11	74	140	24	64	406	57	217
2004	II. N.C.	101	17	94	113	21	71	119	25	87	333	63	252
2000	III. S.C.	162	46	71	166	34	73	205	34	72	533	114	216
2001	III. S.C.	184	34	75	155	30	59	212	41	72	551	105	206
2002	III. S.C.	197	41	68	162	67	76	159	75	76	518	183	220
2003	III. S.C.	173	29	122	155	20	130	158	26	88	486	75	340
2004	III. S.C.	144	17	98	133	15	134	156	25	165	433	57	397
2000	IV. S.W.	202	15	131	188	9	91	218	22	120	608	46	342
2001	IV. S.W.	192	20	110	170	18	84	173	25	108	535	63	302
2002	IV. S.W.	207	62	55	176	68	61	196	64	87	579	194	203
2003	IV. S.W.	199	17	128	165	21	104	181	27	114	545	65	346
2004	IV. S.W.	167	13	96	151	18	116	169	32	139	487	63	351
2000	V. West.	280	17	89	295	15	74	330	15	105	905	47	288
2001	V. West.	288	26	104	238	12	70	249	12	87	775	50	261
2002	V. West.	226	84	72	215	57	74	234	67	82	675	208	228
2003	V. West.	262	35	122	237	29	102	171	24	87	670	88	311
2004	V. West.	180	24	103	174	29	112	221	27	141	575	80	356
2000	St. Unf.										0	0	0
2001	St. Unf.	12			10			8			30	0	0
2002	St. Unf.	44			25			14			83	0	0
2003	St. Unf.	14			9			15			38	0	0
2000	St. Tot.	889	98	391	873	85	340	1025	100	421	2787	283	1152
2001	St. Tot.	927	109	398	740	73	335	864	100	397	2531	282	1130
2002	St. Tot.	924	291	279	815	271	284	830	284	346	2569	846	909
2003	St. Tot.	876	110	499	779	91	456	743	111	393	2398	312	1348
2004	St. Tot.	682	81	435	649	96	489	753	121	605	2084	298	1529
2000	Tribal Tot.	2	0	6	6	0	4	7	0	7	13	0	17
2004	Tribal Tot.	8	2	7	8	2	7	12	1	14	28	5	28

All Regions

**Comparative Data
Calendar Years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004**

Year	Region	October			November			December			Totals		
		CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI	CPS	CFS	CPI
2000	I. East.	110	12	36	100	13	37	89	16	33	1212	165	371
2001	I. East.	80	25	28	54	21	42	62	16	31	1010	172	475
2002	I. East.	83	13	45	82	10	37	89	8	43	1151	321	437
2003	I. East.	76	9	51	77	17	23	84	5	31	1013	142	431
2004	I. East.	79	4	49									
2000	II. N.C.	121	12	80	98	14	64	123	11	80	1430	133	929
2001	II. N.C.	115	12	85	99	16	61	112	23	43	1263	156	967
2002	II. N.C.	157	14	49	115	9	83	101	11	64	1771	430	699
2003	II. N.C.	100	15	80	87	13	60	73	8	45	1352	178	785
2004	II. N.C.	114	11	82									
2000	III. S.C.	198	23	56	160	31	54	135	20	39	2021	376	718
2001	III. S.C.	174	37	77	168	23	65	138	41	44	1959	357	776
2002	III. S.C.	204	16	75	131	17	85	133	9	87	2145	536	873
2003	III. S.C.	102	18	132	122	16	106	122	13	98	1633	245	1304
2004	III. S.C.	129	34	112									
2000	IV. S.W.	214	15	107	159	15	93	140	9	74	2197	202	1195
2001	IV. S.W.	200	26	113	177	16	86	170	20	82	2221	246	1266
2002	IV. S.W.	191	17	82	162	21	99	160	23	56	2242	640	881
2003	IV. S.W.	131	20	99	138	18	79	150	21	89	1940	290	1155
2004	IV. S.W.	161	26	111									
2000	V. West.	256	24	88	235	17	77	219	17	87	3210	217	1049
2001	V. West.	245	12	86	228	18	59	168	21	60	3014	208	968
2002	V. West.	277	18	87	188	29	98	180	24	79	2873	649	1043
2003	V. West.	204	25	111	159	12	77	155	23	99	2250	325	1132
2004	V. West.	154	25	106									
2000	St. Unf.												
2001	St. Unf.	11			31			15			143	0	0
2002	St. Unf.	8			2			7			207	0	0
2003	St. Unf.	3	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	97	0	0
2000	St. Tot.	899	86	367	752	90	325	706	73	313	10070	1093	4262
2001	St. Tot.	825	112	389	757	94	313	665	121	260	9610	1139	4452
2002	St. Tot.	920	78	338	680	86	402	670	75	329	10389	2576	3933
2003	St. Tot.	616	87	473	595	76	345	584	70	362	8357	1188	4900
2004	St. Tot.	637	100	460									
2000	Tribal Tot.	9	1	17	13	0	8	9	2	7	72	6	93
2004	Tribal Tot.	30	2	10									

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number:

18

The following exhibit is a booklet that exceeds the 5-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. The booklets' cover has been scanned to help you when requesting information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201; phone (406) 444-4774. For minutes in paper format, please contact the Montana State Law Library, Justice Building, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-3660. Tapes and exhibits are also available at the Historical Society (tapes are retained for five years). Scanning done by: Susie Hamilton

EXHIBIT

18

DATE Mon Feb 1 2005

The Platform for Children & Youth OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY



Valuing Children ■ Strengthening Families ■ Engaging Communities



Arrowhead Psychological & Behavioral Sciences, LLC

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May 11, 2004

District Court Council:

This letter is in response to the proposed Montana Judicial Branch Policies & Procedures document regarding Problem Solving Court Indigent Defense. I have served as the program evaluator for the majority of the problem solving courts in the state of Montana including Missoula Juvenile Drug Court, Superior Juvenile Drug Court, Missoula Mental Health Court, Yellowstone County Family Drug Treatment Court, Lewistown Family Treatment Court, Butte Family Treatment Court, and the Custer County Family Treatment Court. While most of these programs are in their infancy the data that has been gathered in the Missoula Juvenile Drug Court and Yellowstone County Family Drug Treatment Court (YCFDTC) has demonstrated significant benefits to the participants, children, families, and the numerous systems involved in these programs. This letter will focus mainly on the matter of the role and costs associated with the defense council for YCFDTC.

Yellowstone County Family Drug Treatment Court took in the first client in June 2001 and has served 33 adults and 54 children since that time. Out of these 33 adults, 27% have graduated the program, 27% have been expelled and returned to the "regular track", 3% were transferred to tribal jurisdiction, 9% opted to quit and return to "regular track" and 34% remain active in the program at this time. The average length of time participants have taken to graduate has been 15.25 months with a range of 12 – 22 months. For those expelled from the program, the amount of time in the program has ranged from 3 weeks to 16 months with the most frequent length of time before expulsion being 4 months. The average amount of time children have spent in out-of-home placement for all children involved in this program (including those whose parents have graduated, been expelled, quit, and remain active) is 341 days while the control group children average 1,115 days in out of home care. While this is not a direct savings for the court system, it has a tremendous savings for the State of Montana in the area of foster care dollars. This also means that when these cases are closed sooner there is also no longer a need for a defense attorney or a Judge to oversee this case, which is a direct savings to the court system.

The following is a summary of the role and costs of the defense counsel in YCFDTC. On average, Connie Camino (defense counsel) bills the State approximately 2 hours (\$120) a month for each client while they are in Drug Court. This includes the time she meets with clients individually as well as the time she spends advocating and defending them in the weekly treatment team meeting and court session. While the model of problem solving courts is different, in that it is non-adversarial, it does not mean that the defense counsel is not directly defending the client, they are but it just looks different. In the "regular track" the defense counsel would be contacting or trying to contact (many of the participant's have no stable residence or phones) these participants and spending time contacting all agencies involved with these clients and their families including Child and Family Services, Chemical Dependency providers, Mental Health Providers, County Attorney, Probation Officers, Guardian ad litem, employers, etc. This leads to many billable hours; however, these hours are usually not spread out evenly during the course of

case, but instead lump around the regularly mandated court sessions. The advantage of the Drug Court model is the defense counsel spends their time more constructively on a consistent weekly basis throughout the duration of the case as the information is provided to the counsel weekly by each member of the team and the counsel spends much less time tracking down the information and playing phone tag. This ongoing information also allows the defense counsel to provide regular feedback and advice to the client regarding their compliance and/or noncompliance with the court ordered treatment plan.

Another compelling statistic from the YCFDTC program is that out of the 54 children served by YCFDTC only six children (11%) have had their parents rights terminated or are in the process of this occurring. Parents have relinquished their rights or are in the process of doing so on seven children (12.9%) in YCFDTC. This is compared to 49% of the cases in the control group, which have lead to parental rights being terminated, and none of the cases have lead to relinquishment. The estimated cost for the defense counsel to represent a parent in a termination of parental rights (TPR) matter is approximately \$1,902 to \$2,880 (average \$2,391) while the cost to represent a parent in a relinquishment case is \$500 (based on Connie Camino's figures). If you consider just those cases leading to termination or relinquishment and look at the numbers YCFDTC has served to date and use the average amounts listed above, this equates to a total of \$17,846 for YCFDTC clients (Termination Costs of \$14,346 for 6 cases and Relinquishment Costs of \$3,500 for 7 cases). Now, compare that to the cost of \$62,166 for the control group (Termination Costs of 26 terminations). This is a significant savings for the State.

As the program evaluator, I am in the process of completing a cost-benefit analysis of the program, which will include the costs of the defense counsel and guardian ad litem and comparing these costs to the "regular track". Unfortunately, this data analysis is not complete at this time. The projected date this information will be available is July 1, 2004. I would urge you to hold off on any major policy and procedure decisions until you at least have some accurate fiscal data comparing the two different tracks.

I do understand the concern of the council regarding reimbursement from the State for Defense Council's time on "expenses related to civil legal proceedings or legal proceedings in a limited court; and expenses associated with time spent in meetings, discussions or other matters beyond the usual scope of action in a child-abuse and neglect proceeding". I also agree that this should not be reimbursed by the state and that each local court needs to find funding for these services. However, I do believe that the defense counsel's involvement in problem-solving court treatment team meetings and court sessions does involve "direct defense of the client". I would encourage each of you to come to Billings and observe the YCFDTC treatment team and court session on any Thursday afternoon from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm. I believe strongly that you would see that although the process is non-adversarial the defense council's role is critical and that they do provide "direct defense" during this time, which should be reimbursed by the state.

Please feel free to contact me (406-672-6201) if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Brenda K. Roche, Ph.D.