

**Ways and Means Subcommittee Questions for
Children, Adults and Families
February 11, 2005**

Children Adults and Families

Self Sufficiency

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

1. Include a one-page discussion on the efforts of the employment program and the number of FTE dedicated to making employment a #1 priority. Requested: February 10, 2005

See Exhibit A

Food Stamps

2. Provide Food Stamps staffing and administrative cost over time, Food Stamp caseload information by county and a comparison of Food Stamp caseloads per FTE overtime. Requestor: LFO, Requested: February 10, 2005

Further research is required in order to provide a comprehensive response to these questions. We will forward our response by Friday, February 18, 2005.

Prevention

3. How many pregnant teens/teen moms are still in school? Requestor: Senator Westlund, Requested: February 7, 2005

We are not able to provide that information because the Department of Education does not track the number of pregnant and parenting teens in school. They do track those pregnant and parenting teens who are receiving a service provided by the school district.

Child Welfare

Child Protective Services

4. Break out types of founded abuse/neglect cases over time. Requestor: LFO, Requested: February 10, 2005

Neglect is increasing over time in Oregon. Over the past 5 years, the number of incidents of neglect has increased by 30 percent.

Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect by Abuse Type

Abuse Type	2000	2001	2002	2002-03	2003-04
Mental Injury	728	440	421	404	466
Physical Abuse	1,559	1,342	1,228	1,378	1,417
Neglect	2,632	2,657	2,709	2,888	3,418
Sexual Abuse	1,185	949	926	1,111	1,150
Threat of Harm	6,644	4,557	5,091	5,986	6,936

Adoptions**5. What are the cost drivers on the increase in Adoption Assistance? Requestor: Representative Richardson, Requested: February 9, 2005**

The primary cost driver for the increase in Adoption Assistance is the number of children receiving a monthly monetary adoption subsidy benefit.

Once eligibility is determined, typically within the six months before an adoption is finalized, the child usually remains eligible until the age of 18. Each month, more children begin receiving subsidies than the number of children aging out or otherwise ending their subsidies.

The amount of subsidy for which a child is eligible is individually determined based on the needs of the child and other resources available to the adoptive family to meet those needs. The maximum amount of adoption subsidy available to the child is the amount that he or she would receive if they remained in foster care. Therefore, foster care payment rates are also a driver of adoption assistance costs. However, relatively few children receive the maximum available amount because not all services paid for the child while in foster care are eligible for payment in adoption assistance.

As older children age out of adoption assistance and are replaced by new children, the cost per daily average population rises. This is because a) in general, more children have more severe problems (such as those that result from prenatal drug exposure) than children had ten or fifteen years ago; and b) the foster care payment rates, which set the “ceiling” for a child’s individually determined adoption subsidy rate, have increased over time.

6. Provide for us a detailed set of information. How much is spent on subsidies? What is the number of adoptions by relatives? How much in state funds is being spent to pay adoptive relatives? What are the changes in cost since 1995? In as much detail as you can: What are the needs of the families? What are the special needs of the children? Requestor: Representative Richardson, Requested: February 9, 2005**A. How much on subsidies:**

Total actual expenditure for Adoption Assistance for:

1995-1997 biennium: \$22,633,193

1997-1999 biennium: \$33,008,088

1999-2001 biennium: \$50,150,782

2001-2003 biennium: \$69,460,692

2003-2005 biennium: \$47,379,963 (14/24 months, through 08/04)

See Exhibits B-D for a historical depiction of:

- Number of children receiving Adoption Assistance
- Actual total monthly Adoption Assistance expenditures per year
- Cost per child per month

B. Number of adoptions by relatives:

Each year since 1995, about one-third of all adoptions were by relatives. For example, 35.8 percent of the children whose adoptions finalized in 2003 and 34.2 percent of children whose adoptions finalized in 2004 were adopted by relatives. The total number of children adopted by relatives during this two-year period was 620 (307 in 2003 and 313 in 2004).

C. Are state funds being spent to pay relatives?

State funds, either alone (for the approximately 30 percent of children who are adopted by relatives and who are not IV-E eligible) or in combination with federal funds (for the approximately 70 percent of children who are adopted by relatives and are IV-E eligible)), are used to pay Adoption Assistance costs for children adopted by relatives.

D. What is the cost?

Based on July 2004 figures:

The average monthly subsidy for a non-IV-E eligible child who is adopted by a relative is \$393, all of which comes from state general fund. \$393 represents 68 percent of the USDA estimate for Oregon of what it costs to support a child.

The average monthly subsidy for a IV-E eligible child who is adopted by a relative is \$431. Of this amount, \$168 (39 percent) is from state general fund.

E. What are the needs of the families?

Adoption Assistance was created to encourage the movement of children from temporary foster care to permanent adoptive homes by removing financial barriers. All families, including relatives, who are approved to adopt children from foster care, must demonstrate an ability to support their household independently of the child or children they are seeking to adopt and the Adoption Assistance payment that may be available to the child. According to federal Adoption Assistance rules, determination of the amount of subsidy that is available to a child “shall take into consideration the circumstances of the adopting parents and the needs of the child being adopted.” Consistent with these same federal rules, Oregon does not apply a means test to the adopting family’s income when determining the amount of subsidy the family will receive for the child. In no event can a family receive in adoption subsidy an amount greater than would have been available to the child had the child remained in foster care, even if they are able to demonstrate that their costs to meet the needs of the child would exceed this amount.

In addition to help in defraying some of the basic costs of food, clothing and shelter for the adopted child, families need financial assistance to pay for such things as medical costs not covered by their family insurance or medical card. Families often need financial assistance to pay for respite care. In addition, subsidy can be provided to help the family to pay ongoing costs for materials or activities that are linked to the child’s specific diagnosis or other special needs.

F. What are the special needs?

According to the DHS administrative rules for Adoption Assistance, the following factors constitute special needs:

- Member of a racial, ethnic minority
- Eight years of age or older
- Diagnosed disability (physical, mental, emotional, learning disability)
- “At risk” for future problems due to a documented predisposing factor (such as prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol, having a familial history of mental illness, or having suffered severe abuse or neglect)
- Member of a sibling group of three placed together or of two siblings placed together and one of them is six years of age or older
- Significant emotional ties to the adoptive family while in their care as a foster child or relative placement.

7. Provide information on denying adoption assistance. Requestor: Representative Richardson, Requested: February 9, 2005

Federal Adoption Assistance rules require that states ask prospective adoptive parents whether or not they are able to adopt the child without a subsidy. However, these rules also state that there can be no income eligibility requirements or means test to determine whether a subsidy payment can be made.

8. What is the circulation of the “Family Matters” publication? Requestor Representative Richardson, Requested: February 9, 2005

The circulation of the "Family Matters" publication is 6,000. Its distribution includes both public and private adoption entities in other states, churches, media and adoptive parents. It is published ten times each year. Each issue features pictures and profiles of foster children who need adoptive families.

9. Length of time to finalize adoptions, including stratifications by race/culture, special need status and sex. Length of time includes time from last removal to adoption finalization and time from termination of parental rights to adoption finalization. Results presented as medians and averages (mean). Requestor: Senator Bates, Requested: February 9, 2005

- The median time to adoption in 2004 is 34 months for all children.
- Once parental rights are terminated, the median time to finalize the adoption is 14 months.
- The sex of the child plays little role in the length of time it takes to finalize an adoption.
- Children with special needs have their adoptions finalized within a median of 38 months. Termination of parental rights to finalization takes an average of 15 months for children with special needs.

- The median months to adoption has been declining for all children, regardless of their special need status.
- African American children have a longer median time to adoption than children of other races.
- Multiracial, Hispanic, and Caucasian children have approximately the same median time to adoption (from date of last removal and from the termination of parental rights date).
- Overall, the average (or mean) time to adoption is higher than the median.

See Exhibit E

10. Provide information since 1995 on number and percent of Adoption Assistance cases compared to all adoptions (including relatives). Requestor: LFO, Requested: February 10, 2005

See Exhibit F

11. Detail on characteristics of children with finalized adoptions (age, race, special needs, sibling group information and sex of adopted children). Requestor: LFO, Requested: February 10, 2005

- In 2004, 943 children had adoptions finalized in Oregon. This is an increase of 10.4 percent from 2003.
- Adoptions for children age 9 and older totaled 220 in 2004, or over 23.3 percent of all adoptions.
- Non-Caucasian children make up nearly one-third of all finalized adoptions.
- Most of the children placed for adoption have special needs.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of children who had siblings were adopted by the same family as one or more of their siblings in 2003 and 2004.
- Nearly 200 families adopted siblings groups in each of the past two years.
- Approximately the same number of boys and girls are adopted each year.

See Exhibit G

12. Provide the number of children who were placed out of state and how many of them were placed with relatives. Requestor: LFO, Requested February 7, 2005

Of the 1,103 children adopted out of state between 2000-2004, almost 40 percent were placed with relatives.

13. For Adoption Assistance cases, what would the cost have been had the child remained in foster care? Requestor: LFO, Requested: February 10, 2005

- The average cost per month per child is \$590 less for children who were adopted and are receiving adoption assistance, compared to a child who remained in foster care.

- The total cost for keeping these children in foster care is over \$24.5 million per biennium.
- The cumulative cost over four biennia is \$61.5 million.
- These costs do not include any administrative costs or case management costs.

See Exhibit H

Field Services

14. Give field configuration in question prior to Reorganization Vs. Now. With management FTEs attached to it. Requestors: Representative Richardson, and Senator Winters, Requested: February 10, 2005

See Exhibit I

15. Since client satisfaction is a key area, how difficult would it be to implement a process? Requestor: Representative Richardson, Requested: February, 10, 2005

Every state agency will be required to report on customer satisfaction for the 2007-2009 biennium. DHS currently has a placeholder for a customer satisfaction key performance measure. Baseline data will be developed and targets established by the spring of 2006. CAF programs and clients will be included in this process.

Priorities and Reductions

16. What is the co-pay in ERDC now? Requestor: Senator Monnes Anderson, Requested: February, 10, 2005

See Exhibit J

17. Look at the last page of the cuts list. Go back and omit reductions in the CHIP program, mental health and drug/alcohol programs and see what other programs you need to add to reach the reduction target. Requestor: Senator Bates, Requested: February 10, 2005

This request will be discussed at the DHS Cabinet, it has larger impacts on other parts of the Department.

Exhibit A

The Oregon TANF JOBS Program

The JOBS Program provides employment and training services to help TANF cash assistance clients become gainfully employed. Services include job search and placement, skill development and barrier removal services. Support services payments provide assistance for childcare, transportation, and other needs to help make client self-sufficiency plans successful. Services are tailored to individual client needs, and may include a number of the following:

Basic Education: These services include helping teen parents complete high school and helping both teens and adults complete their GED. These services are provided to help clients improve basic skills, making them more employable. A majority of these are provided at little or no cost to the program.

Job Readiness: These services help clients develop the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace. The services focus on basic workplace protocols, such as calling in when sick, and inappropriate behavior. They also include skills such budgeting, decision making and interpersonal skills. Many of these skills also help clients in their everyday lives.

Job Search Assistance: Most TANF applicants and recipients are required to look for work in the local labor market. This work search occurs when clients first request assistance, and regularly during their participation in the program. The services offered include writing resumes, interviewing skills, locating and contacting employers, completing and submitting employment applications, and learning about the local labor market. These services are provided cooperatively with workforce partners in the community.

Work Experience: These services are provided to clients to help them gain experience in the workforce and include work simulation, unpaid work experience, JOBS Plus paid work experience and sheltered work experience. For some clients, this will be their first experience in a work environment, for others it represents the short-term addition to their resume that they need to secure full time employment. This set of activities is the foundation of the current federal participation requirements for TANF adults.

Short-term Vocational Training: A small number of program clients also take part in short-term trainings. These are classes and trainings that are targeted at specific industries or occupations where there is a documented labor market need. These trainings are usually limited to less than six months in duration.

Other Barrier Removal Services: Many clients face enormous difficulty finding work because of personal and family issues including domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, physical and mental health issues and learning disabilities. DHS staff and partners connect clients with the services they need to move toward employment.

Support Services: Clients who are participating in JOBS can have many of their costs related to participating in JOBS paid by DHS. Most of these payments are for things such as childcare and transportation. About half of the total JOBS program expenditures are for these support services payments.

Exhibit B

Number of children receiving Adoption Assistance

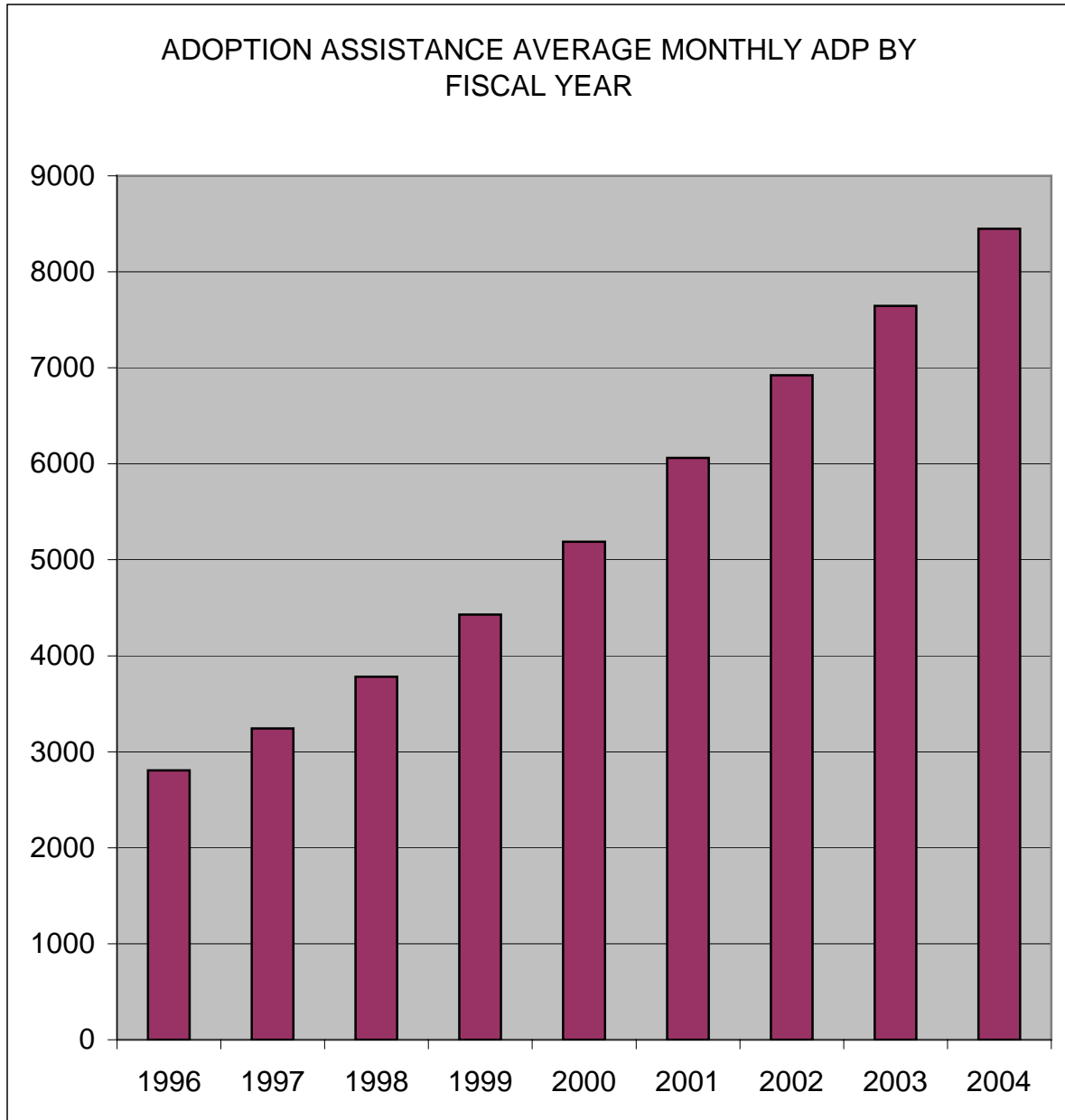


Exhibit C

Actual total monthly Adoption Assistance expenditures per year

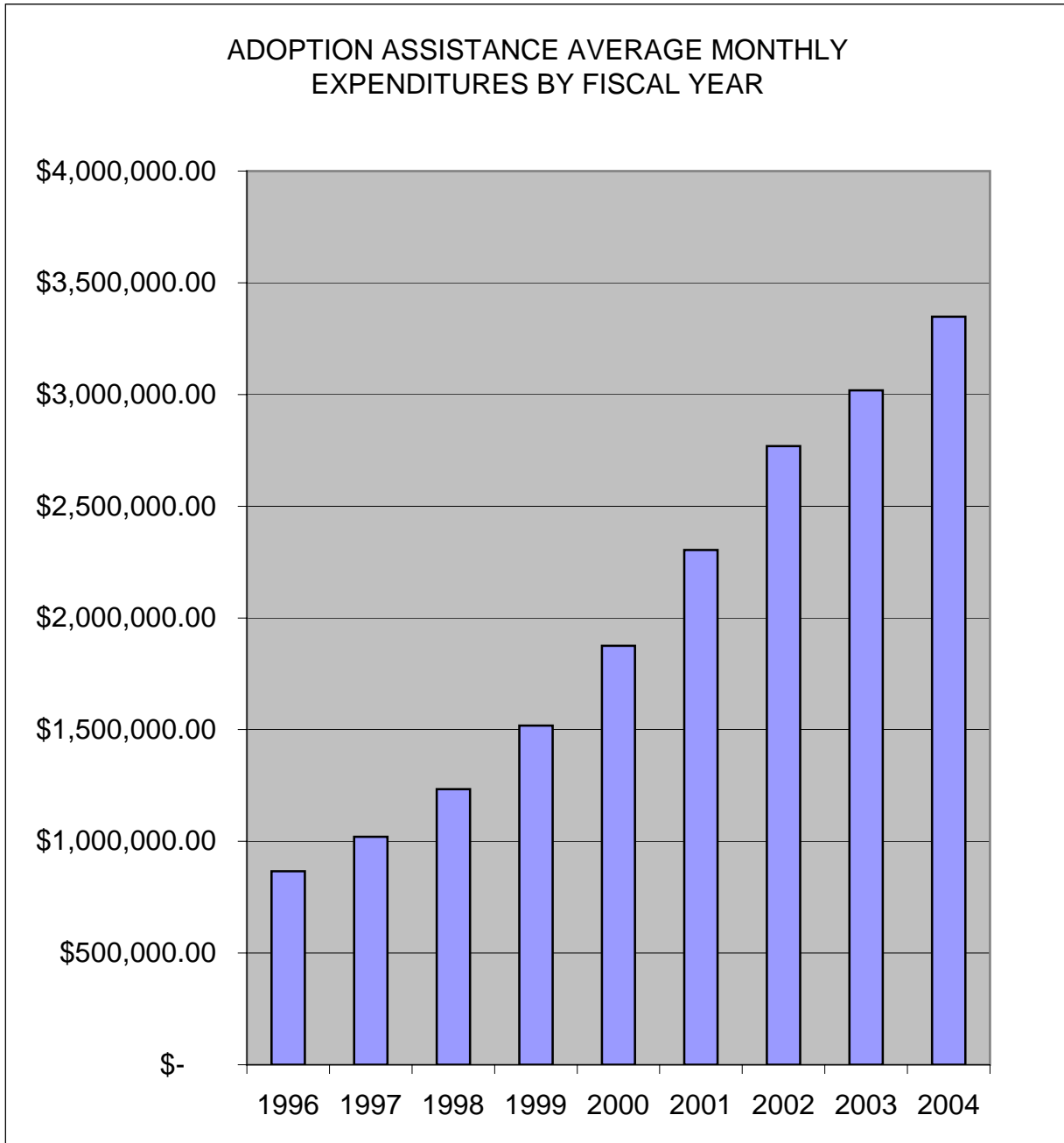


Exhibit D

Cost per child per month for Adoption Assistance

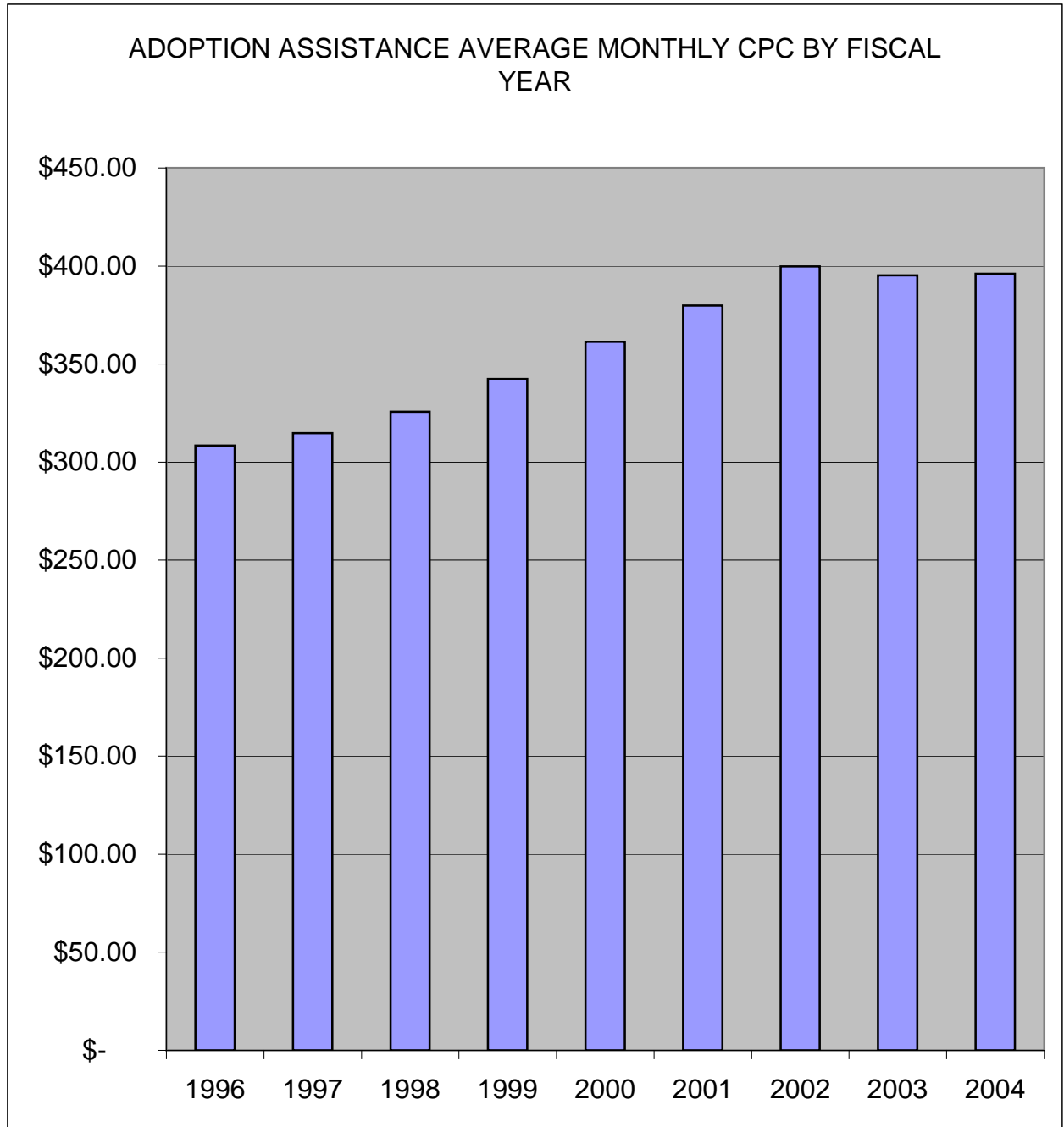
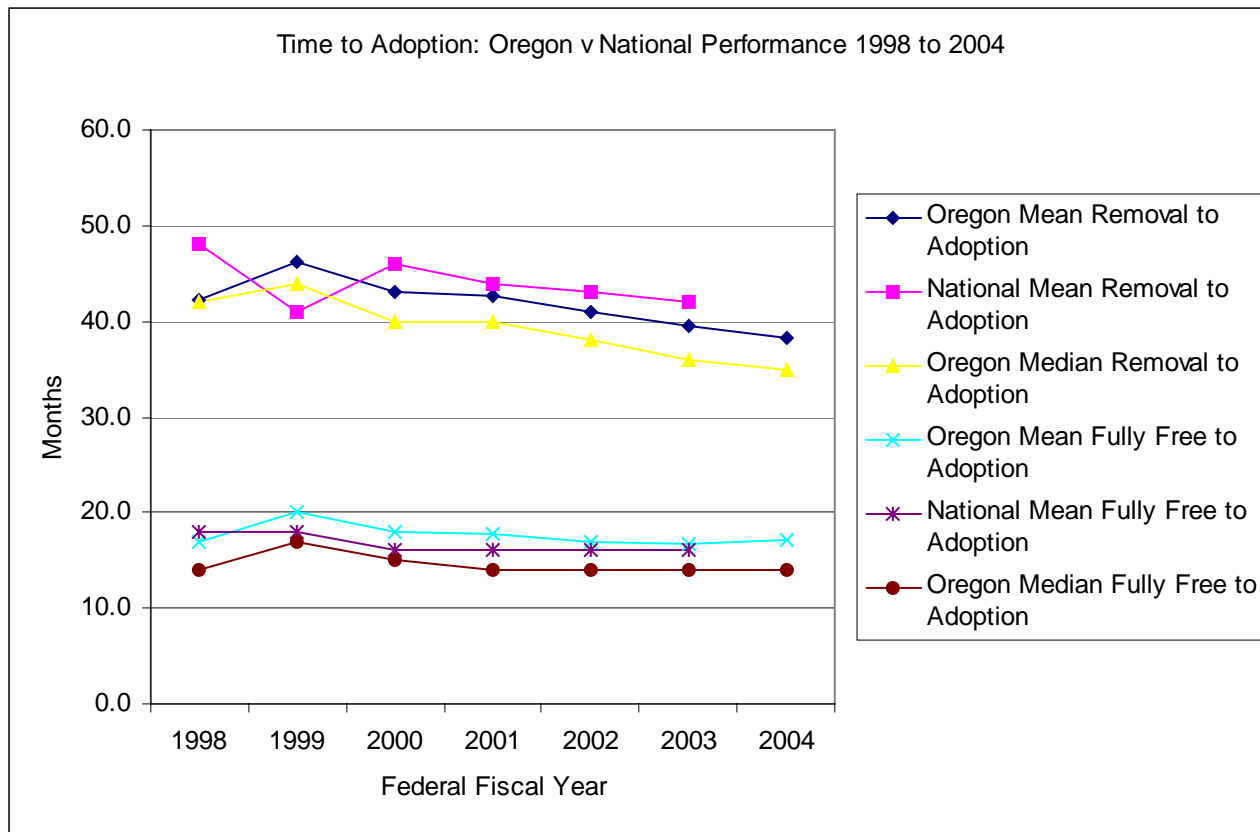
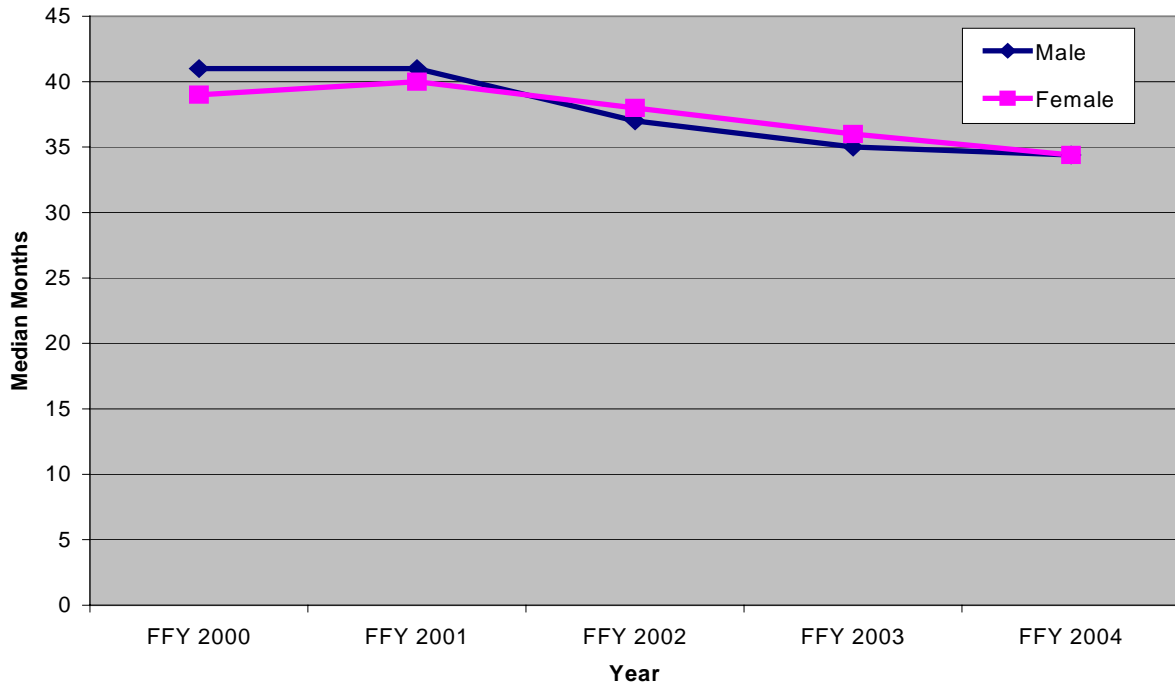


Exhibit E

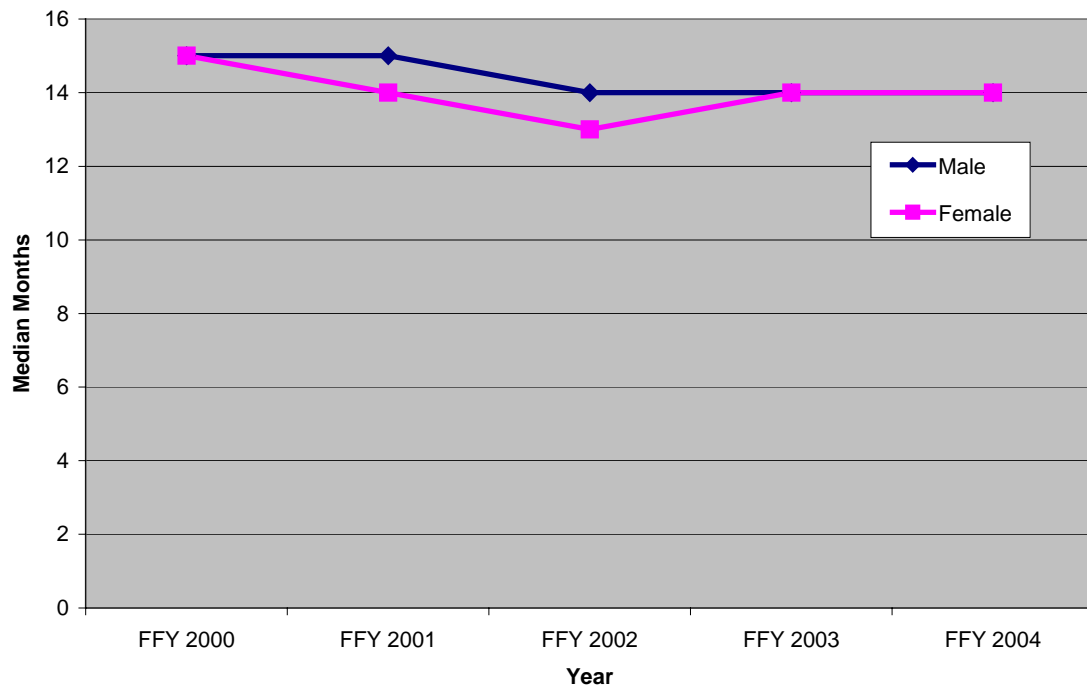
Time to Adoption: Oregon vs. National Performance 1998 to 2004



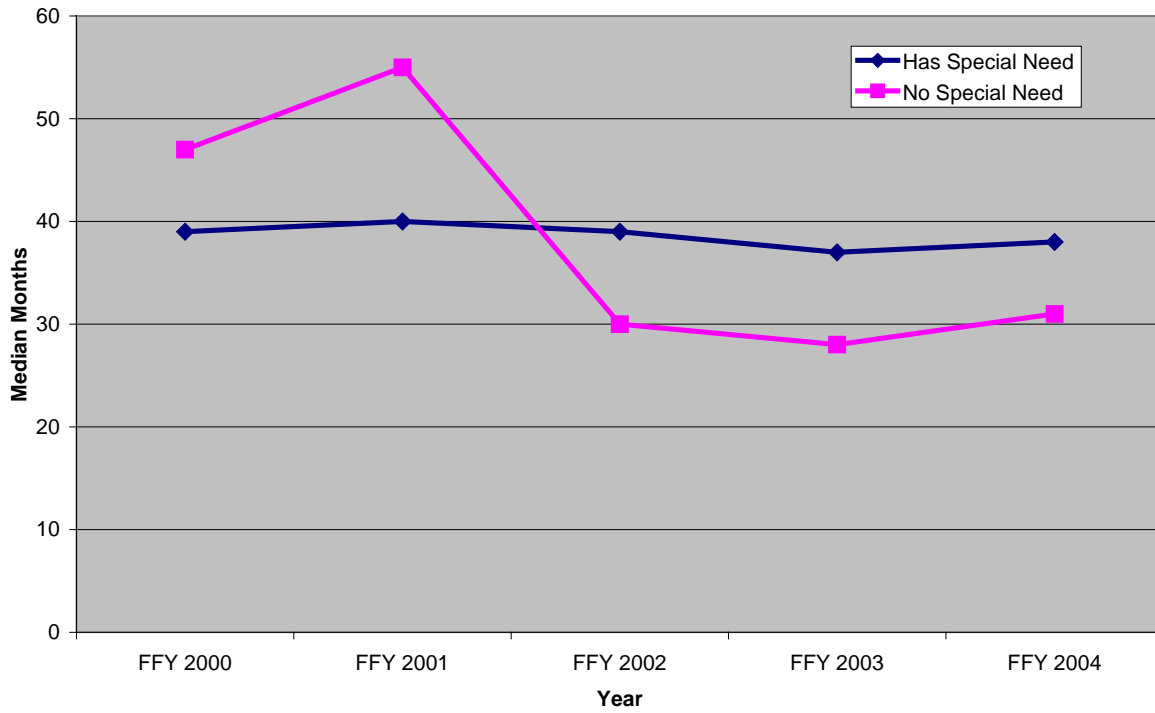
Median Months from Date of Last Removal to Finalized Adoption, by Sex



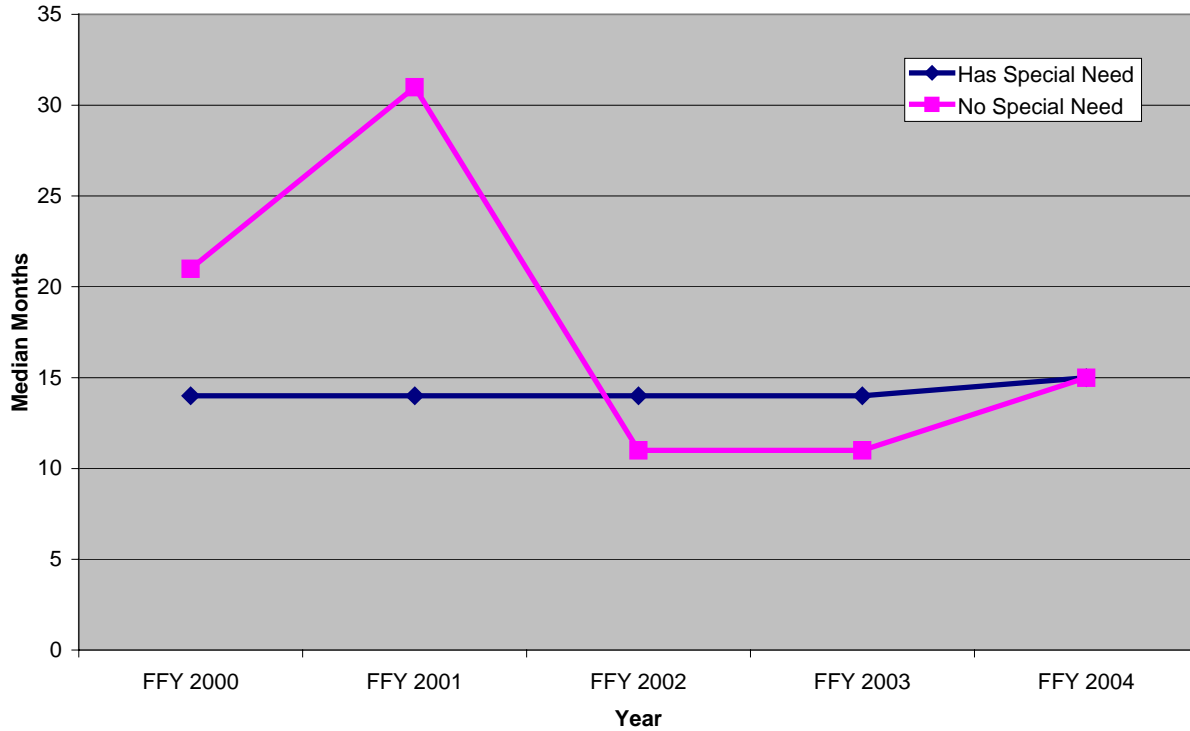
Median Months from Termination of Parental Rights to Finalized Adoption, by Sex



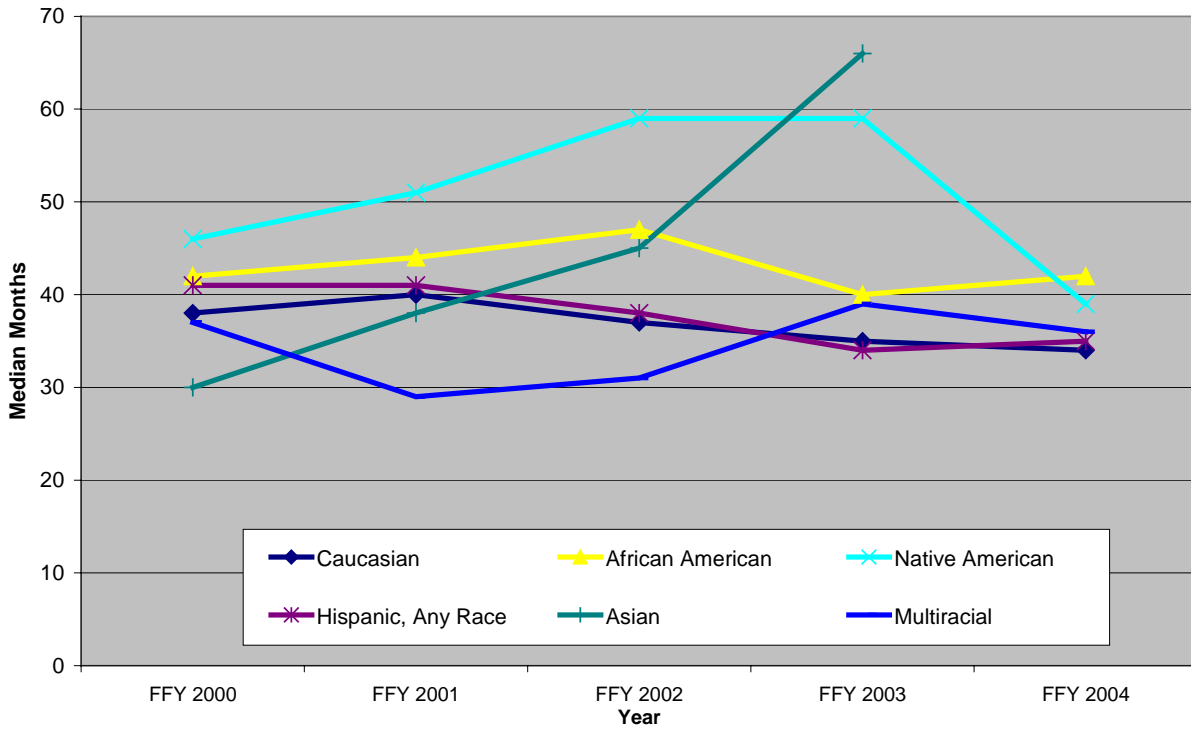
Median Months from Date of Last Removal to Finalized Adoption by Special Need Status



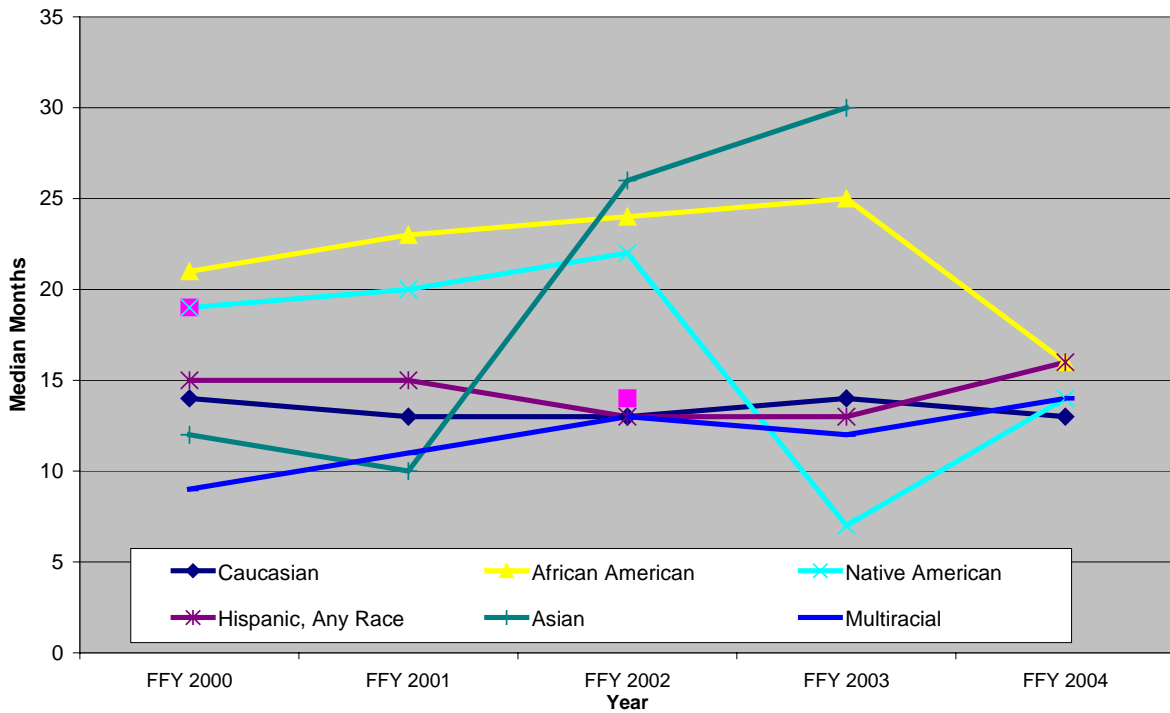
Median Months from Termination of Parental Rights to Finalized Adoption by Special Need Status



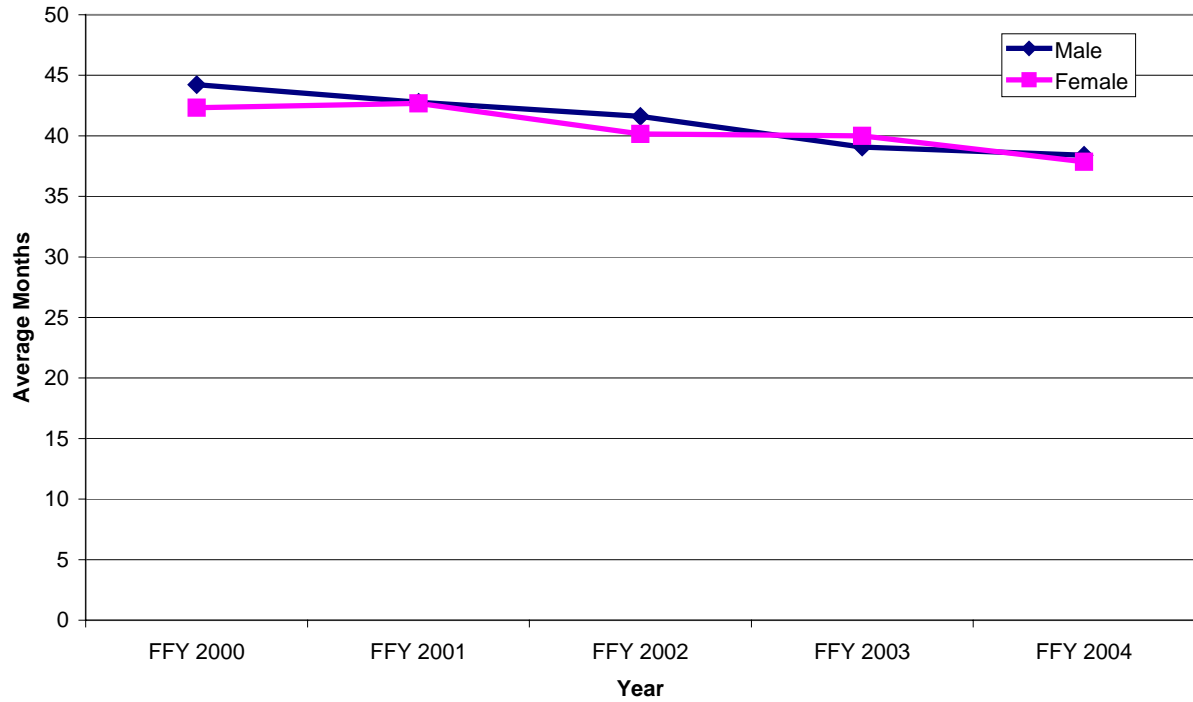
Median Months from Date of Last Removal to Finalized Adoption, by Race/Ethnicity



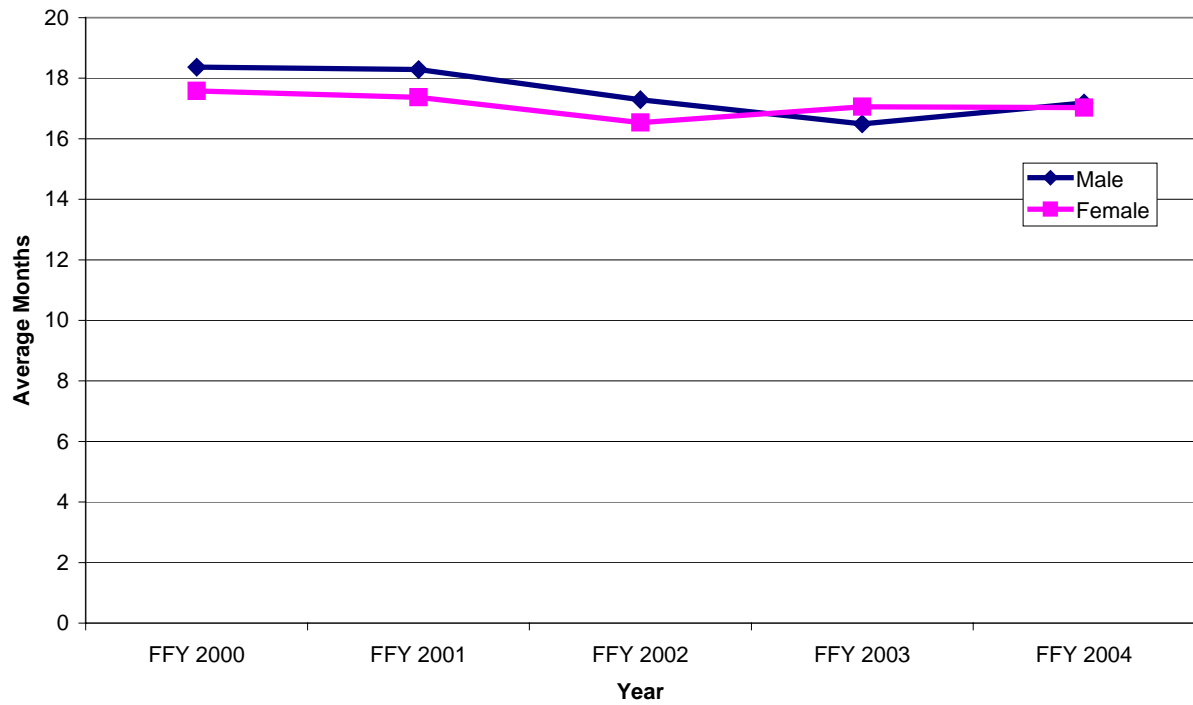
Median Months from Termination of Parental Rights to Finalized Adoption, by Race/Ethnicity



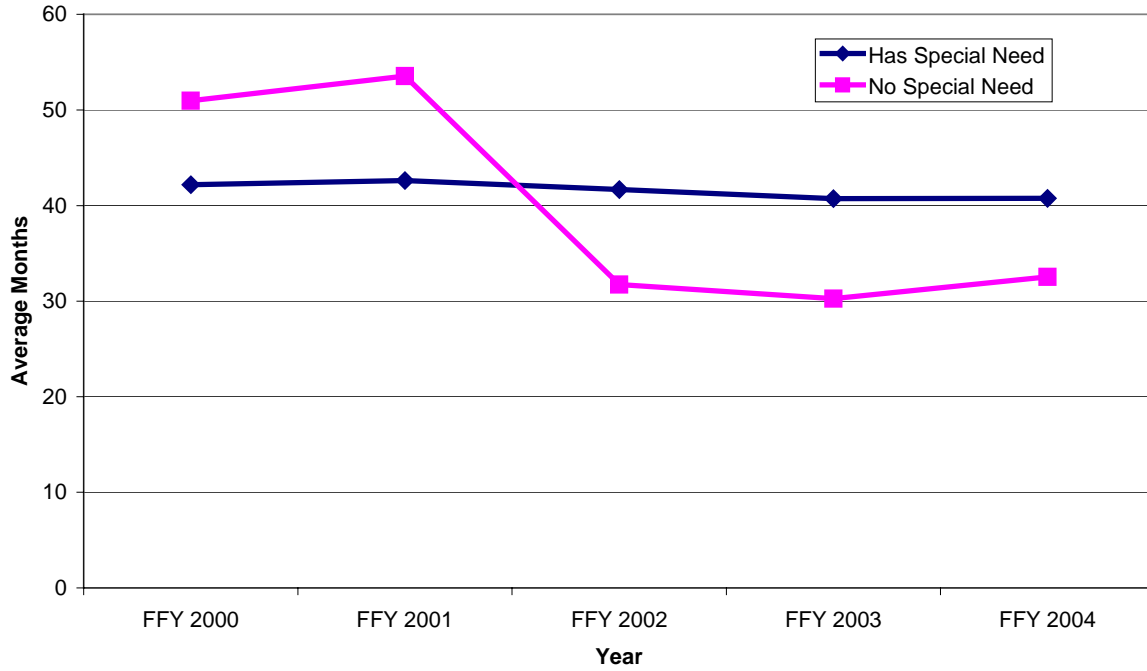
Average Months from Date of Last Removal to Finalized Adoption, by Sex



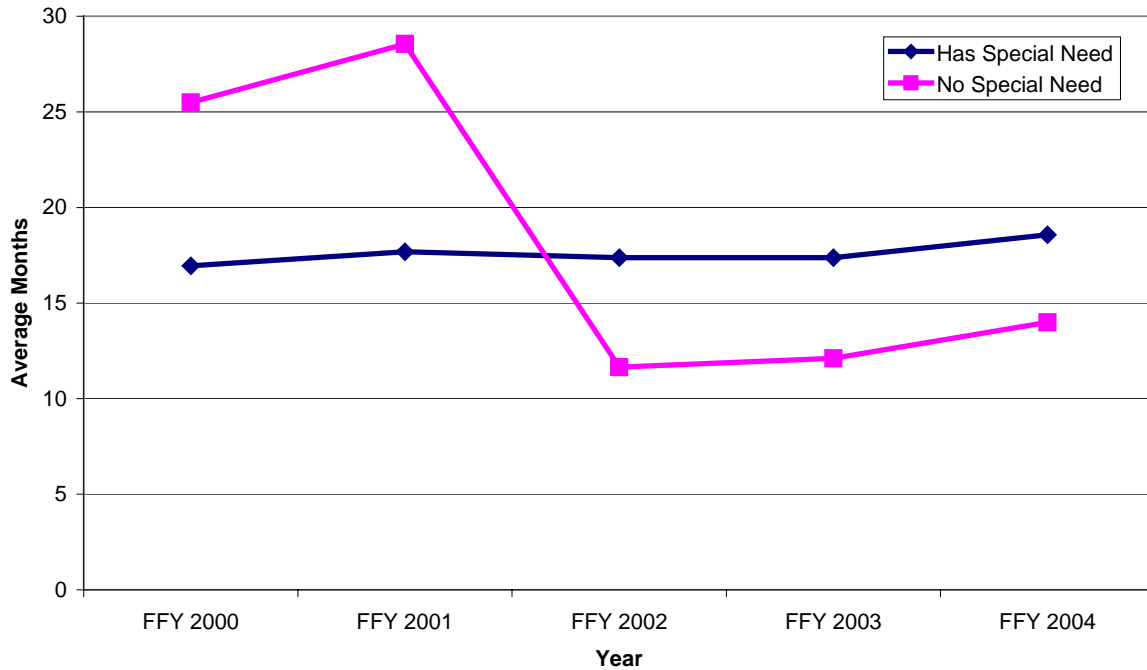
Average Months from Termination of Parental Rights to Finalized Adoption, by Sex



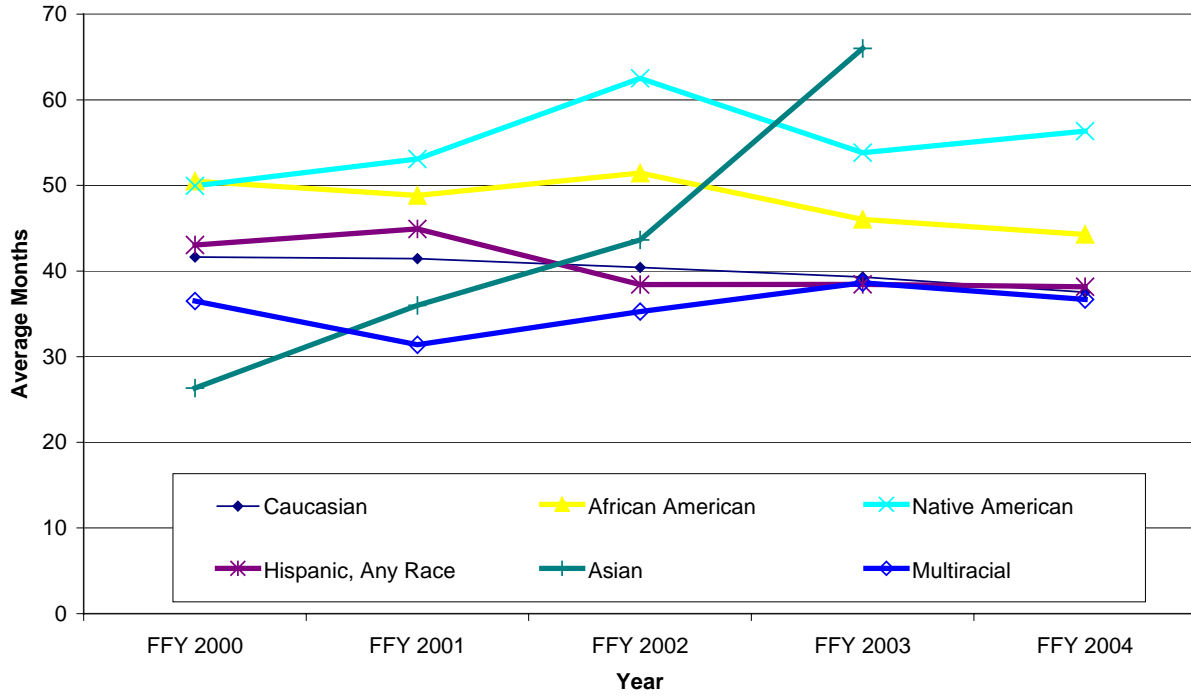
Average Months from Date of Last Removal to Finalized Adoption, by Special Need Status



Average Months from Termination of Parental Rights to Finalized Adoption, by Special Need Status



Average Months from Date of Last Removal to Finalized Adoption, by Race/Ethnicity



Average Months from Termination of Parental Rights to Finalized Adoption, by Race/Ethnicity

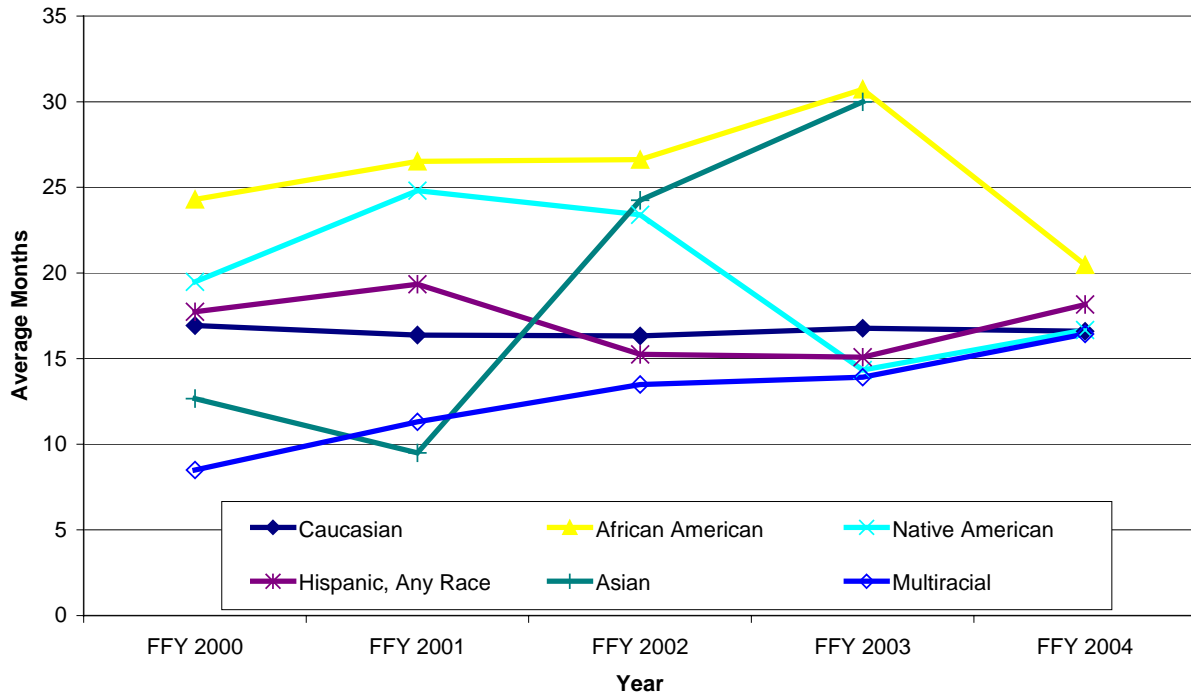


Exhibit F

Information from FFY 2000-2004¹ on Number and percent of Adoption Assistance cases compared to all adoptions (including relatives):

Adopted Children by Subsidy Type and Special Needs FFY 2000-2004

SpecialNeed	Service Type	NBR	%	% of All Adoptions
Children with Special Needs (n=3996)	Medical card & Subsidy	2913	72.9	60.7
	Medical Card Only	85	2.1	1.8
	Subsidy Only	965	24.1	20.1
	Agreement Only	33	0.8	0.7
Children with No Special Needs (n=569)	Medical card & Subsidy	427	75.0	8.9
	Medical Card Only	15	2.6	0.3
	Subsidy Only	123	21.6	2.6
	Agreement Only	4	0.7	0.1
Total Number of Children w/ Adoption Assistance starting FFY 2000-2004		4565		95.1
Total Number of Children receiving no Adoption Assistance		237		4.9
Total number of Children Adopted FFY 2000-2004		4802		100.0

¹ The original request asked for information from 1995 to the present. The most complete information available is only available from FFY2000 through 2004.

Children Adopted by Relatives by Subsidy Type FFY 2000-2004			
Relationship	Service Type	NBR	%
Children adopted by Non-Relatives (n=2966)	Medical card & Subsidy	2174	73.3
	Medical Card Only	62	2.1
	Subsidy Only	713	24.0
	Agreement Only	17	0.6
Children Adopted by Relatives (n=1599)	Medical card & Subsidy	1166	39.3
	Medical Card Only	38	1.3
	Subsidy Only	375	12.6
	Agreement Only	20	0.7
Total Number of Children w/ Adoption Assistance starting FFY 2000-2004		4565	95.1
Total Number of Children receiving no Adoption Assistance		237	4.9
Total number of Children Adopted FFY 2000-2004		4802	100.0

Exhibit G

Age of Children With Finalized Adoptions

Age Category	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
Less than 3	155	208	207	145	183
Age 3-4	194	215	272	218	228
Age 5-7	206	270	277	216	259
Age 8-10	157	208	199	149	145
Age 11 - 13	76	122	120	95	92
Age 14+	43	48	43	31	36
Grand Total	831	1,071	1,118	854	943

Race/Ethnicity of Children With Finalized Adoptions

Race/Ethnicity	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
African American	96	90	92	29	63
Asian	3	4	8	1	-
Caucasian	590	763	752	628	683
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	-	1	-	-
Hispanic, Any Race	100	141	171	107	125
Multiracial	2	24	82	82	68
Native American	35	41	10	6	3
Unknown race/ethnicity	4	8	2	1	1
Grand Total	831	1,071	1,118	854	943

Special Need Status of Children With Finalized Adoptions

Special Need Status	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
Has Special Need	734	1,060	1,025	757	642
No Special Need	97	11	93	97	301
Grand Total	831	1,071	1,118	854	943

Number of Children With Siblings Adopted As Part of a Sibling Group

Description	Number of Children	
	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
Total Children Adopted As Part of A Sibling Group	464	471
Total Children with Siblings	490	495
Percent of Children With Sibling Adopted by the Same Family	95%	95%

**Number of Adoptive Families Adopting Children
as Part of a Sibling Group**

Sibling Size	Number of Families	
	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
Adopted 2 siblings	135	137
Adopted 3 siblings	47	48
Adopted 4 siblings	7	7
Adopted 5 siblings	5	5

Sex of Children With Finalized Adoptions

Sex	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
Male	387	493	529	421	477
Female	444	578	589	433	466
Grand Total	831	1,071	1,118	854	943

Exhibit H

Comparative Cost Per Child Per Month Adoption Assistance Costs vs. Foster Care Costs

Biennia	Cost Per Month Per Child for Adoption Assistance	Cost Per Month Per Child If Remaining in Foster Care*	Increased Cost Per Child, If Remaining in Foster Care
1997-1999	\$ 334	\$ 916	\$ 581
1999-2001	\$ 371	\$ 959	\$ 589
2001-2003	\$ 397	\$ 990	\$ 593
2003-2005	\$ 400	\$ 987	\$ 587

*Including special rate foster care

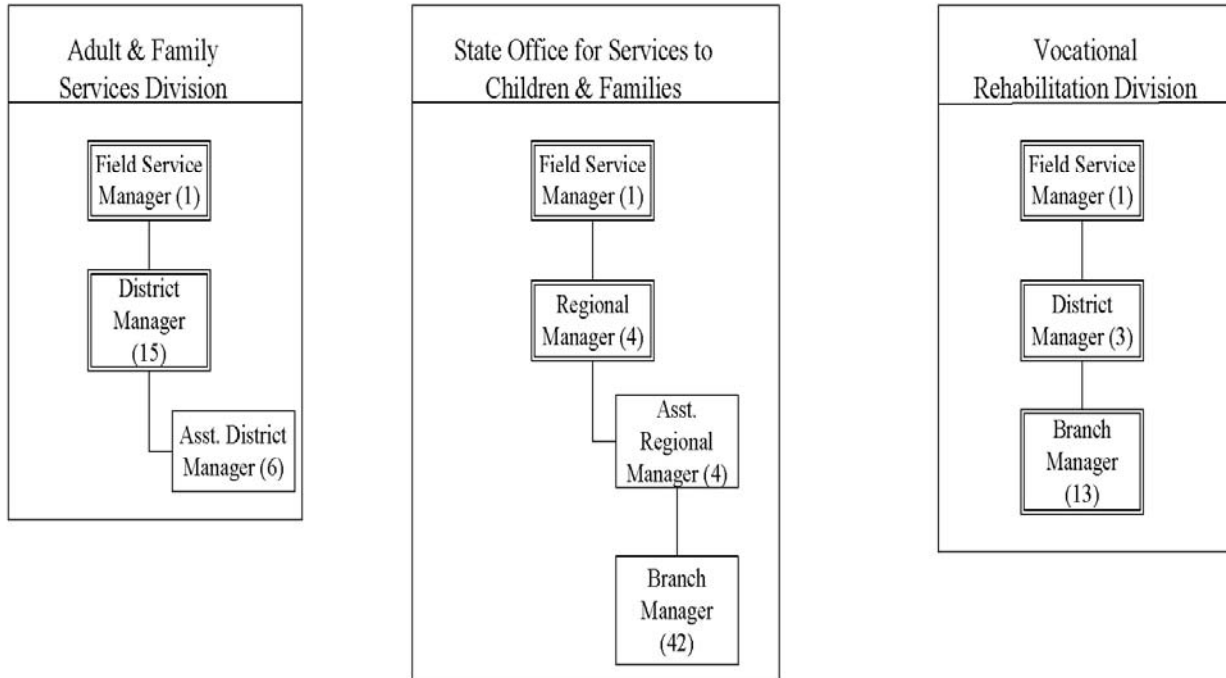
Net Increase in the Cost If Children Remained in Foster Care

Biennia	Increased Cost Per Child, If Remaining in Foster Care	Estimated Number of Children	Average Monthly Cost, All Children	Biennial Cost, All Children	Total Cumulative Cost
1997-1999	\$ 581	1,746	\$ 1,015,264	\$ 24,366,338	\$ 24,366,338
1999-2001	\$ 589	1,746	\$ 1,028,150	\$ 24,675,589	\$ 36,858,758
2001-2003	\$ 593	1,746	\$ 1,034,749	\$ 24,833,987	\$ 49,354,950
2003-2005	\$ 587	1,746	\$ 1,025,356	\$ 24,608,543	\$ 61,546,500

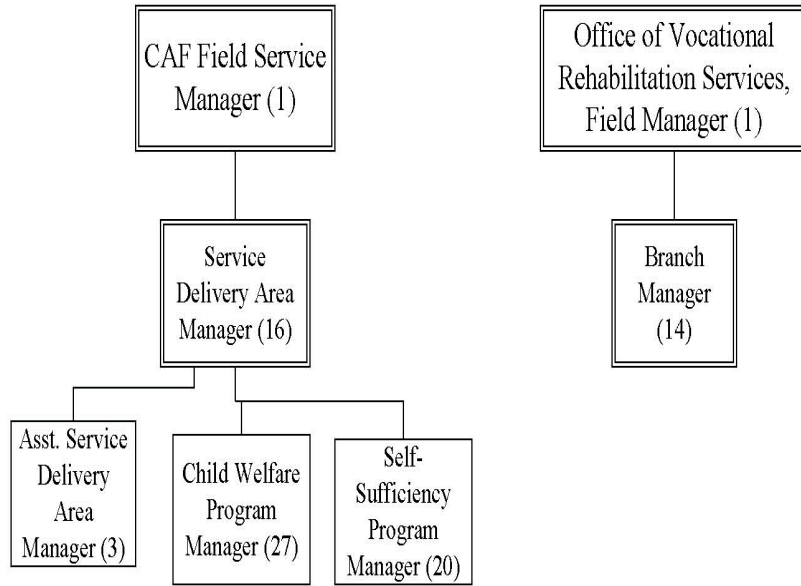
*Including special rate foster care

Exhibit I

Former DHS Field Structure



Current DHS Field Structure



The difference between the former structure and the current structure totals eight (8) positions.

We eliminated one (1) Field Manager, seven (7) Assistant Managers, and six (6) Regional / District Managers. We added six (6) Branch / Program Managers.

Exhibit J

Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) Copay Chart

The ERDC copay is determined by a formula based on household size and income.

The following are examples of copay amounts in \$100 increments.

The average copay for all families receiving ERDC is \$119/month.

Family Size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Family Income							
1-597	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
700	37	25	25	25	25	25	25
800	51	25	25	25	25	25	25
900	68	38	25	25	25	25	25
1,000	88	53	33	25	25	25	25
1,100	113	71	45	30	25	25	25
1,200	142	93	59	41	29	25	25
1,300	178	117	76	54	40	25	25
1,400	221	146	94	67	53	27	25
1,500	273	180	115	83	66	38	30
1,600	OVI	219	140	101	82	50	41
1,700		265	168	121	99	64	53
1,800		319	200	144	117	79	66
1,900		381	237	170	138	95	80
2,000		OVI	280	200	160	113	95
2,100			328	233	185	132	111
2,200			384	271	213	154	129
2,300			448	313	243	177	148
2,400			OVI	362	277	203	169
2,500				417	314	231	192
2,600				479	355	261	216
2,700				550	401	295	243
2,800				OVI	450	332	271
2,900					505	372	302
3,000					566	416	335
3,100					633	465	372
3,200					OVI	518	411
3,300						576	453
3,400						640	499
3,500						709	549
3,600						OVI	603
3,700							661
3,800							725
3,900							793
4,000							OVI