

Juan F. v Rell
Revised Exit Plan
Modified as of July 11, 2006

Civil Action No. H-89-859 (AHN)

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Introduction

1. The Monitor reserves the rights, authorities and responsibilities granted in the Monitoring Order of December 1, 1992 as modified, and all the rights, authorities and responsibilities granted in the October 7, 2003 Stipulation and Order (No. 447) all of which are incorporated in this Exit Plan by reference.
2. The Monitor reserves the right to modify the measurement procedures to be used to determine and sustain compliance with any outcome measure herein until July 1, 2004 after which time, there shall be no changes except as may be ordered by the Court. LINK and other reporting options will be finalized during this period.
3. The *Juan F.* class is:
 - A. All children who are now, or will be, in the care, custody, or supervision of the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Youth Services as a result of being abused, neglected or abandoned or being found at risk of such maltreatment; and
 - B. All children about whom the Department knows, or should know by virtue of a report to the Department, who are now, or will be, abused, neglected or abandoned, or who are now, or will be, at serious risk of such maltreatment.
4. The United States District Court for the District of Connecticut retains continuing jurisdiction over this action until the Court terminates such jurisdiction.
5. The Defendants must be in compliance with all of the outcome measures, and in sustained compliance with all of the outcome measures for at least two quarters (six months) prior to asserting compliance and shall maintain compliance through any decision to terminate jurisdiction. The Court Monitor shall then conduct a review of a statistically significant valid sample of cases files at 96% confidence level, and such other measurements as are necessary, to determine whether Defendants are in compliance. The Court Monitor shall then present findings and recommendations to the District Court. The parties shall have a meaningful opportunity to be heard by the Court Monitor before rendering his findings and recommendations.
6. This Exit Plan delineates specific outcome measures whose achievement are a prerequisite for termination the Court's jurisdiction over this action. Specific definitions, guidelines, interpretations and measurement methodology are listed for each outcome measure. The only enforceable measurements are the actual outcome measure that are bolded and placed in text boxes.

7. The Defendants shall provide funding and other resources necessary to fully implement the Exit Plan.
8. Reporting is required on a quarterly basis unless otherwise stated within this document. Enhancements to LINK are underway to allow for fully automated reporting on Outcome Measures 1,2,4,9,10,16,17,20,21, and 22. Timeframes to implement and test the LINK system capabilities in regard to each measure will be staggered over the next several months. Currently the Department can report on measures 2,5,6,8,9, 12, 14, 18, 22 and partial reporting for 19. Outcome measure 1, 16, and 17 cannot be reported until such time that the enhancements are completed in the summer of 2004. Outcome measures 5, 7, 11 and 12 will officially be reported with a minimum six-month delay due to the logic required in capturing the forward performance measurement or discharge information. The Outcome Measure reporting requirements for Outcomes 3,4,10,15,20, and 21 will initially be met via case review conducted by the DCF Quality Improvement Division. Once measures 4, 10, 20 and 21 are automated, IS will assume LINK reporting responsibility and those elements will be eliminated from the case review protocol. Outcome measures 13 and 19 will require non-automated reporting.
9. The Court Monitor will conduct case reviews to produce annual reports documenting the Department of Children and Families' performance and progress toward achieving the outcome measures defined within this Exit Plan, except Outcome Measures 3 and 15, for which there will be separate quarterly case record reviews. The annual report concerning 2006 data will include a synopsis of the quantitative data provided by DCF in the third and fourth quarters of the calendar year of 2006, as well as the quantitative and qualitative findings from the research questions documented in the attached addendum document. This report will be filed with the Court in April of 2007. Subsequent annual reports will include a synopsis of the quantitative data provided by DCF, as well as the quantitative and qualitative findings for those subsequent calendar years from the research questions documented in the attached addendum document.
10. Until jurisdiction over this matter is terminated by the Court, the parties agree that the DCF Court Monitor shall have discretion to conduct and provide for such additional reporting and case reviews that are consistent with the terms of the Revised Exit Plan of July 1, 2004, as modified, and under any other applicable Court orders.

Outcome Measure 1: Commencement of Investigation

DCF shall assure that at least 90% of all reports of children alleged to be abused, or neglected, shall be prioritized, assigned and the investigation shall commence within the timeframes specified below.

If the report of child abuse or neglect is determined by the DCF Hotline to be...

- A. A situation in which failure to respond immediately could result in the death of, or serious injury to a child, then the response time for commencing an investigation is the same calendar day Hotline accepts the report.**
- B. A non-life threatening situation that is severe enough to warrant a 24-hour response to secure the safety of the child and to access the appropriate and available witnesses, then the response time for commencing an investigation is 24 hours.**
- C. A non-life threatening situation that, because of the age or condition of the child, the response time for commencing an investigation is 72 hours.**

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. "Investigation" is the fact-finding process that gathers information beginning at the report-taking phase of allegations of child abuse or neglect at the Hotline and culminates in a documented determination of substantiation, non-substantiation, or regulatory violation. The assigned investigator must acquire and analyze information to determine whether a child has been abused or neglected and is in need of protective services or other services offered by the Department or the community to ameliorate identified risks. (See DCF Policy 34-4-2)
2. The "commencement of an investigation" occurs when the DCF investigator attempts to make face-to-face contact with the parent or person responsible for the child's care, and/or with the child (ren). An "attempt" at face-to-face contact is made when the investigator visits the home, school or other setting, in an effort to interview the child (ren) and family members regarding the allegations of abuse or neglect. (See DCF Policy 34-4)
3. A "report of alleged abuse, neglect, or a child in danger of abuse or neglect" comes into existence when the DCF hotline accepts a complaint for investigation and designates a response time for the commencement of the investigation.
4. "Abuse" as defined by DCF Policy 34-2-7 is "a non-accidental injury to a child, which regardless of motive is inflicted or allowed to be inflicted by the person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care; by the person given access to the child/ or by the person entrusted with the child's care; or is any injury at variance with the given history; or is a condition which is the result of maltreatment such as, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment."

5. "Neglect" as defined by DCF Policy 34-2-7 is "a state of being denied proper care and attention physically, educationally, emotionally, or morally; or being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to an individual's well being; being abused; and/or having been abandoned."
6. A report is "prioritized" by the DCF Hotline when it designates a response time of the same calendar day, 24, or 72 hours for the commencement of the investigation.
7. A report is "assigned" when the DCF area office designates an investigator to commence the investigation within the time frames specified in this outcome measure.
8. The Hotline shall determine the primary language of the family, if possible, so the case is assigned to an investigator who speaks that language, or DCF shall secure an interpreter to accompany the investigator.

Measurement Procedure to be used by Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through LINK quarterly reports. The percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 1 is all reports of abuse or neglect accepted at the Hotline during each reporting quarter, beginning January 1, 2004.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Phase One LINK enhancements will not be in place for reporting on the first quarter, 2004. Initial reporting using the newly defined commencement requirements is expected August 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented achievement of this outcome measure in LINK, for two consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this outcome measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 2: Completion of the Investigation

At least 85% of all reports of alleged child maltreatment accepted by the DCF Hotline shall have their investigations completed within 45 calendar days of acceptance by the Hotline.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. The completion of the investigation occurs when the investigator has interviewed each family member, including the parents, other adults and all children in the home as well as necessary collateral contacts and the investigator's DCF supervisor verifies the investigator's determination of substantiation or non-substantiation and the determination is entered in LINK.
2. Workers who speak the primary language of the family shall conduct investigations or an interpreter shall accompany the investigators.
3. The "investigation universe" to be reported quarterly would be all investigations, including special investigations conducted by Hotline staff.

Measurement Procedure to be used by Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through LINK quarterly reports. The percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter. DCF will report quarterly on the barriers to meeting this measure.
 - a. The universe for outcome measure two is all reports of abuse or neglect accepted at the Hotline during each reporting quarter, beginning January 1, 2004.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented achievement of this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this outcome measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 3: Treatment Plans

In at least 90% of the cases, except probate, interstate, and subsidy only cases, appropriate treatment plans shall be developed as set forth in the “DCF Court Monitor’s 2006 Protocol for Outcome Measures 3 and 15” dated June 29, 2006, and the accompanying “Directional Guide for OM3 and OM15 Reviews” dated June 29, 2006.

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Outcome Measure 4: Search for Relatives

If a child(ren) must be removed from his/her home, DCF shall conduct and document a search for maternal and paternal relatives, extended formal or informal networks, friends of the child or family, former foster parents, or other persons known to the child. The search period shall extend through the first six (6) months following removal from home. The search shall be conducted and documented in at least 85% of the cases.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. Temporary placement with relatives to whom the child is emotionally attached and who can ensure the child's safety may be the most desirable arrangement.
2. Placement with a relative or non-relative caretaker with whom the child is familiar requires the completion of an assessment for a relative licensure, independent license or special study license.
3. "Search for Relative...." as it pertains to this outcome measure is primarily for the purpose of placement. It may also include a search for visiting resources, respite or other supportive purpose.
4. As indicated, "The search period shall extend through the first six (6) months following removal from home." However, case practice should be encouraged to initiate a search prior to removal, when the worker is initially assessing the family's strengths; upon determining removal may be eminent; and continuously from that point forward as changes in the family circumstances warrant.
5. The search should be documented and updated utilizing the new LINK capabilities at frequent intervals.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through DCF quarterly outcome reports.
 - a. The universe includes all children entering out of home during each quarter of measurement from January 1, 2004 forward, except for those children in out of home care under the voluntary services program. Until such time that the LINK system is available to produce reports on the full universe, the QID will incorporate this outcome measure into its quarterly case review process and report on those cases falling into this universe of clients.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.

2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 5: Repeat Maltreatment of Children

No more than 7% of the children who are victims of substantiated maltreatment during any six-month period shall be the substantiated victims of additional maltreatment during any subsequent six-month period. This outcome shall begin to be measured within the six-month period beginning January 1, 2004.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through a LINK six-month outcome report.
 - a. The universe includes all children for which there is a substantiation of abuse or neglect in the biological, adoptive or guardian home during each six-month period⁴ beginning January 1, 2004 forward.
 - b. Semi-annual reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each reporting period. Initial reporting is expected February 15, 2005.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for one (1) six (6) month period and maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

⁴ Slight Deviation Noted: The DCF Information Systems Division has advised that the measurement will be consistent with the federal reporting requirements for repeat maltreatment, and will use a range of 8 to 183 day timeframe rather than 6 calendar months from the date of the 1st substantiation in the reporting period.

Outcome Measure 6: Maltreatment of Children in Out-of-Home Care

No more than 2% of the children in out-of-home care on or after January 1, 2004 shall be the victims of substantiated maltreatment by substitute caregivers while in out-of-home care.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. Maltreatment by parents or guardians while the child is in out-of-home care is not counted for the purpose of this measurement.
2. Regulatory violations are not considered substantiations, and shall be handled as specified in DCF policy.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through LINK quarterly outcome reports.
 - a. The universe for this outcome measure includes all children in out of home care (including those in voluntary placement) during each reporting quarter from January 1, 2004 forward.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 7: Reunification

At least 60% of all children who are reunified with their parents or guardians shall be reunified within 12 months of their most recent removal from the child's home.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. DCF shall report quarterly on the number of children who are reunified, and what percentage of those, were reunified within 12 months of the child's removal from his/her home.
 - a. The universe for this population will consist of all children reunified (excluding voluntary service cases) during any given quarter beginning January 1, 2004 onward.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected November 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 8: Adoption

At least 32% of the children who are adopted shall have their adoptions finalized within 24 months of the child's most recent removal from his/her home.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. DCF shall report quarterly on the number of children who are adopted, and what percentage of those are adopted within 24 months of the child's removal from his/her home.
 - a. The universe for this population will consist of all children adopted during any given quarter beginning January 1, 2004 onward.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with the measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 9: Transfer of Guardianship

At least 70% of all children, whose custody is legally transferred, shall have their guardianship transferred within 24 months of the child's most recent removal from their home.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. DCF shall report quarterly on the number of children whose guardianship is legally transferred, and what percentage of those was legally transferred within 24 months of the child's removal from their home.
 - a. The universe for this population will consist of all children for which there was a transfer of guardianship during any given quarter beginning January 1, 2004 onward.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 10: Sibling Placement

At least 95% of the siblings entering out-of-home placement shall be placed together unless there are documented therapeutic reasons for separate placements.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. Therapeutic reasons include such things but are not limited to situations where siblings are placed with multiple relatives, one (1) sibling requires hospitalization and others do not, one (1) sibling requires detention, or where siblings were abused by another sibling, etc. The therapeutic reason the siblings must be placed apart shall be documented in LINK by the DCF supervisor.
2. "Siblings" are defined as at least two children who share, at minimum, one biological or adoptive parent, or who reside in the home and have relationship through parents/guardians who have an adult legal relationship (i.e. step-siblings).
3. The universe of siblings is limited to children under the custody of DCF with a legal status of "OTC", "committed" or "commitment-dual". TPR children are excluded from this universe of children.
4. "Placement" relates to the coinciding initial out of home placement and subsequent placement changes of sibling groups on or after January 1, 2004.
5. Partial compliance (i.e. two children together, with one in another resource without a documented therapeutic reason) does not achieve the standard. This is an all or nothing measurement.
6. The enhanced LINK monitoring system uses the term "clinical reasons". For our purpose, the definition of clinical reasons is consistent with the term "therapeutic reasons" above. "Non-clinical reasons" would be those reasons related to lack of resource; time of placement (i.e. after hours), size of sibling group, or other reason not related to the clinical/therapeutic needs of the children.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. DCF shall report quarterly on this outcome measure. Once LINK enhancements are in place to report on this measure, the percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter. Prior to that period, the Quality Improvement Division will include questions related to this measure in their quarterly review process.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 10 includes all siblings entering out of home care on or after January 1, 2004. Voluntary placement cases, and children with a legal status of TPR will be excluded. Until such time that the LINK system is available to produce reports on the full universe, the QID will incorporate this outcome measure into its quarterly case review process and report on those cases falling into this universe of clients.

Subsequent sibling placement changes occurring after January 1, 2004 will also be captured and reported.

- b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 11: Re-Entry into DCF Custody

Of all children who enter DCF custody, seven (7)% or fewer shall have re-entered care within 12 months of the prior out-of-home placement.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through LINK quarterly reports. The percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 11 includes all children entering out of home care (excluding voluntary services placements) during each quarter on or after January 1, 2004.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Due to the LINK logic required to report on this outcome measure a six-month lag time is required. Initial reporting is expected November 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 12: Multiple Placements

Beginning on January 1, 2004, at least 85% of the children in DCF custody shall experience no more than three (3) placements during any 12-month period.

Definitions:

1. This includes Safe Home placements but excludes respite, hospitalizations of less than seven (7) days, home visits, runaways or children sent to the Connecticut Juvenile Training School.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through LINK quarterly reports. The percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 12 includes all children in out of home placement (excluding voluntary service placements) on or after January 1, 2004.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting on the annual cycle indicated in the outcome measure above is expected May 15, 2005.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 13: Foster Parent Training

Licensed DCF foster or pre-adoptive parents shall be offered 45 hours of post-licensing training within 18 months of initial licensure and at least 9 hours each subsequent year. This measure does not apply to relative, special study or independently licensed foster parents for whom 9 hours of pre-service training are required.

Definitions:

1. The Department will ensure that all modules requiring social worker attendance are attended by social workers. The Department will also hold training sessions near foster parents, offer daycare, night and weekend training sessions and other inducements to make it likely that foster parents can attend the training. Attendance at training will be a factor considered in licensure or re-licensure of foster parents.
2. Training shall be offered in the primary language of the foster parents.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Department must report aggregate quarterly training schedules and sessions held for each of the modules, for each of the area offices. For those modules that require worker participation, the name and title of that individual should be identified. Language of training must also be indicated.
2. In addition to the aggregate reports, this outcome measure will also be monitored via FASU Support worker documentation of the training offered using the LINK Provider maintenance and narrative screens. This documentation will provide the necessary verification of course offerings, and language requirement via case review in 2005 and 2006.
3. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure.

Outcome Measure 14: Placement Within Licensed Capacity

At least 96% of all children placed in foster homes shall be in foster homes operating within their licensed capacity, except when necessary to accommodate sibling groups.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. The placement of the sibling group must be the cause of the overcapacity to allow the exception and this must be documented in LINK. Homes already overcapacity at the time of sibling placement will not be allowed an exception.
2. "Siblings" are defined as at least two children who share, at minimum, one biological or adoptive parent, or who reside in the home and have relationship through parents/guardians who have an adult legal relationship (i.e. step siblings).

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through LINK quarterly reports. The percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 14 includes all children in foster home placement (both DCF and private provider) during each quarter beginning January 1, 2004 forward.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 15: Children's Needs Met

At least 80% of all families and children shall have all their medical, dental, mental health and other service needs met as set forth in the "DCF Court Monitor's 2006 Protocol for Outcome Measures 3 and 15" dated June 29, 2006, and the accompanying "Directional Guide for OM3 and OM15 Reviews" dated June 29, 2006.

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Outcome Measure 16: Worker-Child Visitation (Out-of-Home)

DCF shall visit at least 85% of all out-of-home children at least once a month, except for probate, interstate or voluntary cases. All children must be seen by their DCF social worker at least quarterly.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. Children in out-of-home placement, pre-adoptive placements, and therapeutic foster home placements can be visited by other social workers (ICPC or private agency) if the visit is at least once a calendar month and a report documenting the substantive content of the visit is sent to DCF and entered into LINK.
2. These requirements are minimal, especially for younger children who are most vulnerable to maltreatment. Such children shall be visited more frequently and this shall be documented in LINK.

Measurement to be used by the Monitor:

1. DCF shall report quarterly on this outcome measure. The percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter.
 - a. The universe is all children in out of home care during each quarter beginning January 1, 2004 (excluding probate, interstate and voluntary cases for the monthly measurement)
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. There are two LINK reporting formats in this outcome measure. The measure calls for all children in out of home care to be seen at least quarterly by DCF staff, and 85% to be seen monthly by either DCF staff or ICPC/private provider social workers. Therefore the logic would be applied independently:
 - a. What percentage of children placed are seen on a monthly basis by DCF/ICPC/private agency social workers?
 - b. What percentage of children in placement, regardless of where that placement is geographically, has been seen in the last quarter by his/her DCF worker?
3. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 17: Worker-Child Visitation (In-Home)

DCF shall visit at least 85% of all in-home family cases at least twice a month, except for probate, interstate or voluntary cases.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. Twice monthly visitation must be documented with each active child participant in the case. Visitation occurring in the home, school or other community setting will be considered for Outcome Measure 17.

Measurement to be used by the Monitor:

1. DCF shall report quarterly on this outcome measure. The percentage will be determined by averaging the three (3) months in each quarter.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 17 is all children active within in-home family cases (excluding probate, interstate and voluntary services cases) during each quarter beginning January 1, 2004 onward.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure.

Outcome Measure 18: Caseload Standards

By July 1, 2004 the caseload of no DCF social worker shall exceed the following caseload standards, with exceptions for emergency reasons on caseloads, lasting no more than 30 days:

- A. Investigators shall have no more than 17 investigative cases at any time.**
- B. In-Home treatment workers shall have no more than 15 cases at any time.**
- C. Out-of-Home treatment workers shall have no more than 20 individual children assigned to them at any time. This includes voluntary placements.**
- D. Adoption and adolescent specialty workers shall have no more than 20 cases at any time.**
- E. Probate workers shall have no more than 35 cases at any time. When the probate or interstate worker is also assigned to provide services to the family, those families shall be counted as in home treatment cases with a ratio of 1:20 cases.**
- F. Social workers with in-home voluntary and interstate compact cases shall have no more than 49 cases at any time.**
- G. A worker with a mixed caseload shall not exceed the maximum weighted caseload derived from the caseload standards in A through F above.**
- H. These standards supercede those of Order No. 441 dated July 29, 2003.**

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through LINK daily reports.
 - a. The universe for this outcome measure is all caseload carrying DCF social workers and social worker trainees during each quarter beginning January 1, 2004 onward.
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 19: Reduction in the Number of Children Placed in Residential Care

The number of children placed in privately operated residential treatment care shall not exceed 11% of the total number of children in DCF out-of-home care.

The circumstances of all children in-state and out-of-state residential facilities shall be assessed after the Court's approval of this Exit Plan on a child specific basis to determine if their needs can be met in a less restrictive setting. The placement of any additional children out-of-state after the approval of this plan shall require the approval of the Transition Task Force.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. Residential treatment facilities are 24-hour mental health facilities, which operate for the purpose of effecting positive change and normal growth and development for emotionally disturbed, behavioral disordered and socially maladjusted youth. Children are referred through a holistic treatment plan involving DCF staff and mental health professionals. Target Population: seriously emotionally disturbed children up to age 18. State operated facilities; stand-alone group homes, Safe Homes, and juvenile justice 24-hour facilities are not included in this measure.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. DCF will report on the number of children in in-state and out-of-state residential facilities in addition to the number of new admissions and discharges from residential facilities on a quarterly basis.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 19 will be all children⁵ in in-state and out-of-state residential facilities.
 - b. DCF should identify the following groups of children in residential care to generate a more accurate portrayal of children who are eligible for less restrictive settings:
 - i. Children for whom mental retardation levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMR system,
 - ii. Children in facilities via voluntary placement per the request of parent,
 - iii. Children for whom mental health levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMHAS system, and
 - iv. Children with medically complex status requiring intensive facility settings through transition to adult facility care

The Monitor may take this additional information into account when determining compliance with Outcome Measure 19.

- c. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected July 15, 2004.

⁵ The Court Monitor reserves the right to grant exceptions on an individual child basis when deemed appropriate.

2. DCF will report on its aggregate assessments of the needs of all children placed residentially sorted by in state and out-of-state.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 19 will be all children in in-state and out-of-state residential facilities.
 - b. DCF should identify the following groups of children in residential care to generate a more accurate portrayal of children who are eligible for less restrictive settings:
 - i. Children for whom mental retardation levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMR system,
 - ii. Children in facilities via voluntary placement per the request of parent,
 - iii. Children for whom mental health levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMHAS system, and
 - iv. Children with medically complex status requiring intensive facility settings through transition to adult facility care
 - c. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.
3. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified compliance with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 20: Discharge Measures

At least 85% of all children age 18 or older shall have achieved one or more of the following prior to discharge from DCF custody:

- A. Graduation from High School**
- B. Acquisition of a GED**
- C. Enrollment in or completion of college or other post secondary training program full-time.**
- D. Enrollment in college or other post secondary training program part-time with part-time employment.**
- E. Full-time Employment**
- F. Enlistment full-time member of the military**

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. "Adolescent Discharge Plan" is the written working document between the youth, service providers and the DCF, developed at least 180 days prior to the youth's anticipated discharge from the Department's care. Items to be documented should include, but are not limited to: estimated date youth will leave DCF care; the youth's anticipated living arrangement at that juncture, an estimated budget, sources and amount of income/assets; assistance to be provided by DCF, schedule for worker/youth visitation, any other plans or agencies' assistance to facilitate the youth's discharge from DCF care, and to facilitate their ability to maintain permanency post discharge.
2. Those youth, upon reaching the age of majority and who refuse continued DCF services against the advice and treatment plan goals of the Department, shall be documented and reported separately. Once the total of this subcategory is calculated, this population will be subtracted from the universe studied for Outcome Measure 20.
3. Those youth with significant or profound developmental delays, or who have been diagnosed with significant anomalies or mental retardation levels that preclude attainment of Outcome Measure 20 will be identified and excluded from this universe. Performance will be measured for this youth group via Outcome Measure 21.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through quarterly outcome reports. Initial reports will be provided via sample case review conducted by the Quality Improvement Division. LINK reporting on the universe population will be implemented by December 2004. DCF is required to report quarterly on the barriers to meeting this measure.
 - a. The universe is all youth discharged from care each quarter beginning on January 1, 2004 forward (excluding Probate, Interstate and Voluntary Services⁶ cases).
 - b. Subcategory populations indicated in bullets #2 and #3 above shall be documented and reported separately from the remaining discharge population when determining final performance percentage for Outcome Measure 20.
 - c. The Department should report on those children who had not achieved any of the required measures at discharge, but who were in the active process of doing so. Specifically: youth attending high school or GED classes and/or holding part time employment at point of discharge.
 - d. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented attainment of this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

⁶ Clarification: Voluntary Services as indicated above refers to those cases in which a parent/ guardian requests Departmental services and support for their child, usually as a result of the child being impaired by an emotional, behavioral, or mental health disturbance or disorder. It does not apply to youth over the age of 18 who are required to sign a service agreement form to continue services from the Department, and, therefore, are in effect "voluntary clients" as they may choose to terminate services at any point.

Outcome Measure 21: Discharge of Mentally Ill or Retarded Children

DCF shall submit a written discharge plan to either/or DMHAS or DMR for all children who are mentally ill or mentally retarded and require adult services.

Definitions and Clarification:

1. The written discharge plan referenced above is the "Adolescent Discharge Plan". This is the written working document between the youth, service providers and the DCF, developed at least 180 days prior to the youth's anticipated discharge from the Department's care. Items to be documented should include, but are limited to: estimated date youth will leave DCF care; the youth's anticipated living arrangement at that juncture, an estimated budget, sources and amount of income/assets; assistance to be provided by DCF, schedule for worker/youth visitation, any other plans or agencies' assistance to facilitate the youth's discharge from DCF care, and to facilitate their ability to maintain permanency post discharge.
 - Adult Services should be continued within the community that the transitioning client is located at the point of discharge to minimize disruptions in treatment.
2. DCF Policy 42-20-35 states:
Interagency coordination shall be required for youth in the following situations:
 - *DCF and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall coordinate for Department youth who are:*
 - *in residential care due to mental health issues and require further treatment*
 - *on psychotropic medication and are entering the community mental health system or*
 - *in need of continuing clinical services.*
 - *DCF and the Department of Mental Retardation shall coordinate for Department youth who are:*
 - *in residential care due to mental retardation and require continued care after DCF discharge*
 - *leaving DCF care whose diagnostic assessment/evaluation meets DMR minimum eligibility criteria.*
3. Additionally, referrals to DMHAS and/or DMR will be made only for those children or adolescents who are committed to DCF or who are dually committed, or who have been accepted into the DCF Voluntary Services Program and who meet the promulgated eligibility criteria to receive services from DMR or DMHAS as specified below:
 - For DMR, mental retardation is defined in the Connecticut General Statutes as significantly sub average general intellectual functioning

existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior, which are manifested during the developmental period.

- For DMHAS, eligibility is limited to those individuals who have a severe and persistent major mental illness (such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder) of sufficient degree and duration that the provision of ongoing public-sector behavioral health services is necessitated. Individuals with a primary diagnosis of mental retardation and/or autistic spectrum disorder an/or other developmental disorder do not meet the eligibility criteria of DMHAS and it is expected that referrals to DMHAS will not be made for said individuals.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. The Monitor shall determine if this outcome has been achieved through quarterly outcome reports. The Quality Improvement Division will provide initial reports via case review. DCF is required to report quarterly on the barriers to meeting this measure.
 - a. The universe is all children discharged from care and requiring adult services on or after January 1, 2004 (excluding probate, interstate and voluntary cases)
 - b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.
2. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

Outcome Measure 22: Multi-disciplinary Exams (MDE)

At least 85% of the children entering the custody of DCF for the first time shall have an MDE conducted within 30 days of placement.

Definitions and Clarifications:

1. A written report documenting the results of the MDE is due to DCF before treatment planning conference.
2. The MDE is not required for children entering care from hospital settings of greater than 7 days, in which age appropriate medical and mental health evaluations have been documented in LINK.
3. All cases of children in care greater than 30 days should have a multi-disciplinary examination completed for use in case planning, even if one cannot be completed and reported to DCF for inclusion in the initial treatment planning conference.

Specific to this requirement:

- a. The requirement for MDE applies only in those cases in which a child or youth has entered care for the first time, and that placement exceeds 30 days. Therefore, the universe for Outcome Measure 22 will exclude all children in placement for less than 30 days on the date of measurement.
- b. As a measure of good practice, if a prior placement episode ended in less than 30 days with no documented MDE (or there is no evidence of an MDE in a prior placement episode lasting greater than 30 days) the worker may initiate the MDE process as if the most recent placement were an initial placement.

Measurements to be used by the Monitor:

1. Until such time that LINK enhancements are realized, the quarterly reporting will be based upon current LINK capabilities.⁷
3. The Monitor shall find that DCF has complied with this outcome measure when DCF has documented this outcome measure in LINK for two (2) consecutive quarters, maintains compliance through exit from this action, and the Monitor has verified with this measure. The Department must achieve sustained compliance with all 22 Outcome Measures prior to requesting the verification process outlined in the Introduction of this document (Bullet 5).

⁷ The Monitor acknowledges that a slight over reporting of the number of MDE's not completed in a timely manner may occur during this initial reporting period due to the additional exception codes that will not be present.

**Appendix: Research Questions, Logic, Measurement Elements and
Identified Variables for Revised Exit Plan of July 1, 2004**

Outcome Measure 1: Commencement of Investigation

DCF shall assure that at least 90% of all reports of children alleged to be abused, or neglected, shall be prioritized, assigned and the investigation shall commence within the timeframes specified below.

If the report of child abuse or neglect is determined by the DCF Hotline to be...

- A. A situation in which failure to respond immediately could result in the death of, or serious injury to a child, then the response time for commencing an investigation is the same calendar day Hotline accepts the report.**
- B. A non-life threatening situation that is severe enough to warrant a 24 hour response to secure the safety of the child and to access the appropriate and available witnesses, then the response time for commencing an investigation is 24 hours.**
- C. A non-life threatening situation that, because of the age or condition of the child, the response time for commencing an investigation is 72 hours.**

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the timing requirement for commencement of investigations. Initial quarterly reporting will be available August 15, 2004. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is in the process of development based upon pending changes indicated below¹:

Commencement of Investigation:

Currently pending changes to existing LINK functions.

Modifications to be made in phase one (Summer 2004) are:

- Removal of "Extension" button and functionality*
- Addition of Response time information button*
- Change in layout of the LINK window to include Response Time Compliance information, as well as the current Commencement date, and the new Commencement Time fields.*
- LINK e-help to provide guidance and nuances related to Compliance Time Frames.*

¹ Documentation taken directly from the LINK Modifications to Support Juan F. Exit Outcomes Presentation of April 13, 2004.

Outcome Measure 2: Completion of the Investigation

At least 85% of all reports of alleged child maltreatment accepted by the DCF Hotline shall have their investigations completed within 45 calendar days of acceptance by the Hotline.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the timing requirement for completion of investigations within 45 days. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below²:

Investigation Completion

Data Source: LINK

A query of the LINK database will be conducted to determine all investigations completed during the period. For each investigation completed during the period, the CPS report accept date will be subtracted from the investigation completion date to determine the number of days the investigation was open. (Completion of the Investigation occurs when a Supervisor Approves the Investigation in LINK).

In addition, a qualitative review shall be conducted by the Monitor's Office on the first two quarters of practice during 2005 (report produced September 2005) and 2006 (report produced September 2006). A review process will also be initiated at the point of DCF assertion of compliance with the 22 outcomes. At these junctures, the following research questions will provide the basis for data collection and analysis:

1. Did the investigation commence within the stated time frame established at the Hotline?
2. Was an additional report accepted and merged with seven days of the initial accepted report?
3. Were any additional reports accepted after seven days from initial acceptance, but prior to the completion of that investigation?
4. Was the investigation completed in 45 days from acceptance at Hotline?
5. Was the initial investigation interview with the alleged perpetrator and identified family members conducted in their primary language?
6. Was the investigation conducted per policy with adherence to the required protocol DCF 2074: with all identified case participants interviewed, all required collateral contacts made, (or documentation provided for the social worker's inability to contact) and all safety factors, and needs assessed?
7. Were services identified to maintain a child in the home where applicable?

² On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes for Children "Report Source". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

8. If applicable, was the alleged perpetrator asked to leave the home so that the child (ren) could be maintained in the home during the course of investigation?
9. Did the investigator document his/her attempts to identify relative resources through the course of interview with the family members in the event that removal would be required?
10. Were identified services provided to maintain a child in the home where applicable?
11. Did the SWS document his/her discussion with the investigator related to the investigation assessment and subsequent findings of substantiated/non-substantiated abuse or neglect?
12. Was the 10-day treatment plan developed by the Social Worker to document any family service needs and identify subsequent referrals to community providers in order to address those needs/build upon strengths?

The case review tool will be developed by December 2004 to meet the data collection needs of the research questions above. This will allow the Department to make any desired changes to protocol and policy prior to measurement of qualitative performance.

Outcome Measure 3: Treatment Plans

In at least 90% of the cases, except probate, interstate, and subsidy only cases, appropriate treatment plans shall be developed as set forth in the “DCF Court Monitor’s 2006 Protocol for Outcome Measures 3 and 15” dated June 29, 2006, and the accompanying “Directional Guide for OM3 and OM15 Reviews” dated June 29, 2006.

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Outcome Measure 4: Search for Relatives

If a child(ren) must be removed from his/her home, DCF shall conduct and document a search for maternal and paternal relatives, extended formal or informal networks, friends of the child or family, former foster parents, or other persons known to the child. The search period shall extend through the first six (6) months following removal from home. The search shall be conducted and documented in at least 85% of the cases.

Upon completion of proposed LINK enhancements in late 2004, the LINK system will be able to generate a report indicating the percentage of children for whom a social worker has documented a search for relatives for the purpose of placement, respite, visiting resource, or other supportive resource. LINK enhancements³ include the following items:

- *A new Placement Resource Search window will be created from the Create/Casework functionality for each child in the case.*
- *Development of a new icon to lead to the Resource Search window which will include: case name, child name, removal date, a resource search question "relative resource search" question, a "no resources found check box", and a running narrative document.*

Until such time that the enhancement is tested and verified, the following research questions will be the source of information related to Outcome Measure 4.

1. If a child was removed from home on or after January 1, 2004, did any of the following occur, which documents that DCF conducted an active search for relative and/or other resources (extended formal/informal networks, friends of the child or family, former foster parents or others known to the child):
 - a. Did the worker document his discussions with the parent/guardian regarding possible resource?
 - b. Did the worker document his discussion with the child (if age appropriate) regarding possible resource?
 - c. Did the search include contact with the person(s) identified as possible resource?
 - d. Did the search include background checks on the person(s) identified as possible resource?
 - e. Did the record indicate the reasons for DCF determination of appropriateness or non-appropriateness of the person(s) identified as possible resource?
 - f. Was a special study request made of FASU regarding any person identified as a possible resource?
 - g. Did the worker document that they had exhausted all identified resources, or was he successful in achieving placement known to

³ Documentation is taken from the LINK Modifications to Support Juan F. Exit Outcomes Presentation of April 13, 2004.

child, respite resource, visiting resource or other supportive resource for the child?

- h. Was the child placed with a relative or special study foster home?

Methodological Notes:

The Department's Quality Improvement Division will apply these questions to a quarterly sample of cases representing all area offices.

- a. The universe includes all children coming into care during each quarter beginning January 1, 2004 forward. Voluntary Services Cases will be excluded from this universe.
- b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of the calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.

These questions will also be included in the joint quarterly reviews conducted by DCF and the Court Monitor's Office. The size of the quarterly samples will not be statistically valid but rather, are intended to provide a snapshot/indicator until such time that the LINK enhancements will be available to measure quantitative compliance on the full population.

Additionally, the Monitor will include these elements in the qualitative reviews to be conducted by the Monitor's Office on a sample of all open cases identified, except probate, interstate, and subsidy only cases for the first two quarters of practice during 2005 (report produced September 2005) and 2006 (report produced September 2006). This case review process will also be initiated at the point of DCF assertion of compliance with the 22 outcomes.

Outcome Measure 5: Repeat Maltreatment of Children

No more than 7% of the children who are victims of substantiated maltreatment during any six-month period shall be the substantiated victims of additional maltreatment during any subsequent six-month period. This outcome shall begin to be measured within the six-month period beginning January 1, 2004.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the required percentage of repeat maltreatment for children in DCF involved families in the in-home caseload. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below⁴:

Repeat Maltreatment

Data Source: LINK

Every six months, the Department will determine if this outcome has been achieved through applying the federal reporting logic to produce a six-month outcome report:

- *Query the LINK database to retrieve all investigations completed during the 6-month period to then determine all associated, substantiated allegations (including type), substantiated victims and designated worker and office.*
- *For each substantiated victim, look forward 8 to 183 days to determine if the victim had another substantiated allegation during the period using the CPS Report Incident Date or CPS Report Received Date if there is no valid Incident Date.*
- *Compare the two datasets to determine the substantiated victims contained in both extracts.*
- *Divide the number of repeat victims by the number of total victims to determine percentage of repeat maltreatment.*

Note: CPS Reports that contain the same child(ren) and are less than or equal to 7 days apart are considered as the same incident and would not be counted as Repeat Maltreatment should they fall into both periods of measure.

⁴ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes for Children "Data Mapping". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 6: Maltreatment of Children in Out-of-Home Care

No more than 2% of the children in out-of-home care on or after January 1, 2004 shall be the victims of substantiated maltreatment by substitute caregivers while in out-of-home care.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the percentage requirement for repeat maltreatment of children in out of home placement. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below⁵:

Neglect/Abuse in Custody

Data Source: LINK

Query the LINK database to retrieve all investigations completed during the period to then determine all associated, substantiated allegations (including type), substantiated victims and the date of the associated reports.

Query the LINK database to retrieve all Juan F. Children in open placement during the period.

Compare the two datasets to identify the children contained in both extracts to then compare the CPS Report date to the child's placement begin and end date.

Divide the number of children involved in instances where the CPS report date fell within the placement dates by the total number of Juan F. Children in care during the period.

⁵ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes Data: "Data Mapping". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 7: Reunification

At least 60% of all children who are reunified with their parents or guardians shall be reunified within 12 months of their most recent removal from the child's home.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the timeliness of reunifications. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below⁶:

Reunification

Data Source: LINK

Query the LINK database to retrieve all discharges from care during the period where the discharge reason is reunification (using AFCARS discharge methodology).

Subtract the child's most recent removal from home date from the discharge date.

Divide the number of children whose length of time to reunification was 12 months or less by the total number of children reunified with their parents or primary caretakers during the period.

Note: There is a six-month lag beyond the end of the reporting period required to determine children discharged during the period. First quarter 2004 data will be available November 15, 2004.

⁶ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes Data "Data Mapping". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 8: Adoption

At least 32% of the children who are adopted shall have their adoptions finalized within 24 months of the child's most recent removal from his/her home.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the timeliness of reunifications. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below⁷:

Adoption

Data Source: LINK

Query LINK to retrieve all children who were adopted during the reporting period by determining the Effective Date of the Adoption Court Disposition.

Subtract each child's most recent removal from home date from the Effective date of adoption to determine the months elapsed to adoption.

Divide the number of children adopted within 24 months of entry into care by the total number of children adopted during the reporting period.

⁷ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes Data "Data Mapping". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 9: Transfer of Guardianship

At least 70% of all children, whose custody is legally transferred, shall have their guardianship transferred within 24 months of the child's most recent removal from their home.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the timeliness of transfer of guardianship. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below⁸:

Transfer of Guardianship

Data Source: LINK

Query the LINK database to retrieve all instances of a recorded Court Disposition where the effective date of the transfer of legal guardianship falls within the reporting period.

Subtract each child's most recent removal from home date from the effective date of the transfer of guardianship to determine the number of months between removal and custody transfer.

Divide the number of children whose custody transfer occurred within 24 months of their entry in to care by the total number of children whose custody was transferred during the period.

⁸ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes Data "Data Mapping". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 10: Sibling Placement

At least 95% of the siblings entering out-of-home placement shall be placed together unless there are documented therapeutic reasons for separate placements.

Upon completion of proposed LINK enhancements in late 2004, the LINK system will be able to generate a report indicating the percentage of siblings entering out of home placement who are placed together unless there are documented therapeutic reasons for separate placements. LINK enhancements⁹ include a new pop up window documenting sibling placement information and both therapeutic/clinical reasons and non-clinical reasons for separation where applicable.

Until such time that the enhancement is tested and verified, the following research questions will be the source of information related to Outcome Measure 10.

1. To what extent are siblings entering out of home placement placed together when there is no documented therapeutic reason (term used in LINK will be “clinical reason”) for the separation of the sibling group? (Elements a-f below)
 - a. Was the child a member of a sibling group in which one or more siblings were removed from the home and required DCF placement?
 - b. Were all siblings removed during this incident, placed together?
 - c. Were all siblings placed initially in a Safe Home setting together and then moved to other placements separately or together?
 - d. If the siblings entered placements that did not accommodate all siblings in the group, was there a therapeutic reason for the separation of siblings?
 - e. If initial placement did not maintain the sibling group, and barring any documented therapeutic reasons for separation, were siblings reunited into one placement location?
 - f. As of the date of this review, is the sibling group placed together?

Methodological Notes:

The QID will apply these questions to a quarterly sample of cases representing all area offices.

- a. The universe from which the sample will be drawn will include all children entering care each quarter beginning January 1, 2004 forward. Voluntary cases will be excluded, as will children with a legal status of TPR.

⁹ Documentation taken from the LINK Modifications to Support Juan F. Exit Outcomes Presentation of April 13, 2004.

- b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.

The size of the quarterly samples will not be statistically valid but rather, are intended to provide a snapshot/indicator until such time that the LINK enhancements will be available to measure quantitative compliance on the full population.

These questions will also be included in applicable cases sampled via the joint quarterly reviews conducted by DCF and the Court Monitor's Office.

Additionally, the Monitor will include these elements in the qualitative reviews to be conducted by the Monitor's Office on a sample of all open cases identified, except probate, interstate, and subsidy only cases for the first two quarters of practice during 2005 (report produced September 2005) and 2006 (report produced September 2006). This case review process will also be initiated at the point of DCF assertion of compliance with the 22 outcomes.

Outcome Measure 11: Re-Entry into DCF Custody

Of all children who enter DCF custody, seven (7)% or fewer shall have re-entered care within 12 months of the prior out-of-home placement.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the required percentage for re-entry into out of home care. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below¹⁰:

Re-entry in to DCF Custody

Data Source: LINK

DCF will query the LINK database to retrieve all children entering care during the period of measurement.

DCF will query the LINK database to retrieve the most recent discharge date (prior to the date of entry in step indicated above) if there is any.

DCF will subtract the most recent discharge date from the entry date to determine time between discharge and re-entry.

DCF will divide the number of children re-entering care within twelve months by the number of children entering care during the period.

There will be a six-month lag beyond the end of the reporting period required to determine children discharged during the period. The first quarter 2004 report will be available October 2004.

¹⁰ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes Data "Data Mapping". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 12: Multiple Placements

Beginning on January 1, 2004, at least 85% of the children in DCF custody shall experience no more than three (3) placements during any 12-month period.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting using AFCARS logic will be used to capture compliance with the percentage of multiple placements requirement. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below¹¹:

Multiple Placements

Data Source: LINK

Number of Placements is calculated by determining all children in care during the reporting period and, including the current placement, counting the number of placements each child has experienced during the most recent twelve months using the following criteria:

- Count the number of placements with different Providers. Do not count the same Provider number twice.*
- If the service type for a placement is 174 (medical) or 323 (psychiatric), only count as a placement setting if the length of that placement is greater than 7 days.*
- If service type 603 appears with a placement, it represents a CJTS placement and is not to be counted*

Note: Approximately 10% of the children currently in placement have no Removal From Home date in LINK and, therefore, number of placements cannot be calculated for these children.

¹¹ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes Data "Data Mapping". May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 13: Foster Parent Training

Licensed DCF foster or pre-adoptive parents shall be offered 45 hours of post-licensing training within 18 months of initial licensure and at least 9 hours each subsequent year. This measure does not apply to relative, special study or independently licensed foster parents for whom 9 hours of pre-service training is required.

The Department will provide quarterly aggregate reports upon which the assertion of compliance with the requirement to offer/hold post licensure training modules in sufficient numbers to meet foster parent needs in each of the area offices will be determined. Quarterly reporting will begin May 15, 2004. However, compliance cannot be determined until one full year has transpired to allow for inclusion of the full spectrum of DCF approved trainings across the state.

At such time that the Department asserts compliance with Outcome Measure 13 based upon the aggregate area office information provided quarterly, the Monitor's Office will conduct a case review on the LINK provider records to answer the following qualitative research question:

1. To what extent did the DCF offer necessary training to meet the 45- hour post licensure training requirement or 9-hour subsequent year training requirement for the non-relative DCF foster parent? (Elements a-i below)
 - a. What was the requirement for training for this foster parent during the period of review?
 - b. Was there documentation in LINK of the offer of training modules available to the foster parent during the time period of the review?
 - c. Did the number of hours offered each quarter meet the stated annual requirement for this foster parent?
 - d. How many hours of foster parent training were documented during the period?
 - e. Was the need for training in a language other than English a barrier to the completion of training?
 - f. Was childcare a barrier to the completion of training?
 - g. Was location of the training a barrier to the completion of training?
 - h. Was training schedule a barrier to the completion of training?
 - i. Was the foster parent relicensed during the period of January 1, 2005 – January 1, 2006 without having completed the required DCF post-licensure training requirement?

Outcome Measure 14: Placement Within Licensed Capacity

At least 96% of all children placed in foster homes shall be in foster homes operating within their licensed capacity, except when necessary to accommodate sibling groups.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK Reporting will be used to capture compliance with the percentage of children placed in foster homes operating within their licensed capacity. The logic established by the DCF to be used by the LINK system to capture this measurement is provided below¹²:

Licensed Capacity (formerly Overcrowding)

Data Source: LINK

DCF will query the LINK database to retrieve Provider data for all Juan F. children in foster care placement.

Subtract the Provider's licensed bed capacity from the number of actual placements open with that provider.

Exempt any overcapacity placements involving sibling groups placed together where the placement caused the overcapacity to be exceeded.

Divide the number of children placed in overcapacity homes by the number of Juan F. children in foster care placement.

¹² On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Outcomes Data "Data Mapping". Modification made per conversation with Jay Anderson on May 26, 2004 to ensure only foster care placements were considered, and that this includes relatives, non-relative, special study, independent, medically fragile, private provider, therapeutic, professional parent foster homes within the state of CT. May be subject to enhancement changes through December 2004.

Outcome Measure 15: Children's Needs Met

At least 80% of all families and children shall have all their medical, dental, mental health and other service needs met as set forth in the "DCF Court Monitor's 2006 Protocol for Outcome Measures 3 and 15" dated June 29, 2006, and the accompanying "Directional Guide for OM3 and OM15 Reviews" dated June 29, 2006.

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Outcome Measure 16: Worker-Child Visitation (Out-of-Home)

DCF shall visit at least 85% of all out-of-home children at least once a month, except for probate, interstate or voluntary cases. All children must be seen by their DCF social worker at least quarterly.

Case Review is required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure until such time that LINK enhancements are completed. The logic established by the DCF will be established based upon enhancements to the LINK system as indicated below¹⁴:

- *Current Narrative Categories will be condensed and those that are to be counted for reporting purposes will be clearly delineated.*
- *A new narrative category will be added for Service Provider Contact with Child (counted toward the requirement for out of state placements.*
- *The logic that will be applied when enhancements are realized in LINK will result in two reports averaging each quarter's performance as follows:*
 1. What percentage of children placed are seen on a monthly basis by the DCF/ICPC or private provider social worker?
 2. What percentage of children in placement, regardless of where that placement is geographically, has been seen in the last quarter by his/her DCF worker?
- This calculation is based upon:
 1. *The denominator is all Juan F. children in an open placement for at least 30 days during the period, excluding Probate, Voluntary and ICO cases.*
 2. *The numerator is all children from the denominator who have been visited at least once in the calendar month or calendar quarter.*

The Quality Improvement Division will include the following questions in its quarterly review data collection instruments.

1. Does the case record contain documentation that a face-to-face visit with the child in placement occurred in each calendar month of the quarter under review?
2. Did the DCF Social Worker meet with this child in person at least once during the quarter of this review?

¹⁴ Documentation is taken from the LINK Modifications to Support Juan F. Exit Outcomes Presentation of April 13, 2004.

Methodological Notes:

The Department's QID will conduct a quarterly LINK case review until such time that the LINK system can report out on the full universe of children in out of home placement.

- a. The universe includes all children in out of home placement during each quarter of review beginning January 1, 2004 forward. Probate cases will be excluded.
- b. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.

The size of the quarterly samples will not be statistically valid but rather, are intended to provide a snapshot/indicator until such time that the LINK enhancements will be available to measure quantitative compliance on the full population.

Additionally, a qualitative review shall be conducted by the Monitor's Office on a sample of all open cases identified, except probate, interstate, and subsidy only cases for the first two quarters of practice during 2005 (report produced September 2005) and 2006 (report produced September 2006). This case review process will also be initiated at the point of DCF assertion of compliance with the 22 outcomes.

1. What is the quantity and quality of the visitation between worker and child in out of home placement? (Elements a-i below)
 - a. In how many of the last six months did the DCF worker meet with the child in person?
 - b. If child is out of state, did ICPC/private provider social worker document in-person visits with the child during each month in the six-month period ending with this review?
 - c. Did the DCF worker see this child within the quarter preceding this review?
 - d. Did the social worker meet with the child alone?
 - e. During conversation, did the worker assess the placement's ability to meet the needs and well being of the child?
 - f. Did the social worker discuss progress or regression in meeting the treatment plan goal?
 - g. Did the social worker document any needs for FASU support to maintain the placement?
 - h. Was the caretaker spoken to during the visit?

Outcome Measure 17: Worker-Child Visitation (In-Home)

DCF shall visit at least 85% of all in-home family cases at least twice a month, except for probate, interstate or voluntary cases.

Case Review is required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure until such time that LINK enhancements are completed. Logic applied by the DCF will be established based upon enhancements to the LINK system as indicated below¹⁵:

- *Current Narrative Categories will be condensed and those that are to be counted for reporting purposes will be clearly delineated. The following calculations will be applied in the LINK reporting*
 1. *The denominator of in-home children will be determined by querying the LINK database to determine all cases with a CPS In-Home assignment.*
 2. *From these cases, determine all active case participants under age 19 who are NOT in an out-of home placement.*
 3. *Determine all In-Home children visited during the period as the numerator by identifying in-home children visited at least twice during a calendar month or quarter.*

Until such time that LINK system capabilities are available to report on the full universe of children in the in home caseload, the Department's Quality Improvement Division will collect data via case reviews. The QID case review will include the following questions in its data collection instrument:

1. What is the frequency of DCF's visits?
2. Did DCF visit with the children active in the case on average two times per month during the quarter of this review?

Methodological Notes:

The Department's QID will conduct a quarterly LINK case review until such time that the LINK system can report out on visitation between child and worker for the full universe in-home cases.

- c. The universe includes all children in-home during each quarter of review beginning January 1, 2004 forward. Probate and Interstate and Adoption Subsidy cases will be excluded.
- d. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.

The size of the quarterly samples will not be statistically valid but rather, are intended to provide a snapshot/indicator until such time that the LINK

¹⁵ Documentation taken from the LINK Modifications to Support Juan F. Exit Outcomes Presentation of April 13, 2004.

enhancements will be available to measure quantitative compliance on the full population.

Additionally, a qualitative review shall be conducted by the Monitor's Office on a sample of all open cases identified, except probate, interstate, and subsidy only cases for the first two quarters of practice during 2005 (report produced September 2005) and 2006 (report produced September 2006). This case review process will also be initiated at the point of DCF assertion of compliance with the 22 outcomes.

1. What is the quantity and quality of the visitation between worker and child in DCF's in-home caseloads? (elements a-i below)
 - a. During each of the six months preceding this review, did the worker physically meet with the child in accordance to the mandate?
 - b. How many times during the past six month period did the work did the DCF worker meet with the child in person?
 - c. Did the social worker meet with the child alone?
 - d. During conversation, did the worker assess the parent's ability to meet the needs and well being of the child?
 - e. Did the social worker discuss progress or regression in meeting the treatment plan goal?
 - f. Did the social worker document any needs for additional supports to maintain the child in the home?
 - g. Was the primary caregiver (parent) spoken to during the visit?

Outcome Measure 18: Caseload Standards

By July 1, 2004 the caseload of no DCF social worker shall exceed the following caseload standards, with exceptions for emergency reasons on caseloads, lasting no more than 30 days:

- A. Investigators shall have no more than 17 investigative cases at any time.
- B. In-Home treatment workers shall have no more than 15 cases at any time.
- C. Out-of-Home treatment workers shall have no more than 20 individual children assigned to them at any time. This includes voluntary placements.
- D. Adoption and adolescent specialty workers shall have no more than 20 cases at any time.
- E. Probate workers shall have no more than 35 cases at any time. When the probate or interstate worker is also assigned to provide services to the family, those families shall be counted as in home treatment cases with a ratio of 1:20 cases.
- F. Social workers with in-home voluntary and interstate compact cases shall have no more than 49 cases at any time.
- G. A worker with a mixed caseload shall not exceed the maximum weighted caseload derived from the caseload standards in A through F above.
- H. These standards supercede those of Order No. 441 dated July 29, 2003.

Case Review is not required to verify compliance status with the quantitative requirement for this measure. LINK will be used to capture compliance with the percentage of workers at or below established caseload utilization via the average of the daily reports during each quarter from January 1, 2004 forward. LINK logic¹⁶ for the reporting is provided below:

Caseload Standards

Report Source: LINK

Each night a batch program will run that will recognize any assignment changes and calculate caseload accordingly based on the point designations in figure 1.1. These point totals will be displayed next to each Worker's name on a Supervisor's Workers tab of the LINK desktop as well as in Worker Search.

Compliance can be measured through a utility that displays the number of workers over 100% on any given day and, of those, the number of workers that have been over 100% for 30 of the most recent 30 calendar days.

¹⁶ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports: Caseload Reports: "Percentage Utilization Calculation".

(Figure 1.1) Assignment Category Table

Assignment Type	Assignment Responsibility	Assignment Role	Case Points	Placement Points	Maximum Points
Adolescent Services	N/A	Primary	1	0	20
Adolescent Services	N/A	Lead Wkr	1	0	20
CPS In-Home	N/A	Primary	1	0	15
CPS OOH	N/A	Primary	1	1	20
CPS OOH	N/A	Lead Wkr	1	0	20
ICO	N/A	Primary	1	0	49
ICO	N/A	Lead Wkr	1	0	49
Investigation	Region	Primary	1	0	17
Investigation	Region	N/A	1	0	17
Permanency Services	N/A	Primary	0	1	20
Permanency Services	N/A	Lead	1	0	20
Probate	N/A	Primary	1	0	35
Probate	N/A	Lead	1	0	35
Voluntary	N/A	Primary	1	0	49

Last amended August, 2002

Percentage Utilization Calculation:

For each of the 9 categories, the program computes % Utilizations follows:

Determine the % Util. for each assignment category for a worker by dividing the number of caseload points for that Worker by the Maximum number of points for that category. Then add all of the percentages to arrive at an overall percentage utilization figure.

Adolescent (#points in category /20)
+
CPS In-Home (#points in category /15)
+
CPS (#points in category /20)
+
CPS OOH (#points in category /20)
+
ICO (#points in category /49)
+
Investigation (#points in category /17)
+
Permanency (#points in category /20)
+
Probate (#points in category /35)
+
Voluntary (#points in category /49)
= % Utilization

Outcome Measure 19: Reduction in the Number of Children Placed in Residential Care

The number of children placed in privately operated residential treatment care shall not exceed 11% of the total number of children in DCF out-of-home care.

The circumstances of all children in-state and out-of-state residential facilities shall be assessed after the Court's approval of this Exit Plan on a child specific basis to determine if their needs can be met in a less restrictive setting. The placement of any additional children out-of-state after the approval of this plan shall require the approval of the Transition Task Force.

1. Case review will not be required to measure compliance with this mandate. The Department is responsible for implementing the child specific review process and quarterly reporting on all children in in-state and out-of-state residential facilities in addition to the number of new admissions and discharges from residential facilities on a quarterly basis.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 19 will be all children¹⁷ in in-state and out-of-state residential facilities.
 - b. DCF should identify the following groups of children in residential care to generate a more accurate portrayal of children who are eligible for less restrictive settings:
 - i. Children for whom mental retardation levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMR system,
 - ii. Children in facilities via voluntary placement per the request of parent,
 - iii. Children for whom mental health levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMHAS system, and
 - iv. Children with medically complex status requiring intensive facility settings through transition to adult facility careThe Monitor may take this additional information into account when determining compliance with Outcome Measure 19.
 - c. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.
2. DCF will report on its aggregate assessments of the needs of all children placed residentially sorted by in state and out-of-state. The Department has begun contracting for the services of Care Coordinators to assist in this regard. The focus will initially be on those children at the highest need level or awaiting discharge with no identified options to allow planful step down.
 - a. The universe for Outcome Measure 19 will be all children in in-state and out-of-state residential facilities.

¹⁷ The Court Monitor reserves the right to grant exceptions on an individual child basis when deemed appropriate.

- b. DCF should identify the following groups of children in residential care to generate a more accurate portrayal of children who are eligible for less restrictive settings:
 - i. Children for whom mental retardation levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMR system,
 - ii. Children in facilities via voluntary placement per the request of parent,
 - iii. Children for whom mental health levels require facility care until child may pass into the adult DMHAS system, and
 - iv. Children with medically complex status requiring intensive facility settings through transition to adult facility care
- c. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected August 15, 2004.
 - i. Reporting on the number of children in in-state and out-of-state residential facilities quarterly. *LINK reporting logic includes the following calculation:*
 - 1. *The denominator is all Juan F. children in care on the last day of the reporting period.*
 - 2. *The numerator is all children in care on the last day of the reporting period placed in one of the designated residential service types identified below:*

Service Code	Service Type
306	Residential School - CPS
307	Residential Tx - CPS
319	Residential Tx - JJ*
325	Residential School - Mental Health
328	Residential Tx - Mental Health
334	Residential Tx - Substance Abuse
514	Residential Tx - Mental Health/Sex Offender
515	Residential Tx - Mental Health Intensive

* Includes only Dually Committed Children

- ii. Reporting quarterly on the barriers to meeting this measure.
- iii. Reporting on its aggregate assessments of the needs of all children placed residentially sorted by in state and out-of-state.

A review of these documents will be conducted as well as the LINK placement data analysis as a means to determine compliance.

Outcome Measure 20: Discharge Measures

At least 85% of all children age 18 or older shall have achieved one or more of the following prior to discharge from DCF custody:

- a. Graduation from High School
- b. Acquisition of a GED
- c. Enrollment in or completion of college or other post secondary training program full-time.
- d. Enrollment in college or other post secondary training program part-time with part-time employment.
- e. Full-time Employment
- f. Enlistment full-time member of the military

Outcome Measure 21: Discharge of Mentally Ill or Retarded Children

DCF shall submit a written discharge plan to either/or DMHAS or DMR for all children who are mentally ill or mentally retarded and require adult services.

Initial reports will be provided via sample case review conducted by the Quality Improvement Division. Subsequently, upon LINK enhancement, the Monitor shall determine if these outcomes have been achieved through quarterly reports. LINK reporting on the universe population will be implemented by December 2004. DCF is required to report quarterly on the barriers to meeting this measure.

The Quality Improvement Division has developed a tool to capture the above information and report out following case review on Outcome Measures 20 and 21, until such time that LINK enhancements are tested and verified.

1. The universe is all youth discharged from care each quarter beginning on January 1, 2004 forward (excluding probate, interstate and voluntary cases).
2. Subcategory populations indicated in bullets #2 and #3 of the Exit Plan shall be documented and reported separately from the remaining discharge population when determining final performance percentage for Outcome Measure 20.
3. The Department should report on those children who had not achieved any of the required measures at discharge, but who were in the active process of doing so. Specifically: youth attending high school or GED classes and/or holding part time employment at point of discharge.
4. Quarterly reporting is due to the Monitor's Office no later than 45 days from the close of each calendar quarter. Initial reporting is expected May 15, 2004.

The QID Research Questions that have been approved by the Monitor are:

1. What is the total percentage of youth who have achieved one or more of the following prior to discharge from DCF custody?
 - a. Graduation from High School
 - b. Acquisition of a GED
 - c. Enrollment in or completion of college or other post secondary training program full-time.

- d. Enrollment in college or other post secondary training program part-time with part-time employment.
 - e. Full-time Employment
 - f. Enlistment full-time member of the military
2. What is the total number of youth with signed refusal of services form in file at age 18?
 3. What were the identifiable barriers to meeting these measures?
 4. What is the extent to which LINK documentation indicates that a written discharge plan has been submitted to DMHAS and/or DMR for all children who are mentally ill or mentally retarded and require adult services?

Elements that need to be captured to respond to this measure include the following:

1. What is the reason for the youth's discharge from DCF care?
2. Was there an Adolescent Discharge Plan (DCF2092) in LINK
3. Was there an Independent Living Plan (DCF 2091) in LINK?
4. Was there a written discharge plan submitted to either DMHAS or DMR for this youth to go on to adult services
5. Was the youth provided with Independent Living Services?
6. Did the youth participate in CHAPs programs?
7. At time of discharge was the youth working toward or earned GED?
8. At time of discharge was the youth attending High School, Graduated from High School, or dropped out from High School?
9. Was the youth eligible for special education services?
10. Did the youth have medically complex status?
11. Was substance abuse identified as an issue for this child?
12. Does child have a clinically diagnosed psychiatric disorder?
13. Had child been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons during the last 12 months preceding discharge?
14. Is the youth on psychiatric medication?
15. Did the youth achieve one or more of the discharge measures prior to discharge during the period under review?
16. Was youth in residential placement during the 12-month period preceding discharge?
17. Is youth clinically diagnosed with mental retardation?
18. Is youth's Full Scale IQ score under 70?
19. At the time of discharge was the youth enrolled in college or other post secondary training program?
20. At the time of discharge was the youth employed
21. At the time of discharge was the youth enlisted full time in the military?
22. What are the documented barriers to achieving one or more of the discharge measures prior to discharge from DCF?

Outcome Measure 22: Multi-disciplinary Exams (MDE)

At least 85% of the children entering the custody of DCF for the first time shall have an MDE conducted within 30 days of placement.

All cases should have a multi-disciplinary exam completed even if one cannot be done within 30 days.

The LINK system can currently generate a report indicating the percentage of children entering out of home placement for the first time who have had an MDE conducted within 30 days. LINK logic for the reporting is as follows¹⁸:

Multidisciplinary Examinations

Report Source: LINK

Query the LINK database to retrieve all children entering care (removal date) for the first time.

Retrieve the MDE date for each child.

Filter out children with a valid Exception Code

Subtract the removal date from the MDE date to determine number of days to examination.

Divide the number of children with and MDE completed within 30 days by the number of children entering care for the first time.

Currently the filter for exception codes requires a manual process – LINK Enhancements will improve process by automating exception code identification. Until such time that the enhancement is tested and verified, LINK reporting will be based on current system capabilities.¹⁹

¹⁸ On-Line LINK reporting documentation taken directly from the DCF LINK Reports Unit: Exit Plan Outcome Measures: Summary Report 1Q 2004.

¹⁹ The Monitor acknowledges that a slight over reporting of the number of MDE's not completed in a timely manner may occur during this initial reporting period due to the additional exception codes that will not be present.