

ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED SERVICES PLANNING PROCESS

SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROVISIONS

The Consolidated Services Plan (CSP) was designed to better coordinate requirements. Through a single multi-year planning process, social services planning and reporting requirements derived from State and federal law. provides State approval for local strategies and related funding for each Welfare and Adult Services system and other services programs. These include:

- o Adoption Services
- o Child Protective Services
- o Foster Care Services
- o Preventive Services
- o Residential Placement Services for Adults
- o Protective Service for Adults
- o Other Adult Services
- o Domestic Violence Service
- o Enhanced Reimbursement for CPS Pre- and Post-

In addition, the plan serves a number of technical, legal and budgetary functions. It is the vehicle for the district to enter into WMS data necessary for cost determinations and authorizations for service.

As a central source of information on the districts' commitments in the county, the Plan meets the diverse needs of Fair Hearings Officers and the planning process is intended as an opportunity for joint state/local identification as a mechanism for the local district, with the input of the broader community to develop appropriate strategies.

IMPROVING THE PLANNING PROCESS

Much of the potential of the local planning process is eclipsed by the changes in recent years, the Division has attempted to better balance the planning mechanism for meeting the needs of families and documentation to the State activities. The Annual Implementation Report has been restructured to reflect the new structure from the three-year Plan. To eliminate duplicate efforts, Services worked with the Division of Income Maintenance to develop a unified reporting requirements.

There is a strongly shared feeling at the State and local levels that changes should be instituted. Prior to the next CSP Cycle, the Department is interested in the local utility. Over the next few months we will be convening discussions to improve State level support and guidance for local services planning.

To initiate that process, we are seeking your preliminary comments. The questions are appended. However, please feel free to expand upon these questions in your responses. We are confident that your thoughtful responses to these questions will provide the basis for action concerning local planning requirements.

Please return the attached questionnaire at your earliest convenience.

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