2011 REALIGNMENT REPORT

- California Department of Social Services (CDSS) continues to have discussions with legislative staff as well as the County Welfare Director’s Association of California (CWDA) in order to clearly delineate county child welfare services expenditures for federally required services, State Optional Programs, adult protective services, county case management, as well as the expenditures for counties participating in the Title IV-E Project.

- One of the major concerns from the legislative staff and advocates is the decrease in county expenditures for the State Optional Programs such as the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) (as well as the Transitional Housing Placement Plus [THP-Plus] Program) that has been displayed in previous Realignment Reports. For the upcoming realignment report, the updated county expenditures will show a statewide increase of approximately 13 percent for the THPP; however, the county expenditures for the THP-Plus continues to decrease around four percent. The Department is working closely with CWDA in gathering more detail information on the THP Programs in order to better explain in the report what is driving the changes in spending for these programs as well as other State Optional Programs.

- In regards to major issues related to child welfare outcomes and county growth spending, since the implementation of 2011 Realignment, there has not been any significant and/or major changes to the performance of the statewide child welfare outcomes measures; for the county growth spending, CDSS and CWDA continue to have conversation on how to provide information regarding the spending of the counties’ 2011 realignment growth funding.

- As far as CDSS’s oversight of realignment, realignment did not add any additional oversight functions performed by CDSS; and the department received one position to produce the annual realignment report.

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Round 3

   - For the CFSR Round 3 Onsite Review, California is conducting case reviews and
case-specific interviews using the federal Onsite Review Instrument (OSRI), and submitting the results to ACF. In previous CFSR on-site reviews, the federal government conducted case reviews during a one-week time frame on 65 cases from three of California’s counties.

- ACF is monitoring the case review process and is onsite weekly.
- ACF has given CDSS approval of the case review process and CDSS is managing with limited existing resources. Approval may be rescinded if CDSS is found deficient in capacity or skill prior to the start of the reviews.
- In order to manage workload ongoing, staff resources (7.0 positions) are requested to establish a Child Welfare Services Case Reviews unit in response to the federal ACF notification that CDSS oversight of Child Welfare Services is inadequate and needs a proper quality assurance program as required in the CFSR.

3. Program Improvement Plan (PIP) - At the end of the onsite review, states determined not to have achieved substantial conformity in all the areas assessed must develop and implement a PIP addressing the areas of nonconformity. States must successfully complete their plans to avoid financial penalties for nonconformity. California expects to negotiate the PIP early in calendar year 2017.

- Federal Measures California is meeting the national standard:
  - Placement Stability
- Federal Measures California is NOT meeting the national standard:
  - Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care;
  - Permanency in 12 months for children in care 12-23 months;
  - Permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more;
  - Re-entry to care in 12 months;
  - Maltreatment in foster care;
  - Recurrence of maltreatment