



PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

**Verifying Information Provided by the
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services On Its
Compliance with the Terms of the
Foster Care Lawsuit Settlement Agreement**

**Monitoring Report #13
Covering January 1 to June 30, 2000**

Executive Summary ***with Conclusions***

**A Report to the Legislative Post Audit Committee
By the Legislative Division of Post Audit
State of Kansas
April 2001**

Legislative Post Audit Committee

Legislative Division of Post Audit

THE LEGISLATIVE POST Audit Committee and its audit agency, the Legislative Division of Post Audit, are the audit arm of Kansas government. The programs and activities of State government now cost about \$9 billion a year. As legislators and administrators try increasingly to allocate tax dollars effectively and make government work more efficiently, they need information to evaluate the work of governmental agencies. The audit work performed by Legislative Post Audit helps provide that information.

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LEGISLATIVE DIVISION OF POST AUDIT

800 SW Jackson
Suite 1200
Topeka, Kansas 66612-2212
Telephone (785) 296-3792
FAX (785) 296-4482
E-mail: LPA@lpa.state.ks.us
Website:
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/PAUD/homepage.html>
Barbara J. Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor

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LEGISLATURE OF KANSAS
LEGISLATIVE DIVISION OF POST AUDIT

800 SOUTHWEST JACKSON STREET, SUITE 1200
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-2212
TELEPHONE (785) 296-3792
FAX (785) 296-4482
E-MAIL: lpa@lpa.state.ks.us

April 24, 2001

To: Members of the Kansas Legislature

This executive summary contains the findings and conclusions from our completed performance audit, *Verifying Information Provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services On Its Compliance with the Terms of the Foster Care Lawsuit Settlement Agreement, Monitoring Report #13, Covering January 1 to June 30, 2000.*

If you would like a copy of the full audit report, please call our office and we will send you one right away. We would be happy to discuss this report with you at your convenience.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara J. Hinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara J. Hinton
Legislative Post Auditor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION OF POST AUDIT

Is SRS Complying with the Requirements of the Settlement Agreement?

For the 6-month period generally covered by this audit (January-June 2000), only 42 requirements were monitored. SRS was in compliance with 25 (60%) and wasn't in compliance with 17 (40%).

Our findings are summarized below. The matrix beginning on page 11 of the report summarizes SRS' compliance this period.

SRS was in compliance with 2 of the 7 remaining requirements related to investigating reports of child abuse or neglect. page 4
This period, SRS staff interviewed everyone they should have during an investigation and completed those investigations in a timely manner. However, staff didn't always comply with the other 5 requirements related to such things as obtaining needed medical services and reviewing prior reports involving the same family or child.

SRS was in compliance with 20 of the 26 case-management requirements we assessed. page 4
The family case plans we reviewed this period were timely and complete, and children were placed only in licensed foster homes. SRS didn't come into full compliance with the other 6 requirements, however. These covered such things as scheduling conferences to maximize participation and considering adoption for children that have been out of the home for a full year.

SRS was in compliance with both adoption requirements we reviewed. page 8
SRS sent information to support motions to terminate parental rights by the required deadline 92% of the time, and it tracked final orders terminating parental rights as often as required.

SRS was in compliance with the requirement relating to its decisions to accept reports of abuse and neglect for further investigation. page 8
This period, SRS properly screened 94% of the 246 reports reviewed by its Internal Monitor.

SRS staff timely entered into its Central Registry database only 3 of the 8 foster care providers whose abuse or neglect of a child had been validated. page 8
SRS' compliance rate this period was only 38%. Since our review, however, the Department has either entered the remaining providers or offered them a corrective action plan.

Proposed Corrective Action for Entering Names in the Central Registry. *To improve compliance, SRS reported that it now tracks the status of abuse and neglect reports and requires area offices to update information about these reports in its foster care information system—FACTS. SRS also reported that it plans to develop written guidelines for the area offices to follow.* page 9

SRS wasn't in compliance with 3 training requirements for foster parents and adoptive homes. *All foster parents must complete annual training before a child in SRS' custody can be placed in their home, and SRS is required to track this training. SRS also must track the initial "MAPP" training completed by foster and adoptive parents.* page 9

SRS acknowledged that only 32% of the foster parents due for annual training this period completed that training. In addition, it reported that none of the systems it uses to track annual and MAPP training met the requirements for being accurate and up-to-date.

Proposed Corrective Action for Annual Foster Parent Training and Training Databases. *Currently, KDHE sends the information SRS needs to track training on a monthly basis. In the future, KDHE will submit the information electronically and it will be merged into SRS' database.* page 9

SRS wasn't in compliance with 2 foster care information system requirements. *This period, SRS was required to maintain timely and accurate information about prior abuse and neglect allegations, screening decisions, risk assessments, and investigations in its new computer system (FACTS). SRS acknowledged that none of these requirements were met.* page 10

Proposed Corrective Action for the Foster Care Information System. *SRS reported it will continue its FACTS data entry training and regular staff meetings to address problem areas, and would continue to require each area office to submit corrective action plans to improve compliance.* page 10

Appendix A: Compliance Summary for Monitoring Period #13 page 11

Appendix B: Agency Responses page 15

This audit was conducted by Jennifer Wagner. Barb Hinton was the audit manager. If you need any additional information about the audit's findings, please contact Ms. Wagner at the Division's offices. Our address is: Legislative Division of Post Audit, 800 SW Jackson Street, Suite 1200, Topeka, Kansas 66612. You also may call us at (785) 296-3792, or contact us via the Internet at LPA@lpa.state.ks.us.