



Accreditation: 60-Day Report

October 24 – December 22, 2022

This 60-day report by the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 1 as amended of Public Law 2021-162. The report describes progress made in implementing the accreditation plan filed in accordance with RIGL 42-72-5.3 and any includes any projected changes needed to effectuate that plan.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Execution of the Department's 12 divisional project plans continues to be the primary focus as DCYF moves into the final year of its "Self Study" phase of work with the Council on Accreditation (COA). As a reminder, the Self Study is the largest and longest component of the COA process wherein DCYF will implement its plans for policy, practice, programmatic, and operations changes to achieve all COA standards.

Other key activities during the reporting period have included:

- Ongoing preparation of necessary State regulatory changes related to foster care, congregate care, and case management. The Department is targeting to submit these proposed changes in the first quarter of 2023.
- Finalization of draft plans for qualitative case reviews and quarterly case record reviews. DCYF will be meeting with COA in January to receive feedback on its plans.
- Attendance at a December 12 virtual workshop, where DCYF staff learned more about the COA site visit and how to prepare to be evaluated by the COA review team in 2024.
- A December 22 meeting with the COA Accreditation Coordinator regarding the five standards related to Behavior Support and Management. Based on this conversation, the Department feels confident the State policy related to restrictive behavior management interventions is already in strong alignment with COA standards.

The Department remains on track to achieve COA accreditation by the summer of 2024.

STAFFING PROGRESS

The Department continues its focus on backfilling existing vacancies, with an emphasis on filling vacant frontline positions. The Department currently has 627 FTEs, compared with 585 in October 2021, for a net gain of 42 employees.

The Department has 34 vacancies for social caseworkers in our Family Service Units (FSU) division. Seventeen (17) of these positions have been filled; 16 of the 17 are scheduled to begin training in January. The State will hold its next civil service exam for social caseworkers in January. Once the new list of qualified candidates is received, the Department will fill the remaining positions.

The Department has 17 vacancies for child protective investigators. DCYF is currently making offers to candidates who passed the most recent civil services exam; the Department anticipates that 5 new investigators will be able to start training in January. The State also has plans to offer a new civil service exam for child protective investigators in the first quarter of 2023.

The Department also continues to look at attrition; see Table 1 below. One hundred ten (110) staff left the Department during calendar year 2022.

Table 1. Attrition of All DCYF Staff, by Calendar Year and Reason for Leaving

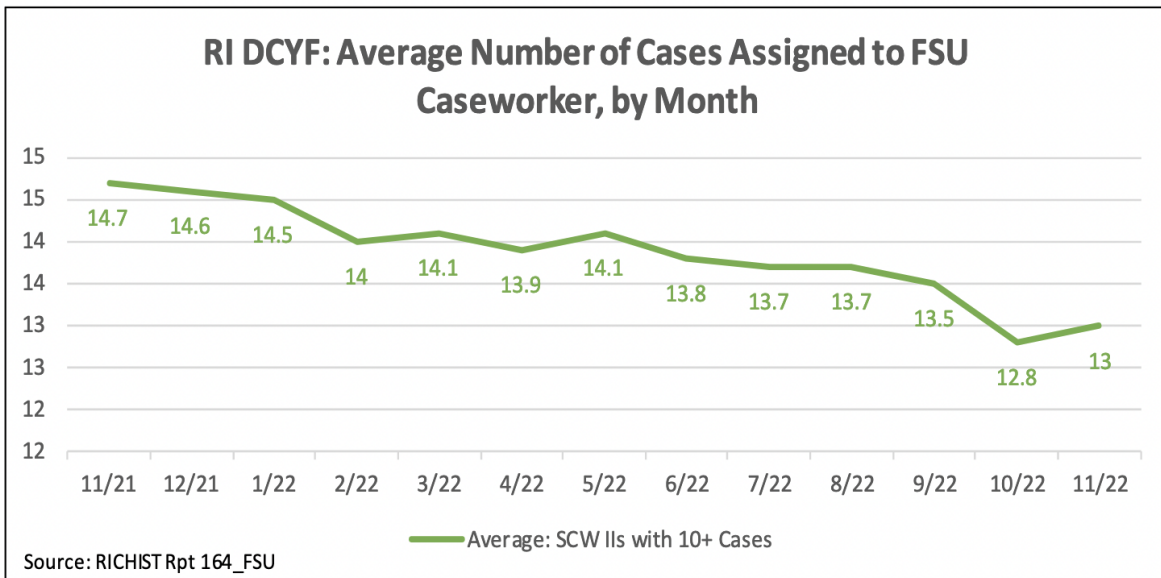
Reason for Leaving	Calendar Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bumped	0	0	3	0	1
Deceased	2	1	2	0	2
Failure to Pass Probation	7	1	1	0	0
Leave Return	0	1	0	4	1
Resignation	25	31	26	27	60
Retirement	16	18	20	24	6
Termination	4	5	7	5	11
Transfer In State	28	36	21	19	29
Transfer Out of State	2	0	0	0	0
Total	84	93	80	79	110

Of the 60 resignations in calendar year 2022, this includes 22 social caseworkers and 18 child protective investigators. Of the 29 in-state transfers in calendar year 2022, this includes 9 social caseworkers and 8 child protective investigators.

CASELOAD INFORMATION

Figure 1 below shows the average number of families (cases) assigned to FSU caseworkers on a statewide level, by month. The green line depicts caseworkers carrying 10 or more cases to only include those caseworkers once they are nearing the end of their 6-month probation period.

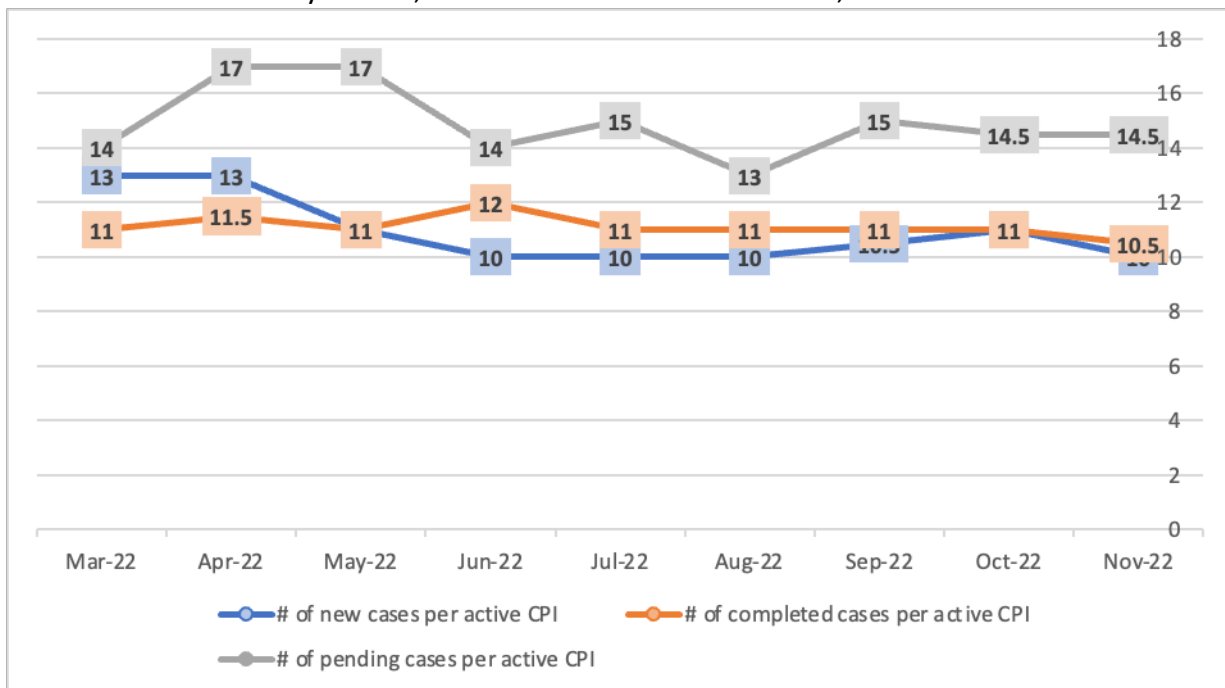
Figure 1. Average Number of Cases Assigned to FSU Caseworker, by Month



FSU caseload sizes have decreased over the past two months from an average of 13.5 to 13.0 cases per social caseworker.

Figure 2 below shows that the Child Protective Services (CPS) investigators are receiving a median of 10 new investigations per month (blue line), which is a decrease from 10.5 as reported in the previous 60-day report. The median number of pending cases per child protective investigator (CPI) is 14.5 (grey line), which is a decrease from 15 as reported in the previous 60-day report.

Figure 2. Median caseloads (new, completed, and pending investigations per active CPI*), by month, March 2022 to November 2022, RI DCYF



Data notes: Source-RPT 259, 500

*Active investigator: investigator who had 8 or more investigations in a month.

As we continue to fill vacancies and complete training of new staff hired in 2022, the Department anticipates further caseload reductions for both social caseworkers and child protective investigators in calendar year 2023.

EXPENDITURES TO DATE

Table 2 below displays expenditures by statutory program from July 1, 2021, through the end of the reporting period. Table 3 breaks down accreditation costs by expenditure type for this same period.

Table 2. Accreditation Expenditures by DCYF Statutory Program, SFY 2022 and SFY 2023

Program	Expenditures, in Dollars, Through 10/23/22
Central Management	647,762
Children's Behavioral Health	225,661
Child Welfare	11,791,016
Grand Total	12,664,439

Table 3. Accreditation Expenditures by DCYF Expenditure Type, SFY 2022 and SFY 2023

Expenditures Type	Expenditures, in Dollars, Through 10/23/22
Salary and Benefits	11,956,922
Contract Professional Services	2,500
Operating Supplies and Expenses	233,992
Capital Purchases and Equipment	471,025
Grand Total	12,644,439

Also, as reported in the last 60-day report, the Department did make a FY 2024 request for 3 additional FTEs to support the achievement of various COA standards.

NEXT STEPS

During the next reporting period, the Department will continue its Self Study work and intends to start several ad hoc workgroups to support policymaking and implementation for some of the more complex plans.

The Department also remains on track to issue a required Stakeholder Survey in March 2023 that will allow various types of child welfare stakeholders, including families, the opportunity to provide input on agency operations.