

**COMPILATION OF
RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS
RELATING TO WASHINGTON'S
CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

Prepared By

Sonja Hallum
Office of Program Research

For Use By

The Joint Task Force on Child Safety for Children in Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services
2005

STAFFING AND CASE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy and Procedure

1. Have DSHS licensing staff include customer service strategies as a part of their role, in addition to their role in promoting safety. *Adolescents* at 80.
2. The Department should set up a tracking system to audit a percentage of the cases in each office on an ongoing basis to monitor any trends in compliance or non-compliance with mandated requirements. *Fatality Review* at 1 (*Nobles Review*).
3. This fatality report (Gomez Fatality Review) should be made available in English and Spanish and be disseminated to the Department employees and stakeholders connected to this case. The report should be made easily accessible to any others who are interested in this case. *Fatality Review* at 5 (*Gomez Review*).

Cultural Bias

4. Region 4 should take steps to assure that conflicts related to culture and race are addressed. *Fatality Review* at 1 (*Grace Review*).
5. Region 4 should review and revise its current cultural competency training to assure that conflict resolution is a core concept of the curriculum. *Fatality Review* at 1 (*Grace Review*).
6. Transition plans should include activities and services that assist children in moving from one cultural experience to another. These activities and services should address daily routines, food and diet, language, etc. Plans should also include how attachment will be transitioned. Children, particularly those placed at birth, need time to attach to their new caregivers (even when those caregivers are their own parents) and time to separate from their last caregiver. Attachment to biological parents upon reunification should not be assumed. Biological parents as well as foster parents should receive support and assistance as they negotiate the transition. *Fatality Review* at 1 (*Gomez Review*).

Bibliography

1. "Adolescents in Need of Long Term Placement,"(*Adolescents*), October 2002.
2. "Recommendations of Respective CA Fatality Review Committees by Issue" Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman (*Fatality Reviews*), August 3, 2005.
3. "Child Fatality Review -- Summary" Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman (*OFCO 9/12*), September 12, 2005.