

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

December 2, 2005

MEMORANDUM

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Measuring the impact of methamphetamine use/manufacture on the Child Welfare population.

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: IMPACT ON THE CHILD WELFARE POPULATION
DUE TO METHAMPHETAMINE

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your assistance in gathering information on the impact of methamphetamine upon the child welfare population in our state. For years, we have heard how the use and manufacture of this drug has contributed to our Alternative Care caseloads. When we speak about this, we must rely upon anecdotal information as our Alternative Care Tracking System is not currently capable of accurately tracking the impact of this particular drug.

As we head into the upcoming legislative session, we are likely to be asked how recent changes to state law may have impacted the manufacture of methamphetamine and the resulting Alternative Care placements when children are removed from these households. In order to begin speaking about this, we need your help to gather information from each judicial circuit.

I am asking that each judicial circuit conduct a quick poll to give us a baseline figure of the children currently in our legal custody due to methamphetamine use/manufacture by their caretakers, or due to the drug's use by the child/youth themselves. We will need this baseline count during December and then for this number to be updated on a monthly basis.

Staff should use the attached form to report the initial baseline information and monthly updates. By using the attached form, we will obtain:

1. A baseline count, as of December 16, 2005, on the number of youth in CD legal custody due to the use of and/or manufacture of methamphetamine by the youth's parents/caretakers, or by the youth themselves. This will give us the state baseline number for "meth-related" placements;
2. Once a baseline is obtained, a monthly update will be needed to track the number of "meth-related" placements each month, and any meth-related placements that have exited CD legal custody. This will provide us with a running total of youth still in care due to meth-related reasons.
3. The initial baseline report and subsequent monthly reports should be e-mailed to Janette Davis, at Janette.M.Davis@dss.mo.gov

I am asking that each Regional Director ensure this December baseline number for each circuit is provided to Janette Davis by December 16, 2005. Subsequent monthly reports for each circuit should be sent to Ms. Davis by the 16th of each following month, beginning in January 2006.

NOTE: Circuits/counties utilizing the new performance-based case management contract will need to obtain this information through the designated CD liaisons, with the contractor totals rolled into the circuit report.

We shall post a summary of the circuit reports and a statewide summary on the employee intranet, once these reports are obtained and analyzed.

I realize this a very busy time of the year, but your help in obtaining this information quickly is necessary and is very much appreciated. Many thanks for your efforts on this matter and all that you do for Missouri's children and families.

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division Staff.
2. Regional Directors shall ensure all reports are submitted within the required timeframes.
3. Using the attached form, report the circuit baseline information to Janette.M.Davis@dss.mo.gov by **December 16, 2005**.

4. Using the attached form, report the monthly circuit updates to Janette.M.Davis@dss.mo.gov by the **16th of each month, beginning January 2006.**
5. All questions related to these procedures should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.

PN:JCH:ct

Attachment: [Circuit Reporting Form](#)