

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

November 16, 2006

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 - 2006-2007

The purpose of this memorandum is to again request your assistance in gathering information on the impact of methamphetamine upon the child welfare population in our state. Last year we conducted a monthly survey from December 2006 through May 2006 and learned that methamphetamine was responsible for nearly 13% of our foster care placements.

We will eventually be able to capture this information when our FACES case management phase is fully implemented. However, as we head into the upcoming legislative session, we are likely to be asked how changes made last year to state law may have impacted methamphetamine and the resulting Alternative Care placements when children are removed from these households. In order to speak about this, we again need your help to gather information from each judicial circuit.

I am asking that each judicial circuit conduct a 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 1, 2006, 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 Steve Cramer, at [Steve.W.Cramer@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Steve.W.Cramer@dss.mo.gov).

**I am asking that each Regional Director ensure this December baseline number for each circuit is provided to Steve Cramer by December 16<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent monthly reports for each circuit should be sent to Mr. Cramer by the 16<sup>th</sup> of each following month, beginning in January 2007.**

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.

I realize this a very busy time of the year, but your help in obtaining this information again 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 [Steve.W.Cramer@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Steve.W.Cramer@dss.mo.gov) by **December 16, 2006**.
4. Using the attached form, report the monthly circuit updates to [Steve.W.Cramer@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Steve.W.Cramer@dss.mo.gov) by the **16<sup>th</sup> of each month, beginning January 2007**.
5. All questions related to these procedures should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.

PN:JCH:SC:ct

Attachment: [Circuit Reporting Form](#)