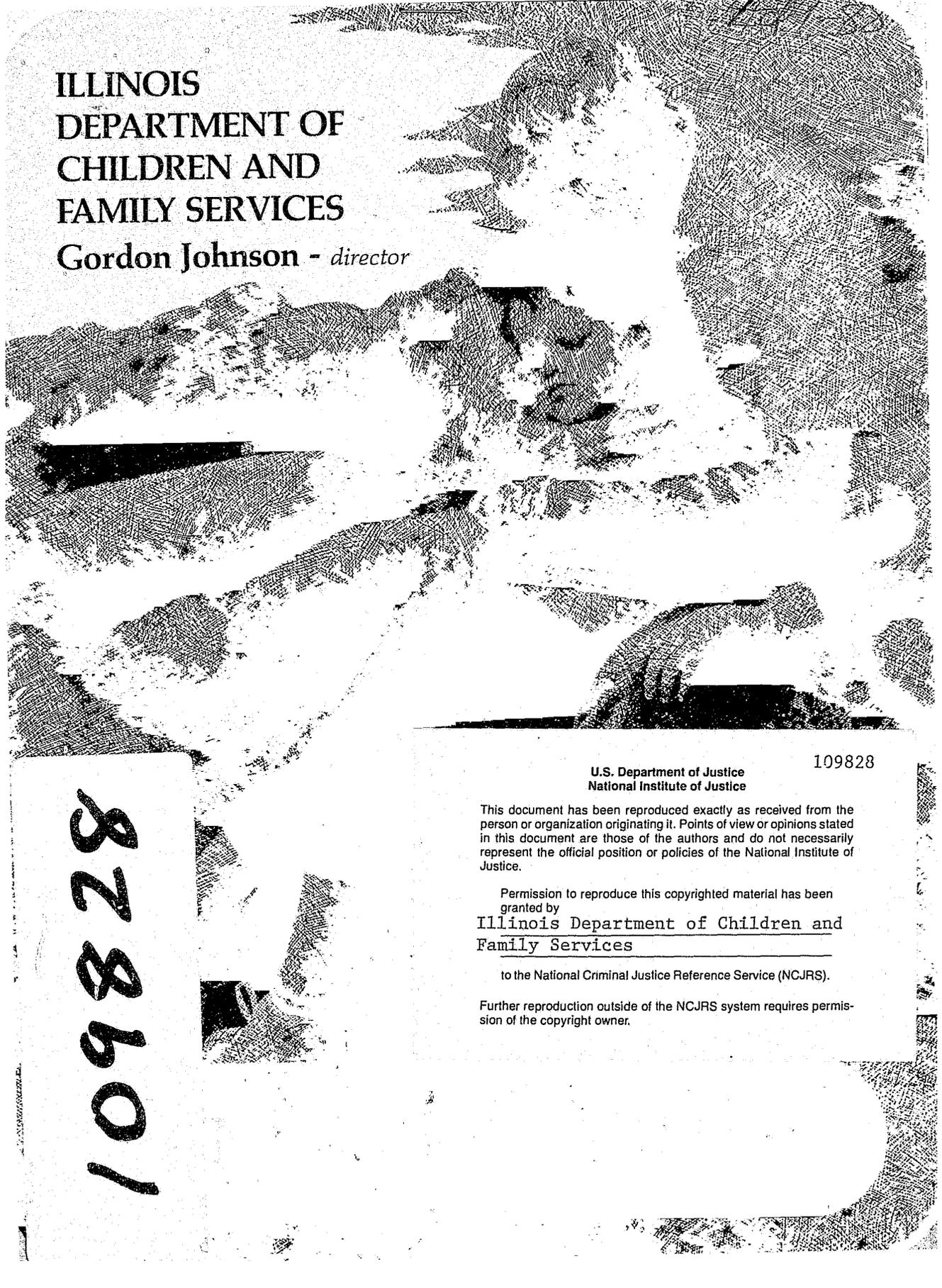


ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND
FAMILY SERVICES

Gordon Johnson - *director*



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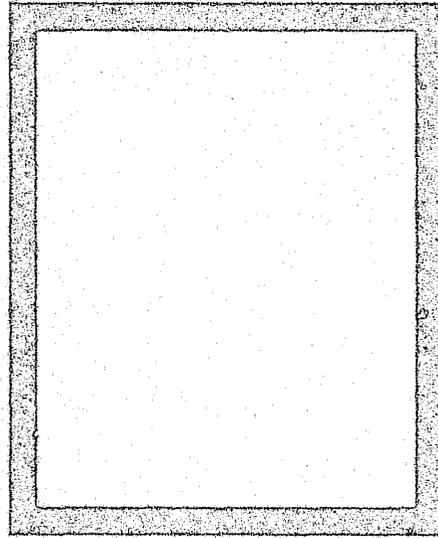
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"The State's Biggest Family"



[Handwritten signature]

STATE OF ILLINOIS

GORDON JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

406 EAST MONROE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1498



The Honorable James R. Thompson
Governor of Illinois
Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Governor Thompson:

I am pleased to submit the 1986 annual report of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. As you will note, the Department made substantial, noteworthy progress last year in strengthening its child protection programs, promoting permanent living situations for children, improving youth services, and streamlining management.

The responsibility of serving the children and families of Illinois in what can often be life or death situations is awesome. Every two seconds of each working day some kind of helping contact is made between the Department and the public. In a year, countless decisions are made which can have lifelong impact for individual children and families. I appreciate the enthusiastic support you and members of the Illinois General Assembly have extended to the Department and its staff in making those critical decisions and I look forward to another successful year in 1987.

Sincerely,

Gordon Johnson

NCJRS
JAN 12 1987
ACQUISITIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

From Chicago to Cairo and from Quincy to Danville the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) serves children in trouble and families in turmoil. Some are battered babies. Others are neglected older boys and girls. Hundreds need temporary homes while their parents resolve their problems. Others need to find new homes and caring parents through adoption. Some are teens caught up in substance abuse, delinquency, and sexual exploitation.

Matt, Tina, Roberto, and twin sisters Libby and Lisa, are a few of the children DCFS has helped. Matt, 14, was arrested for male prostitution. Street wise and hostile, he told officers and DCFS workers he would run away if they sent him home. The teen also talked about his violent home life, his parents' frequent heated arguments, and the brutal beatings his mother suffered at the hands of his alcoholic father. Matt was referred to a youth agency in his community for help.

While Tina's uncle was spending a few days with her family at Thanksgiving, he tried to coax her into playing some touching games. Although he showered her with attention and bought her numerous gifts, Tina could not be tricked. The third grader had attended a DCFS-sponsored personal safety program at school and knew what to do to prevent a sexually abusive situation.

After Roberto's parents were killed in a car accident, he went to live with his grandfather. It was hard for a while, but he adjusted. Within a few months he was doing well at school, had made new friends, and was helping his grandfather at home. When his grandfather died a year later, 12-year-old Roberto became a ward of DCFS. A short time later he was placed in an adoptive home and was settling in to a new life with caring parents.

Libby and Lisa are seven-year-old twins. They were found frightened and alone in a garbage littered apartment. Except for some canned green beans and corn, there was no food in the home. Their parents had left them unsupervised while they went to visit relatives in another state. Neighbors reported the twins to DCFS. They were placed in foster care and remained there until their parents learned how to care for them and to face up to their parental responsibilities.



Every minute of every day, 12 months a year, DCFS reaches out to help the abused, the neglected, the abandoned, and the exploited. In 1986, DCFS had a caseload of more than 61,000 children and families. On any given day, the Department was serving an average of 16,000 children in some type of out of home placement and another 32,500 children and families in their own homes. In addition, Department-sponsored programs were providing hundreds of other children and families with vital information on a wide range of subjects. The insight and knowledge they gained through these programs eliminated the need for DCFS to open cases on them.

Meeting the diverse needs of children and families in emotionally draining and heart wrenching situations is big business. If all the 61,000 children and families served during the year were grouped together they would constitute a city the size of Elgin. The staggering responsibilities the Department shoulders in meeting the needs of these families makes DCFS staff and its clients the biggest family in Illinois.

Ever since the Department was established in 1964, its primary mission has been protecting children and strengthening family life. It is a difficult and challenging mission. As life has become more complex in the last decade of the Twentieth Century, so have the problems and issues surrounding families. To meet the ever changing needs of these children and their parents, each year DCFS refines its service system, develops new programs, and launches forward-looking initiatives. This report documents the Department's efforts during 1986 to improve the quality of life for children and families in the Prairie State.

II. FOSTER CARE

Being a parent can be a tough job. Being a foster parent can be even tougher. Children come into foster homes scared, battered, undernourished, withdrawn, defiant and confused. Some are substance abusers. Some are emotionally unstable. Some are hardened, street-wise toughs. Some are "high tech" youngsters. . . children with severe medical problems who need special care and treatment. Some are pregnant teens. No matter what their circumstances are, they all need safe and secure environments until they can be reunited with their biological parents or find new families through adoption or other permanent living arrangements. Foster children and foster parents account for a major portion of Illinois' biggest family. DCFS was serving 13,570 children in substitute care as of December 1986. Almost 85 percent of these children were in foster homes, the least restrictive, most homelike setting.



For children who come into foster care, foster parents play an important role during a critical time in their lives. For DCFS they provide a vital service. Realizing the value of foster care and the role that foster parents play in providing that care, DCFS began mounting a major initiative to restructure and revitalize all aspects of its foster care system several years ago. The initiative aimed to enhance services for DCFS foster children and to strengthen support for foster parents. By 1986, the initiative was in full swing.

As part of this initiative, the Department focused on improving medical services for its foster children. For years, foster parents had experienced difficulty in obtaining medical help for foster children because most youngsters coming into foster care did not have medical eligibility cards at the time of placement. Some had temporary "pink" medical cards; others had none. As a result, foster parents often encountered long delays in obtaining medical cards for their foster children.

Through the DCFS green card conversion project, a system was devised so that new workers can issue temporary green medical cards whenever they are needed — anytime of the day or night. The green cards make a full array of medical services available to foster children. Since the project began in fiscal 1985, medical services to wards have nearly doubled at no additional cost to DCFS. In fiscal '86, wards received \$19 million in Medicaid services compared to \$10 million the year before. During the same period, the number of wards receiving green medical cards increased 46 percent and the number of Medicaid eligible wards increased 40 percent.

The "Green Line," a toll-free telephone system, was also established within DCFS. It enables doctors, dentists and other medical providers to quickly obtain a ward's recipient identification number for billing purposes. This eliminates the long wait that medical providers had previously experienced in getting identification numbers.

Health services were also broadened for older wards attending college on Department scholarships by increasing the age limit for medical cards from 21 to 26.

With many children coming into foster care with very complex medical problems, DCFS established a Medical Foster Care Program to meet the needs of "high tech" youngsters early in 1986. These children are dependent on monitoring equipment. They may need oxygen and have tracheotomies or gastrostomy tubes. Some have AIDS.

Melissa is a "high tech" needs child. She received a severe head injury when she was hit with a video cassette recorder. The injury left her with no purposeful movement in her arms and legs. Since she can't sit up on her own, she has to be tied in a chair. Melissa also can't swallow so she has to be fed through a thin, transparent tube in her nose.

Until DCFS established its Medical Foster Care Program, "high tech" children might spend their entire childhoods in hospitals or nursing homes. Under this program, the Department recruits foster parents and trains them to care for medically complex children like Melissa. In the first year, the medical foster care coordinator provided more than 150 consultations to staff throughout the state. This resulted in the placement of 35 children, 20 of whom had very complicated health problems.

To answer the needs of its pregnant wards, the Department established a Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Program in Cook County. Foster parents who serve these wards and their infants receive specialized medical, behavioral and parenting training. The wards also receive parenting training as well as information about the resources available to them in their communities.

The Department began recruiting foster parents for pregnant teens in November. A month later there were 11 foster homes in Cook County and all were in use.

The Department also broadened services for other Cook County teens through its Mentor Home project. Funded by a \$100,000 Juvenile Justice grant, this foster care program is for teens whose only other alternative might be jail or a mental hospital.

Drug abusers, delinquents, and violence prone youth are part of the Mentor Home clientele. All have been rejected for traditional foster care. Some have been recently released from juvenile detention and mental health facilities.

Roger is typical of the teens served by the Mentor Home project. By age 15, he had been kicked out of nine group homes because of his drug abuse, frequent escapes and violent behavior. In his Mentor Home, he continued to throw fits of rage and ran away once. But his Mentor Home parent didn't give up. The 50 hours of training the man had received in preparing him for working with violent teens helped. So did the 24-hour support he got from psychologists, consultants and project staff.

The Mentor Home project got underway in July with three homes. By December, the number had grown to seven homes and 16 teens had been placed in them. During the first six months of the project, 72 percent of the youngsters placed in Mentor Homes have stayed in them. . . a remarkable figure considering the background of the youngsters and the problems they have.

In 1981, the Department established an administrative case review system to assure that planning for a child takes place on a regular schedule and that it focuses on the child's need for permanency. Ever since then, all cases of wards in foster homes, group homes and institutions are reviewed on a semiannual basis. In 1986 the Department con-



ducted reviews of 21,673 children. Biological parents, foster parents, counselors and even the children can attend the reviews.

One problem reviewers and caseworkers had noted was that some biological parents couldn't attend because they were in prison, hospitals or nursing homes. To overcome this problem, reviewers and caseworkers sometimes went to prisons and hospital facilities to conduct the reviews. In July DCFS, in cooperation with the Department of Corrections (DOC), began looking for a new approach to the issue of incarcerated parents. A tour of the Dwight Correctional Center by all DCFS case reviewers confirmed the need. DOC personnel previously had told the Department that the women inmates were concerned over the children they had left behind and wanted to be a part of any plans that involved their children.

To help solve the problem, DOC installed a speaker telephone system. Now mothers at Dwight take part in the case reviews by telephone. The mother's counselor attends the reviews with her and helps her follow through with anything that she is required to do.

In September, as part of the foster care initiative, the Department unveiled a new recruitment campaign to increase the number of quality foster homes. The campaign is geared to recruiting foster parents with special skills to handle the new breed of foster children—youngsters with tougher problems, older children, and black and Hispanic children. It features the theme of "Give Someone the Home Advantage" and a toll-free foster care hotline. . . 1-800-624-KIDS. DCFS volunteers staff the hotline, answering questions about foster care from any interested person in Illinois. In the first month alone, the drive doubled the number of families interested in foster care in Cook County. By the end of the year, the hotline had received 1,200 calls.

The Department also forged partnerships with the Illinois Jaycees and Scott Air Force Base to help with the recruitment drive. Both organizations are using the campaign's public awareness materials to heighten interest in foster care and recruit more foster parents.

To prepare foster parents for their important child care roles and to strengthen DCFS support for them, new pre-service and in-service training curriculums were developed. Completion of the pre-service training is a must for foster parents before children are placed in their homes. It is also a must for all new DCFS workers. In-service training is offered to foster parents on a monthly basis throughout the state. To build understanding and teamwork between foster parents and DCFS workers — essential elements to providing quality services to foster children — joint training programs were also developed. Topics discussed at these training sessions range from the placement of children, to roles and relationships, to how to manage biological parent/child visits.

DCFS staff also developed a new handbook for foster parents. It is presented to foster parents at the time they complete their pre-service training. To help foster parents and caseworkers keep track of important events in the lives of foster children, a new foster child record book was also devised. The book stays with the youngsters as long as he is in foster care and is passed from foster parent to foster parent. Each foster parent jots down important happenings involving the foster children in the

book. For a toddler, the dates when he uttered his first word, started to crawl, or took his first step would be recorded. For an older youngster, the information might be a first tooth, a first pony ride, or how he reacted when he saw his mother or father. Caseworkers are required to read these record books at the time children have their case reviews.

To express its appreciation for Illinois families who take in foster children or adopt special needs children, the Department again sponsored a family luncheon for them at the Illinois State Fair. Although rain fell during most of the festivities nearly 7,000 families — the largest crowd in the 12-year history of this annual get together — attended. The DCFS family luncheon is the largest event of its kind staged at the fair each year.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of Department scholarships to 21 DCFS wards. Since the DCFS scholarship program was established in 1964, it has helped 240 wards to obtain a college education. The scholarships are awarded to deserving high school graduates for their scholastic aptitude, citizenship, academic rank, personal character, and high school and community activities.

This year, for the first time, the Department also sponsored a foster family luncheon at the DuQuoin State Fair. The event attracted 500 foster and adoptive parents and their children from Southern Illinois.



III. ADOPTION

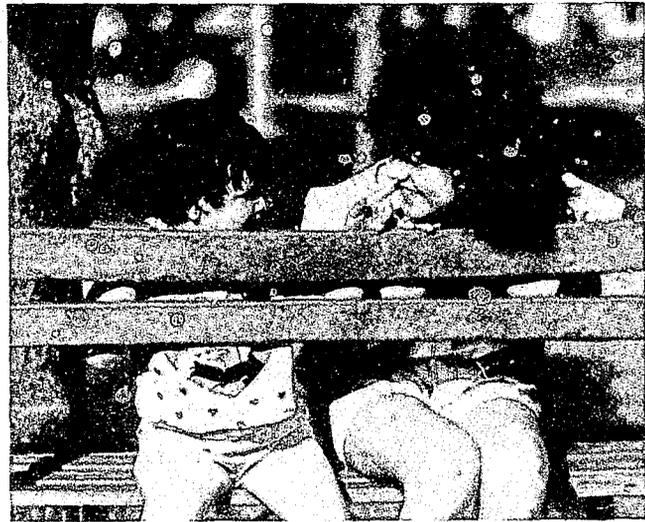
One segment of Illinois' biggest family is composed of "waiting children." These are boys and girls who need adoptive families. On December 31, 1986, the number of DCFS children waiting to be adopted dipped to a record low of 280 youngsters. Six years before, the figure had hit an all-time high of 1,832 children. The Department's adoption initiative, new programs to encourage adoption, imaginative projects funded by federal grants, and solid support from the Governor and Illinois lawmakers made this remarkable turnaround possible.

Maggie has spina bifida, a crippling disease that left her confined to a wheelchair. After spending most of her life in foster care, Maggie found a permanent home and loving family when she was 13. Several years ago the chances for handicapped children to be adopted were very slim. But now, youngsters with special needs, like Maggie, are finding homes. Older children, black boys and girls, Hispanic children, groups of brothers and sisters, and racially mixed children are also being adopted.

One of the programs responsible for the increase in the adoption of black children is One Church, One Child. Founded in 1980 with volunteer help from DCFS staff and Father George Clements, pastor of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Chicago, it was put on a full time, statewide basis in 1984. Every year since then, demand for the program — which seeks to recruit one family from each church to adopt a child — has grown. By the end of 1986, more than 300 presentations had been made to local churches throughout the state and the number of waiting black children had been cut to 127 statewide. In sharp contrast, before One Church, One Child got underway, 1,002 black children were waiting to be adopted. The Cook County results are just as dramatic: in six years, the number of adoptable black children has shrunk from 702 to 39.

The success of this one-of-a-kind program quickly attracted national interest. Dozens of states contacted DCFS seeking information and materials on how to establish a program modeled after One Church, One Child. In response to these requests, DCFS staff trained representatives from 16 other states and Washington, D.C. in a two year period. Another nine states and Puerto Rico are waiting to be trained.

In September, One Church, One Child received the prestigious Ford Foundation/Harvard University Innovations in State and Local Government award. Only 10 awards are given each year to government projects for their creativity and effectiveness in addressing the social needs of citizens.



One Church, One Child was one of more than 1,300 programs submitted nationwide for the honor.

Finding homes for children with developmental disabilities was the goal of the Department's Special Needs Adoption project. Funded by a \$125,000 federal grant, the project got off the ground in October 1984. When it ended on December 31, 1986, 155 developmentally disabled youngsters had been adopted. These are children with mental or physical handicaps which are likely to continue indefinitely and which severely limit a child's ability to take care of himself, speak clearly, or learn effectively. In the past, children with developmental disabilities in foster care were likely to remain unadopted throughout their lifetimes.

Joey was born with hydrocephalus. Doctors believed he would not live and so did not take steps to drain the fluid on his brain. Unable to cope with her son's condition, his mother surrendered him for adoption. Joey was first placed in a foster home and later in a nursing home. By the age of nine, he was blind and could not talk or walk. The nursing home staff resisted adoption planning for him when a worker, trained through the special needs adoption project, tried to discuss adoption with them. Through an assessment of Joey that included identifying important people in his life, it was learned that the foster parents who had cared for him in infancy had always kept in touch. At one time, the couple had been turned down by a private agency as potential adoptive parents because Joey was "unadoptable" and they were considered "too old."

Heartened by this information, the worker contacted Joey's former foster parents to see if they were still interested in adopting the boy. She also contacted the Department of Public Aid to make arrangements for the state to continue to pay for the boy's care in the nursing home should he be adopted. The worker's tireless efforts paid off. Just before Christmas "unadoptable" Joey got the best of all presents—a family. And his "too old"

adoptive parents added another child to their family.

As part of the Special Needs Adoption project a resource book, *Mostly I Can Do More Than I Can't*, was developed. It contains information to help workers and agencies plan the adoptions of children with developmental disabilities. To help adoptive parents understand the challenges and joys of adopting handicapped children, a video tape, *Parents Tell It Like It Is*, was produced. It features parents talking about the wide ranging issues they faced in rearing children with developmental disabilities.

Most adoptive placements end on happy notes. . . the adoptions are finalized and children grow up with the love and support of caring parents. But sometimes adoptions fall through, especially those involving special needs youngsters. About eight percent of the adoptive placements made in 1985 disrupted before the adoptions were finalized. Through its Post Placement/Post Adoption project, DCFS aims to reduce this number significantly.

The project is funded by a \$125,000 federal grant. Its thrust is to train DCFS and private agency workers, mental health and educational personnel to identify and help treat problems adoptive families and children are experiencing. The project will increase the sensitivity and skills of professionals working with special needs adopted children and expand the number and variety of services for these children and their adopted parents. A training manual will also be developed as part of this project.

Other federal grants received in 1986 are being used to strengthen the Department's adoption programs and promote interstate cooperation on behalf of adoptable children. A \$5,000 grant is funding a computer link up with the National Adoption Exchange, a nationwide listing of adoptable children. A \$95,500 grant is funding Finders/Keepers, a pilot program in East St. Louis to brighten adoption opportunities for special needs children. The program will use experienced adoptive parents as "master adoptive parents" to provide counseling and support to families who adopt special needs youngsters.

A \$255,000 federal grant is funding the establishment of an Adoption Consortium among the nine states who are participating in this three year project. Because of its preeminent position among the states in finding adoptive homes for waiting children, Illinois was selected to serve as the lead state for the Consortium. The group's purpose is to encourage and promote networking, information sharing, technical assistance, and collaboration between the participating states.

For years, the Department's intercountry adoption coordinator has noted an increase interest in foreign adoptions. Viewing foreign adoptions as a viable way of building families, more and more couples are choosing this route because they can't or won't wait for healthy American-born babies. From 1980 through 1986, foreign adoptions by Illinois families increased 745 percent. One of the highlights of 1986 came in March with the adoptive placement of the 1,000th foreign born child with an Illinois couple.

In November 1985, the state unveiled an incentive program to encourage state employees to adopt children. It reimburses workers up to \$1,000 for adoption agency fees, legal and court costs, medical examinations, initial immunizations for the child, and certain transportation costs. If the adopted child is a special needs youngster, adopting families may seek up to \$1,500 in reimbursements. The program is open to all permanent, full-time employees of the executive branch, elected officials, the General Assembly, and the state university systems. During the first 14 months of the program, 69 children were adopted.

"Adoption is a beautiful way to build a family," Director Johnson said at a November news conference marking National Adoption Week. "Adopted youngsters can give and receive as much love as birth children."

The Department's successful adoption efforts over the past five years have been cited for many honors. For 1986 these honors included a Public Service Excellence Award. These awards are given each year by the Public Employees Roundtable to public service organizations at the federal, state and local level. Selection is made on the basis of achievements that exhibit the highest standard of dedication, excellence and accomplishment.



IV. PREVENTION/PRESERVATION

The newborn baby shook violently, as if electrical currents were surging through her frail body. She is a cocaine addicted baby. Nationwide, one baby in 50 is born with cocaine related problems. In some parts of the country, as many as 10 percent of all pregnancies are complicated by cocaine use.

Cocaine addicted infants are at high risk of respiratory and cardiac failure. Since they are extremely irritable for months after birth and do not respond to their environments, they are also at risk for abuse and neglect. Many fall victim to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

In October DCFS, the state Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) and Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago unveiled a program to prevent and treat cocaine addicted mothers and babies. Called Project Healthy Start, it consists of a confidential state-wide hotline, 1-800-327-BABE, a series of workshops to educate medical and child care professionals to the problem, and medical care and counseling for the mothers and infants.

"Cocaine babies are one of the newest and most disturbing forms of child abuse in our society," Director Johnson said at the news conference announcing the program. "We don't want to punish, we want to help. And if we can get there early enough, we can save lives."

Project Healthy Start is one of the newest programs in a series of efforts the Department has launched to prevent child abuse and to preserve families. Prevention programs provide services that strengthen and help parents before children are mistreated. By reaching parents in time, these programs keep families together.

Some 47,600 children and families were helped in 1986 by a variety of prevention services financed by the Child Abuse Prevention fund. Illinois taxpayers make this fund possible by donating portions of their state income tax refunds to it. The 32 programs financed through the tax check-off mechanism provided parent help hotlines, parenting training, child safety programs to prevent sexual abuse, parent aides, parent support groups, and community education. Family activities that strengthen ties between children and parents are emphasized in many of the programs. Others focus heavily on helping children understand their family situations.

Since the Prevention Fund was established in 1984, 144,000 citizens have donated more than \$1 million to it. Each year, the fund has received more donations than any of the other tax check-off programs. All donations go to support com-

munity-based prevention programs. DCFS absorbs all costs for administering and monitoring it.

The Department's prevention efforts were bolstered by a \$313,000 federal grant it received in October to promote and support its primary child abuse and neglect prevention programs. The challenge grant was awarded for 12 months on a matching basis. DCFS received \$1 for every \$4 collected through the tax check-off program and other donated funds deposited to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund in 1984. The Department was selected because it has a well-documented commitment to prevention.

DCFS will use a major portion of the challenge grant funds to augment the community-based prevention programs it has supported through the Child Abuse Prevention Fund. A portion of the grant will be used to develop new prevention efforts geared to specific groups, such as children, fathers, mothers, and minorities.

Another new prevention effort that got underway late in 1986 is the Beethoven project. Through this project, extensive services are provided to expectant mothers and children to age five who live in the Robert Taylor housing project, located in a poverty-stricken community on Chicago's south side. The project's goal is to break the cycle of poverty by giving babies and pre-schoolers the kind of nurturing and stimulation they need to prepare them for school. As part of the program, mothers learn to give their babies the best nutrition to grow, the desire to learn, and the tools to help them develop socially and psychologically.

DCFS awarded a grant to train home visitors for the program. The visitors, all former welfare recipients, go door to door identifying pregnant women and young mothers to participate in the project. They also help with the basic medical and nutritional needs of the mothers and children.





The program is operated by the Chicago Urban League and the Ounce of Prevention, a public-private effort that provides health and social services to high-risk families to prevent the abuse and neglect of children. The Ounce is the Department's first large-scale prevention effort. It was launched in 1982 in partnership with the Pittway Corporation of Northbrook.

Although federal funding of the Building Bridges With Schools to Protect Children project ended June 30, DCFS and the State Board of Education have continued to support it. Building Bridges was a two-year, \$100,000 project. As part of it, a sexual abuse prevention and personal safety program was developed for elementary school children. It was later tested with some 1,200 first, third and sixth graders in selected schools in the Orland Park, Hamilton County, Ottawa and Joliet public school districts. Copies of the prevention and safety program are now available for use on a free loan basis from 18 state Board of Education regional media centers.

Success attracts attention and Building Bridges is no exception. In November, DCFS staff presented a program on the project at the fifth National Conference on Research, Demonstration and Evaluation in Washington, D.C. The conference was sponsored by the National Council of State Public Welfare Administrators of the American Public Welfare Association.

Building Bridges was also nominated for the President's Child Safety Partnership Award. Eight awards are presented each year to selected organizations for their contributions to the safety of children.

The Department's prevention programs go hand in hand with its efforts to preserve families. In both endeavors, the idea is to reach parents before children are hurt or neglected, before children have to be removed from their homes, and before family life is disrupted. In 1986 the Department had several innovative projects underway that were keyed to keep families together.

One of these projects is the Illinois Pre-Placement Prevention Project for Black Families. This is a \$125,000 federally funded demonstration effort aimed at helping black families in Chicago's

Ida B. Wells Housing Development. The targeted families were identified as being in danger of having their children taken away because of neglect. Most all of the families were headed by a single parent. Over half of the families had drug or alcohol-related problems and inadequate housing. A number of children in these families had been sexually abused.

Each of the 60 families served in 1986 received a mix of intensive services: family, individual, or group therapy; parent education; advocacy; parent aide assistance; access to workers on a 24-hour basis to help with crisis situations, and referral to resources in the community.

Workers selected for the project were trained to be "culturally sensitive" to the history, culture and dynamics of blacks. The training was conducted by the Professional Development Association, a minority agency in the community that opened an office in the housing project as did DCFS. Women selected to be parent aides also lived in the housing complex and understood the problems that families faced. Only one family of the 60 served had to be temporarily split up.

In East St. Louis, the Department awarded a \$29,707 grant to help fund a program to keep families together at the Second Chance Emergency Shelter. The grant is funding one caseworker position, social services, food, and temporary housing for as many as three DCFS-referred families at one time.

Families referred to the program are on the verge of being separated because of the parents financial inability to care for their children. The Shelter provides housing for up to 30 days for each family. While at the Shelter, families receive financial and employment counseling, health screening, day care and school-age attendance assistance, and transportation assistance. As many as 24 families can be served in a year. The Shelter is operated by Ministers United Against Human Suffering and the St. Louis Bi-State Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In November, Director Johnson announced an imaginative new program to keep troubled families together in Chicago. Called "Homebuilders," it provides intensive social services around-the-clock to families identified by DCFS investigators as about to have their children removed because of abuse or neglect. The project is patterned after similar programs run by private agencies in other states. Homebuilders has been able to preserve 90 percent of all the families it serves.

As part of this project, one caseworker works with two families for a four week period. This is a sharp departure from the traditional method of having one caseworker serve as many as 40 families at a time. Since Homebuilders caseworkers must work when the families need them, their work schedules are not on a 9 to 5 basis.

Initial training of DCFS staff in the Homebuilders methods and procedures, slated to begin early in 1987, was made possible by a \$189,000 grant from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. The training will be conducted by staff from the Behavior Science Institute of Tacoma, Washington, the agency that runs Homebuilders in that state.

The Department has also successfully used volunteers to preserve families as well as to reunite them. Through its Volunteer Supportive Services project, DCFS recruits, trains and matches volunteers with at-risk DCFS families.

Older volunteers with parenting or grand-parenting experience are recruited as in-home visitors to develop relationships with children and parents as "family friends." This is especially helpful to single parents who lack family support and feel isolated. Younger volunteers, used as advocates and tutors, shower children with a lot of individual attention. Other volunteers are used as "cab drivers." They provided transportation for weekly visits between children and biological parents. Some help parents and children improve their communication and bonding skills.

The volunteers help increase the frequency of contacts between children and parents. They help prevent some families from being separated and others to be reunited. They also provide the families with important links to other community resources which they could turn to for on-going support.

This 18-month \$100,000 federally funded project ended in August. It originally started in the Springfield Field Office and later was expanded to eight additional sites. More than 75 volunteers participated in the project and assisted some 110 families and 150 children. The project was also nominated for the President's Volunteer Action Award.

In July, the Department launched a 17-month project aimed at speeding up the reunification of families in five counties in the Champaign Region. Called Focus on Families: Illinois Intensive Reunification Project, this \$100,000 federally-

funded effort uses a blend of services to improve family conditions and decrease the time children spend in foster care. Key elements include parenting training, regular parent/child visits, counseling, and activities which strengthen ties between children and parents. The pilot project also uses volunteers to help with the family visits. Focus on Families stresses a "team approach" with caseworkers, volunteers, foster parents, biological parents and children all working together to bring families together.

Nine months after the project started up, 45 families were being served. Five families had been reunited and the prospects for another 10 to be reunited looked just as promising.

The Jackson family is one of the families on the verge of being reunited. The family consists of a single parent and four children who have been in foster care for sometime. After attending parenting training classes the mother's parenting skills improved. She could redirect her children's misbehavior. Her attitude toward her children, DCFS staff and foster parents changed. She no longer yelled at the youngsters. She got involved in her children's activities and played with them when they were together. She began looking forward to the visits and brought gifts and treats for the children. Now the children and their mother have a good relationship, enjoy one another, and are eagerly waiting for the day to come when they can be together.

Through its statewide Family Reunification Fund, the Department also helps families deal with urgent financial problems so that they can stay together or be reunited. The funds are used primarily to secure housing, pay utilities, make needed home repairs, and purchase household necessities. In many cases, the families repay the money, making small payments on a monthly basis or by volunteering their services.

A grandmother and her four grandchildren were helped by this Fund. Their story underscores the importance of having financial resources available for emergencies. The children's mother died while rescuing them from the family's burning apartment. The grandmother wanted the children to come live with her. However, she did not have sufficient income to cover the expenses of caring for four children.

The Fund was established in August 1985. By January 1987, 73 families and 251 children had been helped. By keeping these families together or reuniting them, the savings to the Department in foster and group home costs alone is estimated at \$63,000 a month. The Family Reunification Fund is financed by a grant from the Harris Foundation, a Chicago-based philanthropic organization headed by Irving B. Harris.



V. CHILD PROTECTION



When a four-year-old boy spills his orange juice, his mother's boyfriend savagely punches him in the stomach. The blows break the boy's ribs and lacerate his liver.

A mother leaves her toddler unattended in a bath tub. On return, she finds the child face down in water. Paramedics are called. They resuscitate the baby and save her life. Three weeks later, two older brothers of the toddler are discovered playing at a construction site. They narrowly escaped being crushed by earth moving equipment.

An infant is fed milk laced with cocaine, alcohol, and a cleaning agent. He is brought to the hospital in serious condition.

These children are among the thousands who are beaten, burned, tortured, neglected, or sexually molested in Illinois every year. In fiscal year 1986 (July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1986), 70,422 children were reported to DCFS as victims of abuse and neglect—more than 10 times the number of children reported in fiscal 1976. Some 8,397 children were reported as suspected sexual abuse victims.

With the number of reported abuse and neglect victims pouring into DCFS at a vastly accelerated rate in the first six months of fiscal 1987, the outlook for next year appears grim. By December 30, 1986, 43,029 suspected victims had been reported—10,000 more than the first six months of fiscal 1986. If the reporting trend continues, fiscal 1987 reports will hit an all-time high of 92,000.

To combat the steadily rising tide of abuse and neglect cases, the Department completely overhauled its child reporting and protection system in 1980. A computerized State Central Register (SCR) of prior abuse and neglect reports and a statewide toll-free hotline for reporting were established at the heart of the new system. Although Illinois' system is considered a national model, the

Department continually looks for ways to strengthen it and to protect children. The year 1986 was no exception.

At the time the child abuse hotline was implemented in 1980, the telephone switching system it used was the latest in technology. Since then, calls to the hotline have increased dramatically and technology has improved. In fiscal 1981 calls to the hotline numbered 71,255. In fiscal 1986, they totaled 181,548, a 155 percent increase.

To handle the sharp rise in calls, a new telecommunications switching system was installed in 1986. An automated switchboard attendant, DYTEL, was added to separate callers into groups for quicker processing. A DYTEL recording tells the callers how to select the group of SCR workers who should get their call. Since the abuse and neglect calls are the most important, more workers are assigned to answer these lines. The new system also gives supervisors the ability to determine immediately how many calls are waiting and how long they have been on the line. Should one group of workers get flooded with calls, the supervisors can easily switch calls to another group. Another feature of the new system includes battery back-up to keep the hotline in operation during periods of power failure.

Recognizing the need to supervise the child abuse investigations and licensing functions of DCFS staff at the local level, the Department in 1986 created the position of child protection manager in each of the eight service regions. The managers' primary responsibility is to oversee the activities of all child protection teams and licensing units in their regions. Staff selected for the managerial positions were workers with years of child protection experience. By September, all the positions had been filled.

The licensing and monitoring of foster and group homes, institutions, day care centers and homes are important functions. Through licensing, DCFS helps insure the safety of children left in the care of these facilities. There were more than 16,000 child care facilities licensed by DCFS in 1986.

To help staff gather and document essential information needed to make sound decisions regarding the licensing and monitoring of child care facilities, a licensing handbook was drafted last year. It contains the steps and criteria workers should use in gathering information in documenting the data, and in making critical decisions based upon the information obtained and the Department's licensing standards and procedures. This comprehensive "how to" book will insure that licensing studies and decisions are consistent and uniform in every region of the state. A \$50,000 federal grant to DCFS helped make the production of this handbook possible. It is similar

to books DCFS produced earlier for its child welfare workers and child protection workers and was expected to be available for use at a training conference for licensing staff in June 1987.

More than 120 licensing staff from throughout the state attended the third annual licensing conference in April in Chicago. It consisted of a combination of workshops and general sessions on "Professionalism: Awareness, Achievement, Fulfillment." Topics explored at the conference included "Documentation and Writing Skills," "Complaint Investigations," "Prevention of Abuse and Neglect in Foster Care," "Infant Development and the Risks Associated with Group Care," and "Licensing Management. . . Everyone's Responsibility."

In March, the Department began the tedious task of converting all child abuse investigative records to microfilm. Through the years, the field offices had accumulated voluminous child abuse files. By converting these files to film, the offices gained needed storage space. By the end of December, five regions and SCR had converted their files to microfilm.

During the summer workshops on exploring legal issues involved in child abuse and neglect cases were held in six cities throughout the state.

"One of the problems we face is freeing abused children for adoption in cases where their only chance for natural development is termination of parental rights," Director Johnson said. "These are cases where parents have abused their children so dramatically and hopelessly that the family cannot be reunited. Instead of being free for adoption and getting on with their lives, these children are often victimized again by languishing while their cases await court disposition."

The workshops were conducted by the Illinois State's Attorneys Association and funded by a \$22,375 grant from DCFS.

To remind citizens of the vital role they play in detecting child abuse and neglect, a new public awareness campaign was unveiled in April. It urged Illinoisans to "Care Enough to Call" the child abuse hotline 1-800-25ABUSE when they suspect a child is being abused or neglected. The campaign consisted of radio and television public service announcements, brochures and posters.

New guidelines for uncovering child deaths due to abuse and neglect were distributed to coroners and medical examiners during the year. The "Protocol for Child Death Autopsies" is to be used whenever a child dies suddenly from causes that are not obviously natural. Its guidelines will help professionals discover abuse and neglect, identify the abusers, and protect other children from becoming victims.



A task force of medical experts, police, prosecutors and paramedics developed the guidelines. Their work was a joint effort of DCFS and the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office headed by Dr. Robert Stein.

The autopsy protocol lists specific steps to follow whenever a child dies unexpectedly. They include interviews with attending physicians, careful examination for old wounds, and an analysis of the child's physical development. Dr. Robert Kirschner, deputy medical examiner of Cook County and principal author of the autopsy protocol, conducted a training session on its use in the fall.

For years, professionals who deal with alcohol abuse have noted a direct link between alcoholism and child neglect. One Chicago-based Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) program reported that 75 percent of the women in the program said they were neglectful parents. Worse still, 50 percent of these women had lost custody of their children before entering the program.

In July, DCFS and DASA started serving alcoholic mothers through the Illinois Child Neglect Services Project. Before the \$300,000 federally funded pilot project ends in September 1987, the agencies aim to reach 150 mothers in 10 counties. Services provided include counseling, group therapy, parent training, chemical dependency education, day care and child care if needed, relapse prevention, and outreach workers. The outreach



workers maintain regular contact with the mothers, help keep them motivated and in the program, and help them deal with day to day problems. More than half the outreach workers are recovered alcoholics. They make excellent role models for the alcoholic mothers who soon get the notion "If they can do it, so can I." Mothers referred by DCFS to the program have been reported to the hotline for neglect.

By the end of December, 45 women had been served. Some had been helped immensely. One was a 21-year-old mother with two children. She dropped her infant while intoxicated. She was hostile in the beginning, rebuffing all efforts to break through her denial of alcohol dependence. Finally at one of her group therapy sessions, she began telling the truth and admitting to herself that alcohol was destroying her life and her children's lives. After that, her attitude and physical appearance changed. She cared about how she



looked. She began cutting out articles relating to women, alcohol abuse and substance treatment programs, and also began dealing with life's problems and pains. She never missed a parent group meeting. Her turnaround was dramatic and within a few months she had regained custody of her children.

In February, DCFS launched a project to lessen the trauma sexually abused children experience when telling their painful stories to one professional group and then having to repeat it for others. The many interviews leave children frightened and confused and feeling intimidated. In other words, the interview process victimizes the victims. The Victim Sensitive Interview Project replaces the multiple interviews with a single, comprehensive interview. Representatives of all the agencies involved in an investigation take part and share the information. The interviews are conducted by one person who is the child's primary contact.

Some of the five agencies participating in the state funded project use video cameras to tape the interviews. By the end of December, some 400 children had been interviewed by the Victim Sensitive agencies. In a number of these cases, the videotaped interviews have been successfully used to spare the children from testifying in court.

The Coordinated Systems Response Project also got underway in 1986. This is a two-year \$193,500 federally funded project. Like Victim Sensitive, it aims to prevent further trauma of sexually abused children through single interviews and use of multidisciplinary teams. This project focuses on investigating reports of children being sexually abused in out of home settings, such as day care facilities, institutions, and foster and group homes. These types of investigations are difficult because they usually involve a number of victims and alleged perpetrators. As part of this project, a protocol will be developed to coordinate the interviews of sexually abused children in out of home settings.

Senate Bill 1491, passed at the spring 1986 session of the Illinois General Assembly and later signed into law by Governor Thompson, expanded the investigative reach of DCFS to include reports of abuse and neglect by "parent substitutes," such as teachers, school principals, camp counselors and health care professionals. Previously, the law required the Department to investigate reports only when the alleged abuser was a family member, an employee of a licensed child care facility, or another "responsible caretaker." The bill was to take effect January 1, 1987.

VI: DAY CARE

A large section of Illinois' biggest family is composed of children whose parents must place them in a child care program for all or part of a day. There are approximately 1.4 million children under the age of 13 in the Prairie State whose mothers work. Some 600,000 of these children are under the age of six. Yet, in 1986 there was room for only 149,000 children in licensed day care facilities. The quest of working mothers for suitable child care has become a crucial social issue, so in 1986 DCFS stepped up its efforts to address this problem.

To get a "feel" for how Illinois stacks up in relation to day care demand and supply, DCFS commissioned a report made on the issue by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. The report contains many thought-provoking facts, especially those related to the composition of the work force and the structure of families:

- Currently 80 percent of all women in the work force are of child-bearing age, and 93 percent of them are expected to become pregnant sometime during their working lives.
- By 1990, 66 percent of all new entrants into the labor force will be women.
- Some 64 percent of all families with children will have mothers in the work force by 1990.
- Single parent households will continue to increase. Between 1980 and 1990, there will be a 48 percent increase in children under age 10 who live in single parent homes. A factor which contributes to this shift is the greater likelihood that widowed and divorced women will head their own households. In 1940, only 44 percent of unmarried women with children headed their own households. By 1970, 80 percent of the women in this category were the head of the house.
- The 80 percent of women who head their own households include a substantial number who suddenly became poor when their marriages ended. They take jobs where they find them in an effort to cope and the jobs often pay wages too low to cover child care costs.
- Even working couples with two incomes have difficulty meeting child care costs.
- Informal arrangements with relatives or neighbors that families use to count on for child care have become scarce.



The Chapin Hall report used by members of the Governor's Task Force on Day Care as they examined the state's day care needs and resources. The 55-member committee is headed by Jayne Thompson, executive vice president of the Mid-America Committee and the Governor's wife, and Elliot Lehman, co-chairman of Fel-Pro, Inc. After studying the day care problem, the task force was to recommend ways government and the private sector can improve child care services for working parents. The task force had its first meeting in January 1987 and was expected to issue its final report in July 1987.

The task force is the latest in a series of efforts the Department and the Governor have initiated to improve the quality of day care in Illinois. These efforts got a big boost a year ago when the Governor and leaders of the Day Care Action Council of Illinois reached an agreement to expand and strengthen day care services. The plan included administrative, legislative and funding changes over a two year period at a cost of \$13.2 million.

With the increased funding, DCFS planned to expand state subsidized day care to an additional 2,578 children, grant cost of living increases to Department-funded day care providers, and hire additional licensing staff. In 1986 day care homes and centers got a 3.5 percent rate increase effective July 1, and some 45 new workers were added to the DCFS day care monitoring staff. In 1987, 40 more licensing workers are slated to be brought on board.

Loans to fund capital improvements at 11 day care centers in low income neighborhoods in the Chicago area also were announced in 1986. When finished, the improvements will add some 300 new day care slots for children of working parents. The loans permitted two of the center providers to purchase buildings to house their facilities. Prior to this they had operated their day care programs out of rented space.

The loans were made possible by a cooperative program by DCFS and the Chicago Community Trust. The Trust is a philanthropic foundation which provides low interest loans to nonprofit agencies in the Chicago area. It set aside \$500,000 to loan the day care center providers for the improvements. Previously, the Trust and DCFS had sponsored a similar loan program for Chicago agencies to make needed capital improvements at child care facilities housing youth under the Department's guardianship.

In addition to licensing day care facilities and funding day care programs, the Department makes training available to day care workers to improve the quality of services they provide. DCFS sponsored 15 training workshops throughout the state for some 750 day care workers during 1986. The workshops included sessions on a variety of topics such as health and safety, working with parents, children's literature, and licensing.

Other training efforts during the year were aimed at improving day care programs for migrant families. A week-long training program for some 50 Migrant Head Start staff was held in April in Springfield. Training centered on child abuse and neglect, bilingual curriculums, interviewing skills, and parent education. It marked the fifteenth year for the Department's Migrant Head Start program which serves some 370 children and 250

families at seven migrant day care centers throughout the state. The families it serves come to Illinois to harvest fruit and vegetable crops.

For the third consecutive year, migrant centers in Hoopston and Cobden provided home visitor programs for Spanish-speaking, high risk families. Through this program, "Loan Me a Godmother," parents learn how to deal with stress, receive parent training, and become more responsible. The home visitors show parents how to be better parents and homemakers by helping them with their chores and with caring for their children. Approximately 10 percent of the children served through the program are handicapped. The home visitors arrange special services for these children and coordinate services for them with migrant head start day care staff in other states.

In 1986, there were 2,300 day care centers and 5,000 day care homes licensed by DCFS with a total capacity of 149,000 children. Some 18,400 of these children were being served in Department-funded day care programs for families who are receiving child protective services, are part of the migrant labor force, or have low incomes.

One of the year's highlights took place in February when the first on-site day care center for children of state employees opened in the new Department of Revenue Building in Springfield. The facility is licensed for 56 children and is operated by Lincoln Land Community College. For years, the Department has been encouraging employers to provide day care services for their workers to answer a critical need of working parents. By opening a center for state employees, Illinois government is taking the lead and is showing that employers and employees benefit from on-site day care programs. Other on-site day care centers for state employees may be added in the future.



VII. YOUTH SERVICES

At age 16, Cindy was a chronic truant and run-away. She was picked up by police and referred to a youth agency for help. Her parents told authorities they could not control her but they would let her back in the house if she agreed to participate in counseling sessions. She did. In addition, the girl enrolled in night school and got a job at a fast food restaurant during the day. The agency to which Cindy had been referred helped her get the job. Five months later the teen had developed some self esteem, was feeling good about herself, was attending school regularly, and was still working.

A mother brought Jack, her 17-year-old son, to the police station and said she didn't want him in her home. She said he refused to do chores around the house and to follow curfew rules. She also said he had verbally threatened her. Both mother and son had strong and divergent ideas on the cause of their conflict. The youth agency worked with the son as well as his mother. Both attended individual and joint counseling sessions. Advocates put the family in touch with other resources in the community. Two months later, the mother and son had resolved most of their problems and were communicating with each other. In addition, the youth was pitching in at home and handling his share of the chores.

Aisha, 16, had a history of running away and ungovernable behavior. She did not want to obey the rules set down by her mother and was on the brink of joining a street gang. The youth agency she was referred to placed her in a foster home for 10 days. During this time, she and her mother received intensive individual and group counseling. The agency also worked with the mother to help her improve her parenting skills and to develop alternatives to corporal punishment. In two weeks Aisha returned home, but she and her mother continued their counseling. In four months, the case was closed. The girl was helping tutor young clients at the agency and her mother was working as a volunteer for an advocacy group in the community.

These youth are among some 26,000 members of Illinois' biggest family who were served in 1986 through the Department's forward looking community-based youth services system. These are youth who are runaways, school truants, beyond the control of their parents, or homeless. Some have had run-ins with the law. The DCFS system aims to provide a continuum of services to divert these youth from the child welfare, juvenile justice and corrections systems.

At the heart of the DCFS youth services system are 68 local youth service boards which plan and administer programs for youth in their sections of the state. Each board assesses its local youth needs, plans services to meet those needs, and administers and monitors the youth programs. Each board also develops working agreements with school districts, police departments, probation officers, and juvenile courts.

The Department's community-focused system makes a variety of services available to youth. These services include counseling, advocacy, legal aid, alcohol and drug abuse counseling, short-term placement, crisis intervention, education, recreation and employment. Crisis intervention services are used when police have runaways or ungovernable youth in custody who can't be sent home. When this happens, the police call the crisis intervention agency identified by the local youth service board. This agency then takes responsibility for providing the youth with the services he needs.

A 602-page Resource Handbook produced in 1986 provides detailed information about each of the local boards and their service areas. It lists all the agencies that provide services to youth through contracts with DCFS and identified the particular agencies which offer services to teens in each community. The information is grouped by the DCFS service region, the local youth board and the service area. The information is also broken out by county, identifying the local board, the service area and the agencies serving youth in each county. In heavily populated counties such as Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will, the information is listed by township. In the city of Chicago, it's listed under one of the 77 community areas.





The first training conference for local youth service board members was held in March. It focused on the roles and responsibilities of the boards in administering grants for the local planning and delivery of services to youth. The conference was co-sponsored by DCFS and the Illinois Collaboration on Youth, an organization of over 150 community-based youth service agencies.

The youth service boards matured in many ways during the year, especially in seeking many volunteer and financial support from the communities they serve. In addition, almost all established network panels composed of local agencies concerned with youth. The panels meet regularly to share information and to staff cases of youth whose needs involve the help of many agencies in order to be met.

Employment and training are integral parts of the Department's community-based system. Through the access provided to employment and training programs from the community-based networks the Department helps youth to become economically independent by offering them opportunities to gain an education, improve their job skills, or obtain vocational training. In 1986, 1,500 of the 3,800 youth served through this program were placed in jobs or obtained some further type of training or education.

DCFS and Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC) took several steps in 1986 to comply with federal and state laws which restrict the incarceration of juveniles in adult jails. They included negotiations with the Illinois Sheriff's Association and the Illinois Juvenile Officer's Association to change the definition of juvenile detention home to include adult jails as long as these jails have areas for juveniles which are "sight and sound" separate from adult inmates. To meet the stipulation that juveniles held more than 24 hours must be incarcerated in juvenile detention centers, IJJC grants were awarded to five detention centers to house juveniles from 41 counties which do not have such centers or whose county jails do not have facilities to keep juvenile and adult inmates separated. The grants totaled \$437,500 and are used to transport juveniles arrested in the counties that do not have detention centers to a nearby county that does. Youths arrested are picked up by staff from one of the juvenile detention centers, incarcerated there, and transported back and forth between the centers and the arresting counties for court hearings.

Through the Unified Delinquency Intervention Services (UDIS) program, DCFS provides community-based services to adjudicated delinquent youth as an alternative to committing them to facilities of the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC). Youth are referred to UDIS as a condition of probation by juvenile court judges. While on probation, probation officers and UDIS service providers keep close tabs on the youth. Services provided to the youth and their families include advocacy, counseling, education and vocational training, on-the-job training, and tutoring. In fiscal 1986, 585 youth were served by the UDIS program.

Raul is one of these youth. At the time he was referred to UDIS, he was charged with aggravated battery, burglary, and other crimes. He was the local leader of a faction of the Latin Kings on Chicago's north side and the father of an eight-month-old baby. He had been adopted by an uncle who had physically abused him. The adopted father had disciplined him in cruel ways such as beating him with a spiked belt.

One of the first priorities the agency set for Raul was to reduce his gang participation. In the beginning, the gang tried to intimidate the teen into remaining in the gang. Later he was severely beaten by his own gang members for refusing to realign himself with them. His biological mother was found and after intensive family counseling he went to live with her. He got a part-time job with a painting contractor and enrolled in an alternative school. Without UDIS intervention, Raul could have been committed to DOC, or he could have become a gang statistic. Instead, his future looks promising and he no longer is a street menace.



In response to recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Homeless Youth, DCFS and the Juvenile Justice Commission established five demonstration programs to answer the needs of homeless youth in 1986. Estimates place the number of Illinois homeless youth at 21,000 statewide. These are youth who are throwaways and victims of sexual exploitation. To survive they must often support themselves through theft, prostitution and drug dealings. Some 12,000 of these youth are between the ages of 18 and 20 for whom there is no service system. Although there are programs for the adult homeless, it is inappropriate to mix these youth with the hardened and veteran homeless.

The five demonstration projects for homeless youth include four residential programs and one drop-in center in the DCFS service regions of Aurora and Cook. Through these programs, DCFS expects to reach 1,000 youth during the start-up year. These are youth who can't be reunified with their families or who have been living on the streets without the care or supervision of a parent, relative, or legal guardian. Medical, legal, emergency, employment training, and tutoring are among the services provided.

Through its Cook County Shelter Network, the Department provides up to 90 days of emergency care for youngsters. The network is composed of the Central Youth and Dickens Shelters in Chicago and Herrick House in suburban Bart-

lett. Each shelter serves a different youth population. Central houses males from 13 to 20 years of age; Dickens, children from 0 to 12 years and females from 13 to 20 years, and Herrick House, males and females from 13 to 20 years. In addition to food, housing and clothing, the shelters provide services to meet the health, education and recreational needs of youth. A total of 2,339 youngsters were served by the three shelters in 1986.

A handbook for shelter residents was also produced in 1986. It lists the residents' rights and responsibilities, explains how they win and lose privileges by earning points for good behavior and losing them for bad behavior, and describes what shelter life is like.

VIII. PARENTS TOO SOON

"I feel trapped—kinda like I'm in jail—'cause I'm always in the house," laments a teenage mother. "None of my friends come around any more. There was a few who stuck with me, but I couldn't go out and do anything with them because I was pregnant. And now I have the baby."

"She came and told me she was pregnant and, man, it was a jolt," a teenage father said. "I can't go out every night now. I can't have fun."

"My advice to a 15-year-old that's about to become a father is, 'You've got a hard life in front of you. And if you don't get an education, it's gonna make your life doubly hard.'"

"It's not like a babysitting job," another teen mom explains. "You don't have the baby and then the parents come pick it up. You have the baby. You're the one that goes to pick it up. You're there 24 hours a day. Whatever happens, it's your responsibility. You're the one that's got to deal with it."

These are some of the gut level messages teen parents are sending out to their fellow teens. The bottom line is pregnancy is no joke.

The messages are part of "Speaking for Ourselves," a new Parents Too Soon (PTS) public awareness campaign that was launched in November. It includes a 12-minute documentary videotape and six TV and radio public service announcements featuring teens who have themselves become parents too soon. Other campaign materials include posters, brochures and outdoor advertising.

PTS is a \$12 million a year program involving nine state agencies. It is coordinated by DCFS and the Departments of Public Aid and Public

Health. When the program was launched in Illinois in 1983, it was the first of its kind to be established by any state to address the knotty problem of teenage pregnancy, adolescent child bearing, and teen parenting. The primary goal of DCFS in the PTS effort is to serve teens who already have become parents to prevent the abuse and neglect of their children. The Department also funds a number of public education programs to help teens make responsible decisions regarding sexual activities and to show them the grave consequences of early parenthood.

Teenage pregnancy is a serious problem, as statistics compiled by state agencies graphically point out. Most of the 250,000 women currently on welfare in Illinois had their first babies while they were teenagers. Teens have a much higher infant mortality rate than older women. Children born to teenage mothers face a much greater risk of suffering severe complications after birth. And an alarmingly high percentage of the children who are abused or neglected in Illinois each year are born to teenage mothers.

In fiscal year 1986, DCFS awarded \$4.5 million to fund 44 PTS programs throughout the state. Parenting training, child development education, drop-in centers, day care, counseling, job guidance, and home visitors were among the services teen parents received. Another 41,000 teens were reached through DCFS public education efforts to prevent pregnancy.

In 1986 PTS sponsored a Rock 'n Romance Song-Writing Contest to help spread the message through rock music that teenage sexuality is dangerous. The winning song, "Too Fast," was selected from more than 130 entries submitted statewide by teens between the ages of 12 and 18. It was composed by Jacqueline Marek, 16, of Chicago. In the song she tells what it's like to be a girl in today's world and face the pressures and risks of teenage sexuality.



Part of the lyrics read: "You play with my desires and say it's meant to be/But I know I'm not ready to start a family/Stop, and think about the future/We've got a life ahead of us/We could make it last/But we're growing up too fast."

Director Johnson called the song's story line "an effective and very believable message that all teens need to hear."

The song was later professionally recorded by Marek and released to radio stations throughout the state. It hit the air waves early in 1987.

Approaching the teenage parenthood problem from a different point of view, DCFS and the Harris Foundation are also funding Male Responsibility projects. In October, the Department and Harris awarded a \$49,000 grant to the Springfield Urban League to provide prevention services to pre-teen and teenage males who are at high risk of becoming teenage parents.

"We will have three goals for the project," Springfield Urban League Director Howard Veal said. "They are preventing teenage pregnancy, reducing the level of teen parenthood in the city, and communicating to pre-teen and teen males this basic message: 'Don't make a baby if you can't be a father.'"

Basic elements of the project include an intensive education and adult mentor program for 40 boys from age 10 to 15, a specialized education program for their parents, and a community awareness campaign featuring materials developed by the National Urban League.

PTS also sponsored 37 Teen Leadership Conferences throughout the state during the year. The conferences gave teens a free-ranging forum to discuss such vital topics as teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse among teens and families, self esteem, peer pressure, and getting along with parents. More than 7,000 young people and over 1,000 parents of teens took part in the conferences.

IX. DCFS ACTIVITIES

One way DCFS tries to strengthen services for Illinois children and families is by improving its own operations and the performance of its 2,600 employees. This is accomplished through training opportunities, new programs, and a host of other measures that help the Department and its workers meet the challenge of protecting children and helping families stay together.

Each spring the Department sponsors an annual All Workers Conference for its employees, private agency workers, and foster parents. It gives participants an opportunity to learn more about their jobs, to gain an overview of the issues facing families, to develop a sense of mission, and to recognize outstanding workers and former wards.

In 1986 pride surfaced at the All Workers Conference. It was a welcome guest. Pride embraced the Department—pride in one's work, in one's self, and in one's fellow workers.

Pride was also embodied in the Department's motto for 1986: "We go the distance for our kids." Each worker attending the conference sported the motto on a red and white lapel button.

"No one has to go the distance more than you," Director Johnson told the 700 assembled workers from throughout the state. "You are the guts of this Department. While I'm in office meetings, you are out there in strangers' homes trying to save lives. You risk physical injury whenever you go out on a case. And the decisions you make under difficult conditions may well affect families and children for the rest of their lives. That's what I call going the distance for our kids."

Workshops at the conference also went the distance, covering everything from stress management to effective writing to the Child Welfare Services Handbook.

DCFS staff who received "Worker of the Year" awards were Earnest Broadnax, Herrick House; Alexis Carlisle, North Area Office; Carolyn Ceaser, East Area Office; Diane Curry-Johnson, Marion Region; Nancy Dominguez, West Area Office; Jeanne Engle, Rockford Region; Sandra Grayson, East St. Louis Region; Joyce Hall, Cook County Sex Abuse Unit; Marcia Heitz, Peoria Region; Leotis Jiles, Dickens Shelter; John Kasper, Chicago Central Youth Shelter; Wallace Kuhn, Peoria Region; Eugenia Marco, Aurora Region; Amy Speckhart Morrell, Springfield Region; Georgia Ross, South Area Office; Don Scott, Emergency Services Center, Chicago; and Frances Smith and Brenda Tucker, Champaign Region.

Former wards who were recognized included Tom Ambrose, Springfield Region; James Black, Champaign Region; Keith Bogard and Bobby Felder, Cook County; Elba Chavez, Aurora Region, and John Leddel Guest, East St. Louis Region.

The conference was planned primarily by the DCFS Office of Training and Staff Development. It was one of numerous staff development and training activities conducted by the unit for DCFS workers, foster parents, day care providers, and others involved in services to children.

During fiscal 1986, the Office of Training and Staff Development provided more than 200,000 hours of instruction on a variety of topics. Besides the All Workers Conference, training opportunities included two management training conferences and sessions on AIDS, stress management, worker safety and self defense, youth gangs, substance abuse and court skills. This was in addition to the orientation training for new employees which is regularly provided throughout the year.

Some training was also conducted through video conferencing sessions for DCFS staff, private agency staff, foster parents, advocates, volunteers, law enforcement and court personnel. Topics included conflict management, domestic violence, sexual assault, and interviewing child sexual abuse victims.

One of the biggest training efforts of the year was instructing 800 direct service workers in the use of the new Child Welfare Services Handbook.



Core training, newly developed by DCFS for most positions within the Department, was introduced late in 1986. The new training curriculums are more comprehensive than those previously offered. They are also geared to the Department's special needs and unique responsibilities. With the introduction of the new training, the Department now requires all new service employees to pass written tests to show they understand the information dispersed in the training classes before they report for work. The first employees to complete a core training class were child welfare specialists in December.

In addition to basic core training for new employees, all staff are now required to attend no less than 40 hours of training every two years. This training helps them keep up to date on the Department's policies, procedures, and goals.

To focus in one unit all of the Department's programs and services that are directed toward employees as opposed to the general public or clients, an Office of Employee Services was created. This office is responsible for all employee and labor issues and for assuring compliance with federal and state non-discrimination requirements, state personnel rules, and affirmative action goals. It also administers all training programs for DCFS employees, Department providers and ancillary staff.

Director Johnson appointed Chuck Murphy to head the new office. Murphy is a former DCFS employee and served as the Department's chief personnel officer from 1979 to 1981.

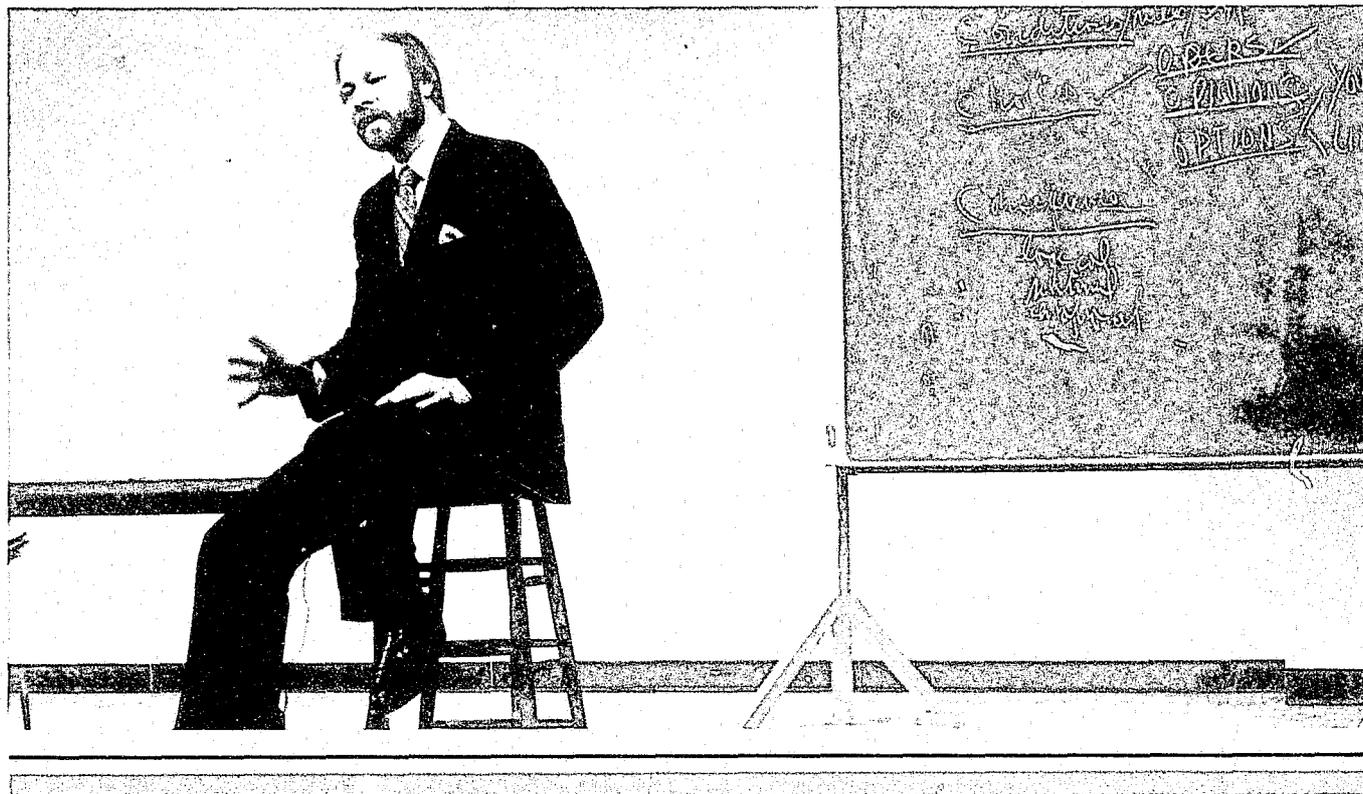
Other key personnel changes during the year included the resignation of Bruce Rubenstein as

deputy director of the Division of Youth and Community Services. He left to pursue professional opportunities in California. Rubenstein joined DCFS in 1980 as a legislative liaison and played a key role in drafting and securing passage of several major pieces of legislation, including two bills that created the state's community-based youth service system. Until a permanent replacement could be found, John Petrilli was appointed Acting Deputy Director of the youth division.

David Richards was officially appointed Deputy Director of the Division of Management and Budget, a position he had been filling for several months. A seven-year veteran with DCFS, he previously served as Chief of the Office of Information Services. As chief of this office he directed the automation of the Department's child abuse and neglect response system, child and case tracking system, and many of its fiscal functions.

Jo Warfield also joined DCFS in 1986 as Chief of the Office of Communication/Community Relations. Before coming to the Department, she was on the news staff of WICS-TV in Springfield. As a news reporter, she specialized in stories involving the social service and criminal justice fields. Ms. Warfield also has been a reporter for WTAX-WDBR Radio in Springfield and Capitol Information Bureau, also in Springfield.

Bill Curtis rejoined the Department in 1986 as Chief Legal Counsel. He filled a vacancy created when Michael C. Prinzi, the former chief counsel, resigned to establish a private law practice. Curtis previously served in various capacities in the DCFS Office of Legal Services from 1981 to 1985.



Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Expenditures by Program
Fiscal Year 1986
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Appropriated Funds			Non-Appropriated Funds			Total All Funds		
	Operations and Refunds	Grants	Total	Operations and Refunds	Grants	Total	Operations and Refunds	Grants	Total
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	85,233.9	156,668.7	241,902.6	302.6	6,981.4	7,284.0	85,536.5	163,650.1	249,186.6
General Revenue	79,564.8	133,426.9	212,991.7				79,564.8	133,426.9	212,991.7
Child Welfare Services	4,477.7	4,355.9	8,833.6				4,477.7	4,355.9	8,833.6
CFS Federal Projects	865.0	514.1	1,379.1	52.5	4,499.1	4,551.6	917.5	5,013.2	5,930.7
CFS Local Effort Day Care		15,178.0	15,178.0					15,178.0	15,178.0
CFS Juvenile Justice Trust	326.4	2,821.3	3,147.7	29.2		29.2	355.6	2,821.3	3,176.9
Child Abuse Prevention		372.5	372.5					372.5	372.5
CFS Refugee Assistance				220.9	2,482.3	2,703.2	220.9	2,482.3	2,703.2
TOTAL ALL DCFS PROGRAMS	85,233.9	156,668.7	241,902.6	302.6	6,981.4	7,284.0	85,536.5	163,650.1	249,186.6
1. Protective Services	37,431.1	37,919.4	75,350.5				37,431.1	37,919.4	75,350.5
Regional Office Operations	20,451.8		20,451.8				20,451.8		20,451.8
Protective Services Administration/SCR	2,359.5		2,359.5				2,359.5		2,359.5
Protective Investigations	10,530.1		10,530.1				10,530.1		10,530.1
Cook County Shelter	2,468.6		2,468.6				2,468.6		2,468.6
Formula Grant Child Abuse	537.2		537.2				537.2		537.2
Therapeutic Family Day Care Project	7.3		7.3				7.3		7.3
Treatment and Research Child Abuse	1,076.6		1,076.6				1,076.6		1,076.6
Child Abuse Prevention		372.5	372.5					372.5	372.5
Foster Care and Specialized Foster Care		17,668.5	17,668.5					17,668.5	17,668.5
Institution and Group Home Care		5,948.8	5,948.8					5,948.8	5,948.8
Counseling		4,530.5	4,530.5					4,530.5	4,530.5
Homemakers		4,374.9	4,374.9					4,374.9	4,374.9
Children's Personal and Physical Maintenance		1,195.7	1,195.7					1,195.7	1,195.7
Protective/Family Maintenance Day Care		3,828.5	3,828.5					3,828.5	3,828.5
2. Adoption Services	3,850.9	9,594.7	13,445.6				3,850.9	9,594.7	13,445.6
Regional Operations	3,447.6		3,447.6				3,447.6		3,447.6
Adoption Listing Service	324.3		324.3				324.3		324.3
Illinois Special Needs Adoptions	79.0		79.0				79.0		79.0
Adoption Services		9,111.0	9,111.0					9,111.0	9,111.0
Counseling		483.7	483.7					483.7	483.7

3. Youth Services	2,668.8	13,075.5	15,744.3	4,499.1	4,499.1	2,668.8	17,574.6	20,243.4
Youth and Community Services	1,526.1		1,526.1			1,526.1		1,526.1
Tri-Agency Children's Program	306.8		306.8			306.8		306.8
Unified Delinquency Prevention Services	84.7		84.7			84.7		84.7
Administration of Juvenile Justice	379.2		379.2			379.2		379.2
Youth Services Design and Implementation	16.9		16.9			16.9		16.9
Project Second Chance	65.2		65.2			65.2		65.2
Illinois Youth Services Model—Delivery Level Review Project	4.2		4.2			4.2		4.2
Parents Too Soon	84.4		84.4	4,499.1	4,499.1	84.4	4,499.1	4,583.5
Expenses Associated with Public Awareness Programs Targeted for Teenage Pregnancy	53.0		53.0			53.0		53.0
Planning for Delinquency Services	148.3		148.3			148.3		148.3
Community Services		1,472.3	1,472.3				1,472.3	1,472.3
Purchase Treatment Governor's Youth Services Initiative		121.2	121.2				121.2	121.2
Comprehensive Community-Based Services to Youth		6,047.2	6,047.2				6,047.2	6,047.2
Unified Delinquency Intervention Services Grant		987.4	987.4				987.4	987.4
Reimbursing Counties		294.1	294.1				294.1	294.1
Tri-Agency Children's Program Purchase of Services		10.6	10.6				10.6	10.6
Demonstration Project to Foster Independent Living Skills for Delinquent and Other Troubled Youth		223.1	223.1				223.1	223.1
Joint Services Children's Initiative		991.2	991.2				991.2	991.2
Juvenile Justice Planning and Action Grants		2,740.3	2,740.3				2,740.3	2,740.3
Juvenile Justice Grants to State Agencies		81.1	81.1				81.1	81.1
Community-Based Services to Runaway Youth		107.0	107.0				107.0	107.0
4. Family Maintenance	1,781.3	1,715.7	3,497.0			1,781.3	1,715.7	3,497.0
Regional Office Operations	1,780.6		1,780.6			1,780.6		1,780.6
Illinois Preplacement Prevention for Black Families	0.7		0.7			0.7		0.7
Counseling		292.9	292.9				292.9	292.9
Homemakers		748.0	748.0				748.0	748.0
Protective/Family Maintenance Day Care		654.5	654.5				654.5	654.5
Maintenance and Travel for Aided Persons		20.3	20.3				20.3	20.3

5. Substitute Care	19,119.6	64,208.7	83,328.3	220.9	2,482.3	2,703.2	19,340.5	66,691.0	86,031.5
Regional Office Operations	18,142.0		18,142.0				18,142.0		18,142.0
Refugee Assistance Administration				220.9		220.9	220.9		220.9
Foster Care and Specialized Foster Care		28,343.1	28,343.1				28,343.1		28,343.1
Institutions and Group Homes		33,447.2	33,447.2				33,447.2		33,447.2
Counseling		1,485.2	1,485.2				1,485.2		1,485.2
Children's Personal and Physical Maintenance		596.9	596.9				596.9		596.9
Youth In Transition		250.3	250.3				250.3		250.3
Department Scholarships		86.0	86.0				86.0		86.0
Refugee Assistance					2,482.3	2,482.3	2,482.3		2,482.3
6. Day Care Services	739.6	29,952.1	30,691.7				739.6	29,952.1	30,691.7
Regional Office Operations	588.2		588.2				588.2		588.2
Federal Migrant Day Care	151.4	407.1	558.5				151.4	407.1	558.5
Local Effort Day Care		15,178.0	15,178.0					15,178.0	15,178.0
Consolidated Day Care		14,174.0	14,174.0					14,174.0	14,174.0
Day Care Provider Training		193.0	193.0					193.0	193.0
7. Services to Unmarried Mothers	115.1	202.5	317.6				115.1	202.5	317.6
Regional Office Operations	115.1		115.1				115.1		115.1
Services to Unmarried Mothers		183.8	183.8					183.8	183.8
Counseling		13.3	13.3					13.3	13.3
Children's Personal and Physical Maintenance		5.4	5.4					5.4	5.4
8. Support Services	19,527.5	0.1	19,527.6	81.7		81.7	19,609.2	0.1	19,609.3
Regional Office Operations	5,212.4		5,212.4				5,212.4		5,212.4
Director's Office	2,057.5		2,057.5				2,057.5		2,057.5
Program Review/Audits/Investigations	1,523.1		1,523.1				1,523.1		1,523.1
Program Services	2,644.8		2,644.8				2,644.8		2,644.8
Management Services	7,406.0		7,406.0				7,406.0		7,406.0
Administrative Costs Parental Payments	113.1		113.1				113.1		113.1
Implementation of Public Act 84-0158 for the Child Abuse Worker Background Checks	63.4		63.4				63.4		63.4
Training for Providers of Licensed or Registered Child Care Centers	263.7		263.7				263.7		263.7
Training Department Staff	219.2		219.2				219.2		219.2
Illinois Child Welfare Licensing Initiative	20.0		20.0				20.0		20.0
Refunds	4.3		4.3				4.3		4.3
Payment of Claims for Damage or Loss of Personal Property		0.1	0.1					0.1	0.1
Returned Unused Funds				81.7		81.7		81.7	81.7

ADVISORY GROUPS

To the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Children and Family Services Advisory Council

Shirley Belke	Dr. Mildred Meyer
Doris L. Boynton	Julie Ann Morrison
Rhoda Bresler	Nancy Peterson
Rev. William Causer	Dr. Andrew Rosenson
June Foster	Midge Shafton
Gregory K. Harris	*Rev. Isaac Singleton
Mike Horwitz	Karyl Thorsen
Father Peter Mascari	Betty Williams

Statewide Citizens' Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect

Ken Briggs	Penny Kendall
Nancy Cafcas	Howard B. Levy, M.D.
John Conte, Ph.D.	Joe P. Mayo
Mary Ann Dunlavey	Tim Moss
Charlotte Evans	Nancy Peterson
Robert H. Farley	Carmen Pikorz
Fern Y. Ferguson	Katherine Robinson
Lisa Franke	*Catherine Ryan
Sharon Grill	Joan C. Scott
Arvid Hammers	Dorothy W. Spomer
Robin Kelly-Hamilton	Kathryn Zenoff

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Larry Breidenbach	*Samuel Jenkins
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Sharon Cobb	Josephine Odam
Dennis Donnelly	Barbara A. Roman
Helen George	Emil Stahlhut
Dorothy Goos	Gary Ulrich
Mara Hegwood	Jerome M. Welenc

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Mary Fossie	Chalmer Moore
Frances R. Head	Susan Marlene Whitney Nall
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Sr. Julie Huiskamp	Jane Strehlow
Eleanore M. King	Diane Walker
*Miriam Klimstra	Gale Ward
Ellen Koehler	Kay Weatherford
Franklin C. Kulle	Ellen Wenkelsten
Karen Maxson	Maria Whelan
Susan Whitmore	

Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission

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Neal P. Caauwe	*Dallas Ingemunson
Elizabeth Clark	James R. Irving
Patricia Connell	Michael J. Mahoney
Thomas J. Corcoran	Joe P. Mayo
Thomas G. Eynon	Mike Miroux
Charisse Hampton	Kathie V. Stansell
Bruce Hansen	John Williams
Patricia R. Hardinger	Velma Wilson
George Hill	Barbara Wood
William Hood	Julie Ann Ziegler

*Chairperson

The volunteer groups listed above provide guidance to the Department on a variety of statewide issues. There are also regional and community citizen committees and boards which provide advice and support to the Department on the local level.