

**TALKING POINTS**  
**Revised Purchase of Service Model**  
**September 2011**

*The purpose of this correspondence is to help define operational parameters and guide the progression of certain case management responsibilities directly to private child placing agencies. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of duties or to supersede policy or the MSA.*

- Pursuant to the Modified Settlement Agreement signed on 7/18/2011, DHS will revise its method of monitoring cases supervised by private agencies responsible for DHS foster care cases. As a result, effective 9/30/2011, foster care workers that monitor PAFC cases will no longer:
  1. Review and approve assessments and case plans.
    - As an extension of this provision, foster care workers that monitor PAFC cases will also not review/approve court reports.
  2. Attend court hearings, unless ordered to do so by the court.
  3. Enter social work contacts into SWSS/FAJ.
    - Effective immediately, foster care workers that monitor PAFC cases and private foster care agencies will share responsibility for entering contacts pursuant to instructions provided by the DHS SWSS team responsible for releasing the CPA SWSS Web Interface.
  4. Attend quarterly visits with child placing agencies.
  5. Attend permanency planning conferences.
  
- Aside from the duties listed above, no other responsibilities assigned to foster care workers that monitor PAFC cases have been removed. Foster care workers that monitor PAFC cases are still responsible for monitoring the case as necessary to ensure authorization and reconciliation of payments, service referrals, Medicaid, etc. are executed properly. For example, a foster care worker that monitors PAFC cases is still responsible for review of any necessary documentation to determine authorization of a DOC payment supplement, psychological evaluation, authorization and payment for other services requested by the private agency.
  
- Revision of the responsibilities of foster care workers that monitors PAFC cases does not include issues related to case assignments, full family responsibility, etc. These areas remain unchanged but will likely be addressed with statewide implementation of SACWIS.

- Each local office is strongly encouraged to immediately engage their local court administrator and/or judges to open lines of communication regarding concerns over case practice, for both DHS and private agency staff. For those counties where jurists have consistently required DHS attendance at court hearings, it is particularly important for dialogue to occur as soon as possible and regularly thereafter to ensure any concerns about the revised POS monitoring model are addressed.
- Any concerns jurists may have with the performance of DHS local offices or private agencies should be directed to those agency's respective management teams. If jurists have any concerns about a child welfare case that remain unresolved after engaging the private agency administration or local DHS management on DHS supervised cases, they may contact Scott Parrott, Acting Director of Child Welfare Field Operations or Steve Yager, Acting Director of Children's Services Administration.