

2013 Program Report Card: Voluntary Services Program (VSP), Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut children and adolescents thrive in school, at home and in life.

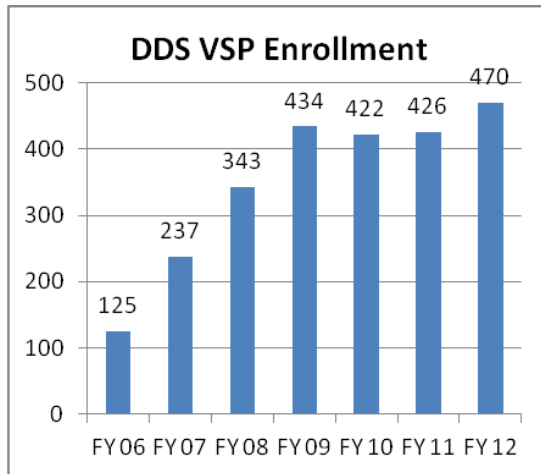
Contribution to the Result: The DDS Voluntary Services Program provides in-home supports to children with intellectual disability and training to their families to decrease the children’s challenging behaviors and allow their families to remain intact.

Program Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Actual SFY 12	\$29,308,751	0	0	\$29,308,751
Estimated SFY 13	\$31,031,307	0	0	\$31,031,307

Partners: Department of Children and Families (DCF); DDS-contracted private providers; Families of children served in VSP; Local Education Agencies (LEAs); Office of the Child Advocate

How Much Did We Do?

Performance Measure 1: Number of Children enrolled in the DDS Voluntary Services Program.



Story behind the baseline: The blue bars represent the number of children and adolescents who were enrolled in the program at the end of the fiscal year (FY). During any fiscal year, adolescents age out of the program when they turn 21, thus the actual number served during the fiscal year includes approximately 15 to 20 additional children.

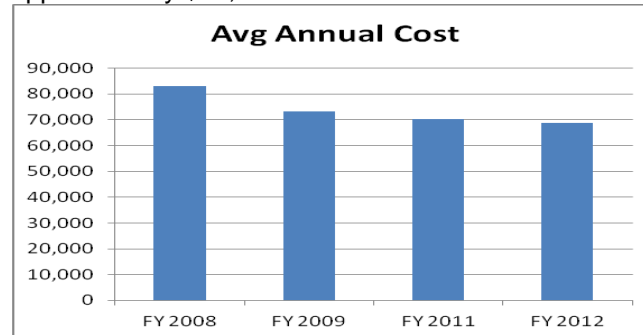
Trend: ▲

Rev: 2-6-2013

How Well Did We Do It?

Performance Measure 2: Cost of Service

DDS has worked to lower the cost of its Voluntary Services Program. Average cost per child has decreased from approximately \$83,000 in FY 08 to approximately \$68,800 in FY 12.



Story behind the baseline:

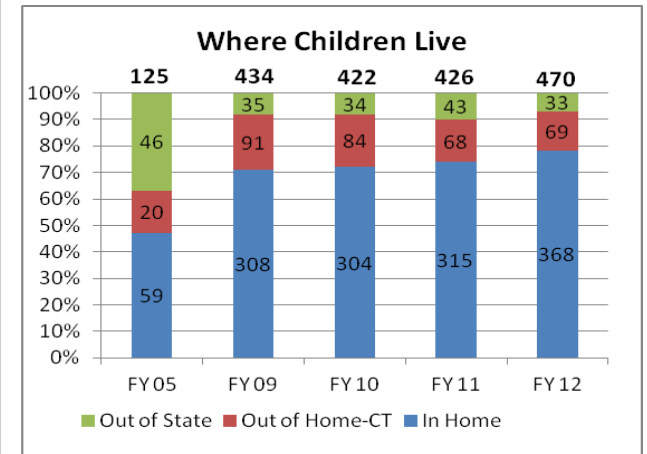
The agency has made every effort to manage its costs. An out-of-home placement typically is about three times more expensive than supporting a child living with their family. Therefore, DDS’s efforts to support families and improve behavioral interventions with in-home supports is both best practice and fiscally responsible. DDS also is working to reduce out-of-state placements, which are not eligible for federal reimbursement under the HCBS waivers.

Trend: ▲

Trend Going in Right Direction? ▲ Yes; ▼ No; ◀▶ Flat/ No Trend

Is Anyone Better Off?

Performance Measure 3: Percentage of children who remain in-home vs. receiving out-of-home placements.



Story behind the baseline:

This graph represents in-home supports vs. out-of-home supports.

Since DDS began this program, the agency has been able to decrease the number of out-of-state placements. After an increase in the number of children placed out-of-state in FY11, that number has decreased in FY 12 as the overall number of children enrolled in DDS VSP has increased.

Trend: ▲

Is Anyone Better Off?

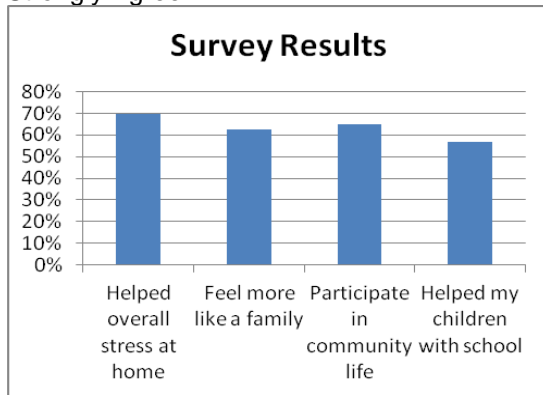
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Performance Measure 4: Survey of Families with Children in DDS-VSP

A survey was completed in September 2010. Three hundred and six families were sent the survey. There was a 38.2% return rate.

For Survey Question #15 - Overall the Voluntary Services Program has been beneficial to our family – 81.6% of the responses were Strongly Agree or Very Strongly Agree.



The percentages of responses to the questions listed in the above graph reflect the number of responses that were either Strongly Agree or Very Strongly Agree. DDS has had significant staff reductions since 2010, including losing the psychologist who previously provided coordination to this initiative. DDS did not complete a survey in FY 2012.

Story behind the baseline:

Lacking the resources to conduct a variety of individual surveys, DDS has committed its resources to participate in the National CORE Indicator project.

Trend: ▲

Rev: 2-6-2013

Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

DDS plans to continue its efforts to expand capacity to support individuals in their own homes. However, services for newly eligible applicants are dependent on new state funding and the ability to reuse existing resources when children age out of the program at twenty-one. In FY 12 there were sufficient funds to serve everyone found eligible and accept transfers from DCF. This allowed the enrollment to grow for the first time since FY 2009.

In FY 12, DDS added two new providers with both the capacity and willingness to serve children and adolescents with behavioral challenges. DDS also recruited 23 additional behavioral consultants. DDS has articulated a clear vision that children should be supported in-home or, if that is not possible, in their local communities.

DDS continues to have the Children's Service Committee (an interagency, interdisciplinary committee) make recommendations to the Planning and Support Team (family and staff who work with the individual) to strengthen in-home supports before recommending an out-of-home placement to the Commissioner. This provides an additional layer of review prior to making a recommendation for out-of-home placement.

Data Development Agenda:

The National CORE Indicator Project is a national set of surveys conducted by 35 states and provides data on standard measures to assess key outcomes such as employment, rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety. This initiative involves a core interview survey completed every year and other mailed surveys that are typically alternated from year to year.

As part of the initiative in FY13, DDS will mail the Children/Family survey to selected families including those with children enrolled in VSP. This survey will allow DDS to compare children receiving services through VSP with other children who are not participating in the VSP. It will also allow comparisons between Connecticut and the other states that complete the Children/Family Survey.

Trend Going in Right Direction? ▲ Yes; ▼ No; ◀▶ Flat/ No Trend