

**Results-Based Accountability
Report Card:
Connecticut's
Children**

Prepared in Accordance with Public Act 11-109

January 2013

**Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on Children
State Capitol Room 011
Hartford, CT 06106**

CT Kids Report Card: Current Status

In 2011, the Connecticut legislature enacted a law that requires its Committee on Children to create and maintain a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) report card on the state of the state's young people. (See Public Act 11-109, Appendix A). As mandated, a diverse working group that represents state agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals concerned with making things better for all children in Connecticut was formed and continues to help the children's committee develop what has become known as the "CT Kids Report Card." The Offices of Legislative Research and Fiscal Analysis and the Connecticut Commission on Children also are assisting the committee in accordance with the act's provisions.

Since the first report card project meeting was held in September 2011, the children's committee with its team of dedicated working group volunteers has made considerable progress. The current status of each major task necessary to develop the CT Kids Report Card is summarized in Table 1. The table shows some target dates have been extended as implementing the data-driven RBA approach for all children's services is neither a quick nor easy process. The best information for tracking outcomes of state policies and programs often is scattered across many sources or not readily available. Existing results data at state and national levels may only be reported sporadically or lag by several years. Research about best practices to promote the well-being of children and youth frequently is lacking in crucial areas.

Despite the challenges, dozens of primary and secondary indicators about Connecticut children and youth have been identified and discussed by the committee. A list of all indicators selected to date for inclusion in the CT Kids Report Card is presented in Table 2. Much of past year has been spent gathering existing indicator data, both at the statewide level and, when possible, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, gender, income and other important characteristics. With software and technical assistance generously provided by the Results Leadership Group (RLG) and support from the legislature's Office of Information Technology Services, a prototype report card highlighting data related to four key well-being indicators was posted on the children's committee website in September 2012 (see: www.ctkidsreportcard.org).

The committee believes the initial CT Kids Report Card demonstrates its potential as an accountability tool that policymakers, parents, program managers, other stakeholders, and the general public can use to assess and address the state's progress in achieving our desired quality of life result: *"All Connecticut children grow up in stable environments, safe, healthy, and ready to lead successful lives.* The goal is to make this report card website a central source for all data collected now and in the future on the well-being of Connecticut's young people.

The time-consuming work of compiling, refining, expanding and explaining indicator data and determining effective strategies to improve trends for Connecticut kids is underway. Eventually, the children's report card also should contain information policymakers, agency staff, service providers, and others can use to answer the three central RBA performance questions for programs the state funds or administers: *How much are we doing? How well are we doing it? Is anyone better off?* Most important, the completed report card can be used to: inform decisions about budgets, policies, and programs that promote effectiveness; and help ensure efficient and effective investment of public resources.

Next steps for the report card project include finalizing the initial indicator information and using it to assess progress, diagnose problems, and come up with recommended actions to help "turn the curve" toward better results for the state's young people and their families. In the coming months of 2013, the committee and its working group members will be forming an executive body to lead the report card implementation effort and several entities to develop statewide strategic action plans and others to carry out specific projects.

Finding ways to sustain the children's report card project, including low or no cost resources for gathering, inputting, and analyzing outcome data, is a top priority. Support provided by state agency staff and other working group volunteers, the Commission on Children, the nonpartisan legislative staff offices, RLG, and the Charter Oak Group, as well as the Annie E. Casey KidsCount initiative, which is carried out locally by the Connecticut Association of Human Services, and the Connecticut Data Collaborative, has been and will continue to be invaluable. The children's committee again gratefully acknowledges the important contribution its many CT Kids Report Card partners are making toward ensuring all young people in Connecticut are safe, healthy, have stable homes and successful lives.

Interest in the Connecticut legislature's RBA report card on children, which is unique in the nation, has led to invitations to participate in several recent policy conferences. Since last September, Representative Diana Urban, children's committee co-chair, and the report card working group team leaders have made presentations about CT Kids Report Card at: the 5th Annual Public Performance Measurement and Reporting Conference, "*Great Expectations: Getting Results From Performance Budgeting, Measurement, and Reporting Systems*" (September 20-21, Trenton, NJ); the Community Indicators Impact Summit 2012, "*Driving Change and Getting Results in Challenging Times*" (November 15-16, College Park, Maryland); and the Second Annual LIST Conference, "*Strengthening Partnerships Across Connecticut Communities for the Well-Being of Our Children and Youth*" (November 30, 2012, Southern Connecticut State University).

**TABLE 1. RBA REPORT CARD ON CONNECTICUT CHILDREN (P.A. 11-109):
STATUS AS OF JANUARY 15, 2013**

Task	Who	When	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain annual report card that evaluates state policies and programs intended to promote child well-being • Include (but not limit to) primary indicators for measuring progress contained in PRI final RBA pilot project report prepared under PA 09-166 (see next page for details) • Make available to public (on CGA website) and send electronically to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APP, HS Committees ○ DCF, DPH, SDE ○ OPM ○ Child Advocate ○ Chief Court Admin. 	KID Committee in consultation with: OFA OLR COC	Annually January 15, beginning 2012	<p><i>Report card with primary indicators and initial data was drafted by January 2012; improved and expanded indicators/data in progress</i></p> <p><i>With generous support of Results Leadership Group, working draft of the report card exists on line ("CT Kids Report Card"); prototype with four headline indicators posted in September 2012 on KID Committee website, see: www.ckidsreportcard.org</i></p> <p><i>Finalized version expected to be accessible at same site and provided electronically to all parties listed in the public act later in the year</i></p> <p><i>All background material for the RBA report card project also available electronically on KID Committee website</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a working group of public and private partners with significant roles in promoting child well-being; representatives to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State agencies and departments ○ Community organizations ○ Private provider agencies ○ Families, parents, other caretakers ○ Child advocacy organizations ○ Health care professionals ○ Schools ○ Child care providers 	KID Committee		<p><i>The committee created a work group of over 50 members representing all sectors required by law that has met on eight occasions since October 2011; four subgroups formed to research in-depth each major indicator area (stability, safety, health, future success); during 2013, an executive committee, strategic action groups, and project groups will be formed to refine and analyze report card data and oversee implementation, develop and monitor strategies, and manage and report on specific projects</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional primary and secondary indicators; and ○ Key performance measures for child welfare system 	KID Comm. in consultation with working group	By January 15, 2012	<p><i>Over a dozen additional primary indicators, including 4 that address stability, and more than 20 secondary indicators have been identified as of September 2012; the most recent available trend data, overall and disaggregated (e.g., by race/ethnicity, age, income) are being compiled and entered into electronic report card database (See following table for details on indicators and measures selected to date</i></p>

**TABLE 1. RBA REPORT CARD ON CONNECTICUT CHILDREN (P.A. 11-109):
STATUS AS OF JANUARY 15, 2013**

Task	Who	When	Comments
			<i>DCF as part of current agency RBA strategic planning/program report card efforts is developing system measures that can be included in committee's report card in the future (See following table for details on system measures)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review adequacy of indicators, measures, related data sources and determine whether there may be more appropriate alternatives 	KID Comm. with working group assistance	At least annually	Ongoing effort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify child welfare system programs that significantly contribute to desired result; require administering agencies to prepare RBA report cards on them annually (in format developed by APP RBA subcommittee) 	KID Comm. in consultation with APP RBA subcommittee		<i>Selection of specific programs for RBA report cards expected to begin during first half of 2013</i>

Acronyms:

APP: Appropriations Committee
 COC: Commission on Children
 DCF: Dept. of Children and Families
 DPH: Department of Public Health
 HS: Human Services Committee
 KID.: Committee on Children
 OFA: Office of Fiscal Analysis
 OLR: Office of Legislative Research
 PRI: Program Review & Investigations Committee
 RBA: Results-Based Accountability
 SDE: State Department of Education

Table 2. CT Kids Report Card: Primary and Secondary Indicators Selected (Identified and/or In Development) as of Sept. 2012

RESULTS STATEMENT: "All Connecticut children grow up in stable environments, safe, healthy, and prepared to lead successful lives."					CT Social Health Index (Overall Well-Being)
STATUTORILY REQUIRED PRIMARY INDICATORS Statewide and disaggregated by:	Live with Family/Stable Living Environment* (Stability)	Child Abuse (Safety)	Low Birth Weight (Health)	3 rd Grade Reading Proficiency (Future Success)	Child Poverty (Future Success)
Race/ethnicity*	✓	✓	✓	3 rd Grade Students Reading At/Above State Goal	Children Living in Poverty
Gender*	✓		(not applicable)	✓	
Geography*					
Age*					
Other relevant characteristics* - income, etc.	Free/Reduced Price Meals Special Education English Language Learner	Substantiated Abuse/Neglect Cases Abuse-only cases Neglect-only cases	Babies Born at Low Birth Weight		
INDICATORS MUST IDENTIFY/DEVELOP*	Stability*	Safety*	Health*	Education and Future Success*	
ADDITIONAL PRIMARY (Statewide and disaggregated)	- Food insecurity* - No parent with full-time employment - Spend over 30% income on rented housing	- Referrals to Juvenile Court - Unexpected deaths - ER visits for injuries	- Obesity - Health insurance coverage - Seriously considered suicide	- Kindergartners needing substantial instructional support - On-time high school graduation	- Kindergartners with pre-school - Age 25-34 with at least assoc. degree - Age 16-24 in school/employed - 3 rd graders at/above CMT math goal - 8 th graders at/above CMT reading goal - 8 th graders at/above CMT math goal
SECONDARY (Statewide and disaggregated)	- Out of home placements - Single parent households - FRPMs eligibility - SNAP participation on owned housing - Eat meals with family - Have love & support	- ER visits for TBI - High school students who don't feel safe - Fatalities	- 2 yr. old immunizations - ER visits for asthma - Childhood asthma prevalence - Binge drinking - Tobacco use - Illicit drug use	- Completed vocational certificate/professional license - Youth unemployment	- The working group recommends use of the SHI be reconsidered as funding to support and update it is no longer available. Also, many components of the index are tracked as individual primary or secondary report card indicators. The SHI or a similar index could serve as an overall well-being measure but should not be used as a primary indicator for CT Kids Report Card purposes.
DATA DEVELOPMENT AREAS	- Family homelessness - School transiency - Domestic violence - Incarcerated parent(s) - Teen parent household	- Human trafficking of children - School restraint & seclusion usage	- Teen depression - Oral health	- Infant/toddler achieve developmental milestones - Infant/toddler identified for services receiving them	

NOTES: * = identified/in development by committee on children and report card working group as required under PA 11-109; Blue bold text = "Headline" primary indicators; Red italic text = indicators developed for PRI 2011 adolescent health study and recommended for inclusion in CT children's report card by the legislative program review committee.

Required Child Welfare System Performance Measures

(Under P.A. 11-109, to be identified and/or developed by KID committee and report card working group)

Rate of repeat maltreatment among victims of child abuse and neglect	Rate of out-of-home placements for children at risk of abuse and neglect	Rates of reunification and permanency for children removed from homes	Developmental and health status of at-risk children and youth	Educational progress of at-risk children and youth	Other appropriate measures of well-being and success in life
--	--	---	---	--	--

At present, KID committee working with DCF to develop required performance data; as part of its current RBA strategic planning agency expects to address these and other child welfare system measures

Significant Child Welfare Programs: Required Annual RBA Performance Report Card

(Under P.A. 11-109, KID committee and RBA subcommittee of Appropriations to identify specific programs subject to report card requirement)

Components	Program A	Program B	Program C	Program D	Etc.
How Much (core measures)					
How Well (core measures)					
Better Off (core measures)					
Story Behind the Data					
What Works/ Proposed Improvements ("Actions to Turn the Curve")					
	With RBA subcommittee, KID committee expecting to select four to six state programs for annual performance report cards in 2013, likely, focusing on those with a prevention emphasis such as DCF new differential response (now called family assessment and response) system and well-child and school health initiatives carried out by DPH, DSS, and SDE				

APPENDIX A

Public Act No. 11-109 **AN ACT REQUIRING AN ANNUAL RESULTS-BASED** **ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD EVALUATING STATE** **POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IMPACTING CHILDREN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) The select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in consultation with the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the Office of Legislative Research and the Commission on Children, shall maintain an annual report card that evaluates the progress of state policies and programs in promoting the result that all Connecticut children grow up in a stable living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead successful lives. Progress shall be measured by primary indicators of progress, including, but not limited to, indicators established in the final report of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee prepared pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of public act 09-166, of state-wide rates of child abuse, child poverty, low birth weight, third grade reading proficiency, and the annual social health index developed pursuant to section 46a-131a of the general statutes. For each indicator, the data shall also be presented according to ethnicity or race, gender, geography and, where appropriate, age and other relevant characteristics. Said committee shall prepare the report card on or before January 15, 2012, and annually thereafter. On or before January 15, 2012, and annually thereafter, said committee shall make the report card available to the public on the Internet and on the web site of the General Assembly and shall transmit the report card electronically to (1) members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services, (2) the Commissioners of Children and Families, Education and Public Health, (3) the Child Advocate, (4) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and (5) the Chief Court Administrator.

(b) On or before January 15, 2012, the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in consultation with a working group of representatives of state agencies and departments, community organizations, private provider agencies operating programs that impact the well-being of children and families, parents and other caretakers of children, child advocacy organizations, health care professionals that serve children and families, schools, and child care providers, shall identify or develop (1)

an indicator for measuring whether children are living with their families and have stability in their living environments, (2) secondary indicators for measuring progress within each area of children's wellbeing related to measuring progress in their health, safety, stability, education and future success, including, but not limited to, food security, and (3) key measures of performance of the state child welfare system, including, but not limited to, (A) rates of repeat maltreatment among victims of child abuse and neglect; (B) placement in out-of-home care among children at risk of abuse and neglect; (C) child fatalities involving child abuse or neglect; (D) rates of reunification and permanency for children removed from their homes; and (E) the developmental and health status and educational progress of children served by the child welfare system and other appropriate measures of well-being and preparation for success in life. Not less than annually, said committee shall: (i) With the assistance of the working group, review the adequacy of primary and secondary indicators, system-level performance measures, and related data resources for such indicators and measures, and determine whether there are more appropriate alternatives to monitoring progress in achieving the result that all Connecticut children grow up in a stable living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead successful lives, and (ii) in consultation with the results-based accountability subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, identify programs within the child welfare system that make a significant contribution to achieving such result and require the entities administering such programs to prepare annual report cards employing the results-based format developed by said subcommittee.

Approved July 8, 2011