

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH AN ENTITY THAT HAS EXPERTISE IN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CASELOAD RATIOS TO ANNUALLY REVIEW THE CALCULATION OF CASELOAD RATIOS USED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

5-1311.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A CHILD WELFARE TRAINING ACADEMY TO PROVIDE TRAINING ON BEST PRACTICES FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

- (1) CHILD WELFARE STAFF;
- (2) CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS;
- (3) FOSTER PARENTS; AND
- (4) KINSHIP CAREGIVERS.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE TRAINING ON BEST PRACTICES FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

- (1) THE STATE CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS; AND
- (2) COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(1) on or before December 31, 2007, the Secretary of Human Resources shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee, a report on the outcome measurement system, as described in § 5-1302 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act;

(2) the outcome measurement system indicators, as described in § 5-1303 through § 5-1306 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall be based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Welfare Accountability, the Department of Human Resources' Program Improvement Plan, and national best practices; and

(3) the Child and Family Services Advisory Board in the Department of Human Resources shall review, assess, and provide guidance on the outcome-based system of accountability, as described in § 5-1302 of the Family Law Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Human Resources shall pursue national accreditation for each local department of social services.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2007, the Department of Human Resources shall: