

of the pilot program established by Chapter 367, Acts of 1997, to secure a proper home environment for drug-addicted babies. To foster improvement:

- (1) Workshops shall be conducted for judges in the jurisdictions with pilot programs regarding both Chapter 367, Acts of 1997, and the General Assembly's finding that older children are more difficult to place in an adoptive home;
- (2) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall ensure appropriate treatment is available on demand for women giving birth to drug-exposed infants; and
- (3) DHR and DHMH shall seek to improve the utilization of treatment. Improvements shall include increasing referral and completion rates for appropriate treatment.

By July 1, 2000, DHMH, DHR, and the Judiciary shall submit to the budget committees a plan for improving the utilization of treatment, guaranteeing appropriate substance abuse treatment is available on demand, and educating judges on Chapter 367, Acts of 1997, and the General Assembly's finding concerning adoption. By December 1, 2000, DHMH, DHR, and the Judiciary shall submit a report to the budget committees on the effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include data on: the number of women served through the pilot program; the number of women entering treatment; the number of women completing treatment; the number of Child in Need of Assistance petitions filed; the number of children removed from their home; and the reasons children were not removed when their mothers refused or failed to complete substance abuse treatment.