

(1) THE SECRETARY MAY NOT EMPLOY HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONALS ON A CONTRACTUAL BASIS AS CASEWORKERS OR CASEWORK SUPERVISORS, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED TO MEET AN UNANTICIPATED NEED RESULTING FROM:

(I) A SIGNIFICANT AND UNEXPECTED INCREASE IN REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT, OR BOTH; OR

(II) A SIGNIFICANT AND UNEXPECTED INCREASE IN THE FOSTER CARE OR KINSHIP CARE CASELOAD, OR BOTH.

(2) A CASEWORKER OR CASEWORK SUPERVISOR CONTRACTUAL POSITION MAY NOT EXIST LONGER THAN 1 YEAR.

(E) CONTRACTS FOR CASEWORK SERVICES.

WHENEVER THE SECRETARY CONTRACTS WITH AN OUTSIDE ENTITY FOR CASEWORK SERVICES, THE SECRETARY SHALL REQUIRE THE CONTRACTOR TO COMPLY WITH THE EMPLOYMENT QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING CURRICULUM, PRESERVICE AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING, AND COMPETENCY TESTING REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Art. 88A, § 3A.

In subsection (a) of this section, the reference to "child welfare" caseworkers and casework supervisors is added for clarity. See Ch. 554, Acts of 1998.

Also in subsection (a) of this section, the former requirement that the Secretary implement a comprehensive plan "[b]y December 31, 1998," is deleted as obsolete.

Also in subsection (a) of this section, the former requirement that the Secretary "develop" a comprehensive plan is deleted as implicit in the requirement that the Secretary "implement" a comprehensive plan.

In subsection (b)(1) of this section, the former requirement that the Secretary hire as caseworkers only human services professionals "[o]n or after January 1, 1999," is deleted as obsolete.

In subsection (b)(1)(vi) of this section, the former reference to human service workers who "must" have certain qualifications is deleted as surplusage.

In subsection (b)(2) of this section, the reference to permanent employees "employed on or before December 31, 1998" is substituted for the former reference to "existing" permanent employees for clarity.

In subsection (c) of this section, the former references to the Secretary: (1) implementing a preservice training curriculum "[b]y December 31, 1998,"; (2) requiring that "on or after January 1, 1999," all new casework staff be