

(VI) HUMAN SERVICE WORKERS WHO MUST HAVE A DEGREE IN AN APPROPRIATE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE, WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE MANDATORY PRESERVICE TRAINING AND COMPETENCY TEST, AND WHO ARE SUPERVISED BY LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS; AND

~~(2) SHALL EMPLOY A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF QUALIFIED WORKERS TO MAINTAIN CASELOAD RATIOS NOT TO EXCEED:~~

~~(I) 12 FAMILIES FOR ANY WORKER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE INVESTIGATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS; AND~~

~~(II) 20 CHILDREN FOR ANY WORKER FOR FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, OR PREADoption CASES; AND~~

(2) (2) MAY RETAIN EXISTING PERMANENT EMPLOYEES WITHOUT THE QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIED IN ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, PROVIDED THAT THE SECRETARY FINDS THAT THE EMPLOYEES ARE SATISFACTORILY PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES; AND

~~(3) (4) MAY NOT EMPLOY PROFESSIONAL CASEWORKERS OR CASEWORKER SUPERVISORS ON A CONTRACTUAL BASIS EXCEPT AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO MEET AN UNANTICIPATED NEED RESULTING FROM, WITH NO CONTRACTUAL POSITION TO EXIST LONGER THAN 1 YEAR:~~

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

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

(C) THE SECRETARY:

(1) BY DECEMBER 31, 1998, SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PRESERVICE TRAINING CURRICULUM AND COMPETENCY TEST FOR NEWLY EMPLOYED CASEWORKERS;

(2) SHALL REQUIRE THAT ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1999, ALL NEW CASEWORK STAFF:

(I) BE HIRED PROVISIONALLY;

(II) COMPLETE A 40-HOUR PRESERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM; AND

(III) PASS A COMPETENCY TEST BEFORE BEING GRANTED PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS;

(3) SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MANDATORY IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM AND COMPETENCY TESTING PROGRAM FOR CASEWORKERS EMPLOYED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1998, THROUGH WHICH CASEWORKERS:

(I) COMPLETE THE REQUIRED TRAINING PROGRAM; AND

(II) PASS A COMPETENCY TEST BEFORE TO DECEMBER 31, 1999, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THEIR EMPLOYMENT; AND