

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2017

Volume II – Health and Human Services

Gina M. Raimondo, Governor

Agency

Office Of The Child Advocate

Agency Mission

To monitor the Department of Children, Youth and Families to ensure that it offers children in its care adequate protection and quality services, while affording these children respect for their individual rights and dignity. These activities include, but are not limited to, public education, legislative advocacy, investigation, and litigation.

To review and make recommendations regarding the Department of Children, Youth and Families procedures; to investigate institutional abuse allegations and child fatalities; to provide information and referral on matters relating to children; participate in voluntary admissions procedures; to monitor child placements; to conduct annual site visits at residential/group care programs; and to review the Department of Children, Youth and Families' compliance with day-care licensing laws.

Agency Description

The Office of the Child Advocate is charged with fulfilling a statutory mandate to protect the legal, civil and special rights of all children and youth involved in the care of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). In so doing, the Office strives to improve conditions and circumstances through monitoring, compliance, and advocacy.

The office is staffed with 6.0 authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The office is responsible for oversight of children under DCYF care and yearly monitoring site visits to monitor their care at group homes and residential programs in the state. The office also provides direct legal representation for a portion of children voluntarily placed in state care.

The office reviews and monitors systematic and individual issues related to residents at the Rhode Island Training School. It provides direct oversight and on-site visits on a weekly basis. The Office of the Child Advocate also files Victim Compensation claims for children who have been physically and/or sexually assaulted and are in the care of the State.

Statutory History

In 1980, the General Assembly created the Office of the Child Advocate. Its powers and duties are codified in R.I.G.L. 42-73. The Office of the Child Advocate possesses a statutory right of access, including subpoena power, to all providers, the Family Court, Department of Children, Youth and Families, and law enforcement records. There is also a right of physical access to all child-care programs and children in care.

In 1992, the Office of the Child Advocate's responsibilities with respect to children in state care were statutorily expanded to include review of child fatality cases and representation of child victims of crime pursuant to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

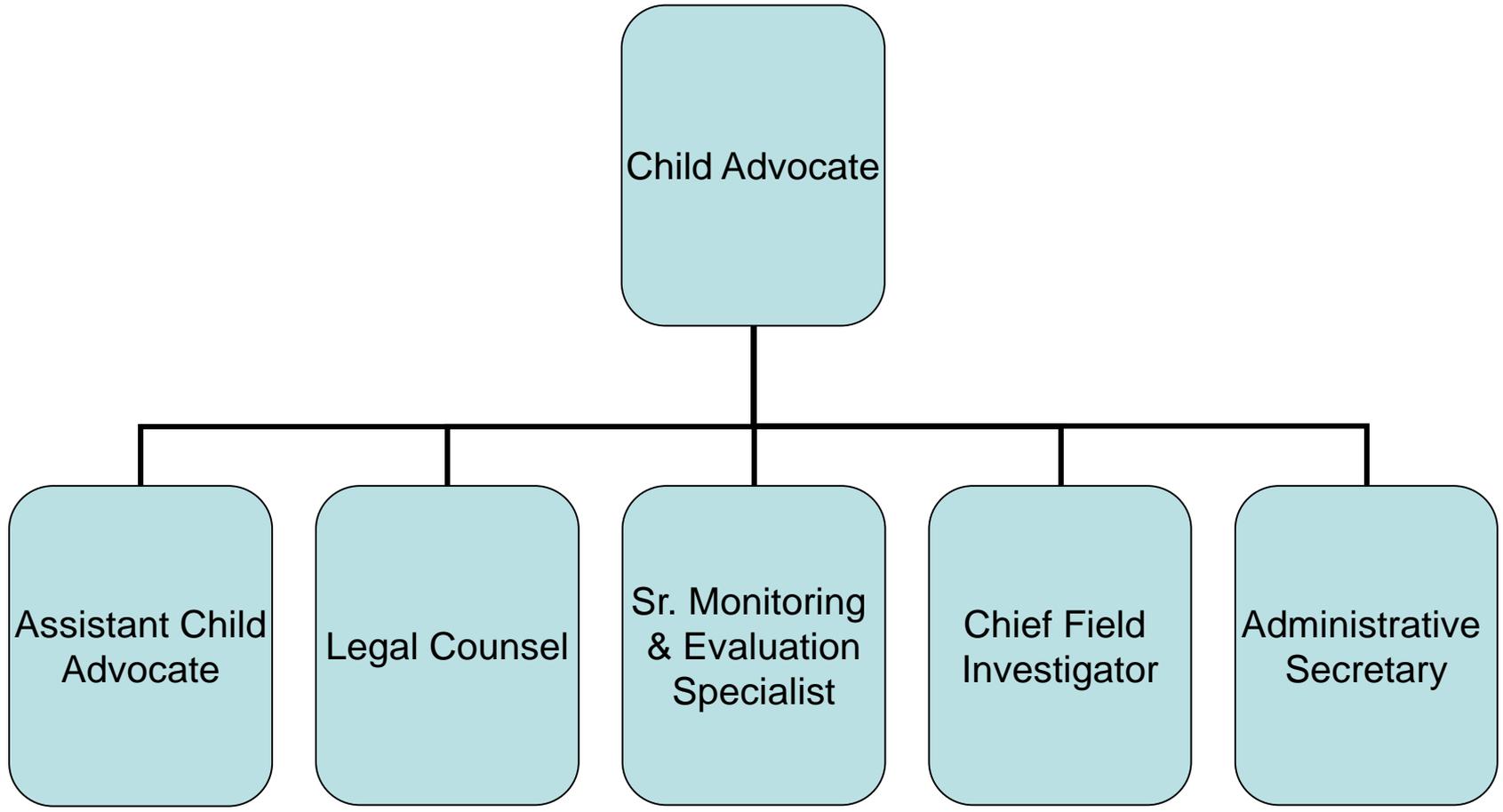
Budget

Office Of The Child Advocate

	FY 2014 Audited	FY 2015 Audited	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Recommend
Expenditures By Program					
Central Management	583,702	660,641	717,273	714,417	695,582
Total Expenditures	\$583,702	\$660,641	\$717,273	\$714,417	\$695,582
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	566,951	643,064	679,961	676,524	668,445
Operating Supplies and Expenses	15,872	17,577	26,312	26,893	26,137
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	582,823	660,641	706,273	703,417	694,582
Capital Purchases and Equipment	879	-	11,000	11,000	1,000
Total Expenditures	\$583,702	\$660,641	\$717,273	\$714,417	\$695,582
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	544,231	613,552	672,273	669,417	650,582
Federal Funds	39,471	47,089	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total Expenditures	\$583,702	\$660,641	\$717,273	\$714,417	\$695,582
FTE Authorization	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

The Agency

Office of the Child Advocate



Personnel

Office Of The Child Advocate Central Management

	Grade	FY 2016		FY 2017	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
CHILD ADVOCATE	00862F	1.0	112,774	1.0	92,869
ASSISTANT CHILD ADVOCATE	00834A	1.0	88,186	1.0	88,654
STAFF ATTORNEY III	00832A	1.0	73,016	1.0	76,920
SENIOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION	00325A	1.0	61,792	1.0	64,171
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	00318A	1.0	49,470	1.0	49,677
CHIEF FIELD INVESTIGATOR (CHILD ADVOCATE)	00320A	1.0	45,461	1.0	46,933
Subtotal		6.0	\$430,699	6.0	\$419,224
Total Salaries		6.0	\$430,699	6.0	\$419,224
Benefits					
Payroll Accrual			2,457		2,427
FICA			32,949		32,070
Retiree Health			25,713		25,028
Health Benefits			59,395		58,858
Retirement			104,998		110,425
Subtotal			\$225,512		\$228,808
Total Salaries and Benefits		6.0	\$656,211	6.0	\$648,032
Cost Per FTE Position (Excluding Temporary and Seasonal)			\$109,369		\$108,005
Statewide Benefit Assessment			\$19,813		\$19,913
Payroll Costs		6.0	\$676,024	6.0	\$667,945
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services			500		500
Subtotal			\$500		\$500
Total Personnel		6.0	\$676,524	6.0	\$668,445
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		6.0	\$631,524	6.0	\$623,468
Federal Funds		-	\$45,000	-	\$44,977
Total All Funds		6.0	\$676,524	6.0	\$668,445

Performance Measures

Office Of The Child Advocate

Residential Care Facility Site Reviews

Facility reviews ensure the appropriateness of the physical living conditions and suitability of clinical treatment programs provided to the children in a particular placement licensed by the Department for Children, Youth and Families. Site reviews include, but are not limited to, compliance with residential care regulations. Rhode Island currently has 67 residential care sites to review. The figures below represent the percentage of residential care facilities that received a review.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Target	85%	90%	95%	95%	95%
Actual	100%	31.6%	91%	--	--

Performance for this measure is reported by state fiscal year.
