

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2013

Volume II – Human Services

Lincoln D. Chafee, 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 5.8 authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The office is responsible for oversight of DCYF care for 5,300 children and yearly monitoring site visits to monitor their care at 120 group homes and residential programs in the state. The office also provides direct legal representation for at least 35-40 children voluntarily placed in state care.

The office reviews and monitors systematic and individual issues related to 250 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.

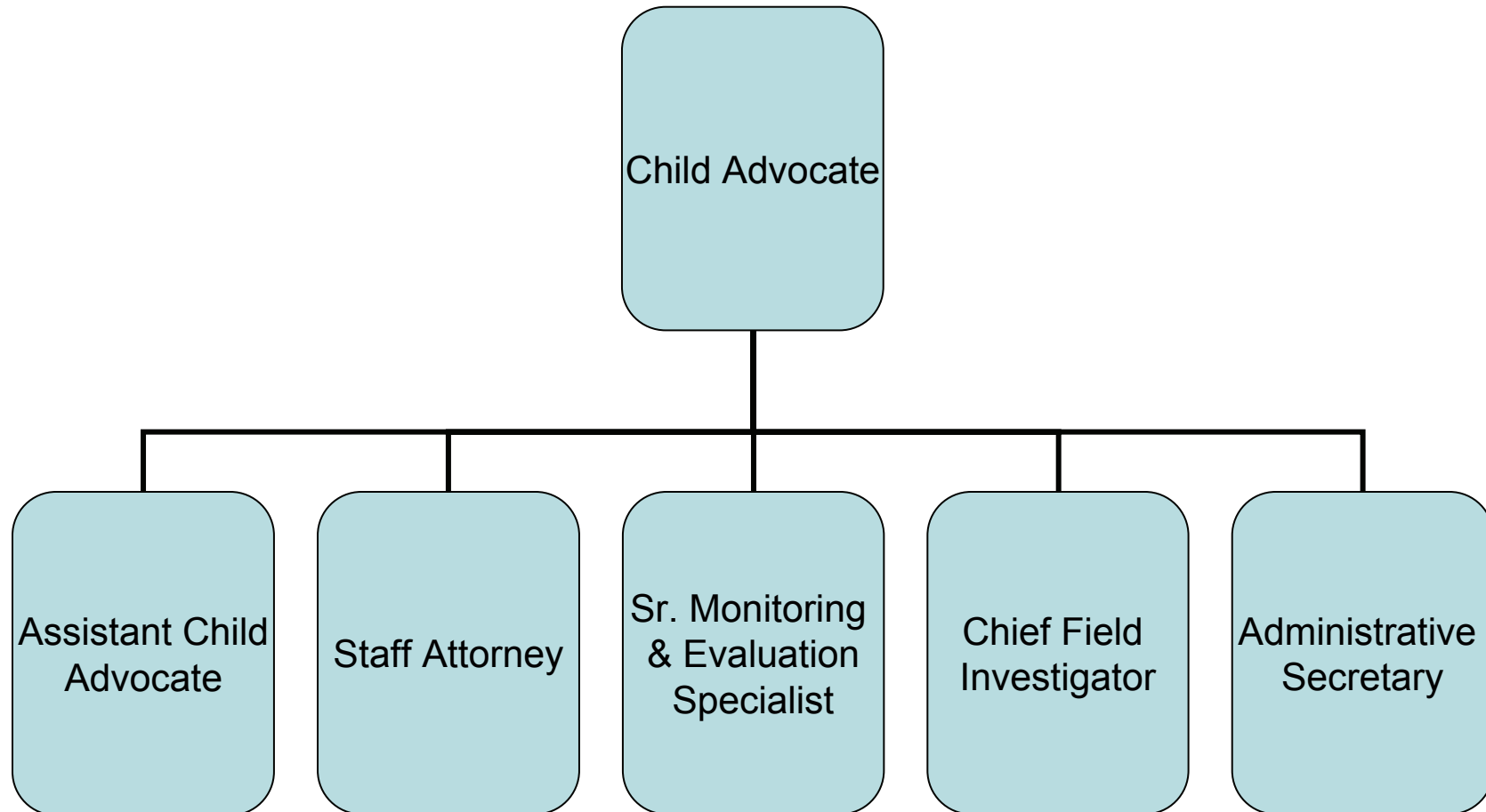
Budget

Office Of The Child Advocate

	FY 2010 Audited	FY 2011 Audited	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2012 Revised	FY 2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Program					
Central Management	552,865	597,596	652,432	578,868	661,503
Total Expenditures	\$552,865	\$597,596	\$652,432	\$578,868	\$661,503
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	540,677	585,520	642,174	562,588	641,545
Operating Supplies and Expenses	12,188	12,076	10,258	15,280	18,958
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	552,865	597,596	652,432	577,868	660,503
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Total Expenditures	\$552,865	\$597,596	\$652,432	\$578,868	\$661,503
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	506,961	550,911	603,384	528,834	611,469
Federal Funds	45,904	46,685	49,048	50,034	50,034
Total Expenditures	\$552,865	\$597,596	\$652,432	\$578,868	\$661,503
FTE Authorization	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	33.0%	33.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	83.0%	83.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Oversight and Investigation - Percentage of Site visits to be Completed - Actual/Estimated	90.0%	85.0%	3.5%	35.0%	80.0%
Objective	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%

The Agency

Office of the Child Advocate



Personnel

Office Of The Child Advocate Agency Summary

	FY 2012		FY 2013	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Distribution by Category				
Unclassified	5.8	400,765	5.8	396,534
Turnover	-	(54,711)	-	-
Total Salaries	5.8	\$346,054	5.8	\$396,534
Benefits				
Defined Contribution	-	-	-	3,966
FICA	-	26,466	-	30,335
Medical	-	73,833	-	82,310
Payroll Accrual	-	-	-	2,347
Retiree Health	-	23,738	-	27,203
Retirement	-	79,520	-	83,981
Total Salaries and Benefits	5.8	\$549,611	5.8	\$626,676
Cost Per FTE Position		\$94,761		\$108,048
Statewide Benefit Assessment	-	12,977	-	14,869
Payroll Costs	5.8	\$562,588	5.8	\$641,545
Purchased Services				
Total Personnel	5.8	\$562,588	5.8	\$641,545
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue	5.4	512,848	5.4	595,483
Federal Funds	0.4	49,740	0.4	46,062
Total All Funds	5.8	\$562,588	5.8	\$641,545

Office Of The Child Advocate Performance Measure Narratives

Central Management

Oversight and Investigation - Percentage of Site visits to be Completed - Actual/Estimated

Oversight and investigation are the primary reasons for the creation of the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 42-73-7, 1-8 et. seq. The OCA was established at approximately the same time as the Department for Chil
