

**EASTERN SHOSHONE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES**

**PREPARED BY**  
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**Fiscal Year October 1, 20011 through September 30, 2012**

**Annual Service**  
**And**  
**Progress Report**

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**Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services  
Annual Progress Service Report  
FY October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012**

**Submitted by  
Larry Mc Adams, Director**

The Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services (ESDFS) is the responsible agency for providing services to federally recognized tribal members and/or descendants within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation located in the Counties of Fremont and Hot Springs, Wyoming and also provides services to individuals/families referred by other states and/or agencies. ESDFS also provides services to any child and/or family residing within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation providing that the family voluntarily accepts services offered by ESDFS.

ESDFS is responsible for providing child protection services, foster care, Interstate Compact, Independent living, Indian Child Welfare, and Methamphetamine Initiative services in collaboration with tribal, county and state programs. Services are integrated to reflect the Department's family-oriented philosophy that families are the best place for children to prosper. ESDFS focuses on the whole family, thereby building on strengths while supporting and empowering families.

ESDFS is responsible for administering: Bureau of Indian Affairs Social Services (P.L. 93-628), Eastern Shoshone Tribe contract with the State of Wyoming's Department of Family Services and Title IV-B parts I and II.

**VISION**

To strengthen and preserve families by supporting their safety and well being.

**MISSION**

To strive for happy, healthy families within a strong, stable community.

The Eastern Shoshone DFS ASPR includes information regarding child welfare services provided through funding by the State of Wyoming contract, P.L. 93-638, Eastern Shoshone Business Council (ESBC), Title IV-B, subparts I and II and the Methamphetamine Initiative funded by the Billings, MT Area Office as required. These funding sources enable ESDFS to provide services and training that enhances program services for each funding source inclusive of: protection and promotion of the welfare of children; prevention of neglect/abuse of children; support of at-risk families through services which allow children to remain with their families or the

reunification of families in a timely manner; promote the safety, permanency and well being of children in foster care, provide training and professional development and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce; intervention and treatment services; foster care; kinship care, independent living and services for youth in other permanent living arrangements.

Comprehensive planning with all programs is ongoing and coordinated to assure that services to increase family safety, permanency and well-being are integrated and comprehensive.

## **1. Service Descriptions**

- a. Population served: The population served is that of the Wind River Indian Reservation, WY which includes any enrolled member of any federally recognized tribe who is a resident of the Wind River Indian Reservation; any person eligible for enrollment in any federally recognized tribe or a biological or legally adopted child of any enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe and who is a resident of the Wind River Indian Reservation; a descendant of a member of any federally recognized tribe who is a resident of the Wind River Indian Reservation or who has significant family or cultural contacts with the Wind River Indian Reservation; any and all children, regardless of race, who are residents or domiciliaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation and Indian children who reside off the Wind River Indian Reservation in Fremont or Hot Springs Counties, WY.
- b. Geographical areas where services are available: Services are available within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation and/or as contracted with service providers outside of the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation.
- c. Estimated numbers of individuals and families to be served are based upon the documented numbers in our computerized Wyoming Child Abuse and Protection System (WYCAPS) which shows for FY 2009 we served 123 families and 589 children.
- d. Tribal services provided to children and families are as follows: preventive and support services which includes supporting families to prevent intervention by DFS, etc., protective services which includes assuring children are safe in their placement; time-limited family reunification services which includes court reviews every thirty (30), sixty (60) and 90 (90) days; other service related activities which includes case management; foster care maintenance which includes certification, financial assistance, foster parent training, certification, etc., group and/or institutional care which includes in-state and out-of-state treatment center placements; independent living services which is contracted with the State of Wyoming to provide services to Indian youth; administrative costs which includes part-time assistant salary as needed; staff training so that employees are current with abilities to perform their duties in Child Welfare; Foster Parent recruitment and training which includes advertising ; case worker retention, recruitment and training which includes

mandated training in WYCAPS and CORE which is provided by the State of Wyoming DFS.

- Services to be provided in FY 2012 under title IV-B subpart 1 and/or subpart 2 will be a continuum of the present services to Indian children and families located within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation, WY and outlying counties where Indian children and families reside, if applicable. An estimated number of families and children to be served are 132 families and 280 children.
- Currently there are no planned changes to the program.

**e. 2011 Accomplishments and Progress of providing these services:**

- We provided services to approximately 132 families including services provided to 280 children whereby services to these families and children were inclusive of family reunification, preventive track services, counseling, treatment centers, case management, family preservation and family support.

We closed 129 cases (families) which included family reunification services, referral to other programs, investigative services, counseling, and third party financial assistance for such items as clothing, food, shelter, utilities, transportation and rent. Within these closed cases (families) 231 children were involved with reunification, family preservation, counseling, and the above mentioned services.

A total of 23 cases (families) remained open at the end of 2010 which included 49 children. These cases were active at the end of 2010 with services such as counseling inclusive of family, individual, foster care, group home and shelters, kinship care, anger management, alcohol evaluations, and treatment centers for children, treatment centers for adults, third party financial assistance for rent, clothing, food, utilities and other necessities. Services are ongoing with the goal of reunification.

- The general goals and objectives as outlined in the five (5) year plan, page 8, continue to be pursued and maintained. This is an ongoing process which has been met by the reunification of those 280 children and 132 families during the 2010 year of operation.

The Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services (ESDFS) uses a family-centered practice model which allows staff to engage families and improve outcomes.

All action steps, as outlined in the five (5) year plan are being implemented.

- Worker visit with parents is being improved upon with the hiring of a lead social worker who is responsible for maintain the flow of services provided by caseworkers. Fathers will be a focus to have them involved with their children and families. This is an on-going process.
- All children coming into ESDFS custody are required to have an immediate health and dental check along with immunization records placed into the file.
- At the current time of this writing, ESDFS does not have a case planner who is responsible for the case planning with the children (if appropriate), the parents and other family members, individual, agency departments involved with the case. We expect to have an individual hired for this position within the month of July, 2011.
- In approximately September of 2010, the State of Wyoming DFS attempted to conduct a CFSR but due to the inexperience and unpreparedness of the ESDFS which was under the direction of a new director, Mr. Douglas Roe, at that time, the review did not happen. Instead a “round-table” discussion and review of approximately six (6) cases was conducted. A future CFSR will have to be rescheduled by this Department and the State DFS.
- Training of staff is still an on-going process with each new employee being required to attend and pass the State of Wyoming CORE and WYCAPS trainings. Other training sessions such as ICWA and Social Work conferences as provided will be attended. Training is to improve the knowledge of staff to enhance services to clientele.
- Foster care recruitment, licensing, training and retention is also an on-going process with the hire of a new foster care coordinator. This individual is currently recruiting and certifying current foster parents.
- Again, with the new hire of a lead social worker, this individual is assuring that case management services are being coordinated and meeting the needs of individuals and families.
- The Independent Living Program is being provided by the State of Wyoming to Eastern Shoshone children who are eligible. The ESDFS does not receive any direct funding or provide services to these eligible children, of which there are at

the latest count, five (5) children being provided services by the State of Wyoming ILP.

- Currently, ESDFS has no new strategies for improvement of services other than the current plan and process; there is no new update of services planned at this time.
- The ESDFS program is monitored by the State of Wyoming through the WYCAPS computerized program. All work related activities are produced and maintained through this system. At a future date, the State of Wyoming will conduct a CFSR (Child and Family Service Review) of this department. In the past review conducted in 2005, this system assisted this department in improving sibling placement, locating absent parent(s), culturally relevant services, case management, reunification efforts and most of all case management. Standardized reporting of quality assurance is maintained by a set of standardized case specific and aggregate reports regarding process and outcome measures with key reports including: face-to-face contact with children, placement trends, 15/22 compliance, lengths of time to achieve permanency, abuse rates, and face-to-face contact with parents.
- At this time, there are no new revisions to the Goals and Objectives for 2012.

## **2. COLLABORATION**

- Collaboration between the State of Wyoming DFS and ESDFS is conducted by communications with the State DFS liaison on at least a monthly basis, in person and via email to discuss relevant issues between both parties. This process seems to be efficient to meet the needs of both parties.
- ESDFS collaborates with the local tribal departments regularly to ensure client services are provided. Local entities (departments) include coordination in providing services in mental health (I.H.S.), alcohol and drug abuse (I.H.S., drug court, Tribal court, alcohol recovery department), TANF /477 program, Northern Arapaho DFS in providing services to families who have children enrolled in both tribes, providing information to community by way of radio advertising, newspaper items and posting informational flyers in key areas for community consumption. ESDFS also meets, as needed, with the Tribal court judges and Tribal Prosecutor on issues pertaining to court orders, ESDFS custody issues and client/ESDFS concerns.

### **3. PROGRAM SUPPORT**

- ESDFS staff has attended State of Wyoming CORE and WYCAPS mandatory training to certify DFS employees, this is a requirement for all DFS employees and provide to new employees twice a year. Each new employee completes 2-days of WYCAPS and three weeks of CORE. Child Protection Service (CPS) workers/case workers have attended local in-house training provided by the State of Wyoming DFS (foster care, Multi disciplinary team training), Child Protection Team (CPT) training, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) training, and trainings sessions that are provided by local departments that enhance services to common clients.
- The ESDFS Director has been unable to attend trainings or conferences due to lack of support by immediate supervisors, the Shoshone Business Council ( a committee of six members with a required sign-off of four members approving travel). Training and/or conference attendance requests have been repeatedly denied or returned to this Department unanswered after the due date of conference/training registration or actual date of sessions. The lack of support by the Shoshone Business Council, my direct Supervisors, results in this Director and ESDFS employees being denied the opportunity to enhance services provided to Tribal clientele from knowledge gained by participation in conferences or meetings with the Billings Area Office Social Service Department, and/or national conferences.
- ESDFS in conjunction with the State of Wyoming DFS and the Citizens Review Panel conducts the Children and Family Service Review (CFSR). The review of our program will be a goal for 2011-12. The importance of this review is to establish and continue program progress in serving children and families. This also becomes a vehicle from which employees may gauge their progress in serving our clients within all fields of Child Protection and plan accordingly for improvement.
- At this time, ESDFS does not have any plans for requesting assistance from the National Resource Center which supports the Tribal goals and objectives.

### **4. Consultation with State**

- ESDFS consults with the State of Wyoming DFS through the local liaison that is located in the Lander, WY DFS office, which is about 16 miles from the Reservation DFS. Contact is maintained at least once a month by face to face and via internet email. Issues concerning the Tribal DFS and State DFS are discussed and properly implemented.
- ESDFS also consults with the State of Wyoming DFS concerning ICWA requirements and/or ICWA referrals. The State will refer an ICWA case to ESDFS



ICWA which then will contact the sending agency for pertinent information, if the case is accepted with the ESDFS ICWA department, the case will then follow the process of transference of jurisdiction to the Tribe and if jurisdiction is accepted, the ICWA department, following protocol, will, after completing all necessary paperwork and investigation, recommend that ESDFS follow up with case management. Currently, there are no concerns about State consultation and compliance. State and Tribal discussions are as necessary when issues of concern may arise about Tribal children and/or jurisdiction. This discussion is an on-going process which is acceptable to both entities.

- ESDFS has met with State representative to discuss the development of the APSR on a yearly basis with cooperation and discussion of best practices to implement needed services to all clientele, including ICWA.
- All children entering the tribal Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services department are the responsibility of this program and tribe. All children entering the system from the standpoint of State custody are the responsibility of the State until and if jurisdiction is transferred to the Tribe. Children in foster care within the tribal DFS system are the responsibility of the Tribe with all services provided by the Tribal DFS, unless facility treatment is required which then obviously provided by that treatment center, whether it is in-state or out-of-state. The State of Wyoming DFS has contracted with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe to provide financial assistance to operate the Tribal DFS and also provides financial payment to the treatment centers and foster care through monthly contracts with the care providers. Case review procedures are as follows; from initial court hearing review of 30 days, 60 days and 90 days are held with each individual case. The case is properly maintained by review of the assigned case worker through the automated computer WYCAPS system provided by the State of Wyoming DFS to monitor all cases. This is a comprehensive monitoring system which envelops many aspects, not only of safety measures but also alerts the case worker and Director of needed case management.
- Independent Living services are provided to ESDFS clients by the State of Wyoming through Life Net with a total of eight (8) children receiving services. Services to children are Protective Services, juvenile services (probation), Independent Living assessments, family support and healthy marriage, housing education and home management, parenting, health education and risk prevention, mentoring, academic support, special education, vocational, career exploration and budget and financial training.

## **5. HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

The health care plan for children in foster care is as follows and addresses the following bullets:

- Each child entering ESDFS care is entered into the Medicare system for health care and upon each change of placement the Medicare provision follows that child. It is the responsibility of the social worker to provide the information on updating the Medicare application. Upon discharge from ESDFS care, the Medicare provision is automatically provided for up to 30 days, after the 30 days the parent or guardian is then responsible for updating the Medicare application/process.
  - A schedule for initial and follow-up health screenings that meets reasonable standards of medical practice;
  - How health needs identified through screenings will be monitored and treated;
  - How medical information will be updated and appropriately shared, which may include developing and implementing an electronic health record;
  - Steps to ensure continuity of health care services, which may include establishing a medical home for every child in care;
  - The oversight of prescription medicines (including psychotropic medications); and
  - How the Tribe actively consults with and involves physicians or other appropriate medical or non-medical professionals in assessing the health and well-being of children in foster care and in determining appropriate medical treatment for the children;
  - In regards to, and, my understanding of the Health Care Coordination Plan developed by the State of Wyoming, the following steps to ensure that the components of the transition plan development process required under section 475(5) (H) that relate to the health care needs of children aging out of foster care, including the new requirement to include options for health insurance, information about a health care power of attorney, health care proxy, or other similar document recognized under State law, and to provide the child with the option to execute such a document, are coordinated, if needed.
- A. When a child comes into the Tribal DFS for services, those children are seen as soon as possible within the first seven (7) days following initial placement of child by Indian Health Service medical personnel which includes a physical and dental check-up or the caretakers identified medical facility.
- If needed, follow-up with identified medical and dental services are thereby scheduled by I.H.S. with appropriate follow-up services provided by I.H.S.

- The Indian Health Service (I.H.S.) updates medical information regularly by mail and in-person to the client and/or care provider and maintains health records electronically.
- ESDFS caseworkers are responsible for maintaining the continuity of health care services which are provided to every child whom is under our supervision and care. Caseworkers ensure that every child has the needed medical resource to meet their needs and to inform their care taker of those needs and responsibilities to make sure care is maintained.
- The caseworker is informed of all prescription medicines and is responsible for consulting with the caretaker(s) to ensure that these prescriptions are being maintained in the best interest of the child and any increase or decrease of dosage must also be approved by the caseworker in consultation with the prescribing medical personnel.
- ESDFS Foster Care Coordinator will be responsible of ensuring that the components of the transition plan development process that is required under section 475 (5) (H) is in place and proceeding according to regulations.

## **6. DISASTER PLAN**

The following narrative responds to the requirements of the Tribal Disaster Plan in accordance with DFS clientele, staff and maintenance of records. There are no changes to the current disaster plan and this tribe has not been affected by a disaster in the past year. However, during FY 2011 ESDFS will review the current disaster plan and make any needed revisions or decide to proceed with the current plan.

- Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for children under Tribal care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster; - ESDFS staff have on hand the addresses of all clientele and in the case of a disaster where the family or clients are dispersed, the caretaker family has the number of local law enforcement where ESDFS staff may be located in order to maintain contact with clientele or families.
- Respond, as appropriate, to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services in those cases. In case of a disaster where new DFS cases are in need of services, ESDFS staff remains available to provide services at all times, whether during regular office hours or after hours. Local law enforcement officers have the on-call number for that ESDFS individual on call or other ESDFS CPS workers who would be available to provide emergency services.
- Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster; - ESDFS personnel are all

equipped with cell phones and have their colleagues number in case of displacement by a disaster which would require communication between employees and others.

- Preserve essential program records; - ESDFS records are kept in hard files within a locked environment and also computerized with a backup system linked with the State of Wyoming DFS.
- Coordinate services and share information with States and other Tribes. – ESDFS will have a link to the ASPR connected to its web site and does coordinate needed services with the State DFS whether it is directly with State DFS department level or at the local and county level employees. Direct coordination, often, is done with the DFS liaison that is located in the Lander, WY DFS department. <http://shoshonedfs.com> is the link to the website, (updating the website is on-going).

The Certification of Population Count and CPS 101's are to be completed by the Eastern Shoshone Finance Office and submitted by June 30, 2011.

This completes the FY 2011 APSR for the Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services.

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